



4
BJP LODGES POLICE COMPLAINT AGAINST MAMATA FOR MALIGNING DELHI POLICE



8
PALESTINIAN DEATH TOLL SURPASSES 60,000 IN THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR



11
SATWIK-CHIRAG SAIL INTO SECOND ROUND OF MACAU OPEN

NO WORLD LEADER TOLD INDIA TO STOP OP SINDOOR: PM

Rebutting the charges, Prime Minister Modi said the Congress is ‘importing issues from Pakistan’

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a blistering counter to Opposition charges in the Lok Sabha, asserting that India's retaliatory military campaign against Pakistan under Operation Sindoor exposed the neighbouring country's vulnerabilities and was executed without succumbing to any international pressure. Modi, in his most detailed remarks yet since the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack, categorically dismissed suggestions by the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi that New Delhi's response was limited or externally influenced.

“No global leader told us to stop. Operation Sindoor is still on and will continue as long as necessary, on our timeline and on our terms,” PM Modi told Parliament on the day it was announced by Home minister Shah that the security forces had killed all the three Lashkar-E-Taiba terrorists on Monday who had executed the Pahalgam massacre.

PM Modi further disclosed that Pakistan's leadership had “pleaded for a ceasefire” after sustained Indian missile and drone strikes dismantled multiple terror launchpads and military assets across the border.

“Pakistan then called our DGMO and requested to stop, saying ‘bahut maara, ab zyada maar jhelne ki takat nahi hai, please hamla rok do’ (you have hit us hard, we do not have the capac-

ity to endure more attacks, please stop),” the Prime Minister said. “Our missiles attacked Pakistan in a way they could not even imagine. We brought them to their knees.”

PM Modi also revealed that on the night of 9 May, US Vice President JD Vance had tried repeatedly to speak with him amid fears of Pakistani escalation. “He tried for an hour, but I was in a meeting with our forces,” Modi said. “When I called him back, he warned me Pakistan was planning a big attack. I told him clearly: if that is Pakistan's intention, it will pay a heavy price. Goli ka jawab gole se diya jayega (we will reply to a bullet with a cannonball).”

Diplomatically speaking, not taking a call is often interpreted as a signal to the caller that the recipient is unwilling to entertain the terms likely to be proposed at that time.

Emphasising India's resolve, PM Modi said: “On 10 May, we destroyed Pakistan's military strength. Even Pakistan understands now that every reply by India is bigger than the last. It knows India can go to any extent if provoked.”

The Prime Minister's remarks came shortly after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused the government of lacking political will and “curtailing the armed forces' freedom of manoeuvre” during Operation Sindoor. Gandhi pointed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's earlier statement that India's Director Gen-

■ P5

PM' SPEECH IN A NUTSHELL

- Told US Vice President J D Vance on May 9 night that Pakistan will pay dearly for any attack on India.
- India's military action is “vijayotsav” (victory celebration)
- No world leader asked India to stop its military operation
- “Before asking why PoK has not been taken back yet, Congress must respond -- who let it go. India is still suffering the pain of mistakes committed by previous Congress governments, starting from Jawaharlal Nehru.
- “Operation Sindoor will continue. It is a notice to Pakistan that India will always act till Pakistan stops attacks,”
- “Terrorists are crying, their masters



PM Modi speaks during the discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

“The world supported us but unfortunately the valour of the armed forces did not receive support from the Congress. While India is surging to become ‘aatmanirbhar’, the Congress is becoming dependent on Pakistan for issues

are crying and some people are crying watching them”

- The Congress government under Jawaharlal Nehru lost over 38,000 km

of territory of Aksai Chin and the Indus Waters Treaty agreement that the first prime minister signed with Pakistan as a “big blunder”.

Apparently referring to two Congress MPs Shahshi Tharoor and Manish Tewari who did not speak during the debate on Operation Sindoor. PM Modi said: “Perhaps some leaders have been barred even from speaking in Parliament... There is a need to get rid of this mindset.”



Opposition Rajya Sabha members Tiruchi Siva and Sanjay Singh hit out at the BJP saying their “inaction” over remarks by a Madhya Pradesh minister on Indian Army officer Col Sofiya Qureshi, saying their silence is an approval of the statement.

Rahul trains guns on PM, Shah, Rajnath, Jaishankar

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha praised Indian Armed forces for its valour, while training his guns on the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre and said the government lacked the political will to fight Pakistan. He alleged that the government asked the armed forces to attack with their hands tied behind their backs.

He asked PM to show the courage and reject the claims of US President Donald Trump that he mediated ceasefire and also targeted the government saying that it lacks political will and does not give the forces freedom of operation.

Participating in debated on Operation Sindoor, Rahul said: “A brutal attack, heartless attack organised and orchestrated by



Pakistani state took place in Pahalgam where terrorists mercilessly killed young people, old people in cold blood.”

He said that the entire opposition condemned Pakistan.

“The moment Operation Sindoor began, in fact before it began the opposition committed itself that we will stand like a rock with the forces and with the elected

government of India. We heard all jibe, the sarcastic remarks from some of the leaders and we said nothing. This was agreed with all the leaders of I.N.D.I.A alliance and we are proud as opposition that we stood united as we should have,” he said.

Rahul Gandhi also mentioned that he met the family members of the Pahalgam terror attack in Haryana

■ P5



“All roots of terrorism lead back to Pakistan. And Pakistan itself is the result of the Congress party's blunder. Had they not accepted the idea of partition, Pakistan would never have come into existence,

-Amit Shah, Home Minister

“What concrete steps is the government taking to ensure there is no repeat of Pahalgam, Pukwama and similar incidents? If this was an intelligence failure, who is accountable? This is not the first time.

-Akilesh Yadav, SP chief, in LS



Punjab land pooling policy challenged in high court

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The controversial land pooling policy of the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government has encountered a legal challenge, as a public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The petition alleges that the policy bypasses key legal safeguards meant to protect landowners and farmers.

Filed before the division bench comprising Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Vimal Kumar, the PIL raises serious concerns regarding the policy's alignment with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act, 2013.

The petitioners alleged that the policy failed to comply with statutory safeguards, including social and environmental impact

■ P5



People commute on a muddy road following a flash flood, in Mandi on Tuesday. ANI

REPORT ■ P4

Two Haryana men booked for raping woman from Jammu

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Two men from Haryana's Jind district have been booked for allegedly raping a woman from Jammu and Kashmir after keeping her captive for several days.

The incident reportedly began after the accused met the woman during a



pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi last year.

According to police, the accused identified as Heera and Sonu, residents of Ra-

sidan village in Jind took the woman's phone during the pilgrimage, saying they needed to make an urgent call as their phone had no network. They later started calling her repeatedly and harassing her.

As per the complaint on May 3, the woman came to Ludhiana to buy clothes for

■ P5

Three perpetrators of Pahalgam attack eliminated, Shah announces in LS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Three of the terrorists who carried out the Pahalgam massacre have been eliminated by security forces in a joint operation by the Army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police near Srinagar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The terrorists were killed Monday in an operation dubbed Mahadev but officials had held back in identifying them conclusively as the Pahalgam attackers.

Participating in a special discussion on Operation Sindoor, Shah also attacked the opposition party for giving a “clean chit” to Pakistan for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Had the Congress opposed Partition, the problem of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir would never have occurred, he said.

Shah was referring to former Home Minister P Chidambaram's recent remarks that those behind the Pahalgam massacre could be

While Suleman was an A-category commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Afghani was also an A-category LeT terrorist. Jibran too was a notorious and wanted terrorist.

“homegrown terrorists”. Giving details of ‘Operation Mahadev’, Shah said the slain terrorists have been identified as Suleman alias Faizal, Afghani and Jibran.

“While Suleman was an A-category commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Afghani was also an A-category LeT terrorist. Jibran too was a notorious and wanted terrorist. All these three involved in the killing of our citizens at Baisaran valley

in Pahalgam have now been eliminated,” he said.

Shah said the identity of the terrorists was confirmed by those detained for sheltering and providing them with food ahead of the Pahalgam attack.

The arms -- one M-9 and two AK-47 rifles -- recovered from the terrorists were flown to Chandigarh Monday night in a special flight for examination at the Central Forensic Science

■ P5

Stealth, shadow, kill: How forces took out the terrorists

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Revealing the precision and stealth of Indian forces, the three Pakistani terrorists killed in Kashmir on Monday were caught completely unaware—until it was too late to escape

According to details accessed by The Daily Guardian, the build-up to the operation that led to the

elimination of the terrorists—who carried out the 22 April Pahalgam massacre—began when security forces first picked up indications of their presence in the area on 22 May.

However, it was only on 22 July that movement was confirmed, triggering the deployment of operational units.

Following this confirmation, security teams moved

swiftly and began closing in on the suspected hideout.

A 12-member unit tracked one of the terrorists, identified as Hamza Afghani alias Afghani Bhai, while maintaining distance to avoid alerting the group. By following him, the team was led to the hideout used by all three terrorists, which was covered with a plastic sheet strung between trees

■ P5

CHARGES WAIVED ON LOANS BY HARCO BANK; HOME LOANS STARTING AT 7.50%

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Managing Director/CEO of HARCO Bank, Dr. Prafulla Ranjan, has announced that the bank has waived all processing fees and documentation charges on all types of loans for its customers until August 31, 2025. Based on CIBIL scores, HARCO Bank is offering home loans at an interest rate of 7.50%, vehicle loans at 7.75%, and personal loans at 10% per annum. Customers can visit any branch of the bank during this period to avail of these loan schemes. HARCO Bank always works in the interest of the public, he said.

Dr. Ranjan was addressing the Business Meet / Workshop-2025, organized in Chandigarh for the General Managers and Development Officers of all District Central Cooperative Banks in Haryana. The event was attended by General Manager Ramesh Poonia, Deputy General Managers Urvashi Gupta, Sudha Sharma, Sunil Patad, Manager Yashveer Singh Ahlawat, along with other officers and staff. Yashveer Singh Ahlawat welcomed all the participating GMs and officials.

Dr. Ranjan presented various deposit and loan-related

- Dr. Ranjan presented various deposit and loan-related schemes of HARCO Bank and urged implementation across all District Central Cooperative Banks for public and institutional benefit.
- General Managers shared bank-wise progress reports; based on these, Dr. Ranjan set new targets for deposits, loan disbursement, and NPA recovery to be achieved by March 31, 2026.
- Bhiwani DCCB was awarded first place for performance, followed by Gurugram and Hisar. Yashveer Singh Ahlawat received the State Nodal Officer trophy for his work on the Kisan Credit Portal.
- Senior officials emphasized reducing NPAs, legal action against defaulters, increasing deposits, and completing inspections for 2024-25. The importance of such workshops for institutional growth was also highlighted.

WAIVER



'Business Meet / Workshop-2025' held for GMs and Development Officers of District Central Cooperative Banks.

schemes of HARCO Bank to the officers via a PowerPoint presentation and advised them to implement the new schemes in the interest of the public and the bank.

During the workshop, all General Managers presented progress reports related to their respective banks, covering deposits, loans,

CRAR, PACS computerization, CSCs, PMKSK, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, etc. After reviewing these reports, Dr. Ranjan set new targets for all District Central Cooperative Banks to achieve by March 31, 2026, regarding deposits, loan disbursement, and NPA recovery. Strategies were outlined to

help meet these targets.

Dr. Ranjan also presented awards for outstanding performance, with Bhiwani District Central Cooperative Bank securing first place, followed by Gurugram in second and Hisar Bank in third.

Additionally, Yashveer Singh Ahlawat, Manager at HARCO Bank, was honoured with a State Nodal Officer trophy for his excellent work on the Kisan Credit Portal.

On this occasion, General Manager Ramesh Poonia

addressed all GMs, instructing them to work on reducing NPAs, taking appropriate legal action against defaulters, and increasing deposits.

Deputy General Manager Sudha Sharma directed all GMs and Development Officers to complete the inspection of the District Central Cooperative Banks for the year 2024-25. Urvashi Gupta, Deputy GM, added that such business meets and workshops will prove beneficial for all district cooperative banks.

Haryana to launch elderly health assessment scheme

VIPIN PARMAR
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government is set to provide major relief to the elderly in the state. Under a new initiative, health assessment reports will be prepared for senior citizens at designated health facilities. This scheme has received approval from CM Naib Saini. Through the initiative, elderly individuals will be identified and treated for emerging health issues. To support this, the government will develop personalized care plans at the respective health centres.

For this, the health department has given the responsibility to Pandit BD Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak for training medical officers posted in civil hospitals, community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in Haryana.

This scheme of the Haryana government will easily identify potential health problems in senior citizens. This will help them know the exact assessment of their entire health. Also the most important aspect of planning is that their care plans can be made at their nearest health centres to help address health problems.



This scheme of the Haryana government will easily identify potential health problems in senior citizens. This will help them know the exact assessment of their entire health.

The health department has approved the proposal submitted by Pandit BD Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak to train medical officers posted in civil hospitals, community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in Haryana.

In a letter issued recently by the Office of the Director General (Health Services), it said that the department has acknowledged the urgent need for care for special elderly people and has also praised PGIMS-Rohtak for this initiative.

Confirming this, Prof HK Agarwal, Vice Chancel-

lor, Rohtak University of Health Sciences, said that this initiative will be a big relief to the elderly. This programme will ensure that elderly people not only get timely healthcare at their nearest centre but also have a regular comprehensive and regular assessment of their physical, mental, social and functional health, Agarwal said.

The Medical Superintendent (MS), PGIMS, Dr. Kundan Mittal said that preparing and treating health reports by trend specialists will significantly improve the chances of the elderly living a healthy and longer life.

Kurukshetra University signs landmark MoU to roll out AEDP

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Kurukshetra University has taken a significant step toward integrating academic learning with industry-driven skills by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region) for the implementation of the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP). Deputy Director, Public Relations, Dr Jimmy Sharma informed that the MoU was formally signed during the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on July 29, 2025, in the esteemed presence of Shri Vinit Joshi, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education, Government of India. In his keynote address, Shri Vinit Joshi applauded Kurukshetra Uni-



versity for Implementing AEDP under NEP 2020. Secretary DHE, Joshi noted that these programmes not only enhance students' academic competencies but also empower them to take confident steps toward self-reliance through industry-relevant training.

Representing Kurukshetra University at the MoU signing ceremony were Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Manjula Chaudhary, Director, Centre for Distance and

Online Education (CDOE); and Dr. Mahender Kumar, Placement Officer. Prof. Sachdeva expressed pride in the university becoming the first in Haryana to implement AEDP. Prof Sachdeva also stated that the initiative is a strategic move to bridge the gap between academia and the real-world needs of industry. Prof Sachdeva emphasized the university's broader vision of fostering employability and entrepreneurial spirit among its students.

'Assess fire station requirements across state'

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that keeping in view the increasing population, the need for fire stations should be assessed across Haryana so that the establishment of new fire stations can be ensured as per the requirement. The Chief Minister was chairing a meeting to review the progress of the Chief Minister's announcements here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister said that it is the state government's primary responsibility to ensure the availability of essential services such as roads, electricity and water for residents in hilly regions like Morni. He asserted that even if there is only one household in a remote area, the concerned departments must take appropriate action to provide



basic amenities, ensuring that no resident faces any inconvenience.

During the meeting, Nayab Singh Saini directed that a special campaign be launched to make the state free of stray cattle. He instructed the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department to work in mission mode, in coordination with the Urban Local Bodies Department and the Gau Seva Commission, to ensure that all stray cattle are

removed from roads and public places and safely relocated to gaushalas within two months.

While reviewing the announcements related to the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department, the Chief Minister said that Nandi Shalas have already been established in the districts of Panchkula, Panipat and Hisar. He said that efforts should be made in this direction so that Nandishala be set up

in remaining districts as well. The department was also directed to explore the possibility of setting up Nandishalas through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Furthermore, a veterinary clinic should be established at each existing Nandishala, with arrangements to ensure the availability of a visiting Veterinary Surgeon. While reviewing the announcements of the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Chief Minister directed that development works should be completed promptly and with high quality, ensuring that the benefits directly reach the public. He further instructed that a survey be initiated to channel water from the Yamuna River in the Kalesar area to Panchkula and other regions. This water can then be utilized for agriculture and other purposes, thereby giving concrete

shape to the 'River Linking Campaign' envisioned by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi.

While reviewing the announcements of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department, Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini directed officials to regularly update the database of all subsidy-related schemes to ensure that farmers receive benefits in a transparent manner. He also suggested that the department formulate a special plan for the development of high-quality seeds through agricultural scientists, enabling farmers to achieve better yields. In addition, he said that the Horticulture Department should proactively engage with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and provide necessary technical guidance to farmers while promoting horticulture under this year's action plan.

Haryanvi singer booked for performing banned song at Punjab University

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Chandigarh police have booked Haryanvi singer Masoom Sharma for allegedly performing a banned song during a live concert at Punjab University earlier this year. The event had sparked controversy, coincided with campus violence leading to the murder of a student. The incident took place on March 28 at a student event hosted by the University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET) in Sector 25, Chandigarh.

Sharma, who enjoys massive popularity for songs like Bhagatt Aadmi and 2 Numbari, is accused of performing Chambal Ke Daku, a song officially banned by the Chandigarh administration and Haryana government for its alleged glorification of violence. The track had racked up more

than 250 million views on YouTube before it was taken down and even helped Sharma to reach among the top 10 singers of YouTube. Despite giving a written assurance that he would avoid any controversial or prohibited content, Sharma allegedly performed the banned song during the university fest. Based on a complaint by ASI Surendra Singh, Police Station Sector II registered an FIR under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for defying the Deputy Commissioner's orders.

As per the police complaint the situation was further compounded by a tragic altercation at the same event. A violent clash broke out between two student groups behind the stage during the show, leading to the death of Aditya Thakur, a second-year Computer Science student. Three others were injured in the incident. However, the Chandigarh

police have launched a separate murder investigation but it remains unclear whether the violent lyrics of the song contributed to the unrest. In the aftermath, the case has reached the Punjab and Haryana High Court, where a petition has been filed referencing a 2019 court directive that ordered a ban on songs promoting violence, weapons, and obscenity.

The petition claims Sharma's actions were in clear violation of that order. The court has issued notices to the Chandigarh DGP, Deputy Commissioner, and PU's Dean of Student Welfare, seeking their responses. This isn't the first time Masoom Sharma has drawn criticism for his lyrics. The Haryana government has banned over 30 songs, many of them by Sharma, citing the promotion of gun culture, substance abuse, and anti-social behavior.

Cabinet Minister Ranbir Gangwa takes action against 4 officials

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana's Public Health Engineering and Public Works Minister Ranbir Gangwa has taken action against four officials following a surprise inspection of the PWD Rest House in Bahadurgarh, where serious lapses were found.

During his visit, the minister observed poor hygiene and serious issues such as termite infestation in VIP rooms. Taking the matter seriously, SDE Rajesh Tanwar, who was holding additional charge in Bahadurgarh, and JE Mohit Chauhan have been chargesheeted under the Haryana Civil Services (P&A) Rules, 2016. Additionally, SDE Mukesh Sharma CDC, who took charge on July 24, 2025, has been asked to submit an explanation. PWD Executive Engineer Anil Rohilla has been issued

a warning.

Minister Ranbir Gangwa stated that whether it's the PWD (B&R) or the Public Health Department, negligence will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He emphasized that officers and employees must remain alert and take their responsibilities seriously.

He said the rest houses are built for the convenience of the public, and if there is negligence even in VIP rooms, one can imagine the condition of other rooms. Due to carelessness, termites were damaging the furniture, and cleanliness was lacking. Therefore, action against negligent officers is justified, as it was their duty to maintain the facility. He also directed officers of both departments to ensure that all offices, rest houses, and other buildings under their jurisdiction are well-maintained and inspected regularly.

Former Haryana Minister's son Nishit appointed state youth Cong president

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Amid ongoing overhauling in the Haryana Congress the party has appointed Nishit Katariya, son of former Haryana minister Sukhbir Kataria, as the new President of the Haryana Youth Congress.

A letter confirming the appointment was issued by Indian Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib stating that the decision comes into immediate effect. Party sources revealed that Kataria had secured the maximum 29,893 votes in the election to the post of the youth Congress president. However, the appointment comes as a boost to the Bhupinder Hooda camp ahead of the appointments of the district presidents which are pending for the past II years.

The party expressed confidence that Nishit would dedicate his full time and energy under the leadership of



The appointment follows a controversial episode in June this year when the results of Youth Congress internal elections were declared.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi to strengthen the organization and the Congress party.

The appointment follows a controversial episode in June this year when the

results of Youth Congress internal elections were declared. A major controversy erupted after Himani Narwal, a candidate who had been murdered months earlier, was mistakenly declared elected as State Secretary. Himani Narwal, a 22-year-old Congress worker from Vijay Nagar, had been an active participant in party activities, including Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. Her body was found inside a suitcase near the Sampla bus stand on March 1.

Despite her tragic death, her name featured among the winning candidates announced by the Youth Congress, triggering embarrassment for the organisation.

With the appointment of the law graduate Nishit Katariya, who belongs to Gurugram, the Congress party is looking for a revival in Haryana where it has lost three assembly elections in a row.

PUNJAB EXTENDS RETIREMENT AGE FOR DOCTORS AND DENTAL FACULTY TO 65

113 professionals to benefit from extended service period

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In a significant decision aimed at enhancing the healthcare and education sectors in Punjab, Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema announced on Tuesday that the Finance Department (FD) has officially approved the proposal from the Medical Education and Research Department to increase the retirement age for doctors and dental faculty governed by the Punjab Dental Education (Group-A) Service Rules, 2016, from 62 to 65 years.

Revealing this in a press communiqué issued here, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema elaborated that this crucial approval would extend the retirement age of the Dental Teaching Faculty to 65 years, mirroring the policy

- The Punjab government has approved extending the retirement age of Dental Teaching Faculty to 65 years aligning it with the policy for Medical Teaching Faculty in Amritsar and Patiala.
- This decision will extend the service period of 113 professionals, including 112 dental teaching faculty members and one Joint Director, to utilize their expertise and experience effectively.



■ The move is aimed at enhancing the performance and quality of the Medical Education

and Research Department and improving the dental healthcare system for students and patients in Punjab. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema emphasized the Aam Aadmi Party-led government's dedication to improving education and healthcare services, reflecting a proactive approach to strengthening the state's healthcare infrastructure.

already in place for the Medical Teaching Faculty at the Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Amritsar and Patiala. He emphasized that this decision was made to leverage the expertise and experience of this highly skilled

faculty for a longer duration, thereby enhancing the overall performance and quality within the Medical Education and Research Department.

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that this decision would extend the

service period of 113 professionals, including 112 dental teaching faculty members and a Joint Director, thereby leveraging the expertise and experience of these medical faculty to further enhance the performance of the Medical Education and Research

Department. "By retaining the services of this seasoned faculty, the Punjab government aims to harness their knowledge and skills to continually improve the dental healthcare system in the state, ultimately benefiting the students and patients who rely on these institutions," he added.

Highlighting the state government's commitment, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema affirmed that the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government remains steadfast in its dedication to delivering superior education and health services to the residents of Punjab. He said that this measure also underscored the government's proactive approach to strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and ensuring a continued high standard of medical and dental education.

Centre encroaching on states' rights under guise of NEP: Harjot Bains

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Punjab's education minister Harjot Singh Bains, voiced strong dissent, stating that the centre government is overstepping its bounds and encroaching on states' rights through new education policy.

Punjab Education Minister Bains was here to attend the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam organised by Union Ministry of Education at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was the chief guest of this national level event. The Punjab Education Minister stated that as education being a concurrent subject between the Centre and the states, the Central Government is overpowering its authority through its new education policy.

The Minister highlighted that despite Punjabi being one of the 22 scheduled languages under the Constitution and being widely spoken and studied in several states other than Punjab, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had initially included it as



an optional subject alongside languages like Thai, German and Mandarin. He said that it was only after Punjab government registered strong protests that Punjabi was included as a main subject. He said that the center had claimed that the NEP would promote the regional languages but contrary to these claims the center placed the regional languages under the category of optional subjects which is undermining the status of regional languages.

The Minister said that Punjab government has already announced to frame its own education policy and it will be formed soon. He further said that the state will not tolerate any steps of the centre that undermine Punjab, Punjab-

biyat and punjabi language under the guise of the NEP. He stated that Punjab has already announced its new education policy and is working sincerely towards the holistic development of education in the state.

The Minister highlighted that students from government schools in Punjab are excelling at the national level in various fields of education and competitive exams, bringing pride to the state. Bains said that during this event, there was no discussion on the tragic accident that occurred due to the collapse of a school building in Rajasthan and even a two-minute silence was not observed on the death of innocent children, which is very unfortunate.

Govt declares July 31 holiday to mark Udham Singh martyrdom

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In a significant move to honour the legacy of Shaheed Udham Singh Ji and fulfil the long-standing demand of the Kamboj community, the Punjab Government has declared a gazetted holiday on July 31st to commemorate the martyrdom day of the legendary freedom fighter, stated Aman Arora, AAP State President and Cabinet Minister, Punjab.

While addressing the press conference here at Punjab Bhawan, on Tuesday, Aman Arora informed that the state government



has also decided to name the Bhawanigarh-Sunam-Bhikhi-Kotshamir road as "Shaheed Udham Singh Marg". The Punjab Government would organise a state-level function at

Sunam, the birthplace of Shaheed Udham Singh, to commemorate the martyrdom day of the legendary Indian revolutionary freedom fighter. AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal

and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will officially name the road after Shaheed Udham Singh on July 31st during the function.

He also expressed his gratitude towards Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann for honouring the legacy of Shaheed Udham Singh Ji, a great freedom fighter who avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in London. Meanwhile, Aman Arora also urged the Central Government to name the Patiala-Bhawanigarh road after Shaheed Udham Singh Ji. He further informed that this matter is also being

taken up with Union Govt by CM Mann to pay fitting tribute to the great revolutionary.

Jalalabad MLA Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy and Punjab State BC Commission Chairman Dr. Malkiat Singh Thind also expressed their sincere gratitude to Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for meeting the Kamboj community's long-standing demands. They lauded Aman Arora's relentless efforts in ensuring the fulfilment of these demands, honouring the martyrs' sacrifices and bringing pride to Punjab and India.

Five more children rescued from begging; 208 given new life so far

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

With the firm resolve that no child in Punjab should live on the streets, beg for survival, or suffer exploitation, the Punjab Government under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has rescued a total of 208 children from begging under the ongoing campaign Project JEEVANJYOT-2.

In the latest statewide action involving 20 special checks and raids, 5 more children were rescued and provided relief. Sharing this information, Dr. Baljit Kaur, Minister of Social Security, Women and Child Development, stated that "JEEVANJYOT aims to lift children from the streets into the

system of education and protection." Dr. Kaur informed that today, special operations were conducted in Barnala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur, and Jalandhar. Additional checks were carried out in Kapurthala, Mansa, Malerkotla, Moga, Patiala, Rupnagar, Sangrur, SAS Nagar, SBS Nagar, Sri Muktsar Sahib, and Tarn Taran.

One child each was res-

cued from Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Rupnagar, Sangrur, and Sri Muktsar Sahib. The Minister further informed that in 3 cases, after counseling and documentation verification, the children were reunited with their parents under strict warning that such exploitation must not happen again. Two other children have been safely placed in child care institutions.

Dr. Kaur reiterated that any parent found repeating such behaviour would face strict legal action. No case requiring DNA testing was reported in today's rescue operations. She praised the prompt and sensitive action of the district Child Protection Teams.



Water Resources Minister allocates Rs 276 crore to prevent floods

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

Punjab government has completed the cleaning of the state's drainage systems and strengthened embankments to tackle any kind of flood-like situation, stated Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal while addressing media persons here at Punjab Bhawan today.

After reviewing the arrangements made by the Water Resources Department to deal with any potential floods during the high level meeting, Sh. Goyal informed the journalists that the state government has completed 1220 projects worth Rs.276 crore to tackle potential flood situations. These projects include river revetment work, installation of studs, strengthening operations and desilting/cleaning of drains. He said that additionally, 600 check dams have been constructed



with 1104 and more check dams under construction. Besides this, 3905 soak pits are being created, over 53,400 bamboo saplings have been planted and 226 kilometers of vetiver grass has been cultivated.

The Cabinet Minister informed that out of the 850 drains, 601 drains required cleaning this year, which has been completed. He said that so far, 4766 kilometers of drains have been cleaned. Goyal said that the department has completed drain desilting/cleaning work using departmental machinery, resulting in 65% cost savings compared to contractor work.

Akali Dal to escalate protest against 'land grab' by AAP Govt

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal declared today that the statewide agitation against Kejriwal regime's "Land Grabbing Scheme" will be further intensified and it will continue until the government completely withdraws its fraud with the farmers and other land owners.

A Resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of the Core Committee of the party here this afternoon. The resolution declared, among other things, that the next Protest Dharna against land grabbing scheme will be held at Bathinda on August 4 and Patiala on August 11 to be followed by similar protest dharnas at all other district headquarters.

These decisions were taken and the outline of the statewide opposition to the government's land loot was discussed at meetings of the party district Jathedars



as well as of the Working Committee earlier in the forenoon. All three meetings were presided over by the party president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

The Core Committee meeting began by observing a two-minute silence and prayers as a mark of respect and condolence over the tragic passing away of Gurminder Singh, brother in law of Singh Sahib Kuldeep Singh Gargaji, the honorable Jathedar Sahib of Sri Akal Takht Sahib. Badal earlier spoke to Jathedar Sahib over the phone to convey his own and the party's

heartfelt condolences and pray for peace to the departed soul.

The meeting also paid glowing tributes to the departed Punjabi marathon icon, Sardar Fauja Singh.

Earlier in the morning, Badal flagged off the party's statewide campaign, "Proud to be Akali" (Mainu Maan Akali Hon Te) amidst shouting of traditional Jai-kaaras (Panthic slogans) by releasing and pasting stickers on the workers' vehicles and also releasing flags to be hoisted on homes of all workers and supporters of the party.

Minister Mohinder Bhagat directs officers to step up construction of war memorials

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government is consistently working for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. Taking a step forward in this direction, Defence Services Welfare Minister Mohinder Bhagat has directed officers to accelerate the construction work of war memorials across the state.

Presiding over a review meeting with senior officers of Defence Services Welfare Department at Punjab Civil Secretariat, Mohinder Bhagat said that the Punjab Government is committed to improving the living standard of ex-servicemen and their dependents. He emphasized that all welfare schemes being run for the benefit of ex-servicemen and their families must be implemented effectively.

During the meeting, Director of the Department, Brig. Bhupinder Singh Dhillon (Retd.), presented a comprehensive report on the department's activities over the last three months. He briefed the Minister about various ongoing schemes



Bhagat instructed the officers to prioritize all matters related to ex-servicemen. He also directed to ensure wide publicity and awareness campaigns about government schemes so that all eligible beneficiaries can avail the full benefits.

related to financial assistance, educational benefits, medical aid and infrastructure development for ex-servicemen.

Bhagat instructed the officers to prioritize all matters related to ex-servicemen. He also directed to ensure wide publicity and awareness campaigns about government schemes so that all eligible ben-

eficiaries can avail the full benefits. The Minister further directed that renovation and maintenance work of Sainik Rest Houses across the state be completed on time. He assured that there would be no shortage of funds for development works and warned that any negligence on the part of officials would be strictly handled.

CM felicitated for passing law to restart bull races in Punjab

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

While announcing the revival of traditional rural sports in Punjab that were fading due to legal restrictions, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann stated today that the state government will remove all legal hurdles to promote and preserve the state's glorious sports heritage.

Addressing the gathering in a function organised by Sports lovers to felicitate a massive gathering of traditional sports lovers, the Chief Minister said that bullock



cart races are not just a source of entertainment but represent the glorious cultural heritage of rural Punjab. He said such races have been held in Punjab since ancient times and served as a living connection to our traditions and

cultural identity. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh Guru, also practiced farming with bullocks during his time in Kartarpur Sahib.

The Chief Minister said that the ban on bullock cart races

not only disheartened lovers of traditional sports, but also dealt a blow to our heritage. He further added that there had been growing demand from Punjabis to bring a new law so that these traditional games can be revived. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that on July 11, 2025, the historic 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2025' was passed unanimously in the Punjab Assembly.

The Chief Minister envisioned that this law will not only help in preserving indigenous animal breeds

SECTION 109 BNS INVOKED IN GANDHI NAGAR THAR-SCOOTY COLLISION CASE

Police have invoked Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the Thar-Scooty collision that occurred on July 27

AJAY JANDYAL
 JAMMU

In a shocking turn of events, Jammu Police have invoked Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the Thar-Scooty collision that occurred on July 27 near Green Belt Park in Gandhi Nagar, following revelations that the incident may have involved deliberate intent to cause harm.

According to police, an FIR No. 163/2025 was initially registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar under Sections 281 and 125(a) of BNS after a Mahindra Thar (JK02DP-9594), reportedly being driven in a rash and negligent manner, collided head-on with a scooty (JK02BS-6435) near Allora Textiles around 1:30 PM. The scooty rider was injured and shifted to GMC

GRIEVOUS INJURY


■ A Mahindra Thar (JK02DP-9594) col-
lided head-on with a
scooty (JK02BS-6435)
near Allora Textiles;
FIR No. 163/2025 was
registered at Gandhi
Nagar Police Station
under Sections 281
and 125(a) of BNS.

■ The scooty rider sus-
tained serious injuries
and is unconscious at
GMC Jammu; CCTV
footage revealed the Thar
driver reversed and hit
the victim again, leading
to the addition of Section
109 BNS.

■ The Thar vehicle has

been seized for mechani-
cal inspection; the vehicle
owner is detained, and
a manhunt is underway
to arrest the absconding
driver.

■ Jammu Police, super-
vised by SDPO and SP
South, promise a fair
and timely investigation,
urging the public to share
any leads.



Jammu by passers-by, while the Thar driver fled the scene. However, during the course of investigation,

the police obtained CCTV footage and recorded the statement of an eyewitness, which indicated that after the initial impact,

the Thar driver reversed and hit the victim again, causing grievous injuries. Based on this, Section 109 BNS—which deals with in-

tentionally causing harm with the knowledge of likely consequences—has been added to the case. The victim remains unconscious and is under critical care at GMC Jammu.

Police have seized the Thar vehicle and a mechanical examination is underway. The owner of the vehicle has been detained for questioning, and a manhunt has been launched to arrest the absconding driver. The investigation is being closely monitored under the supervision of SDPO South and SP South, with all forensic, procedural, and legal angles being pursued.

Jammu Police have assured a fair and time-bound probe and urged the public to share any information related to the case by contacting the nearest police station.

Search Operation launched in Kathua after suspicious movement

AJAY JANDYAL
 JAMMU

Security forces launched a massive search operation in Jammu and Kashmir’s Kathua district on Tuesday following reports of suspicious movement by three unidentified individuals, officials said.

The operation was triggered after a local woman reported spotting three suspected persons near the Rajbagh area late Monday night. Acting swiftly, a joint team of the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Special Operations Group (SoG) was deployed to comb the region.

Vigilance has been intensified across Rajbagh and adjoining areas, particularly around the Ujh river, which security agencies have flagged as a known infiltration route from across the border. Officials said that thor-

ough combing operations are underway and security has been tightened along the Jammu-Pathankot highway as a precautionary measure. Locals have been urged to remain alert and immediately report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station.

Baramulla youth create World Record at ‘Kashur Riwaaj 2025’

AJAY JANDYAL
 BARAMULLA

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended Kashur Riwaaj 2025, a grand celebration of Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage, held in Baramulla. The event witnessed a historic feat as 20,000 youth came together to set a new world record in Ladishah and Calligraphy performances.

Congratulating the participants, the Lieutenant Governor hailed the achievement as a milestone that will inspire generations to reconnect with their cultural roots. “By coming together for Ladishah and Calligraphy, you have created history. This accomplishment will motivate others to embrace

their heritage and values,” LG Sinha said.

He applauded the Indian Army and Baramulla District Administration for organizing the event and emphasized the military’s evolving role as guardians of cultural pride. “The Indian Army is not only safeguarding our frontiers but also nurturing the dreams of our youth and preserving the vibrant culture of

this region,” he added.

Highlighting the strength of India’s diversity, LG Sinha said the Army continues to promote national unity through literature, music, art, and sports, creating platforms for youth engagement.

Reiterating the Centre and UT Government’s commitment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, LG Sinha said a comprehensive approach is being implemented to align the aspirations of J&K’s youth with those of the nation. “Peace is the prerequisite for progress. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and separatism robbed our youth of opportunities, but now Jammu and Kashmir is on a path of rapid transformation,” he asserted.

21,000 youths perform traditional musical storytelling ‘Ladishah’ in North Kashmir

ASHIQ MIR
 SRINAGAR

In a landmark cultural event, 21,000 youngsters came together to perform Ladishah, the traditional Kashmiri musical storytelling art form, setting a Universe Record. Known for its satirical take on social and political issues, Ladishah had long been fading from public memory.

The event, held under the banner of “Kashmiri Riwaaj 2025”, was organized by the Indian Army as part of a larger effort to revive and preserve Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage.

The occasion was graced

The occasion was graced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, General Officer Commanding 19 Infantry Division, and several other distinguished guests.

by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, General Officer Commanding 19 Infantry Division, and several other distinguished guests.

In a significant social shift, the event witnessed unprecedented participation of young women a powerful moment in the valley transformation post the abrogation of Article 370. Where once there were threats and

restrictions on women participating in public performances, now there is visible change in Naya Kashmir, with female voices rising proudly through art and culture.

The event stood as a vibrant testament to Kashmir’s evolving identity rooted in tradition, yet confidently stepping into a new era.

DGP Nalin Prabhat reaffirms J&K police’s commitment

AJAY JANDYAL
 JAMMU

Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat, on Tuesday reiterated the force’s unwavering resolve to uphold justice, emphasizing the guiding principle laid down by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha — “Do not touch the innocent, and do not spare the guilty.”

Speaking at a public interaction in Jammu, the DGP said the Jammu and Kashmir Police are dedicated to serving the people with fairness and compassion, guided by a victim-centric approach in line with the new legal reforms introduced by the govern-

Prabhat said crime, while unfortunate, cannot be eliminated solely by awareness. “Society is the first line of defense against crime. We need responsible and alert citizens to make a real difference,” he stated.

ment.

“The new laws are being gradually implemented across the Union Territory. They aim to ensure quick action against culprits and timely justice for victims,” he said.

Highlighting the police’s outreach efforts, Prabhat said the force stands firmly with the oppressed and distressed. “We do our utmost to help those in pain.

Northern Command briefs LG on successful conclusion of Operation Mahadev

TDG NETWORK
 SRINAGAR

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today and briefed him on the recently concluded Operation Mahadev. He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava, GOC 15 Corps.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor extended his congratulations to the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the success of the joint counter-terror operation. Operation Mahadev, carried out in the treacherous terrain of Dachigam forest, led to the elimination of three heavily armed Pakistani terrorists involved in the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Lt Gen Sharma informed the Lieutenant Governor

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor extended his congratulations to the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the success of the joint counter-terror operation.

that search operations had been underway across parts of South Kashmir, particularly in the Dachigam forest region, for the past several months. Acting on credible and specific intelligence inputs, coordinated strike teams were deployed. The high-risk mission was

launched jointly by the Army, J&K Police, and CRPF, with critical support from central intelligence agencies.

The operation marks a significant success in dismantling cross-border terror modules attempting to infiltrate and disrupt peace in the Valley.

we be prepared for every challenge and serve as instruments of real change,” he said.

He stressed that no societal issue is detached from the scope of policing, and it remains the duty of the force to intervene wherever injustice exists. “Delivering justice has always been our mission. But society also has a responsibility to work alongside us,” he remarked.

Citing a recent case where fraudsters duped people by promising jobs in exchange for money, the DGP termed it a “clear-cut case of cheating” and urged citizens to remain vigilant. “Why do we slip on the same ba-

nana peel time and again? It’s time people open their eyes before becoming victims,” he warned.

Prabhat said crime, while unfortunate, cannot be eliminated solely by awareness. “Society is the first line of defense against crime. We need responsible and alert citizens to make a real difference,” he stated.

He reaffirmed the police’s commitment to combat all forms of crime — from drugs and gangsterism to terrorism. “Every single day is a test for us, and each day we must strive to deliver outcomes worthy of the highest honours,” the DGP concluded.

Himachal: 3 dead, woman missing after heavy rains

AGENCIES
 MANDI

Three people lost their lives, and one woman is reported missing after heavy rains lashed Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi district late Monday night, triggering a flood-like situation and widespread damage, officials said on Tuesday.

District Commissioner (DC) Apoorv Devgan said,

“The stretch of jail road has been affected by heavy rain. 3 people have died in the area near Jail Road. One woman is missing. The search operation by the police, NDRF and Home Guard teams is underway. The roads are also being cleared. Many vehicles have been piled up near the hospital. Casualties have been reported, along with that, many houses have been

damaged.”

He added, “We have set up a relief camp in Vipasha Sadan. Officials from the electricity, PWD, Jal Shakti, and other departments are working together to provide relief.”

A flood was observed in various parts of Mandi following heavy rainfall in the city. The local police, NDRF, and Home Guards team were deployed for relief and

rescue work.

Continuous heavy rainfall since late night yesterday has disrupted life in the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. The region has been experiencing incessant rain since 11 PM, resulting in a flood-like situation across various parts of the town.

One of the worst-affected areas is the Zonal Hospital Mandi, where there is excessive water accumulation

and overflow from nearby drains. The main access road to the hospital has been closed.

Reports from local administration confirm multiple landslides in and around Mandi town, disrupting traffic and endangering residents living in landslide-prone areas. Debris from these landslides has blocked key internal roads, adding to the chaos.

Terrorist associate nabbed in Kupwara, arms recovered

AJAY JANDYAL
 KUPWARA

In a major breakthrough in the ongoing crackdown on terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir, security forces on Monday apprehended a terrorist associate in the Marsary area of Chowkibal, Kralpora, re-

covering a massive cache of arms and ammunition in the process.

The joint Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) was launched based on specific intelligence inputs and involved coordinated action by OS PARA, 160 Territorial Army, 98 Battalion CRPF, Special Operations Group

(SOG) Kralpora, and Kralpora Police.

The suspect, identified as Wali Mohammad Mir, son of Mohammad Sadiq Mir and a resident of Marsary, was intercepted and detained during the operation. Preliminary investigations suggest that Mir was a terrorist associate linked to proscribed

outfits and was actively facilitating the movement and supply of arms and ammunition to militants operating in the region.

Police have registered FIR No. 53/2025 at Kralpora Police Station under relevant sections of law. Further investigations are underway to identify the full extent of

‘Opposition works to lower morale of Army’: BJP MP

TDG NETWORK
 NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat on Tuesday strongly criticised the opposition for its stance during the ongoing debate on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha, accusing it of undermining the morale of the armed forces and appearing to align with Pakistan’s narrative.

She took a swipe at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi.

Sehrawat said, “The way the opposition is raising questions (on Operation Sindoor) is unfortunate... The opposition seems to be standing with Pakistan. Rahul Gandhi did not clap

Shah said this as he began his address in Lok Sabha amid the ongoing debate on Operation Sindoor and informed that those who killed our citizens in the ghastly Pahalgam terror attack have been killed.

when the army was talked about, even after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asked him twice. The opposition works to lower the morale of the country’s army.”

Operation Sindoor, a counter-terror initiative launched in Jammu and Kashmir, has been a flash-point in the ongoing monsoon session, with opposi-

tion leaders demanding more transparency and questioning the government’s long-term strategy. BJP members, in turn, have accused the opposition of politicising national security and failing to support the armed forces.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday confirmed that three terrorists who were

involved in the killing of civilians were eliminated by the security forces during Operation Mahadev.

Shah said this as he began his address in Lok Sabha amid the ongoing debate on Operation Sindoor and informed that those who killed our citizens in the ghastly Pahalgam terror attack have been killed.

“In a joint Operation Mahadev, the Indian Army, CRPF, and J&K Police have neutralised three terrorists who were involved in the Pahalgam terror attack,” Shah said while addressing the lower house.

“Innocent civilians were killed in front of their families by asking their

religion. I condemn this barbaric act. I express my sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones,” he added.

On Monday, three terrorists were killed in Operation Mahadev in an intense firefight with security forces in the Harwan area near Dachigam National Park of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the discussion on Operation Sindoor in Parliament, BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda told the House that it appears that at least one terrorist involved in the Pahalgam attack has been neutralised in an ongoing anti-terror operation, Mahadev, in Jammu and Kashmir.

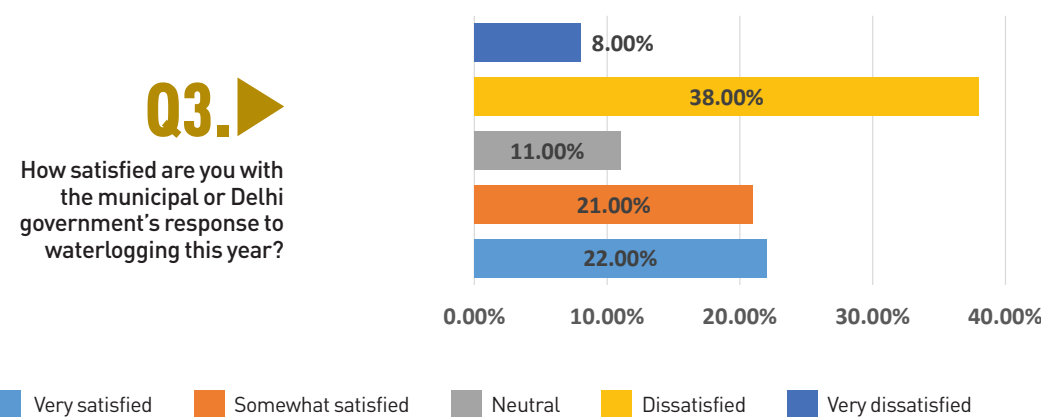
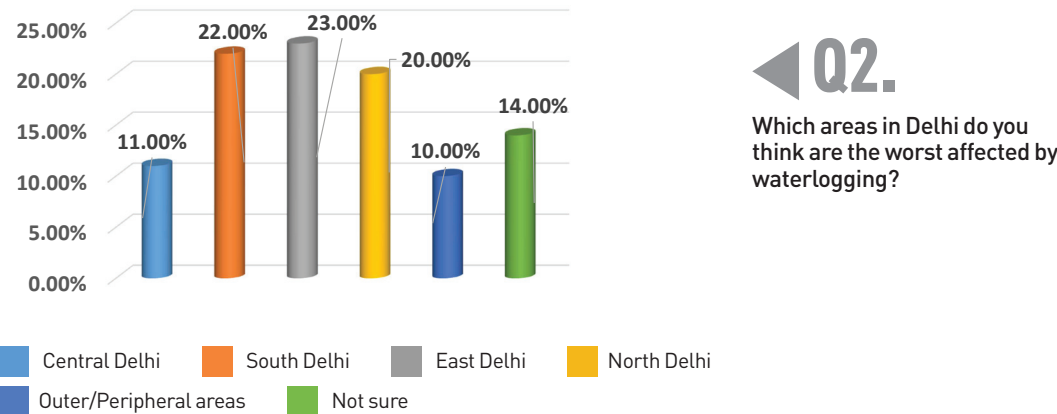
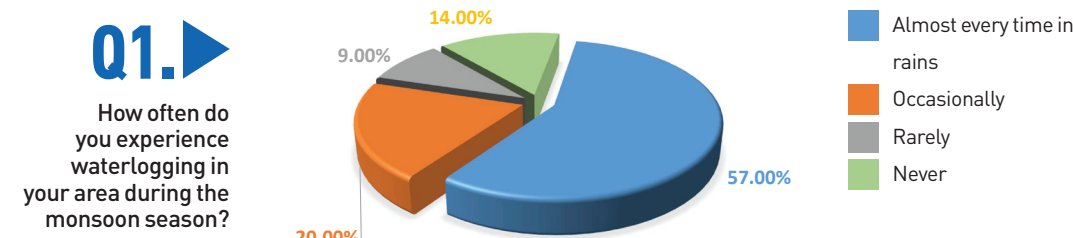
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON DELHI WATERLOGGING

22% are very satisfied with the Delhi government's waterlogging response this year

A survey on Delhi waterlogging, dated July 29, 2025, reveals 57% experience waterlogging almost every rain. East and South Delhi are

deemed worst-affected. Only 22% are very satisfied with government response, while 42% believe authorities failed to act. Lack of desilting

(38%) is cited as the primary reason for recurring waterlogging.



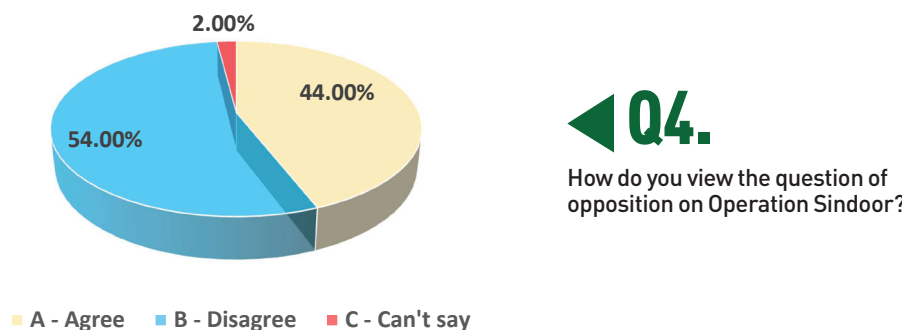
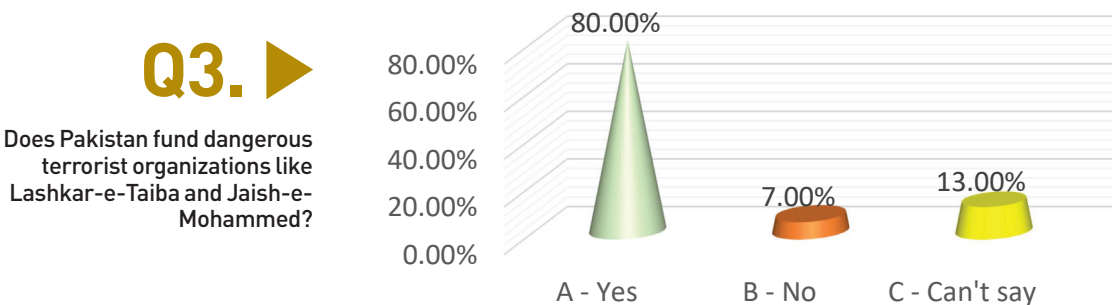
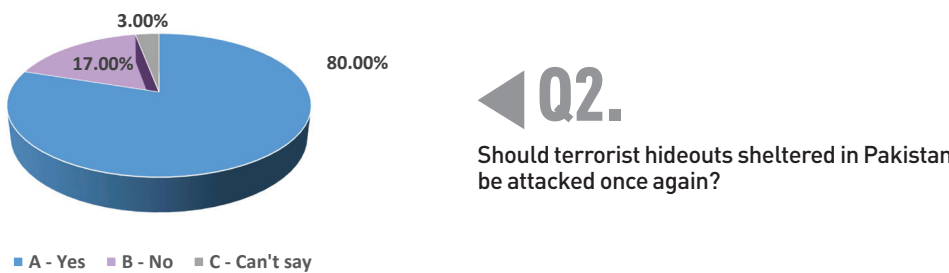
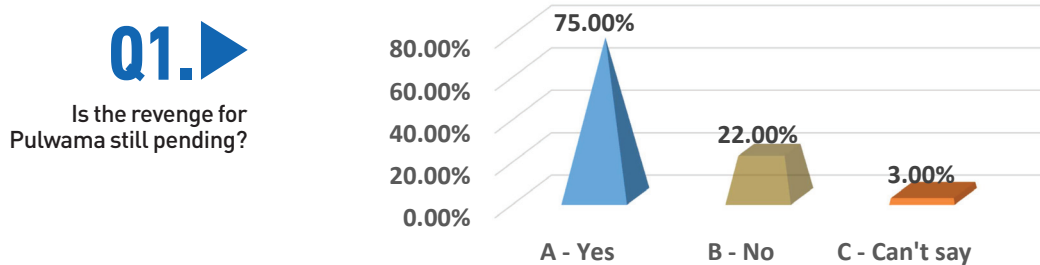
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON OPERATION SINDOOR

75% of respondents believe the revenge for Pulwama is still pending

An India News survey on "Operation Sindoor" reveals strong public sentiment. 75% believe Pulwama revenge is still pending, and 80% favor re-

newed strikes on Pakistani terrorist hideouts. A vast majority (80%) also believe Pakistan funds terror groups. Most respondents (54%) disagree

with the opposition's questioning of "Operation Sindoor," and 80% advocate continued economic strikes against Pakistan.



Perpetrators of Pahalgam attack

CONTINUED FROM P1

Laboratory.

The empty cartridges found at Pahalgam and those after test firing by the guns recovered from the terrorists were matched by the forensic lab, Shah said. The ballistic report is with him, he added.

"Six forensic experts have confirmed to me on a video call this morning that these are the same bullets used in the Pahalgam attack," he said.

Shah said security forces had recovered Pakistani voter IDs of two of the killed terrorists as well as chocolates made in Pakistan and the weapons.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through Operation Sindoor, ensured that the masterminds of the Pahalgam attack were eliminated. And yesterday, in Operation

Mahadev, those terrorists who were involved were eliminated," he said.

Describing the Pahalgam attack as barbaric, Shah said innocent civilians were brutally killed in front of their families after being asked about their religion.

Expressing condolences for those killed in Pahalgam and during Pakistani shelling on civilians, he said civilians were martyred and some gurdwaras and temples damaged due to Pakistani firing.

Terrorists are now being sent from Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir as there are no local terrorists in Kashmir, Shah said.

He said after the elimination of the three terrorists, he thought this news would spark a wave of joy across treasury and opposition benches. "But opposition faces are gloomy," he said.

Describing Pakistan as the root of all terrorism, he said Pakistan was a mistake committed by the Congress. "Had they rejected Partition, there would have been no Pakistan," he added.

Referring to Chidambaram's statement, Shah said it was extremely unfortunate that a former home minister is saying what evidence was there.

"What are they trying to prove? Whom are they trying to protect? They say that the terrorists were not Pakistani, and in this way, a former home minister from Congress is trying to give Pakistan a clean chit. By saying this, Chidambaram wants to suggest that if the terrorists were not Pakistani, then why did we attack Pakistan," he said, adding this was a clear conspiracy to protect Pakistan.

CONTINUED FROM P1

eral of Military Operations (DGMO) had informed Pakistan within minutes of the retaliatory strikes that only non-military targets were being hit and that New Delhi did not seek escalation.

"These are not my words, these are the words of India's defence minister," Gandhi said. "You attacked Pakistan and simultaneously told them we will not hit your army or air defence systems. That is not freedom of manoeuvre; that is surrender." He also alleged that the loss of Indian aircraft during the operation

was the direct result of these "political restrictions".

PM Modi, visibly bristling at the charge, rejected Gandhi's narrative outright. "At a time when our forces are engaged in a battle of resolve, some are playing politics," he said. "Today's warfare includes narratives and information. Weakening the morale of our troops through misinformation helps the enemy. No one stopped us from acting to protect our people; in fact, out of 193 countries, only three supported Pakistan." While the PM didn't name these countries it is well proven that China and Tur-

key were providing military and other support to the Pakistan army to defend and counter Operation Sindoor.

The Prime Minister said that India's strikes reached deep into Pakistani territory, hitting sites such as Bahawalpur and Muridke "where no one imagined we could strike." He listed destroyed terrorist launch pads, damaged air bases, and critical military installations "still in ICU" as evidence of the operation's success.

Highlighting indigenous defence capability, PM Modi added, "From drones to mis-

siles, our entire operation was powered by Made-in-India systems. The world is witnessing the strength of a self-reliant India."

Modi also underlined that Operation Sindoor was conceived as a non-escalatory action but was forceful enough to neutralise Pakistan's terror infrastructure. "On the night of May 6-7, we conducted an operation the way we wanted, and Pakistan couldn't do anything. In just 22 minutes, we avenged the April 22 attack," he said.

Responding to speculation that former US President Donald Trump or other global leaders had pressured

India into halting its operations, Modi said there was "no question" of India relenting under external influence. "We made it clear from day one: India will decide the terms and the timeline. No leader in the world asked us to stop Operation Sindoor," he said.

PM Modi concluded his address with a warning to Pakistan and reassurance to the Indian public: "Operation Sindoor is not over. It will continue as long as necessary. Pakistan's nuclear threats don't work anymore. If they attack, we will respond with an even bigger attack."

How forces took out the terrorists

CONTINUED FROM P1

to shield them from the rain.

Upon reaching the site, members of the team spotted one of the terrorists, Jibrin, preparing tea, while Yasis alias Suleiman Shah, their leader and a former commando in the Pakistan Army, was found sleeping.

The terrorists were challenged, and in the ensuing gunfight, all three were neutralised on the spot.

The three terrorists, all highly trained in military warfare, had so far successfully avoided detection, which was a key reason they had managed to evade a robust surveillance and tracking network that Indian agencies had activated following the Pahalgam attack for almost 100 days.

As reported by this newspaper earlier, it was confirmed by Home Minister

Amit Shah in Parliament on Tuesday that all three belonged to Pakistan. Security forces were able to identify them using Pakistani voter numbers found on their person. Chocolates manufactured in Pakistan were also recovered from the site.

Officials believe that additional material directly linking the terrorists to Pakistani state support may have been recovered but has not yet been made public for strategic reasons.

All three were designated A-category terrorists and members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The time taken by the agencies to officially confirm their identities and involvement in the Pahalgam massacre was, according to Shah's statement in Parliament, due to the requirement of multiple levels of forensic verification before public disclosure.

To that end bullet shells

recovered from the 22 April massacre site were matched with rounds fired from weapons seized after Monday's encounter. As reported by this newspaper earlier, these included an American M9 pistol and two AK-47 assault rifles which were flown to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Chandigarh on a special aircraft late Monday night.

At 4 AM Tuesday, a ballistic report was presented to Home Minister Shah. In a video call attended by six CFSL scientists, it was confirmed that the bullets matched—conclusively linking the recovered weapons to the Pahalgam killings.

The identities of the three terrorists were further corroborated by arrested over ground workers who had provided them shelter and logistical support during the planning and execution of the massacre.

Haryana men booked

CONTINUED FROM P1

her children. The accused found out and reached Ludhiana by car. They tricked her into sitting in their vehicle and then took her to Narwana, where she was allegedly held captive.

The woman told police that she was raped four times by Heera during the captivity. She said the accused kept her and her child locked in a room, threatened

them, and stole her gold mangalsutra, silver bangles, earrings, anklets, and cash. On May 6, they locked her and her child inside a room and on May 7, Heera again allegedly raped her.

Later that night, both men abandoned her and her child at Narwana railway station around midnight. She somehow returned to her home in Jammu by train, she alleged.

Punjab land pooling policy

CONTINUED FROM P1

assessments, fair compensation, and rehabilitation of affected families.

Advocate Vikas Khepar on behalf of petitioners Naveender PK Singh of Mohali and Samita Kaur of Ludhiana, claimed that the land pooling model enables the state to acquire vast tracts of fertile agricultural land under the guise of voluntary participation, without fulfilling statutory requirements such as conducting Social Impact Assessments (SIAs), obtaining consent from affected families, or ensuring fair compensation and rehabilitation.

The petitioners also challenged two key government notifications issued in 2013 and 2022 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which laid the groundwork for the 2025 land pooling policy.

They argue the policy facilitates backdoor land acquisition, particularly in rural and agrarian areas, risking long-term damage to Punjab's agricultural economy—a sector crucial to India's food grain supply.

No world leader told India to stop Op Sindoor: PM Modi

Rahul trains guns on PM, Shah

CONTINUED FROM P1

and Uttar Pradesh and they shared the memories of their son and husband, who were killed in the terror attack on April 22.

"What happened was wrong and everyone condemned," he said.

"When we meet the family members of armed forces, after shaking hand I feel that he is from security forces family. He is a tiger and he will die but he will not bow down. He is ready to fight and die for the country," he said.

Rahul Gandhi cited the example that how a tiger has to be given full freedom.

"You need to give them full freedom if you need to take work from them. There is a political will and freedom of Operation," he said.

"Similarly, if you want to take full use of forces, you need to give full freedom of operation," he said.

The former Congress chief said that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke about 1971 war in the House on Monday.

He said that in 1971 there was political will. Despite

hundreds of aircrafts coming and the then government said let it come "we don't care". Similarly, then Army chief Sam Manekshaw said that we need six months as forces to prepare for war. "Indira Gandhi said take your time and this was freedom of operation and maneuver. More than 1 lakh Pakistani soldiers surrendered. Bangladesh was formed," he said.

Taking a dig at the Defence Minister, Rahul Gandhi said: "Singh said that operation Sindoor began at 1.05 am in morning. Operation Sindoor lasted 22 minutes. And then he said the most surprising thing he said that at 1.35 a.m. we called Pakistan and told them we have hit non-military targets and we do not want escalation."

"These are the words of Defence Minister of India. He may not understand the meaning of the words he said. The DGMO was told to ask for a ceasefire at 1.35 a.m. in night. You told Pakistanis what we will do. You told them we will not target military targets. And we don't want war.

"You directly told Pakistan your political will. You told them that you don't want to fight," he said, adding that meaning Government of India informed Pakistan that we don't have political will and don't want war and surrendered.

Rahul Gandhi also said that Captain Shiv Kumar, Defence Attache had mentioned about how India lost some jets.

Referring to Shiv Kumar's remarks, the Congress leader said that he mentioned that we didn't mean to attack their military establishments.

"Meaning you went into Pakistan and you told our pilots to not attack their Defence systems. So the point is aircrafts were lost because of the commands given not to target the military establishments," he claimed.

He also mentioned the remarks made by Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan to back his claims and said, "CDS you did not make any mistake. Mistake was made by the political establishments. The air force is not to blame for.

WHO SAID WHAT
IN PARLIAMENTEDEN MOVES
ADJOURNMENT
NOTICE IN LS

New Delhi : Congress MP Hibi Eden on Tuesday submitted an adjournment motion notice in the Lok Sabha to discuss what he called the “illegal arrest and mob violence” against two Catholic nuns in Chhattisgarh. In his notice, he said, “The issue concerns the illegal arrest, fabricated charges, denial of bail, and mob violence against two Catholic nuns in Chhattisgarh—an attack on the foundational principles of religious freedom, secularism, and the rule of law.” He accused the railway police of acting in a biased manner and claimed the victims were handed over to a violent mob supported by Bajrang Dal and BJP members.

RS: SURJEWALA
MOVES SUSPENSION
OF BUSINESS NOTICE

New Delhi : Congress Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala moved a notice for Suspension of Business in the Upper House of the Parliament on Tuesday, demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar. Writing to the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Surjewala, stated, “I hereby give notice under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) of my intention to move the following motion for the suspension of business listed for 29 July 2025.

INDO-PAK CRICKET:
OWAISI VOICES
DISCOMFORT

New Delhi : While a heated debate continues in parliament over Operation Sindoor, AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi voiced his concern on Monday over the upcoming cricket match between India and Pakistan in the 2025 Asia Cup and raised questions regarding accountability for the Pahalgam attack. During the session dedicated to Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Owaisi said, “Does your conscience allow you to ask the family members of the people who were killed in Baisaran to watch India’s cricket match with Pakistan?”

MILK TO ‘SNAKES’
NOT EVERY DAY
NOT APPROPRIATE:
RAJNATH

New Delhi: Stating that offering milk to “snakes” may be appropriate on the occasion of ‘Nag Panchami’ today, but not every day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Operation Sindoor against cross-border terrorism will continue without a “full stop.” Singh made it clear that India would no longer tolerate cross-border terrorism under any pretext, including nuclear threats from Pakistan. “I would like to say that today is Nag Panchami. On the day of Nag Panchami, it is appropriate to offer milk to snakes, but not every day. Our vision is that Operation Sindoor continues steadily.

SHAH TAKES OPPOSITION TO TASK ON
OP SINDOOR IN SPEECH IN LOK SABHA

Shah accused opposition of shielding Pakistan, and highlighted India’s zero-tolerance stance on terrorism.

RAKESH SINGH
NEW DELHI

A special debate took place in Lok Sabha, where Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke openly about ‘Operation Sindoor’. This operation is linked to a recent terrorist attack in Jammu-Kashmir’s Pahalgam, where innocent civilians lost their lives. Shah not only praised the success of this operation but also strongly criticized opposition leaders. He said that this operation exposes Pakistan’s state-sponsored terrorism. While attacking the opposition, Shah tore them apart and asked why they are trying to protect Pakistan. This speech was so powerful that Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised it, saying Shah



gave important details about Operation Sindoor and Mahadev, which led to the elimination of cowardly terrorists.

The atmosphere in Parliament was heated from the start of the debate. Amit Shah first explained about

Operation Sindoor. He said it was a strong, successful, and decisive operation, which was a joint action by the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu-Kashmir Police. Yesterday, on July 28, in ‘Operation Mahadev’, three dangerous terrorists

were killed. These were the same ones who attacked innocent people in Pahalgam. Shah mentioned that one of them was Suleman Shah, a big commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

He told the House the timeline of the operation – how it started with intelligence information and was completed. Shah stressed that this operation highlights Pakistan’s terrorism, and India’s security agencies are now more alert and stronger than before. He also said that such operations are making the country’s internal security stronger, and the government is following a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. But Shah’s speech was not limited to just praising the operation.

Did PM, HM, Def Min take responsibility
of Pahalgam terror attack: PriyankaANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress MP from Kerala’s Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday trained her guns at the BJP-led NDA government at the centre over the security failure in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22 and asked did Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took the responsibility and did any resignations happen for failing to provide security to citizens.

She also asked the government when it is sharing that no defence assets were damaged during Operation



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi and other MPs at Parliament House premises on Tuesday. ANI

Sindoor when Pakistan carried put shelling, then why it is not revealing that how many fighter jets India had lost and slammed the government saying it is only known for taking credit and not for taking responsibility.

Speaking in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor, Priyanka Gandhi, who is also the Congress’ General Secretary said: “Shubham Dwivedi’s wife said that there was no security personnel present in Baisaran valley. We felt that government had left us orphan. Did government was not aware that terrorists can come out of forest and target the civilians. Government left them ‘bhagwan bharios’.”

Lamenting at the government, she said: “Want to ask, whose responsibility is the safety of citizens. Is it not the responsibility of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister and NSA.”

Govt clueless what deterrence
means, it lacks political will: RahulANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday praised Indian Armed forces for its valour and trained his guns at the Narendra Modi-led government at the centre and said the government lacked the political will to fight Pakistan and, because of that it asked the armed forces to attack with their hands tied behind their backs.

He also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to show the courage and reject the claims of US President Donald Trump that he mediated ceasefire and also targeted the government saying that it lacks political will and does not give the forces freedom of operation.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor, Rahul Gandhi, who is also a Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh’s Rae Bareilly said: “A brutal attack, heartless

attack organised and orchestrated by Pakistani state took place in Pahalgam where terrorists mercilessly killed young people, old people in cold blood.”

He said that the entire opposition condemned Pakistan.

“The moment Operation Sindoor began, in fact before it began the opposition committed itself that we will stand like a rock with the forces and the with the elected government of India.

Govt raised Rs 35,104 cr in tax,
penalties under Black Money ActANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

The government has raised a tax demand of almost Rs 35,000 crore under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 from July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2025, but only Rs 338 crore has been recovered till March 31 this year, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The revelations were made after the Ministry of Finance in a written response to the unstarred question raised by Rajya Sabha MP John Britas regarding black money and the surge of Indian-linked funds in Swiss bank accounts.

In its response, the Ministry cited media reports referencing Swiss National Bank (SNB) statistics that indicate a rise in Indian-linked funds in 2024 compared to the previous year.

However, the Ministry stated that these statistics



include various financial instruments such as customer deposits, deposits in foreign branches of Swiss banks, other liabilities as well as amounts due to banks.

The Swiss authorities have also reportedly stated that the SNB statistics shouldn’t be used for analysing deposits held by Indian residents in Switzerland.

The Ministry further informed that tax demands totalling Rs 21,719 crore were raised between July 2015 and March 2025 under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.

Additionally, penalty demands amounting to Rs 13,385 crore were raised during the same period.

Thus the tax demands of Rs 21,719 crore from 2015 to 2025 and additional penalty of Rs 13,385 crore bring the amount to approximately Rs 35,000 crore.

However, no country-wise breakup of these demands is maintained.

Notably, despite the substantial demands raised, only Rs 338 crore has actually been recovered till March 31, 2025, reflecting a significant gap between the claimed liabilities and actual realisation.

BJD MPs protest over crime against women, children

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs on Tuesday staged a protest in Parliament over the rising crime and growing insecurity among women in Odisha, and considering the insensitive attitude of the BJP government in the state.

The BJD MPs braved the rain to stage a protest near the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament. They carried posters that read ‘unsafe Odisha, silent government’, shameful and painful’. Speaking on the issue, BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Pa-



tra said, “We staged protest near Mahatma Gandhi statue as the way women and children are unsafe in Odisha, the way we have seen in Bhanadana and FM College Balasore, the heinous crimes that are being conducted and judicial inquiry.

Patra also said that he BJP government ped by Mohan Charan Majhi is sleeping so therefore we hope that the cries for the justice of women and girls children are heard in Parliament, are heard by the Centre and this double engine govern-

ment takes action at least in Odisha where they are in power. “And the protection of women and children, especially those who have been affected and injustice have been done will be ensured justice,” the BJD MP added.

The BJD has been targeting the state government over the increased crime against women and children in the state in last few months. The BJD had also earlier staged a protest in Odisha after a college student self-immolated herself and later died during treatment.



Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, JMM MP Mahua Majhi, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, and other INDIA bloc MPs protest against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, during Monsoon Session of Parliament, at Makar Dwar of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

GLIMPSES FROM PARLIAMENT



Shiv Sena-UBT MP Priyanka Chaturvedi at Parliament House. ANI



Congress MP Shashi Tharoor speak to the media at Parliament premises during the Monsoon session. ANI



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, and RJD MP Manoj Jha at Parliament House. ANI



MoS Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, BJP MPs Sambit Patra, Praveen Khandelwal, and other MPs at Parliament House on Tuesday. ANI



TMC MPs Mahua Moitra, Derek O'Brien, and other MPs stage a protest against SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, of Parliament, at Makar Dwar in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Minister Chouhan highlights
agri boom in Lok SabhaTDC NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday highlighted the government’s efforts to boost agricultural productivity and promote diverse farming practices, including fruits, flowers, vegetables, dairy, fish farming, and animal husbandry.

Speaking during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Chouhan said, “We increased production, reduced input costs, ensured better prices, compensated losses, and promoted diverse agriculture. Not just the farming of one crop, but the farming of fruits, flowers, vegetables, dairy, agriculture, fish farming, and animal husbandry. We have tried many different things.”

The minister detailed

significant increases in agricultural output over the past decade, citing specific figures for various crops and milk production.

“Over the last ten years, the production of crops has significantly increased. The production of full food grains was 240.42 million tonnes in 2013-14. It has increased to 353.96 million tonnes. The production of dal was 16.38 million tonnes. It has increased to 25.24 million tonnes. The production of tilhan was 27.51 million tonnes. It has increased to 42.61 million tonnes ... The milk production was 137.7 million tonnes. It has increased to 249.30 million tonnes,” he stated.

Chouhan also outlined key financial support schemes for farmers, including the PM-KISAN

scheme, increased Kisan Credit Card (KCC) funding, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) policies, while emphasising subsidies on urea and DAP to boost farmer incomes.

“Under PM-KISAN, 10 crore farmers benefited with Rs 2 lakh crore in subsidies. KCC funding rose from Rs 7 lakh crore under Congress to Rs 25 lakh crore under the BJP. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana paid Rs 1.43 lakh crore claims against Rs 35,000 crore premiums. MSP now includes 50 per cent profit over production costs, which Congress rejected during its rule. Urea and DAP subsidies further boosted farmer incomes,” Chouhan added.

BJP LODGES POLICE COMPLAINT AGAINST MAMATA FOR MALIGNING DELHI POLICE

Bengal CM alleges BJP-ruled state targeting Bengali-speaking migrants

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday lodged a police complaint against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her allegation that the Delhi Police physically tortured a toddler and his mother on July 26 during the ongoing drive against migrant workers from her State on the suspicion that they were illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

The complaint letter was filed on Tuesday afternoon at the cyber-crime branch at the Delhi Police headquarters by Soumendu Adhikari, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Contai and brother of the leader of the Opposition in Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari.

In a copy of the complaint which was seen by The Dai-



Mamata Banerjee

ly Guardian, Banerjee was charged with “dissemination of fake and communally provocative content on social media intended to defame the Delhi Police and disturb public order.”

The complaint letter said Banerjee should be booked for several offences including “wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot” and “cyber terrorism.”

On July 27, Mamata Banerjee posted a video of a toddler and his mother on

social media and alleged that Delhi Police physically tortured them during the drive.

“Atrocious!! Terrible!! See how Delhi Police brutally beat up a kid and his mother, members of a migrant family from Malda’s Chanchal. See how even a child is not spared from the cruelty of violence in the regime of linguistic terror unleashed by BJP in the country against the Bengalis! Where are they taking

our country now?” Banerjee wrote on X.

She posted the video hours after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) launched its year-long “Bhasa Andolan” (language movement) alleging that police in BJP-ruled States were specifically targeting migrant workers who speak Bengali. Banerjee referred to the video again on Monday while leading a protest in Birbhum district.

The video was apparently recorded by a man who pointed at some scars in the child’s left ear and forehead.

“Police tortured my wife and one-and-a-half-year-old son,” the man could be heard saying in the video. The Delhi Police countered the allegation on Monday, calling the charges “fabricated” and “politically motivated.”

Addressing the media,

deputy commissioner of police (East) Abhishek Dhania said: “Upon inquiry, we identified the woman as Sanjanu Parveen. During questioning, she alleged that on the night of July 26, four men in plain clothes posing as police personnel took her and her child to a secluded spot and demanded Rs 25,000, which she claimed to have paid.”

The DCP said police investigation, analysis of footage from local security cameras and local intelligence revealed inconsistencies in the woman’s statements.

“During sustained questioning, the woman admitted that her relative, a political worker from Malda district in West Bengal, had asked her to make the video. The video was then circulated locally in Bengal and later surfaced on social media,” Dhania said.

BJP slams Cong over 42% quota move in Telangana

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD



BJP’s Telangana unit Chief Spokesperson Sri N.V. Subhash

The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a blistering critique of the ruling Congress party over its push for 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. In a press statement released on Monday, BJP’s Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge for Telangana, Sri N.V. Subhash, accused the Congress of running a “deliberate and deceptive campaign” aimed at covering up its own legislative failures.

Subhash came down heavily on State Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, alleging that the Congress is attempting to blame the Union Government and even drag the President of India into the matter to mask its own inaction. “The Congress is playing politics with the Constitution. If they are truly committed to BC welfare, they can imple-

ment the 42% reservation directly at the gram panchayat level instead of indulging in political theatrics and blaming the Centre,” he stated.

Calling the Congress’ current campaign a “smoke-screen to mislead the people,” Subhash reminded the ruling party that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment—which strengthened Panchayati Raj institutions—was enacted during the Congress regime itself under Rajiv Gandhi.

“Why is the Congress now

shirking from its responsibility to act? Let them convene a special session of the Assembly and amend the laws if they are sincere,” he said.

Subhash further stated that the Modi-led NDA government has shown genuine commitment to social justice, citing the constitutional amendment that enabled 10% EWS reservations, and the effective implementation of SC/ST quotas, all within the 50% ceiling mandated by the Supreme Court.

Quoting the apex court’s judgment in the Maratha reservation case, Subhash noted that exceeding the 50% reservation cap is permitted only in exceptional circumstances involving a high SC/ST population—conditions which Telangana does not meet. “The Congress is falsely equating Telangana with tribal-dominated states like Jharkhand or North-Eastern regions to justify its political agenda,” he said.

CISF sees 40% drop in suicides since Nov 2024 post mental health initiative

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

A mental health initiative launched jointly by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Aditya Birla Education Trust (ABET) in November 2024 has led to a 40% reduction in suicide incidents among CISF personnel—a development being hailed as a major breakthrough in institutional mental wellness within India’s paramilitary forces.

The initiative, titled Project Mann, has extended psychological support to over 75,000 personnel and their families through a wide network of counselling services, clinical interventions, psychometric screenings, peer engagement, and a dedicated 24x7 helpline across CISF units.

On Monday, CISF Director General R.S. Bhatti and ABET Chairperson



Representative Image

Neeraja Birla jointly reviewed the project’s progress and committed to expanding its reach in the years ahead. The initiative, being run in partnership with Mpower, the mental health arm of ABET, was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2024.

“Mental health is as mission-critical

as physical fitness for our personnel,” DG Bhatti said during the meeting. “This initiative strengthens our internal support systems and ensures that our personnel remain emotionally resilient, focused and operationally ready.”

Official sources told the Daily Guardian that Project Mann has enabled 1,726 CISF officers and sub-officers to be trained in identifying and handling low-risk mental health concerns at the grassroots level, escalating more serious cases to clinical professionals. This two-tiered framework has helped embed psychological support mechanisms within everyday CISF operations.

According to officials, high-sensitivity units like IGI Airport, Delhi Metro, and Parliament have seen over 31,000 personnel undergo psychometric evaluation to flag potential risks early.

Assam launches largest-ever eviction drive in Uriamghat, Golaghat

NIBIR DEKA
NEW DELHI

The Golaghat district administration on Monday launched Assam’s largest-ever eviction drive in the Rengma forest area located along the Assam-Nagaland border in Uriamghat.

For the operation, over 2,000 Assam Police personnel and around 500 forest guards have been deployed in the area. More than 100 excavators and Pokland machines have been kept ready for the drive. The move cleared 11,000 bighas (approximately 3,600 acres) of land in the Rengma Reserve forest at Uriamghat, bordering Nagaland. The eviction

drive will affect nearly 2,000 families who have allegedly encroached on the forest land and turned it into a betel nut plantation linked with the betel mafia.

According to officials, the administration will demolish a total of 2,648 illegal houses constructed in 12 suspected villages within the Rengma forest area. The eviction drive will cover localities such as Sonaribil Top, 2 No. Pithaghat, 2 No. Dayalpur, 3 No. Dayalpur, Dalanpathar, Kherbari, Vidyapur, Vidyapur Bazaar, 2 No. Madhupur, Anandpur, Rajapukhuri and Gelajan.

As per Assam Police IGP Akhilesh Kumar Singh, “We had already made prepara-

tions and the local people have also cooperated as no one wants construction in the forest lands.”

Security convoys have arrived in Sarupathar from various districts, while heavy machinery has been brought in from Golaghat, Merapani, Sivasagar and Tinsukia. Senior officials, including Additional Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendents, and Assistant Commissioners from several districts, are monitoring the operation on the ground.

As per the administration’s plan, the eviction drive began on Monday morning from the Vidyapur area.

Himanta Biswa stated that 70% of the identified

encroachers had already vacated voluntarily and reiterated the government’s commitment to restoring forest and government land.

Last week, Mr Sarma had said that 1.29 lakh bighas (over 42,500 acres) of land have been cleared of encroachment in the last four years, while approximately 29 lakh bighas (more than 9.5 lakh acres) of land remain encroached in the state.

Assam CM has stated that more than 1200 hectares of land size of Chandigarh has been cleared.

As per data accessed by TSG, 12,0003 hectares of area of land illegal encroached has been cleared by the Assam government.

YSRCP condemns Jagan’s Nellore visit restrictions, questions TDP’s P4 scheme

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has strongly objected to the restrictions imposed by the administration in Nellore ahead of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s proposed visit to the district. The visit is aimed at meeting party leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy, who is currently in judicial custody under what the party claims are false and politically motivated charges.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, former TTD Chairman and senior YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy criticized the government’s move to issue notices to party leaders and impose crowd control measures. “YS Jagan is a mass leader who enjoys tremendous public support. People gather voluntarily wherever he goes. It is undemocratic and absurd to



YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy

issue notices to our leaders and restrict public movement,” he said.

Reddy further stated that no one can stop people from coming out in support of their leader, and warned officials against threatening legal action for public gatherings. He maintained that the YSRCP has not mobilized any crowds, as there is no need for such efforts when people themselves wish to see their leader.

Lashing out at the TDP government’s P4 initiative, Reddy accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

Reddy further stated that no one can stop people from coming out in support of their leader, and warned officials against threatening legal action for public gatherings.

of turning governance into a philosophical exercise. He said if the intention was to support 20 lakh poor families, Naidu who he alleged had amassed vast personal wealth could sponsor them himself, instead of pressuring the administration and collecting funds in the name of welfare.

He also pointed out that no TDP MLA or leader had come forward to support a single family under the P4 concept, but funds were being collected in its name.

CM-YUVA: UP youth to get one-stop platform to start business

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

The grand launch of the next phase of Uttar Pradesh government’s ambitious program Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan (CM-YUVA) is going to take place on 30 and 31 July at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate this two-day youth conclave and expo. This event is going to open the doors of entrepreneurship for lakhs of youth of the state, in which franchisees, financial institutions, industrial brands, policy makers, trainers and investors will be present on the same platform. The Yogi government has designed this conclave as a “one-stop business platform”, where the entire journey from idea to starting a venture has been simplified.

Commissioner and Director, Directorate of Industries



and Enterprise Promotion K. Vijayendra Pandian said that this program is a revolutionary initiative towards preparing the youth of UP for self-employment. This scheme, started with the inspiration of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is today taking the youth power of Uttar Pradesh towards economic self-reliance. So far, more than 6 lakh youth in the state have registered in the CM Yuva Yojana. Out of these, 67,897 youth have been provided interest-free and guarantee-free loans of Rs 2751.82 crore.

SC says will step in case of mass exclusion Bihar voter list revision

SAMBHAV SHARMA @ AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday cautioned the Election Commission that any action taken outside the scope of its official notification regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar would invite judicial intervention.

The remark came during Day 2 of the hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the revision exercise, which is being conducted ahead of the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi noted that as a constitutional authority, the Commission must adhere strictly to the legal framework and ensure no eligible voter is excluded arbitrarily.

The bench was examining pleas concerning large-scale exclusions and procedural lapses in the voter list revision.



The bench noted that large-scale exclusions would invite court scrutiny. Even if only a few affected people come forward, the Court will examine the issue.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Prashant Bhushan appeared for the petitioners. Sibal said that a large number of people were not given the right to file objections.

The top court put the matter for further hearing on August 12 and 13.

Yesterday, during the hearing, Justice Surya Kant observed that Aadhaar and the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) must be treated as valid documents for inclusion in the voter list.

The bench emphasised that large-scale exclusions cannot be permitted and that any suspicion of forgery should be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Senior advocate Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, once again alleged that people are being left out from the draft list to be published on August 1 by the poll panel and will lose their crucial right to vote.

Bhushan said the EC has issued a statement that 65 lakh persons have not submitted the enumeration forms during the SIR process as they are either dead or have permanently shifted elsewhere. These people will have to apply afresh for inclusion in the list, he submitted.

Justice Kant said, “The Election Commission of India, being a constitutional authority, is deemed to act in accordance with the law.

Congress aims to lead J&K statehood push with new phase of protests, campaigns

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

The Congress party has planned a new phase of protests, outreach programmes and hunger strikes to demand the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The move comes just before the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra said the party will observe August 5 as a “Black Day”, with peaceful sit-in protests across the region.

“A big protest will be held at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu and in all district headquarters,” Karra said. “We will keep reminding the BJP gov-

ernment of its promise to return statehood. Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq (Our state, our right) is not just a slogan, it is about our identity and dignity.”

From August 1 to 5, Congress will hold a public outreach campaign called ‘Chauraha Pe Charcha’, where party members will meet civil society groups, trade unions, transport workers, and the public



J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra addresses a press conference

in different towns to build pressure on the Centre.

From August 9, the party will begin day-long chain

hunger strikes in Srinagar and Jammu. These will continue until August 20, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The hunger strikes will pause on August 15 and 16, given the Independence Day celebrations.

The first phase of the Congress campaign—“Srinagar Chalo”, ‘Jammu Chalo’ and ‘Delhi Chalo’—energised

the Congress workers and set the stage to intensify the campaign, paving the way for a more intense phase with protests and direct contact with the public to press their demand.

The Congress has also called for a three-day special session of the J&K Assembly to pass a law demanding the immediate restoration of statehood. The party is trying to take

the lead on this issue, especially since the BJP government has not given any timeline for restoring statehood, and the NC has been criticised for not pushing the demand strongly.

The Congress campaign also comes at a time when Parliament is in its monsoon session. The party hopes to build pressure during this period and gain traction.

PALESTINIAN DEATH TOLL SURPASSES 60,000 IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

TDG NETWORK
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

More than 60,000 Palestinians have been killed during the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday. Israeli strikes overnight killed more than two dozen people, mostly women and children, according to health officials.

The Israeli offensive, launched in response to Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and fueled a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

Experts warned Tuesday that the territory of about 2 million Palestinians is on the brink of famine after Israeli restrictions and a breakdown of security have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver aid.

The Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-run govern-



ment, said that the death toll has climbed to 60,034, with 145,870 others wounded since the war started. The victims include 18,592 children and 9,782 women. Together, they make up nearly half the dead.

The ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count, is staffed by medical professionals. The United Nations and other independent experts view its figures as the most reliable count of casualties.

Israel has disputed its figures, but hasn't provided its own account of casualties.

Airstrikes on tents housing displaced people in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp late Monday killed 30 people, including 12 children and 14 women, according to Al-Awda Hospital.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, saying the

militants operate in populated areas. The military said that it targeted Hamas military infrastructure over the past day, including rocket launchers, weapons storage facilities and tunnels.

Hospital officials, meanwhile, said that they received the bodies of an additional 33 people who were killed by gunfire around an aid convoy in southern Gaza on Monday, bringing the toll to 58. Witnesses said that Israeli forces fired toward the crowd.

Another 14 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday near a site in central Gaza run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, an Israeli-backed American contractor, according to local hospitals. GHF said that there were no violent incidents near its sites on Tuesday.

The Israeli military didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on either shooting.

More than 1,000 Pales-

tinians have been killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid since May, according to witnesses, health officials and the U.N. human rights office. Israel, which controls large areas of Gaza where aid is distributed, says that it has only fired warning shots at those who approach its forces.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, the foremost international authority on food crises, said that Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years. But it said that recent developments, including Israeli restrictions, have "dramatically worsened" the situation.

"The facts are in — and they are undeniable," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said. "Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions ... The trickle of aid must become an ocean."

Israel's leader claims no one in Gaza starving; data, witnesses disagree



TDG NETWORK
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says no one in Gaza is starving: "There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza. We enable humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the war to enter Gaza — otherwise, there would be no Gazans."

President Donald Trump on Monday said he disagrees with Netanyahu's claim of no starvation in Gaza, noting the images emerging of emaciated people: "Those children look very hungry."

After international pressure, Israel over the week-



Israel said over the weekend the military would pause operations in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi for 10 hours a day and designate secure routes for aid delivery as the hunger crisis grows in Gaza.

end announced humanitarian pauses, airdrops and other measures meant to allow more aid to Palestinians in Gaza. But people there say little or nothing has changed on the ground. The U.N. has described it as a one-week scale-up of aid, and Israel has not said how long these latest measures would last.

"This aid, delivered in this way, is an insult to the Palestinian people," said Hasan Al-Zalaan, who was at the site of an airdrop as some fought over the supplies and crushed cans of chickpeas littered the ground.

Israel asserts that Hamas is the reason aid isn't reaching Palestinians in Gaza and accuses its militants of siphoning off aid to support its rule in the territory. The U.N. denies that looting of aid is systematic and that it lessens or ends entirely when enough aid is allowed to enter Gaza.

The World Health Organization said Sunday there have been 63 malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza this month, including 24 children under the age of 5 — up from 11 deaths total the previous six months of the year.

Thailand-Cambodia border calm as military commanders hold talks

TDG NETWORK
BANGKOK

Military commanders from Thailand and Cambodia held talks on Tuesday as calm returned to their disputed border and displaced residents began trickling back, following the Southeast Asian neighbours announcing a truce to end five days of fighting.

Thai and Cambodian leaders met in Malaysia on Monday and agreed to a ceasefire deal to halt their deadliest conflict in more than a decade that has killed at least 40 people, mostly civilians, and displaced over 300,000 in both countries.

Although Thailand's military said that there had been attacks by Cambodian troops



in at least five locations early on Tuesday, violating the ceasefire that had come into effect from midnight, commanders from both sides met and held talks, a Thai army spokesperson said.

Cambodia denied the charge, insisting that its troops have strictly abided by the ceasefire since midnight and

Major Gen. Winthai Suwaree told reporters.

The commanders, who met at the border, agreed to maintain the ceasefire, stop any troop movement, and facilitate the return of the wounded and dead bodies, he said.

"Each side will establish a coordinating team of four to resolve any problems," Winthai said.

Both militaries have agreed not to deploy more troops along their disputed border, said Lim Menghour, Director-General of the Commission on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the National Assembly of Cambodia, who also underlined the need for international observers to monitor the ceasefire.

China starts relief after floods kills 30

TDG NETWORK
BEIJING

At least 30 people have died in Beijing and more than 80,000 were evacuated to safety, Chinese authorities said, as heavy rains and floods ravage roads and houses in northern China.

Eight other people died after a landslide on Monday in Chengde city, about three hours northeast of Beijing.

China is dealing with a summer of extreme weather. Record heatwaves hit the country's eastern region earlier this month while floods swept the country's southwest.

Against the backdrop of the massive floods in northern China, President Xi Jinping has called for "all-out" rescue efforts and told authorities to



prepare for "worst-case and extreme scenarios".

"No effort should be spared to search for and rescue those missing or trapped, to transfer and resettle residents in affected areas, and to reduce casualties to the greatest extent possible," the president said on Monday.

Chinese authorities have allocated 200 million yuan (\$28m; £21m) for recovery efforts, including repairing

transportation and other infrastructure.

The outskirts of Beijing, including the suburban districts of Miyun and Huairou, were hit hardest by the torrential rain.

The floods have damaged dozens of roads and disrupted power to more than 130 villages. Videos show rescuers wading in chest-deep floodwaters to reach stranded residents, as well as helicopters

and drones ferrying food and other aid to the disaster zone.

Ms Yang, who works in Hebei province, told BBC Chinese that she was very worried about her family, who live in Miyun district - one of the areas hit hardest by the floods.

Since Sunday she had not been able to contact her parents and grandfather, who all suffer from health problems and have limited mobility. Her family had also been taking care of her pets: eight cats and three dogs.

Their village is small and remote, with just around 10 households, she said, adding that she feared rescuers might miss it altogether. Out of desperation, she took to social media to appeal for rescue, hoping they would be found soon.

North Korea calls Kim-Trump ties 'not bad,' says won't abandon nukes



TDG NETWORK
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dismissed the U.S.'s intent to resume diplomacy on North Korea's denuclearization, as she urged Washington to accept her country as a nuclear weapons state and find a new approach to restart talks.

Kim Yo Jong's statement suggested North Korea would only return to talks if the U.S. rewards it for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability. Some

experts say U.S. President Donald Trump could still pursue talks with North Korea to make a diplomatic achievement.

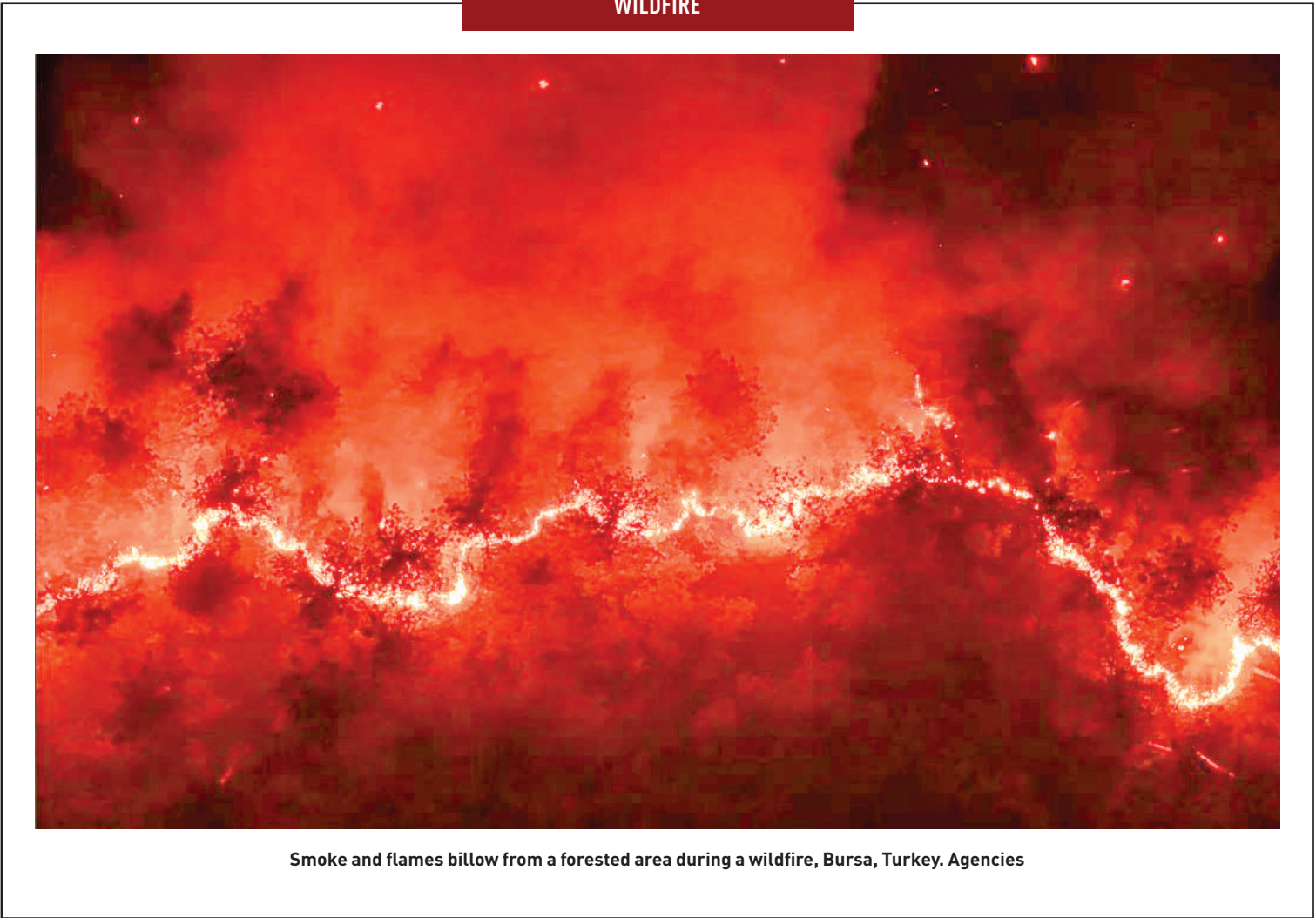
Trump has recently bragged of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed hopes of restarting nuclear diplomacy between them. Their high-stakes diplomacy in 2018-19 that occurred during Trump's first term unraveled after Trump rejected Kim's calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a limited denuclearization step. Kim

has since executed weapons tests to modernize and expand his nuclear arsenal.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said she doesn't deny the personal relationship between her brother and Trump "is not bad." But she said if their personal relations are to serve the purpose of North Korea's denuclearization, North Korea would view it as "nothing but a mockery."

She said North Korea's nuclear capability has sharply increased since the first round of the Kim-Trump diplomacy and that any attempt to deny North Korea as a nuclear weapons state would be rejected.

"If the U.S. fails to accept the changed reality and persists in the failed past, the DPRK- U.S. meeting will remain as a 'hope' of the U.S. side," Kim Yo Jong said, referring to her country by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



Smoke and flames billow from a forested area during a wildfire, Bursa, Turkey. Agencies

Netanyahu, Putin discuss Iran amid rising regional tensions over nuclear talks

TDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin held discussions on Iran, the Prime Minister's Office confirmed on Tuesday.

Taking to X, the official handle of the Prime Minister of Israel posted, "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Russian President



Vladimir Putin. The conversation between the two leaders was on the issue of Iran."

According to The Times of Israel, the phone call also covered wider developments in West Asia East, with a focus on Iran's nuclear program and the recent sectarian violence in Syria.

During the call, Putin "emphasized the importance of supporting the unity, sovereignty and territorial

integrity" of Syria, as per a Kremlin statement cited by The Times of Israel. The discussion came after Israeli airstrikes earlier this month targeted Syrian military sites in Sweida and Damascus, following sectarian unrest in the Druze-majority city.

Clashes in Sweida province, which began on July 13 and lasted for a week, initially involved Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouin tribes.

According to witnesses, experts, and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the violence escalated when Syrian government forces intervened on behalf of the Bedouin. The war monitor reported that more than 1,400 people, mostly Druze, were killed, and over 250 Druze civilians were summarily executed by government personnel.

Putin also reiterated that

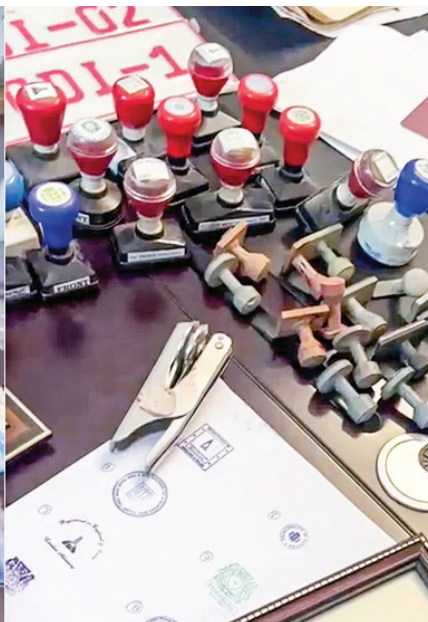
"political stability in the country must be achieved through respect for all ethnic and religious groups' interests," The Times of Israel noted. Despite its war in Ukraine, Russia maintains military presence in Syria and continues to support Bashar al-Assad's regime, which fell in December, prompting Assad's relocation to Moscow.

According to The Times of

Israel, the Russian President also offered to mediate renewed talks on Iran's nuclear program, which had stalled following Israel's surprise strikes on Iranian military and nuclear facilities last month, triggering a 12-day war. Moscow had previously played a key role in removing enriched uranium from Iran during the 2015 nuclear deal under the Obama administration.



Noida unit of UP STF busts an illegal embassy running in Ghaziabad and arrests Harsh Vardhan Jain, who was running an illegal West Arctic Embassy by taking a rented house in Kavinagar calling himself Consul/Ambassador of countries like West Arctica, Saborga, Poulvia, Lodonina and travels in vehicles with diplomatic number plates, on Wednesday. ANI photo



MICRONATION ILLUSIONS: THE CURIOUS CASE OF HARSH JAIN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

For nearly ten years, a quiet bungalow in Ghaziabad wore the mask of diplomacy. Flags fluttered outside, luxury cars bore diplomatic plates, and a gold nameplate declared the residence an embassy. Its self-styled “ambassador,” Harsh Vardhan Jain, claimed to represent exotic-sounding nations—Westarctica, Seborga, Ladonia—none of which held any legal standing in the real world.

From this rented home, Jain spun an elaborate con. He posed as a high-ranking diplomat, showing doctored photos with Indian leaders and offering dreams of overseas jobs and business deals. People believed him. After all, who questions an ambassador?

That illusion came crashing down in July 2025. The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force raided the property and exposed the farce. Inside, they found Rs 44.7 lakh in cash, fake passports, forged government seals, phony identity cards, and documents from imaginary states. Jain’s financial web stretched across shell companies and bank accounts in India and abroad. Authorities suspect the scam ran deep—potentially Rs 300 crore worth.

Charged with forgery, impersonation, and money laundering, Jain’s diplomatic masquerade was swiftly dismantled. Even the very micronations he had claimed to serve—Westarctica and Seborga—publicly disowned him.

The story of Harsh Vardhan Jain didn’t just reveal a scam. It exposed the curious loophole where fantasy meets fraud, where the illusion of nationhood can be weaponized—and where an “ambassador” turned out to serve a country that never existed.

CONNECTION TO THE MICRONATION PHENOMENON

Jain’s scheme shines a spotlight on the weird world of micronations and how their existence can be misused. Micronations are self-proclaimed miniature “countries” that claim sovereignty without any legal basis. In the Ghaziabad case, Jain hitched himself to several such entities (Westarctica, Seborga, Ladonia, etc.) to appear legitimate. These micronations have official-sounding names, titles, and paraphernalia—which gave Jain’s con a patina of authenticity to unsuspecting people. For instance, he called himself Consul General

What began as a bizarre curiosity in a quiet Ghaziabad bungalow unraveled into one of India’s most surreal fraud cases. In July 2025, the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force busted Harsh Vardhan Jain’s elaborate operation posing as a diplomat from fictional nations like “Westarctica.” The raid uncovered fake passports, forged seals, Rs 44.7 lakh in cash, and a sprawling Rs 300-crore financial trail spanning shell companies and overseas accounts. But this was more than just a local scam—it exposed a growing global concern: the misuse of micronations.

TDG EXPLAINER

of Westarctica and even carried fancy certificates and plates from these groups. To victims unfamiliar with micronations, these trappings might look like genuine diplomatic credentials. This case illustrates how the niche subculture of micronations can be leveraged as a cover for crime: the absence of recognition means no real embassy oversight, yet the concept is just believable enough to fool people.

Importantly, the Ghaziabad fraud also underscores that micronations have no legal standing in India (or anywhere else). When Jain claimed “diplomatic immunity” as a Westarctica envoy, it held no water – Indian law does not recognise make-believe countries. Genuine nations often tolerate hobby micronations as harmless until someone uses them to defraud or threaten security. In this instance, Indian authorities treated Jain as an ordinary criminal suspect, not a diplomat, swiftly dismantling his pseudo-embassy. The incident has drawn global attention to how micronation myths can be abused, prompting discussions about tightening vigilance against fake embassies and sovereign citizen-style scams.

UNDERSTANDING MICRONATIONS

Micronations are best described as fantasy nations or DIY countries – small self-declared states created by individuals or groups, lacking recognition from world governments. They often claim a piece of territory (a house, farm, empty land,

or even an old sea platform) and declare sovereignty over it. By definition, a micronation mimics a real nation: it may have a flag, a coat of arms, a constitution, official-sounding offices and titles, and sometimes even “passports” or currency. The key difference is that no established country or international body acknowledges the micronation’s sovereignty. In other words, it’s a political experiment, hobby, or protest rather than a legal entity.

Micronations are distinct from microstates like Vatican City or Monaco, which are tiny but fully recognized nations. A micronation lacks legal recognition, meaning it cannot enforce laws beyond its own participants, nor enter valid diplomatic relations. Many micronations invoke (half-jokingly) the Montevideo Convention criteria for statehood – a defined territory, permanent population, government, and capacity for foreign relations. While some meet these on paper, what they lack is the “force majeure” – the actual power and recognition to enforce sovereignty under international law. In practice, micronations exist in a legal limbo: their claims are not backed by any government’s consent or international treaties. Thus, they remain symbolic or pretend countries, even if their founders take them quite seriously.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND MOTIVATIONS

Micronations vary widely,

but they share some common characteristics and origins:

- **Eccentric origins:** Most start with one imaginative individual playing king or president. The Republic of Saugeais began as a joke in France in 1947.
- **Protest with a flag:** Some, like the Conch Republic (Key West, 1982), are tongue-in-cheek rebellions against bureaucracy. Others, like Christiania in Copenhagen, represent alternative lifestyles and anarchist ideals.
- **Claiming no-man’s land:** Micronations often spring up in legal grey zones. Westarctica claimed an unclaimed part of Antarctica in 2001, while Liberland staked out a tiny patch between Croatia and Serbia in 2015.
- **Trappings of Statehood:** They mimic real nations with flags, coins, stamps, and mock passports. These symbols are purely ceremonial but help sell the fantasy.
- **Virtual citizens:** Some attract thousands of online supporters. Westarctica boasts 2,500 “citizens,” while Ladonia hands out noble titles to donors—creating community without territory.

LEGAL STATUS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Micronations are often called “sovereign fantasies” because they lack legal standing. According to the Montevideo Convention (1933), a state must have a population, territory, government, and recognition by other states. Micronations may meet the first three—but without international recognition, they’re not real countries.

Examples like Sealand (off the UK coast) issue passports and claim independence, but no nation

acknowledges them. International law treats such entities as private ventures, not sovereign states.

Courts and governments reject their claims. When micronations cross into fraud—like EnenKio or the Dominion of Melchizedek—they face crackdowns. At best, they’re tolerated as satire or protest. At worst, they’re criminal schemes. Without recognition, they remain nothing more than “roleplaying with a national anthem.”

NOTABLE MICRONATIONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Some micronations are whimsical, others political or artistic—but all share bold claims of sovereignty that make headlines. Here are a few of the most colorful:

- **Sealand (UK):** Founded in 1967 on a World War II sea fort, Sealand has its own flag, passports, royal family, and even fended off a mercenary “coup” in 1978. Still unrecognised by any country, it remains micronation lore’s biggest legend.
- **Hutt River (Australia):** In 1970, farmer Leonard Casley declared independence over wheat quotas. As “Prince Leonard,” he ruled for 50 years, issued stamps, declared war on Australia, and ran a tourist spot—until tax debts ended the dream in 2020.
- **Molossia (USA):** A backyard micronation in Nevada run by “President” Kevin Baugh, complete with its own currency (backed by cookie dough), uniforms, and even Olympics. It’s fun, harmless, and still going strong since 1977.
- **Seborga (Italy):** A real Italian village with a playful claim of historic sovereignty. Seborga elects its

own “Prince,” flies its flag, and draws tourists—but warns that its titles (like the one misused by Harsh Jain) have no legal value.

- **Ladonia (Sweden):** Born from an art protest in 1996, Ladonia is a sculpture-covered strip of land ruled by a queen and backed by thousands of online “citizens.” It grants noble titles and uses micronationhood as a form of creative expression.
- **Liberland (Balkans):** Declared in 2015 on a disputed Danube River patch, Liberland champions libertarian ideals and claims over 200,000 online citizens. Croatia blocks any real settlement, but the project persists as a digital nation-in-waiting.
- **Flandrensis (Antarctica):** Founded in 2008 to promote climate awareness, this micronation claims uninhabited Antarctic land and bans human residents. It issues passports and advocates conservation—not sovereignty.
- **New Atlantis (1964):** Ernest Hemingway’s brother Leicester launched this nation on a bamboo raft to support ocean research. It lasted two years before a storm sank it—but it sparked U.S. concerns about seasteading decades ahead of its time.

Together, these micronations range from eccentric stunts to political statements, showing how the idea of “nationhood” can be playfully—and sometimes provocatively—reimagined.

FRAUDULENT MICRONATIONS AND FAKE SOVEREIGNTY SCAMS

Not all micronations are harmless hobbies—some have been used for fraud, deception, and fake diplomacy. Here are some of the most notorious:

- **Dominion of Melchizedek:** Created in the 1990s by a father-son duo, this fake “nation” offered bogus banking licenses and passports to enable international money laundering. It linked up with other phantom entities like EnenKio and swindled millions before global crackdowns. The U.S. SEC and Marshall Islands branded it a fraud.
- **Kingdom of EnenKio:** Claimed Wake Atoll in the Pacific and issued fake passports and \$500 million in fake “government bonds.” The Marshall Islands and the U.S. SEC denounced it, exposing EnenKio as a sovereign scam working in tandem with Melchizedek.
- **United States of Kailasa:** Founded by fugitive godman Nithyananda, Kailasa claims to be a Hindu nation on a mystery island. It tricked Newark (USA) into a sister-city deal and nearly pulled off a land deal in Bolivia before 20 arrests in 2025 exposed it as a global con. India still seeks Nithyananda’s extradition.
- **Fake U.S. embassy in Ghana:** From the mid-2000s to 2016, scammers ran a fake U.S. embassy in Accra—complete with flag, Obama portrait, and real visas issued via bribery. They sold visas and forged documents for a decade before U.S. and Ghanaian authorities shut it down.
- **Moorish sovereign consulates (USA):** Sovereign citizen groups in the U.S. have squatted in homes and claimed them as embassies of imaginary Moorish nations. They used fake deeds and diplomatic immunity claims to seize property and evade laws. Courts and law enforcement have uniformly

rejected these scams.

- **Other cases:** A fake “Maltese consulate” in Italy (2018), a bogus “Sovereign State of Šumava” in the Czech Republic (2011), and the invented “United Nations of Africa” in Nigeria (2022) all show how claims of sovereignty are used to sell fake titles, evade taxes, or run shady businesses.

HOW GOVERNMENT SEES IT

In sum, the broader phenomenon of micronations has a decidedly two-faced nature. On one side, there are genuine if peculiar enthusiasts and idealists building their own little countries for fun, protest, or principle – largely harmless and sometimes even thought-provoking. On the other side lurk opportunists and fraudsters who see the idea of a sover-



Delprat, 76, is the self-appointed Prince of the Principality of Wy, a micronation consisting of his home in the north Sydney suburb of Mosman. File photo

ign nation as the ultimate loophole to exploit – a way to dodge laws, swindle the unwary, or claim unearned power. The Ghaziabad fake embassy case sits squarely at the intersection of these: an intriguing micronation story that turned into a criminal enterprise. It highlights the need for awareness that not all that waves a flag is a country, and that terms like “ambassador” or “consul” can be appropriated by con men. Authorities worldwide are increasingly alert to such scams. Meanwhile, the colorful legitimate micronations will no doubt continue declaring independence on a whim – but hopefully with a clear distinction from criminal fakes. As one Indian official quipped after the Ghaziabad bust, “Having a fake country is fine as a fantasy. Swindling others with it is where the line is drawn.”



Sealand (off the UK coast) issue passports and claim independence. File photo



Queen Carolyn of the Royal Republic of Ladonia. File photo



The entrance to Freetown Christiania. File photo

CAN INDIA BALANCE BRICS AND WEST?

OPINION

UPAMANYU BASU

The recent statement by U.S President Donald Trump regarding BRICS reiterated his threat to impose a 10% tariff on imports from member countries of the group. This is an extension of Trump's larger argument that countries aligning with BRICS is an "Anti-American policy". A similar threatening tone was also maintained by NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte calling for punitive measures warning China, Brazil and India with US sanctions. Trump in this context, went a step further threatening secondary tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue buying Russian exports.

Despite the absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the 11 member BRICS grouping adopted a joint declaration reaffirming their commitment towards multiple fronts from finance and trade to emerging technologies and strategic autonomy. Trump's unease with this grouping, considering its recent attempt to create their own reserve currency raises some pertinent questions. Is BRICS inherently Anti-American?

And a supplementary and perhaps a more pressing question emerges from countries like India i.e How New Delhi can balance between strategic partnerships with the U.S led West and its deepening engagement with

the Global South through platforms like BRICS?

IS BRICS ANTI AMERICAN ?

The early discourse around this coalition of emerging economies was mindful of suggesting that the United States is an "indispensable nation". The Chinese foreign ministry had also clarified in 2009, that this cooperation should not "be directed against a third party". However, since Russia's presidency of the group in 2015, BRICS have been appearing to be significantly closer to China, especially in the wake of western sanctions following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. Such actions have led to a persistent narrative in the West that BRICS is anti-American or a Pro-China grouping. However, this characterization is largely misplaced.

A 2023 study of Fletcher School of Diplomacy, counters this claim by suggesting that there are multiple policies where BRICS and the United States shared common positions. On the contrary, attempts of establishing an FTA led by China, never got the support from other member states. Even the highly publicized de-dollarization attempts by BRICS, have not been supported by major players like India, who have clearly stated that "de-dollarization is not their policy nor strategy".



If one takes the recent joint declaration into account, BRICS seems to unite on major security issues, one of the most important ones being the counter terrorism agenda. This has nothing to do with being closer to China or Russia for that matter, but creating an open and transparent forum towards multipolarity and balanced global order.

CAN INDIA BALANCE THE UNITED STATES AND BRICS?

India has consistently demonstrated its strength with respect to strategic balancing on multiple fronts, positioning itself as perhaps the only country capable enough to be a responsible bridge between the U.S led West and BRICS. While deepening its bilateral efforts with the West, in addition to its multilateral commitments as seen in Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting- India has simultaneously engaged in BRICS viewing it primarily as an economic and developmental platform.

Unlike China and Russia, which have increasingly attempted to weaponize the

forum with many failed attempts. India had also been distant with respect to the group's expansion, understanding China's attempt to use BRICS to expand its own geopolitical influence. While the Rio Summit was a missed opportunity, for both China and Russia considering the absence of their leaders in the summit, the joint declaration is clear regarding India's position in utilizing this grouping purely as a forum of cooperation and not as a counterbalancing alternative to its western partners.

India's recent bilateral trade agreement with the United Kingdom further reinforces its image as a major Asian democracy successfully balancing the West and the rest. India is about to host its first Quad Summit this year, which is another opportunity of being a sovereign player- one that does not want to replicate the Cold War era alliance system. This is also the reason that New Delhi has always resisted itself from making QUAD look like a formal military alliance.

Nonetheless, the India-U.S relationship has faced some

recent triggers. From Washington's posture during past India-Pakistan hostilities to President Trump's renewed tariff threats, India finds itself in a complex diplomatic fence. The U.S. attempt to conflate trade negotiations with broader security concerns further complicates matters. For India, trade and security exist on distinct but parallel tracks. Trump's increasingly hostile rhetoric toward BRICS places New Delhi in a delicate position as it navigates finalizing a long-pending trade deal with Washington while affirming its independent role in multilateral forums like BRICS.

WAY FORWARD

The way forward requires a fundamental shift in how the United States perceives BRICS. While being a single grouping, BRICS does not represent a unified ideological stance on multiple agendas. The tendency to frame BRICS as a pro China, anti America bloc is highly misplaced and seems like a premature political judgement. As BRICS keeps on expanding, the U.S would be in a better position to view it

as a platform for constructive engagement with the Global South, rather than reinforcing isolationist and punitive measures. Such isolation further creates opportunities for China to keep expanding its diplomatic orbit.

From New Delhi's perspective, India has a unique position as the only country to have a diplomatic capital to shape the bloc's larger trajectory by addressing global challenges like climate security and counter terrorism beyond West Vs the rest thesis. However, it is important to understand that the future of BRICS in this regard is in its ability to balance its own diversity with pragmatic choices and not allow it to be a stage for great power competition.

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PERSPECTIVE

THE OPPOSITION ATTACK

The Opposition has come fully prepared this Monsoon Session of Parliament and seems ready to take on the Government on various issues, from Operation Sindoor to the revision of the Bihar Voter IDs to Trump tariffs. The drama of the Vice President's sudden and mysterious resignation is a bonus. And certainly the Opposition's attack led by Gaurav Gogoi and Deepender Hooda on the first day followed by the Gandhi siblings and SP leader Akhilesh Yadav on the second day is a strong one. However, what has dented it a bit is the absence of two speakers, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari, from the Congress. It has been told to the media that while Tharoor was given an opportunity to speak he demurred saying he could not take a stand vastly different from the one he had taken when he led one of the multi-party delegations abroad post Op Sindoor. Manish Tewari on the other hand, wanted to speak but was not fielded by the Congress. This is a pity because Tewari is fast emerging as one of the voices to be counted on matters of geo politics and national security.

Moreover he is the Lok Sabha MP from Chandigarh and being a border state, Punjab did come under the line of Pakistani fire. There is an immense presence of families belonging to armed forces in his constituency and having him speak would have sent a positive message to the state. He did give an interview to NewsX on the weekend before the debate where he argued that while questions needed to be raised about the intelligence and security failure during Pahalgam terror attack it was equally important that the debate in parliament did not sink to he said-she said affair but kept its gravitas and focused on issues of national security. With the changing nature of warfare where conventional rules of engagement need a relook, he felt this debate was an important occasion to engage in a structured dialogue on national security.

That being said, the Opposition was careful not to raise questions about the Operation lest that be misunderstood as a criticism of our armed forces. However the debate focused on two things - the intelligence failure in Pahalgam and also the failure of India's foreign policy that saw no other nation come to India's defence. This was a smart political strategy. Some speakers like Akhilesh Yadav also linked economic security to national security and talked about how instead of a manufacturing hub, India was being reduced to a trader country

The Government too hit back but most of its defence lay in pointing out the security lapses by the Congress in the past. Effective maybe but it does need to get a better narrative in place.

PRIYA SAHGAL

The Resistance Front : A sign of evolved menace

OPINION

DIVYANSH KALA



In a strategic move in accordance with zero tolerance towards terror organisations the United States of America banned the notorious 'The Resistance Front' (TRF), a proxy of Lashkar-E-Taiba. However, The Resistance Front, should not be understood only as a terrorist organisation rather it is the signal that how the terror outfits are now manoeuvring their strategies and tactics in the changing times. The strategic discourse now has shifted from conventional use of force in the conventional battlegrounds. Now, with the increasing digital footprints and decentralisation of information technology the war fronts has also decentralised. Now war no longer remains in borders,

rather the human mind and the societal psyche at large have become new theatres. The terrorist organisations has understood it and they have started to evolve themselves accordingly.

The emergence of Fifth Generation Warfare has forced the terrorist leadership to conduct war in a new format. The Fifth Generation Warfare is a decentralised type of warfare where the lines between the war and peace, combatants and civilians had been blurred. It's a long term and a complex warfare. In order to defeat the enemy this warfare form takes the advantages of the *social faultlines* of a society by extensifying and exploiting these faultlines for sake of the purpose of the belligerent. Social Engineering, Propaganda etc are the main tools of this warfare.

The Resistance Front proves to be a classic study of the changing strategies of terror outfits to conduct war against their target by not directly involving in in. The terrorist leaders are now no more the conducting

agents of war. Rather they have become the facilitators of war, by providing logistical and strategic support. This manoeuvre have posed a serious challenge in front of the security apparatus.

The Resistance Front (TRF) was formed after the abrogation of Article 370. It initially operated as an online outfit. It's a strategic manoeuvre by Pakistan and its state sponsored terror organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Because in was the period when Pakistan was facing enormous pressure from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to crackdown on Terror financing modules existing within the geographical and political ambits of Pakistan. From post- 1971 war period the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan has been working on the nefarious design to bleed Bharat through thousand cuts. The formation of various terror fronts and fanning the waves of separatism through different ways such as promoting and sheltering Khalistani terrorism has been a testimony to this strategy. But in the changing scenario the formation of TRF catches the eyes of all. Many of the people may not have known it if it have doesn't conducted the brutal killings of 26 civilians in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir. The name and

the way to conduct its nefarious plans has been a assertion of the fact that terror organisation have changed the module of their operations.

The Resistance Front as the name suggests has infused with the notorious plan to give terrorism a indigenous face within Bharat. The new outfit was not assigned a religious name like the existing one rather in was given a name which carries a global political currency. It uses the social media

The formation of various terror fronts and fanning the waves of separatism through different ways such as promoting and sheltering Khalistani terrorism has been a testimony to this strategy.

platforms for the purpose of propaganda against the Bharatiya state and its civilians, radicalising the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and recruitment of cadre for carrying out lethal attacks on civilians as well as armed forces. In was formed by a Kashmiri militant Sheikh Sajjad Gul. Gul was designated as a terrorist by Bharat's state establishment under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2022. Gul was involved in the assassination of prominent Kashmiri Journalist Shujaat Bukhari and his

two PSOs in 2018. TRF portrays itself as a local resistance movement. It aligns itself with the erstwhile anti-Bharat Kashmir narratives which had once echoed in the valley during Article 370 period ! It conducts terror operations under the garb of resisting oppression by Bhartiya State , rather then engaging in outright terror activities. It applies a strategic approach where it distances itself from dreaded terror outfits like Lashkar-

e-Taiba and its leader Hafiz Saeed and presents it activities as as a part of a grassroots resistance action, rather then being involved in the religious terrorism. It propagates a ideology whose notion is centred around that they are making 'resistance' against, what they called, the Bharat's 'illegal' occupation of Kashmir. A intelligence report of 2020 indicates that the TRF's social media handles which are aggressively campaigning against Bharat , features content which can be traced back

to locations in Pakistan. The earlier version of its social media handles has been traced back to internet protocol addresses in Pakistan. In the year of 2020, when TRF perpetrated a number of attacks on our armed forces and Pakistan was accused of fomenting these attacks so to save his country's face, then Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan accused Bharat of trying to "find a pretext for a false flag operation" targeting his country and put emphasis on what he called as the indigenous 'Kashmiri resistance'. This whole exercise of Pakistan's Prime Minister was a attempt to portray that this was a form of terrorism breaded by Bharat !

Understanding this evolved threat where the old format of terrorism was blended with the propaganda tactics, the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2023 designated it as a terrorist organisation and banned it under UAPA, 1967. The notification reads "TRF is recruiting youth through online medium for furtherance of terrorist activities and has been also involved in carrying out propaganda on terror activities, recruitment of terrorists, infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir." Describing the

menace of psychic operations being conducted by TRF the notification further reads "TRF is involved in psychological operations on social media platforms for inciting people of Jammu and Kashmir to join terrorist outfits against the Bhartiya State."

In order to understand the propaganda tactics being employed by the TRF to justify its terror one must go through its propaganda materials being disseminated by the front itself. For example on May 22, 2022 it issued a threat letter to kill the Amarnath yatra pilgrims on the ground of a false propaganda that the Amarnath yatra was being used to change the demographic patterns of the state. The letter reads "It has come to our knowledge that the fascist regime is pumping RSS Sanghis in the name of Amarnath Yatra into the valley just to disrupt the situation just there during this yatra." It further states " We want to make it clear if this yatra is used for political and demographic gains then we at Resistance Front will do our best to hinder such filthy schemes of Fascist Sanghi Regime." And justifying their potential act of killing the letter reads "We will openly target any stooge who becomes a pawn of this fascist Sanghi Regime and the

blood of such stooges and pawns will spell like anything everywhere from Jammu to kashmir." Designating Bharatiya State as "Fascist", "Sanghi" etc had a strategy to discredit the Bhartiya State among the local populace !

TRF's narratives often emphasise the alleged human rights violations by Indian security forces, aiming to exploit grievances and rally local youth to its cause. The organization uses to frequently release statements and videos glorifying its activities and neutralised terrorists by terming them as martyrs, using sophisticated media strategies to spread its message and recruit new members.

The need of the hour is to understand the fact that proxy fronts like The Resistance Front poses a significant challenge in front of our security apparatus because it was a testimony of the fact that apart from conventional killings, the terror outfits, at the same time are carrying out sophisticated propaganda war against the establishment. The Bhartiya establishment although has understand this fact and it has been preparing for this new age warfare. The hour calls for the implementation of a elastic defence strategy to deal with this emerging threat in a efficient way.

(Divyansh Kala is a columnist based in Delhi frequently writing on issues related to National Security policy.)

SATWIK-CHIRAG SAIL INTO SECOND ROUND OF MACAU OPEN

AGENCIES
MACAU

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the second round of the men's doubles of Macau Open Super 300 with a straight-game win over Malaysia's Low Hang Yee and Ng Eng Cheong here on Tuesday.

The Asian Games champions, who on Tuesday regained their place in the top 10 of the Badminton World Federation's world rankings, produced a clinical performance to outclass the Malaysian pair 21-13 21-15 in just 36 minutes.

In women's singles, Anmol Kharb and Tasnim Mir advanced to the main draw after winning their respective qualification matches. Anmol defeated Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Az-zahra 21-11 21-13, while Tasnim overcame Thailand's



Indian duo return to top 10 in BWF doubles rankings; Lakshya, Unnati climb in singles

NEW DELHI: Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty returned to the top 10 in the BWF men's doubles World Rankings released on Tuesday, climbing three spots following

their semifinal finish at the China Open last week. The former world No. 1 duo, now ranked 10th, lost to the Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 13-21, 17-21 in the semifinals. This was their third semi-

final appearance on the BWF Tour this season, having earlier reached the last four at the Singapore Open and India Open. The Indian pair had reclaimed the world No. 1 ranking after the title win at the Thailand Open last year.

India in Group C with Japan, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei for Women's Asian Cup

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India were on Tuesday drawn with powerhouse Japan, former champions Chinese Taipei and Vietnam in Group C of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece tournament, to be held in Australia next year.

The draw ceremony for the 12-team tournament to be run from March 1 to 21, 2026 was held at the Sydney Town Hall with Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore being one of the three draw assistants. The 12 teams were

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists will book their tickets to the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil, while the losing sides from the quarter-finals will advance to the playoffs, where two more spots at the global showpiece will be at stake.

Women's World Cup winners in 2011, Japan are the highest-ranked Asian team in the FIFA chart at seventh. They won the Women's Asian Cup titles in 2014 and

2022 Women's Asian Cup in India to make it to the 2023 Women's World Cup. Chinese Taipei, currently ranked 42nd, have won the last of their three AFC Women's Asian Cup titles in 1980 and they will also aim to qualify for the 2027 Women's World Cup. India are currently ranked 70th in the world, the lowest in the group.

In Group A, hosts Australia were drawn alongside Korea Republic, Iran and Philippines. Group B consists of DPR Korea, China, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.



divided into three groups of four teams each.

The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on March 4, 2026, at the Perth Rectangular Stadium. India will then face Japan on March 7 at the same venue, before squaring off against Chinese Taipei on March 10 at the Western Sydney Stadium.

2018 but were denied a hat-trick after losing to eventual champions China in the semi-finals in the 2022 edition held in India inside a COVID-19 bubble.

Vietnam, ranked 37th, will be targeting a spot at the 2027 Women's World Cup after making their debut at the 2023 edition. They topped the play-off round among losing quarterfinalists in the

China are the defending champions and they will be seeking a record-extending 10th title. The Indian women's team was forced to withdraw from its group match against Chinese Taipei at the 2022 Women's Asian Cup in Navi Mumbai after a number of players tested positive for COVID-19 even while staying inside the bio-secure bubble.

Venus William, Reilly Opelka get US Open mixed doubles wild cards

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Venus Williams' comeback is headed to the U.S. Open next month, when she will enter the redesigned mixed doubles tournament with Reilly Opelka via a wild-card entry.

The 45-year-old Williams, who returned to the tennis tour last week after more than a year away, and Opelka were among the 14 teams announced Tuesday by the U.S. Tennis Association for its mixed doubles event on Aug. 19-20.

Eight of the pairings received direct entry into the field based on having the highest combined current singles rankings, and six were given wild cards by the USTA.

The players with spots in the bracket include nine

Tidapron Kleebyeesun 21-14 13-21 21-17.

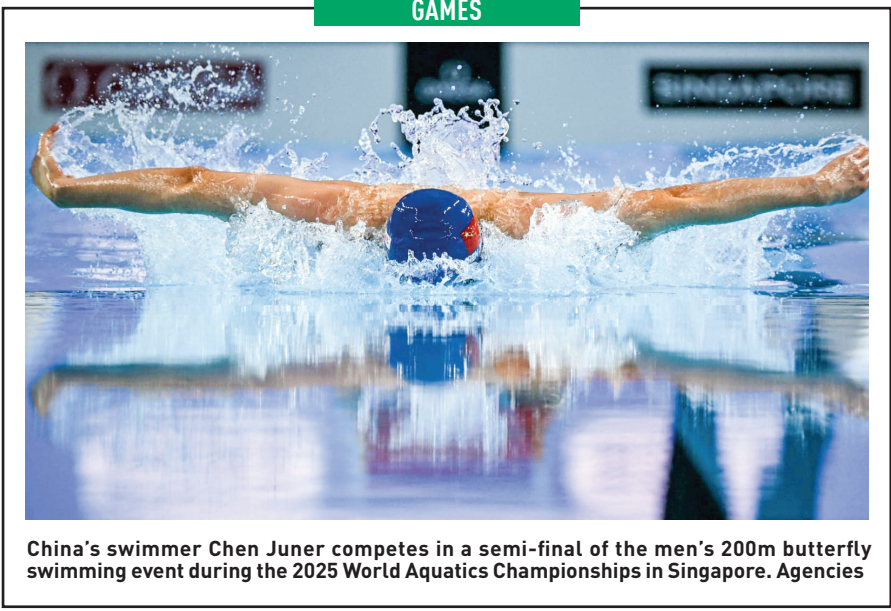
Tasnim will face top seed Chen Yu Fei of China in the opening round of the main draw, while Anmol is set to take on second seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand.

The top-seeded women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a first-round exit after going down fighting 21-16 20-22 15-21 in an hour against Lin Xiao Min and Peng Yu Wei of Chinese Taipei.

In men's doubles, Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Amaan Mohammad progressed to the main draw after beating Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him and Yeung Shing Choi 21-18 21-17.

They will face compatriots Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K in the next round.

The mixed doubles pair of Thandrangini Hema Nagendra Babu and Priya



China's swimmer Chen Juner competes in a semi-final of the men's 200m butterfly swimming event during the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. Agencies

Ugly spat between Gambhir and Oval curator adds spice to India-Eng finale

AGENCIES
LONDON

India's training session two days before the series deciding fifth Test against England became a sideshow as head coach Gautam Gambhir got involved in a heated verbal spat with The Oval's chief curator Lee Fortis who allegedly asked the visiting team's support staff to stand 2.5 visitors from the pitch.

Gambhir was on Tuesday heard telling Fortis "you don't tell any of us what we need to do, you have no right to tell us, you are just a groundsman nothing beyond" while pointing fingers at the chief curator. In response Fortis was heard saying "I will have to report this."



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In the presence of 10 squad members minus captain Shubman Gill, the training session in the field of play was going on as usual until Gambhir blasted Fortis, who is not the "easiest person to work with" despite winning ECB's best multi-day pitches award for the last three years.

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak tried to douse the fire by taking Fortis away from Gambhir, who was visibly angry with the chief curator. Later, Kotak explained what really happened in the middle. "When we went to take a look at the wicket the coaches were there, someone came to us and said 'stand 2.5 metres away', which was little surprising. Day after there is a Test match, we had our joggers on not spike and it felt a bit awkward. I have never

seen anything like that in my life.

"The Indian players had told me that he is not the easiest person to work with. Now you all know. It is okay to be protective and possessive about this pitch but not to this extent," said Kotak.

While the drama was unfolding, the travelling Indian media approached Fortis for his thoughts on the incident but he did not have much to say. "He is a bit tetchy it is a big game this week. You saw what he was like this morning. You have to ask him (what happened)," Fortis said.

'It's not an antique'

Kotak hinted the situation may have slipped out of control due to the tone of communication. "Curators also needs to understand that the people they are talking to, they are highly skilled and intelligent. So for example if you go on the ground now where we practiced you won't even see that any bowlers in outfield would have marked with his spikes. "We try and see that this ground also should not get damaged. So

From records to rewards: Performance matters

RUPINDER SINGH
NEW DELHI

Delhi government announced 7, 5, and 3 crores for Olympic medals to a Delhi sportsman. The announcement of the awards for Olympic medals is a great step by the Delhi government. I have been continuously commenting that the chances of a Delhi citizen winning medals are very minimal. On the other hand, I have been putting forward an argument

that a more important basis for awards could be performance-based.

Even as I write this, a Delhi boy, Tejaswin Shankar, did the state and country proud by breaking his own national record in the decathlon at a competition in Poland over the weekend. He set a mark of 7886, bettering his earlier mark by nearly 200 points. Tejaswin gave personal best performances in the 100m,

pole vault, and 1500m, while he gave the season's best performance in the long jump and 400m. If such players get encouragement from the government, they will give their best performance at the Olympic level in future as well. This is the kind of performance I am advocating the athletes must be rewarded for. This will help the athlete to become a medalist at the Olympics in the near future.



Why did the Government soften its stance in the matter of Asia Cup?

COMMENTARY BOX

MANOJ JOSHI

These days, from the streets to Parliament, questions are being raised about the government's stance on India's participation in the Asia Cup. The government is being reminded of its statement at the time of the Pahalgal incident that water and blood cannot flow together. In such a situation, the question is whether blood and cricket can go together?

The second big question is the statement of Lt Gen Anil Chauhan that Operation Sindoor is not over yet... then why cricket with Paki-

stan?

There are two big reasons for the government softening its stance on this matter. The first is that cricket has been included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Obviously, this game has now become an Olympic sport. Now the BCCI will also have to respect the rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC completely works according to the Olympic Charter, in which it is clearly written that sports should not be disrupted due to religion, politics, apartheid, or any



other reason. Here, the examples of Kuwait and Malaysia are relevant. Kuwait was banned by the IOC for not giving visas to Israeli players in the World Cup shooting. Similarly, Malaysia could not escape this ban for ig-

noring Israel in para sports. Even the IOC had taken a tough step against India for not giving visas to Pakistani players in the World Cup held in Delhi, under which it had instructed all international sports federations not to host any international



competition in India. But the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appealed to the Indian government in this regard and, after consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs and Home Affairs, the Sports Ministry had written to the IOA and assured that

in the future, no player participating in any competition held in India will be denied a visa. It was only after the letter of this effect from the IOA that India was saved from the IOC ban. Now India has staked a claim to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games. If India refuses to play with any country, then it may have to face the consequences.

It is not hidden from anyone that after the Sindoor incident, the rates of Indo-Pak cricket matches have skyrocketed. India is the host of the Asia Cup. India and Pakistan are going to face each other twice in the Asia Cup: once in the league and once in the Super-4. It is also possible that the final match may be played between

the two. That means three matches each in the same tournament. If India does not play with Pakistan, then it may have to suffer losses worth billions of rupees.

It is also worth mentioning here that the Sony Network has the rights of the Asian Cricket Council till 2031. Sony has acquired these rights for Rs. 1400 crores. This includes 119 matches including emerging and women's cricket. BCCI is going to get 65 percent of the amount from these media rights and PCB is going to get 25 percent. That means BCCI is going to get Rs. 910 crores and PCB is going to get Rs. 346 crores.

It is obvious why the BCCI would not want to lose such a huge amount of money. It is true that the International

Cricket Council (ICC) and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) are not under the International Olympic Committee (IOC), but after cricket became an Olympic sport, things have changed a lot. Even the BCCI has come under the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the ICC has an agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In the new sports bill, the government will now be directly accountable. BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla has already said that whatever the stand of the government is, will be the stand of the BCCI too. That means everything has changed in the changed environment, and the changed stand of the government can be understood.

AAMIR KHAN TO RELEASE 'SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR' ON YOUTUBE

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Aamir Khan has made an unusual move by choosing to release his latest sports drama 'Sitaare Zameen Par' directly on YouTube after its run in theatres.

The film will be available from August 1 on YouTube Movies on demand at an accessible price and will skip other digital platforms entirely.

The approach aims to make the film accessible to people, especially those who do not have access to theatres or streaming services.

The film will be available in India at Rs 100. It will also be available in 38 other countries, including



the US, UK, and Australia, with prices suited to local markets.

In a press note, Aamir Khan, who also produced the film, said in a statement, "For the past 15 years, I have been struggling with the challenge of how to reach audiences who do not have geograph-

ical access to theatres, or those who are unable to make it to theatres for various reasons. Finally, the time for the perfect storm has come. With our government bringing in UPI and India becoming number one in the world in electronic payments, with internet penetration in In-

dia having grown dramatically and growing every day, and with YouTube being on most devices, we can finally reach vast sections of people in India, and a significant part of the world."

The release will come with subtitles and dubbed versions in several languages to cater to wider audiences.

Talking about Sitaare Zameen Par, it is a sequel to the blockbuster movie Taare Zameen Par. In the sports drama, Aamir plays the role of a basketball coach who is tasked with training a group of neurodivergent children. It also stars Genelia Deshmukh.

The film, directed by Prasanna, hit theatres on June 20.

Rajinikanth's 'Coolie' trailer to be out on Aug 2

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

The makers of the Rajinikanth starrer 'Coolie' have announced the trailer release date for the film, accompanied by a brand new poster. One of the most anticipated films of the year, 'Coolie' has created a lot of buzz lately, leading to more excitement for the trailer.

Taking to social media platforms, Sun Pictures announced that the official trailer will be out on Saturday, August 2.

"The wait is over! The highly anticipated #Coolie Trailer from August 2. #Coolie releasing worldwide August 14th," the



makers wrote in the post.

With trailer launch details, Sun Pictures also released a new poster featuring all the lead actors, including Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Aamir Khan, Shruti Haasan, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, and Sathiyaraj.

The makers are also set to host a grand pre-release event on Saturday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. "Are you ready for the Super Speech? #CoolieUnleashed A visual spectacle awaits on August 2nd at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor

Stadium!" they wrote in the post.

Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and made under the banner of Sun Pictures, 'Coolie' is an upcoming Tamil-language action thriller featuring the South superstar in the lead. With a powerful ensemble of actors in the main cast, the film will also mark the first collaboration between Rajinikanth and Aamir Khan after nearly 30 years.

They previously worked in the 1995 film, 'Aatank Hi Aatank,' which also starred Juhi Chawla and Om Puri. The 'Sitaare Zameen Par' actor will be portraying the character of 'Dahaa.'

Medha Rana to star opposite Varun Dhawan in 'Border 2'



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actor Medha Rana, best known for her roles in "London Files" and "Friday Night Plan", has become the latest addition to the star cast of "Border 2" and will feature alongside Varun Dhawan.

Also starring Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Pandey, "Border 2" is a sequel to the blockbuster film "Border", which chronicled a pivotal chapter from the 1971 India-Pakistan war. It also emerged as the highest-grossing film during its release.

"Border 2" is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, J P Dutta, and Nidhi Dutta and is directed by Anurag Singh. The film is set to hit the big screen on January 23, 2026.

Medha comes from an army background. She started modelling in Bengaluru at the age of 16, where her father was posted.

In fact, Medha was only 13 when she was spotted by fashion stylist and choreographer Prasad Bidapa at a mall in Chandigarh while shopping with her parents. A brief conversation during a fashion event and she was even-

tually set her on the path to modelling. Medha later shifted to Mumbai.

Her acting debut came through London Files, an Indian crime thriller web series directed by Sachin Pathak. The series stars Arjun Rampal and Purab Kohli in the lead roles. Medha played the role of Maya Roy in the series.

In the 2023 film Friday Night Plan, Medha featured alongside Babil Khan. The coming-of-age comedy-drama film was written and directed by Vatsal Neelakantan and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani.

'Avatar: Fire and Ash' trailer teases a fierce battle between tribes in Pandora

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

The official trailer for James Cameron's 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' is finally here.

A third installment in the beloved fantasy epic franchise, the film will take audiences back to the magical world of Pandora, this time with two new tribes - the Ash People, who are led by the fierce Varang (Oona Chaplin) and the Wind Traders.

While not much has been revealed about the Ash People and Varang's motive, the



trailer clearly marks a stark departure from 2022's "The Way of Water", where view-

ers were treated to the underwater world of the Metakayina clan.

It also offers a glimpse of a tense confrontation between Varang and Kiri (Sigourney Weaver), with the fiery leader declaring, "Your goddess has no dominion here."

Taking centrestage are Sam Worthington's Jake Sully and Zoe Saldana's Neytiri as they lead the fight against the Ash People clan. At one point, Sully could be seen warning Neytiri about the consequences of the upcoming war. The young Spider also appears to be stuck amid the clashes.

It also suggests that Jake Sully would be captured by

the humans. Besides Worthington and Saldana, the returning cast members are Stephen Lang, Kate Winslet, Cliff Curtis, Britain Dalton, Jack Champion, Joel David Moore, Edie Falco, and Trinity Jo-Li Bliss among others.

With a screenplay from Cameron alongside Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' will be released on December 19, 2025, in six languages across the country, including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada.

'Anupamaa' star Rupali Ganguly welcomes Smriti Irani back to Star Plus

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rupali Ganguly, known for her role in "Anupamaa," extended a warm welcome to Smriti Irani, marking her return to Star Plus. The exciting news was announced through a crossover promo shared on the channel's Instagram account, as the much-anticipated reboot of "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi" prepared for its premiere on Tuesday night.

Irani is stepping back into the spotlight with the revamped version of Ekta Kapoor's iconic 2000 show, which originally concluded in 2008. In the promotional clip, Ganguly and Irani en-

gage in a video call in their respective characters, Anupama and Tulsi, speaking in Gujarati. Anupama joyfully welcomes Tulsi back to the Star Plus family.

The post's caption emphasized the emotional connection between the two characters: "Where Tulsi and Anupama are together,

their family and relationship stories become our special memories. Tonight an old memory is returning as a new story. Like Anupama, are you ready to welcome Tulsi?" "Anupamaa," starring Ganguly and produced by Rajan Shahi, has achieved top TRP ratings since its launch in 2020.



'The Simpsons', 'Doc' and more shows lined up for September premieres

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Popular animated show 'The Simpsons', medical drama 'Doc' and many other releases have been lined up for Fox's fall 2025 slate.

The network is gearing up to bring all of its entertainment premieres in the second slate of September, with no post-NFL premieres or two-



hour openers, reported Variety.

The second season of Molly Parker and Felicity Huffman starrer 'Doc' has been slated for release on September 23 at 9 PM, following the premiere of the crime drama 'Murder in a Small Town Season 2.'

For September 24, Rob Lowe's 'The Floor' will be returning with its fourth season, as well as the new

game show '99 to Beat'.

Gordon Ramsey's 'Hell's Kitchen' and the military training reality show, 'Special Forces: World's Toughest Test' will premiere on September 25.

Fall game shows are set to release on September 15, with 'Celebrity Name That Tune' hosted by Jane Krakowski and 'Celebrity Weakest Link' hosted by Jane Lynch.

Rajesh, Sheeba bring old Ghaziabad alive

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Rajesh Tailang and Sheeba Chadha starrer 'Bakaiti' is ready to offer yet another slice of family drama. The trailer for the upcoming web series has been released, offering a glimpse into the antics of the Kataria family in old Ghaziabad.

Actors Rajesh Tailang and Sheeba Chadha are seen in the lead roles as a married couple.

The trailer shows how the middle-class family is forced to rent out a room for extra



money after they suffer a major financial crunch, resulting in a series of chaos in the household.

It also promises a mix of

laughter, satire, emotions, and eventful incidents from the family's daily lives that come across as familiar as well as heartwarming.

NISHIT KATARIA APPOINTED HARYANA YOUTH CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Nishit Kataria has been appointed Haryana Youth Congress president amid controversy over posthumous election result.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Nishit Kataria has been appointed the President of Haryana Youth Congress. A letter has been issued in this regard by State President Udaybhan. It is written in the letter that I am happy to appoint Nishit Kataria as the President of Haryana Youth Congress with immediate effect. Indian Youth Congress is confident that Nishit will devote his full



time and energy to further strengthen the organization and the Congress party

under the able leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Punjab objects to BBMB secretary appointment

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Once again, a situation of conflict has arisen between the Bhakra Beas Management Board and the Punjab Government. The reason for the dispute is the appointment of the Secretary in BBMB. This post has become vacant after the promotion of Balveer Singh Singmar of Rajasthan.

Recently, BBMB had sent a letter to the Water Resources Department of Punjab informing them about the new criteria for the appointment of the post of Secretary. The Punjab government has strongly objected to these criteria and said that this process is biased and Punjab will not be able to get its rights due to this.

New criteria have been formulated by the BBMB for the post of secretary so that an officer from Haryana can be appointed to this post. The Punjab government has earlier also ques-

tioned the role of BBMB, especially in the matter of giving additional water to Haryana, there has been a confrontation between the two states.

According to the newly made rules, now a minimum of 20 years of experience has been made mandatory for the post of BBMB Secretary. Also, only a Superintending Engineer or Executive Engineer can be appointed to this post. Due to these conditions, Punjab officials may be out of the race.

The Punjab government has written a letter to the BBMB chairman today and strongly objected to these new norms. The letter states that before formulating any new norms, the approval of the board is necessary, and not a unilateral decision by the chairman.

Apart from this, Punjab has also termed the condition of 20 years of experience as unfair. Punjab's Water Resources Department says that young officers

are posted on the posts of Superintending or Executive Engineer in the state, in such a situation Punjab will not be able to get representation on the post of Secretary. Punjab has suggested that this experience limit should be reduced to 5 years. The Punjab government alleges that the post of secretary has been occupied by Haryana for decades, while Punjab is the biggest shareholder in BBMB. Despite this, Punjab is not getting its representation. Punjab has demanded that the rules made for the post of secretary should first be approved by the board so that balance is maintained among all the partner states. According to sources, BBMB is preparing to appoint a particular officer as the secretary, who was earlier removed due to opposition from Punjab. It is being said that the officer has direct access to the Union Energy Minister, which has made the matter even more sensitive.

High Court dismisses dowry case seven months after divorce

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab-Haryana High Court has dismissed the dowry harassment FIR lodged against a divorcee and his family, calling it an abuse of the process of law. The court said that this FIR lodged seven months after the end of the marriage is malicious and has no justification.

The husband had filed a petition in the High Court in February 2020 seeking quashing of the FIR lodged. The petitioner said that the marriage took place in India on 22 December 2015. Shortly thereafter, in February 2016, a divorce petition was filed in the US, where the spouses and their parents are permanent residents and citizens.

During the divorce proceedings, a comprehensive agreement was reached between the two parties, in which children, properties, bank accounts, debts, insurance, taxes and all other matters were settled. This agreement is recorded in the court re-

On the morning of March 1, the body of 22-year-old Congress worker Himani Narwal, a resident of Vijay Nagar, was found in a suitcase near the Sampla bus stand. Himani was an active Congress worker. She had also participated in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Youth Congress argued that as an election candidate, Himanshi's result has been declared, now Himanshi's name has been removed from the list.

The husband had filed a petition in the High Court in February 2020 seeking quashing of the FIR lodged.

cords in writing. The divorce was finalised by mutual consent between the two parties.

The court said that while filing the FIR, the wife neither mentioned the divorce nor the fact that all disputes between the two parties have been resolved. She has only made routine allegations which include the issue of dowry demand and return of Stridhan. The court said that the entire dispute had already been settled, which the complainant hid in the FIR. This shows that the purpose of this FIR was malicious. The court said that it was clearly written in the agreement that all the things related to Stridhan including gold ornaments etc. were also settled.

Traffic plan in place to ease congestion on Kalka-Rambagh road

TDG NETWORK
PANCHKULA/KALKA

Authorities have initiated steps to resolve long-standing traffic congestion on Kalka-Rambagh Road, where frequent jams have been disrupting daily movement, especially for ambulances, school buses, and smaller vehicles. Heavy vehicles such as trucks have been identified as the main cause of the problem.

Following public complaints, ACP Traffic Suren Singh visited the area on Monday to assess the situation. During the inspection, residents shared that traffic often comes to a standstill due to large vehicles using the narrow stretch, affecting not only daily commuters but also emergency and essential services.

After site assessment, ACP



ACP Surinder Dudi along with ward councillor 6 Mahesh Tinku during site inspection on Tuesday

Singh confirmed that unrestricted movement of heavy vehicles is the key issue. In coordination with the Surajpur traffic outpost and Kalka Municipal Council, it was decided that physical height barriers will be installed on the route to prevent heavy vehicle entry.

The installation process will begin soon.

The move aims to ensure smoother and uninterrupted movement of smaller vehicles, particularly ambulances and school buses,

which are often delayed during peak hours due to congestion.

ACP Singh stated that traffic regulation on the road is being taken up as a priority and similar reviews will be conducted in other congested zones.

Ward 6 Councillor Mahesh Tinku, who was also present during the site visit, supported the decision and said that timely administrative action is necessary to reduce public inconvenience and improve road safety.

Kidnapped Gujarat girl rescued from Panchkula, handed to police

TDG NETWORK
PANCHKULA

Panchkula Police traced a minor girl reported kidnapped from Rajkot, Gujarat, and handed her over to Gujarat Police after completing legal procedures. The girl, aged 12, had been missing since July 7 along with a 17-year-old boy. The kidnapping FIR had been registered in Rajkot on July 16, 2025.

According to Inspector Virender Nain, Station House Officer of Mansa Devi Complex Police Station, the police received information from reliable sources that two minors were residing in the Human Colony area near Saketri in District Panchkula. Acting on this input, a team reached the lo-



The Mansa Devi unit of Panchkula police with the rescued children on Tuesday

cation on July 27 and found both minors.

The boy and girl were taken into custody for questioning. Following this, they were presented before the Child Welfare Committee, which ordered them to be placed in a child care home. Their families were informed. During investigation, it was found that the girl originally belongs

to Uttar Pradesh and was staying with her sister in Rajkot. The boy is a native of Bihar and had also been living in the same area for work. They reportedly became acquainted there before leaving together.

After verifying identities and completing required documentation, Panchkula Police informed Gujarat authorities.

Cyber fraudsters dupe man of Rs 18.32 lakh in 'work-from-home' job scam

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

A case of cyber fraud of Rs 18.32 lakh has come to light with a person living in Bitna Colony of Panchkula. After being cheated, the victim Dharmendra Kumar (45) complained about it on the cyber portal. Cyber police station Sector-20 has registered a case and started investigation.

In the complaint given to the police, he said that he does a private job. On June 11, a user named @pallaviravi14 contacted him on Telegram. The woman calling herself Pallavi asked him to complete

tasks to earn money sitting at home and got him registered on a website.

As part of the task, victim Dharmendra initially received a bonus of Rs 800 for liking the photo. After this, a registration fee of Rs 10,999 was taken. On completing the task, he got Rs 16,050 back. This convinced Dharmendra.

After this, on Pallavi's request, he completed the task again on July 19 by depositing Rs 14,488. On completion of the task, he got Rs 33,946 back. Dharmendra told that to complete the task as per Pallavi's instructions, he kept

depositing money in the account mentioned by her. He got Rs 18.32 lakh deposited in different bank accounts through about 13 bank transactions.

Dharmendra said that he did not get any money back after July 19. Based on the complaint of the victim, the police at Sector-20 Cyber Police Station have registered a case of fraud against unknown Pallavi, Vaibhav Shah and other accused. Police station SHO Yudhveer Singh said that the matter is being investigated and a technical team has been deployed to trace the accused.

Morni-Raipur Rani marg prone to accidents with no safety features

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Safety walls have not been built at many places on the main road from Morni to Raipur Rani. Due to this, the possibility of accidents remains constant. This road becomes even more dangerous especially at night because in the dark, drivers are unable to judge the depth of the roadside. Local villagers and people who travel on this road daily say that at many places the road passes very close to the roadside ditch, but no safety arrangements have been made there. A slight mistake can prove fatal.

People told that in the

People told that in the past few times, there have been many incidents of small and big vehicles slipping from the road and falling down.

past few times, there have been many incidents of small and big vehicles slipping from the road and falling down.

Although no major accident has happened so far, but if the solution is not found in time, then serious consequences can come to the fore. Along with this, the condition of this route has also deteriorated at many places. Potholes and

broken roads are making the journey more difficult. The villagers have demanded from the Public Works Department that this route should be repaired soon and wherever there are no protective walls, construction work should be done on priority basis. He warned that if the solution is not found soon, they will protest against the department.

Dengue cases rise post rainfall, negligence by Panchkula civic bodies exposed

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

After the rain in Panchkula, the density of dengue larvae has increased in the district. But the Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council do not seem to be serious about it. The situation is such that in the second survey, larvae have been found in the houses of 200 people, but their challans have

not been issued yet. At the same time, despite the instructions of the DC, even the schedule for spraying the medicine has not been issued. The posts of biologist and insect collector working for dengue are vacant, these are not being filled.

35 dengue tests are being conducted daily in the civil hospital. At the same time, about 100 patients suffering from fever and

low platelet count have increased in a week. Currently, 11 dengue cases have been reported in the district. The fear of last year's dengue is still in people's minds. In view of this fear, people are giving memorandums to the corporation commissioner for spraying of medicine, but the result is the same.

On July 15, the DC had a meeting with more than ten departments includ-

ing the Health Department, Education Department and Municipal Corporation on dengue in the district. After the meeting, it was said that a schedule for fogging would be issued. No work is being done on this at the ground level. Due to lack of spraying of medicine, dengue larvae are being found in Panchkula, Kalka, Pinjore, Barwala and Raipur Rani. Larvae have

been found in 3500 houses during checking within a month. The maximum number of larvae are being found in Kalka and Pinjore.

The Civil Hospital has an OPD of 4500 patients every day. Earlier, 400 patients with fever used to come to the OPD, now around 600 patients are coming. Patients are coming to MD Medicine and Special Fever OPD. The

number of patients with low platelets and dengue tests has increased.

In the urban area of Panchkula, the medicine for fogging is purchased by the Municipal Corporation. After this, fogging is done. The Health Department sought information about this, but the Municipal Corporation did not provide any information. The schedule for fogging has not been made

yet. In Kalka, Pinjore, the Health Department gives the medicine for spraying to the Kalka Municipal Council. Even after purchasing the medicine from the Council, fogging has not been done yet.

Civil Hospital CMO Dr. Mukta Kumar says that 24 liters of medicine has been given to Kalka Municipal Council by the Health Department for the place where larvae are found.

The Municipal Corporation also purchases it at its own level for fogging. Despite this, the Municipal Corporation has not issued a schedule for fogging. Due to this, the risk of dengue is high. Municipal Corporation Commissioner RK Singh says that soon a schedule for fogging will be issued. Whatever preventive measures are there in this, they will be taken soon.

PROTEST HELD OVER TERMINATION OF CMC PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

The Federation of UT Employees and Workers has announced more protests over termination of 300 workers if demands not met

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Federation of UT Employees and Workers Chandigarh has announced a protest in front of the Municipal Corporation office in Sector 17 against the termination of over 300 outsourced employees working in CMC Public Health's tube wells department. The employees were reportedly removed without prior notice.

In preparation for the protest, gate meetings are being held across different offices. Federation General Secretary Gopal Dutt Joshi, along with other union representatives including Public Health General Secretary Rajinder Katoch, Harpal Singh, Sikandar Sharma,



The protestors outside Chandigarh Municipal Corporation on Tuesday

and Sanjay Kumar, have opposed the retrenchment. They alleged that employees who had worked for 10 to 12 years were removed, while

newer hires, some with only two to three years of service, were retained due to favoritism. The union claimed that both contractors and offi-

cials are shifting blame, and demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter. Concerns were raised that long-term employees are being

made to suffer for administrative decisions aimed at satisfying senior officials. The union also accused Municipal Corporation officials of violating rules set by the administration and demanded accountability.

A delegation from the Federation met the Corporation Commissioner on July 21 to raise the issue and demand reinstatement. However, according to the union, the Commissioner declined to intervene, leading to increased dissatisfaction among the affected employees.

The Federation has warned that if their demands are not addressed, they will begin a series of protests starting July 25, culminating in a large rally on August 6.

Vishwas Foundation plants 50 saplings at Meditation Centre

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Vishwas Foundation celebrated Van Mahotsav with great enthusiasm at the Vishwas Meditation Center located in Sector-66, Mohali. As part of the celebrations, the Foundation organized a tree plantation drive during which 50 saplings of 11 different species were planted within the center premises. The event was led by Sadhvi Neelima Vishwas, President of Vishwas Foundation, and was attended by a large number of followers and volunteers associated with the organization.

Sadhvi Neelima informed that the plantation drive was conducted under the guidance of Rishi Shishupal

Pathania. She highlighted that the initiative was not just a routine activity but a collective responsibility taken up by the Foundation to promote greenery and ecological awareness in the community. She further added that the drive was a result of the joint efforts of all the followers of the organization, who came together to contribute to this noble cause.

According to the Foundation, such plantation programs are a regular part of its annual activities. Every year, Vishwas Foundation plants around five thousand trees in various locations to support the environment and improve the green cover in and around urban areas. Sadhvi Neelima empha-

sized the importance of tree plantation in tackling the growing problem of climate change and environmental degradation. She said that greenery not only adds to the aesthetic value of an area but also plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, reducing pollution, and preserving biodiversity.

The Foundation aims to spread awareness among people about the significance of trees and inspire them to take proactive steps for environmental protection. Through events like Van Mahotsav, Vishwas Foundation continues to instill a sense of responsibility towards nature and promote a greener and healthier future for coming generations.

Balatana-Raipur Kalan underpass speeds up after Kataria's intervention

TDG NETWORK
ZIRAKPUR

Thanks to the active intervention of Chandigarh Administrator and Punjab Governor Hon'ble Gulabchand Kataria, the long-pending Balatana-Raipur Kalan Railway Underpass (RUB) project has gained new momentum. On July 29, 2025, the Chandigarh Administration issued a formal consent letter to the Senior Divisional Engineer of Northern Railway, Ambala, confirming that the land acquisition process under Section 11 has been completed. This allows the railway authorities to proceed with the next phase of the project.

It is noteworthy that Northern Railway had is-

sued a tender for this underpass in March 2023. However, due to incomplete land acquisition, the tender had to be cancelled. The project had been pending for the last eight years.

The Joint Action Committee Balatana played a commendable role in pushing the project forward. Committee President Pratap Singh Rana led the movement through five consecutive hunger strikes and continuous efforts to bring the project to fruition.

Today, representatives of the Rajasthan Parivar, including President Pawan Sharma, Ravindra Syoran, Amit Singh 'Radhe-Radhe', and Har Singh Rawat, met with Chandigarh Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma on

behalf of the Joint Action Committee. They discussed the progress of the project in detail. Later, the delegation also met with Chief Engineer C.B. Ojha, who, following the instructions of the Hon'ble Administrator, promptly issued the consent letter to the Senior Divisional Engineer of Northern Railway, thereby directing the advancement of the project.

On this significant development, the officials of the Joint Action Committee Balatana expressed their gratitude to Hon'ble Shri Gulabchand Kataria, Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma, and Chief Engineer C.B. Ojha, and expressed hope that the project would be completed at the earliest.

Three arrested in Panchkula shop theft case, stolen goods recovered

TDG NETWORK
PANCHKULA

Panchkula Police have arrested three individuals in connection with a shop theft case reported in Chandimandir. The stolen goods and the motorcycle used in the crime have been recovered.

A complaint was filed on July 26 by Ravindra Kumar, a resident of village Kot, Panchkula, who runs an electrical goods shop. He reported that on July 22, ten bundles of copper electrical wire were stolen while he was away from the shop.

During investigation, police reviewed CCTV footage from the area. The footage showed two individuals arriving on a motorcycle. One remained seated on the ve-

hicle while the other was seen taking wire bundles from the shop. Based on information received, the Crime Branch-26 team arrested Deepak Kumar, 23, a native of Sadakpur, Uttar Pradesh, currently living in Chandigarh, on July 27. He was remanded to three-day police custody on July 28. During questioning, police arrested a second suspect, Hemraj Kumar alias Gokul, 24, a resident of Chandigarh.

The two accused informed police that the stolen material had been sold to Santu Mandal, 33, a resident of Kolkata currently living in Ramdarbar, Chandigarh. Mandal was also taken into custody.

hicle while the other was seen taking wire bundles from the shop.

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Guest faculty protest over job security and pending salaries outside Shiksha Bhavan

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Guest faculty assistant professors who have been serving in government colleges of Punjab for years staged a sit-in protest outside Shiksha Bhawan in Phase-8 of Mohali. Assistant professors protested under the leadership of United Front Punjab regarding job security and pending salaries. Professors from across the state who participated in the protest raised slogans against the government and the Higher Education Department and alleged that after the appointment of new regular professors, the jobs of about 185 guest faculty assistant professors of the state are in danger.

The process of removing them was started by showing their posts as vacant, whereas they have been teaching in colleges for years. The protesters said that about 123 professors have not received salary since January 2025. Despite this, they are regularly performing academic and administrative work with full responsibility.

Many college managers



have not yet sent the budget of these professors to the department.

United Front Punjab leaders Dr. Ravinder Singh Mansa, Prof. Gursey Singh Patiala, Dr. Paramjit Singh Amritsar, Prof. Mohammad Tanvir Sangrur said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had announced from the stage that he will not let anyone's stove go off, but today hundreds of families are facing financial crisis. For the last six-seven months, guest professors are only being given assurances, but neither any policy has been made nor salary has been released.

The professors said that they have met the Education Minister and departmental officials several times, but every time the files are forwarded by just saying that it is pending. The department

has not been able to send any clear letter to the colleges to release the salary of the affected professors.

The professors participating in the protest gave a clear warning to the government that if a policy to secure their jobs is not made soon and the pending salary is not released, then a phased struggle will be started across the state. On this occasion, Prof. Vikas (Sunam), Prof. Vandana, Prof. Chamkaur, Prof. Kuldeep Bahia, Prof. Baldeep Kaur, Prof. Maninder Kaur, Dr. Manita Joshi, Prof. Navdeep Kaur, Dr. Jagdev Kumar, Dr. Harinder Kumar, Prof. Gulshan (Sangrur), Prof. Iqbal (Derabassi), Prof. Sukhchain Singh (Malerkotla), Prof. Ramandeep Singh and guest faculty professors from many districts were present.

Case filed against Haryanvi singer Masoom Sharma for singing banned song

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

A case has been registered against Haryanvi singer Masoom Sharma for singing banned songs during a live show at Chandigarh's Punjab University. Sector-11 police station has registered the case on the complaint of ASI Surinder. According to the police, before the show, a written undertaking was taken from Masoom Sharma that he will not sing any banned or objectionable songs. Despite this, he sang banned songs during the show.

This program was organized on 28 March in PU campus, where Masoom Sharma was performing live.

This program was organized on 28 March in PU campus, where Masoom Sharma was performing live. During the program, he sang some songs which were previously banned by the administration. Considering it a violation of rules, the

police took this action. Police say that before the program, the organizers and the singer were given clear instructions that no controversial or banned song would be played. Despite this, ignoring the rules, Masoom Sharma sang banned songs, due to which there was a possibility of law and order being affected. At present, the police have registered a case and the investigation is going on. Soon the singer can be called for questioning. The matter has also been reported to the university administration and the concerned departments.

Two jailed, one remanded in heroin smuggling case

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Anti Narcotics Cell in Panchkula has arrested three accused in the case of 141 grams of heroin. Out of these, two accused Paramjit Singh alias Pamma and Yadavindra Singh were arrested by the Anti Narcotics Cell from the Green Belt area near Shimla-Zirakpur Highway on July 25. Whereas, Kuldeep, a resident of Amritsar, was arrested on July 27.

Apart from Kuldeep, the Narcotics Cell presented Paramjit Singh alias Pamma and Yadavindra

Singh in the court after the completion of three days of remand. The court sent Kuldeep to one day police remand and sent Paramjit Singh and Yadavindra Singh to jail.

DCP Crime and Traffic Manpreet Singh Sudan said that during the search, 89 grams of heroin was recovered from Paramjit Singh and 52 grams of heroin was recovered from Yadavindra Singh. Both of them did not have any valid license. The DCP said that a case has been registered against the three accused under the NDPS Act at Sector-14 police station.

Dispute over stopping VIP car at PGI: Couple locked in police post and beaten up

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

A dispute arose over stopping a VIP car for five minutes at the parking gate of Chandigarh PGI. It is alleged that during the quarrel, the police locked a couple in the police post and beat them up. They were taken into custody and even their mobile phones were snatched. At the same time, the police say that under preventive action, Kishangarh residents Ravinder and Anu Sharma were presented before SDM Central, from where they

were released on bail.

The victim couple complained to the SSP, from where the investigation of the case has been handed over to DSP Central. The incident is of 22 July 2025. Kishangarh resident Ravinder Kumar had reached PGI with his wife Anu Sharma for the treatment of his father-in-law. A car was parked in the VIP parking. After some time, when the car started leaving, some security guards of PGI stopped it and asked why this car was parked here.

During this time, the driver of the vehicle called the PGI police post and asked to clarify the situation. From there, post in-charge SI Babita arrived in civil dress and told the security personnel that this is a VIP vehicle. Then Ravinder Kumar reached there and questioned the working style of the police and said that this is not a VIP vehicle. On this, there was an argument with SI Babita and the matter escalated.

Ravinder has alleged in his complaint to Chandigarh SSP that SI Babita abused



him and twisted his hand. After this ASI Bhagat Singh and constable Rajesh Kumar came to the spot and forcibly pushed him in an auto and took him to Bhargava Auditorium.

From there he was taken to the police station in a police vehicle.

Ravinder alleges that SI Babita beat him with a stick at the police post while ASI Bhagat Singh and Head Constable Jagpal attacked him badly with punches and kicks. When his wife Anu Sharma reached the

police post in search of him and asked for information about her husband, she was also locked in the police post room and beaten and abused. It is also alleged that Head Constable Jagpal snatched the mobile phones of the couple. Later when Ravinder's relatives Jagannath Sharma, Satinder Sharma and Anish Sharma reached the spot, the police also threatened them and threatened to implicate them in a false case. Ravinder is accused of making a video of the VIP car.

THE GLOBAL APPETITE FOR INDIAN CUISINE: A CAREER BOOM FOR INDIAN CHEFS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Over the past decade, the demand for Indian cuisine has experienced an unprecedented surge across continents. From the bustling streets of New York and London to the refined dining scenes of Dubai, Singapore, and Sydney, the rich flavors, diverse spices, and intricate culinary traditions of India have captivated global palates. With this growing appetite has emerged a career boom for Indian chefs, who are now celebrated not only as preservers of tradition but also as global culinary innovators.

A CUISINE THAT TRAVELS WELL

Indian cuisine, with its deeply rooted regional

diversity — from the robust curries of Punjab to the coastal delicacies of Kerala — is incredibly adaptable and dynamic. Its foundation of bold spices, slow-cooked flavors, and vegetarian-friendly options makes it suitable for both traditional and fusion cooking. As global diners become more adventurous and health-conscious, Indian food's reputation for balancing taste, nutrition, and variety has made it a global favorite.

The rise of plant-based dining, too, has elevated Indian cuisine, which already offers a wealth of vegan and vegetarian dishes rooted in Ayurveda and regional cooking traditions. Indian chefs are now crafting menus that appeal to international health trends

CHEFS AS CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

The global boom in Indian cuisine has transformed Indian chefs into cultural ambassadors. Whether working in five-star hotels, stand-alone Michelin-starred restaurants, or innovative food trucks and pop-ups, Indian chefs are introducing international audiences to more than just butter chicken and naan. They are delving into lesser-known regional cuisines, spotlighting forgotten ingredients, and reimagining classics through modern techniques.

A CAREER PATH WITH GLOBAL HORIZONS

With the growing popularity of Indian cuisine, opportunities for Indian

culinary professionals have expanded like never before. Culinary graduates from Indian hotel management institutes are finding employment not only in India but across the Middle East, Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia. Restaurants, hotels, cruise lines, and catering companies are actively seeking chefs who can execute authentic Indian menus or add an Indian twist to international offerings.

Moreover, international hotel chains now regularly hire Indian chefs for their Indian specialty restaurants or to head multicultural culinary teams. The demand isn't just for head chefs — it includes sous chefs, pastry chefs with an Indian flair, menu developers, food stylists, and even

INDIAN CUISINE CONSULTANTS. FUSION AND INNOVATION: A NEW GENERATION OF INDIAN CHEFS

A new wave of Indian chefs, trained both in India and abroad, is leading culinary innovation through fusion and experimentation. These chefs combine traditional flavors with modern techniques — think tandoori broccoli with truffle oil, masala quinoa bowls, or gulab jamun cheesecake. The blending of Indian and global cuisines has given rise to entirely new dining concepts, from Indo-Japanese sushi to Indian-Mexican tacos.

Social media platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok have also given Indian chefs unprecedented reach. Young culinary

talents now build their brands online, sharing recipes, food stories, and behind-the-scenes insights that resonate with a global audience. This digital exposure often translates into book deals, brand partnerships, or restaurant openings.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

While the global demand is high, Indian chefs abroad face certain challenges — cultural adaptation, sourcing authentic ingredients, and overcoming outdated perceptions about Indian food being overly spicy or heavy. However, these hurdles are being addressed with increased education, better supply chains for Indian ingredients, and growing culinary curiosity

among diners.

Chefs who succeed internationally often display not just culinary skill but also strong interpersonal abilities, adaptability, and an understanding of global food trends. Many have taken on additional roles — as entrepreneurs, restaurateurs, trainers, and culinary consultants — thus diversifying their careers while expanding the reach of Indian food.

CULINARY EDUCATION: FUELING THE BOOM

Institutions in India such as IHM Pusa, Culinary Academy of India, and private schools like IIHM are aligning their curriculum to meet global standards. With a mix of classical training and regional Indian exposure, graduates are ready to step into international kitchens.

Many also opt for internships or further education abroad, giving them a competitive edge in the global job market.

The global appetite for Indian cuisine is more than just a food trend — it's a cultural movement. It celebrates diversity, heritage, and innovation, while opening doors for thousands of Indian chefs to build rewarding international careers. With India's culinary talent now at the forefront of global gastronomy, the kitchen has become not just a workplace but a stage — where Indian chefs are earning applause, stars, and success like never before.

The article is written by Chef Manoj Goel Director of Culinary at Tamasha Indian Restaurant, Washington

Why students must learn to ‘Market’ their skills for AI-based recruitment



SARBOJIT MALLICK

Artificial Intelligence [AI] has quietly become the first gatekeeper in the hiring process for many companies in India. What began as an experiment to reduce recruiter workload has turned into a standard filter, taking care of tasks such as parsing resumes, ranking candidates, and in some cases, even predicting cultural fit. However, as more organisations rely on AI to identify the “right” people, it is worth asking whether this technology is equipped to recognise the kind of unconventional, emerging tech talent that Indian educational and vocational institutions are producing today.

In many cases, it is not. And that gap between potential and opportunity is something businesses cannot afford to overlook.

THE MACHINE LEARNS FROM THE PAST

An AI hiring system does not evaluate candidates in a vacuum. It learns from the data it has been fed, such as old resumes, hir-

ing patterns, job descriptions, and records of how previous employees performed. The trouble is that previous data often reflects outdated ideas about what makes a good hire, and may even be biased.

In India, this historical data often reflects old hiring biases: a heavy tilt towards elite institutes, a preference for conventional career paths, and an over-reliance on formal degrees. As a result, the algorithm may reject the blockchain developer from Coimbatore who taught herself Solidity on YouTube, or the AI engineer from Guwahati whose only formal credential is an online certificate but whose GitHub profile shows real expertise.

The machine is not deliberately excluding them. It is following signals shaped by outdated definitions of “potential.”

EMERGING TECH DOESN'T FIT OLD TEMPLATES

This issue becomes even sharper in emerging fields like AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, and quantum computing. The best talent in these areas often builds skills outside formal classrooms through open-source projects, coding communities, hackathons, and online platforms.

But AI recruitment tools tend to favour neat, predictable profiles. They

look for degrees, keywords, and familiar company names. They are far less effective at recognising skills that do not show up in standard formats, including project contributions, peer reputation in online developer forums, or complex personal projects.

For example, a young coder contributing to Ethereum India's developer ecosystem, or an AI researcher participating in Kaggle competitions, may never make it past the AI filter if their resume does not check the right boxes.

BIAS GOES BEYOND PAPERWORK

Many Indian firms are also experimenting with AI-driven video interviews, speech analysis, and even emotion-detection tools. These systems claim to remove subjectivity. But they often bring in another layer of bias, one that is harder to spot.

A candidate's accent, speech patterns, or non-verbal cues can unfairly influence outcomes. In a country as linguistically and culturally diverse as India, this creates obvious risks. A technically sound candidate from Bihar or the Northeast may be rejected, not for lack of ability, but because the machine could not process the nuance.

COMPANIES MAY NOT

EVEN REALISE THE PROBLEM

The bigger concern is that most organisations using these tools have limited visibility into how decisions are being made. AI vendors often sell their products as bias-free, but offer little clarity on how the algorithms work, what data they rely on, or how fairness is measured.

This creates a gap between intention and reality. Companies believe they are casting a wide net by implementing AI, while in truth, they are reinforcing narrow hiring patterns, favouring pedigree over capability, and standardisation over potential.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NOW

First, businesses, especially in tech, fintech, and digital-first sectors, need to demand full transparency from AI recruitment vendors. Any system that decides who gets considered for a role cannot be a black box.

Second, organisations must rethink what they measure. Things like project work, coding competitions, peer recommendations, and the ability to solve real problems should matter just as much as degrees or the names on someone's CV. Some Indian companies are already showing that this approach works. Zoho, for example, has hired people

from small towns and invested in training them, focusing on what they can do rather than where they studied. Freshworks has built strong teams by looking beyond the usual recruitment channels and giving opportunities to people with unconventional backgrounds.

Companies also need to keep an eye on the results. If AI tools keep pushing forward the same kinds of candidates from a few well-known colleges or specific regions, it's a sign that the system has enabled biases and missed a lot of good people along the way. Talent is abundant in India, but if the same narrow profiles keep emerging, the system needs to be fixed.

THE CHOICE IS OURS

Technology can speed up recruitment. But if it ends up filtering out the very people capable of building next-generation solutions, the cost is high for companies and for the country's innovation ambitions.

AI should help spot potential, not police the boundaries of who deserves an opportunity. Getting this right will not happen by default. It requires clear thinking, better-designed tools, and above all, leadership that sees beyond the CV, and beyond the machine.

The author is Co-founder, Instahyre

VILLA SWAGATAM UNITES 34 CREATIVE LAUREATES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The French Institute in India has announced the selection of 34 laureates for the third edition of its flagship residency programme, Villa Swagatam, running from August 2025 to August 2026. This initiative fosters cross-cultural dialogue and creative collaboration between French and South Asian artists and writers, who will spend one to three months at residencies across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and France.

Now in its third edition, Villa Swagatam welcomes new partners expanding its thematic and geographic reach. Sri Lanka joins the programme with the Lakmal Community Library in Colombo, while Chalet Mauriac in France introduces translation as a new literary focus. On the arts front, the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, æquo gallery in Mumbai, and Cirva in Marseille have also come aboard. A special highlight is a month-long itinerant residency for acclaimed French playwright Pauline Bayleacross Delhi, Varanasi, Tamil Nadu, and Bengaluru, supporting the final development of her Mahabharata adaptation premiering in 2026.

The call for applications



drew 520 submissions — 353 from India and 167 from France — more than doubling Indian applications from the previous edition, showing the growing resonance of this cultural exchange.

Selected residents include leading voices from both countries. From France, celebrated novelist Maylis de Kerangal (Sangam House) will blend the vibrancy of India with her immersive writing process, while ceramist Johanna de Clisson (Nila House) will explore merging European minimalism with Indian craft traditions. From India, acclaimed poet and activist Meena Kandasamy will work at Maison de la Poésie de Nantes, exploring translation's transformative power, while abstract artist Manish Pushkale (Cirva) will delve into glassmaking's

possibilities.

The Villa Swagatam network now includes 30 partner residencies in three categories: 11 in France, 10 literary residencies in South Asia, and 10 arts and crafts residencies. These residencies provide laureates meaningful access to diverse cultural ecosystems and facilitate outreach activities, deepening mutual understanding and creative collaboration.

Since its inception, Villa Swagatam has created a dynamic platform for cultural cooperation between India and France, with alumni showcasing works at India Art Fair, India Design ID, and international literary festivals. The third edition continues this mission, connecting emerging talents and established practitioners across borders, disciplines, and ideas.

Top mistakes to avoid in the final weeks before NEET PG 2025



GAURAV TYAGI

Aspirants are in the crucial last stage of their preparation, with NEET PG 2025 set for August 3. Every choice made at this point, whether calculated or impulsive, could have a significant effect on the result. Most students concentrate on what they should do, but it's just as important to know what they shouldn't do.

To keep on course for

success, candidates should steer clear of the following typical blunders in the last few weeks:

1. BEGINNING FROM SCRATCH WITH NEW TOPICS

This is not the time to learn about unexplored or completely new things. Beginning new material can cause you to feel overwhelmed, lose confidence, and take up more time for revision. Instead, concentrate on reaffirming your prior knowledge.

2. DISREGARDING EDITING

The last few weeks need to be spent on consolidation and correction. Many students become so engrossed in new materials and practice exams that they neglect to review their notes and



fundamental ideas. Revision strengthens weak areas, increases recall speed, and enhances retention.

3. HAVING TOO MANY MOCK TESTS

Mock tests are necessary, but too much testing without analysis is detrimental. Set a weekly limit of two to three high-quality mocks,

and provide enough time to comprehend errors, go over related material again, and modify your approach.

4. IGNORING HIGH-YIELD SUBJECTS

While all 19 subjects are significant, several are high-yield and have undergone extensive testing. Do not overextend yourself. In

your revision timetable, give priority to crucial subjects including pharmacology, pathology, medicine, surgery, PSM, and radiology.

5. SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND POOR NUTRITION

Making dietary and sleep compromises to study longer hours is a short-term

gain that will ultimately cost you in the long run. Sleep deprivation impairs attentiveness, memory consolidation, and decision-making skills. To function at its best, your brain needs rest and the right kind of food.

6. MINDLESSLY ADHERING TO OTHER PEOPLE'S STUDY PLANS

Avoid being swayed at the last minute by the tactics or resources of your peers. Adhere to your notes, revision strategies, and strategy. Confusion and wasted effort might result from making changes to the strategy too late.

7. IGNORING IMAGE-BASED AND CLINICAL QUESTIONS

Clinical scenarios and image-based questions are

common in the most recent NEET PG patterns. It's a big error to skip them because you think they're hard. Regularly review them using reputable study sites or practice exams.

8. INABILITY TO CONTROL EXAM ANXIETY

Although stress is normal, unmanaged anxiety can undo months of diligent work. To stay calm, try mindfulness exercises, breathing exercises, or even quick walks. Keep a cheerful attitude, particularly during the last week.

9. DISREGARDING THE TECHNICAL GUIDELINES AND EXAM FORMAT

Learn the layout of the questions, the computer-based test guidelines, and the interface of the NEET

PG exam. Minor problems like not understanding the marking system or the navigating process can cause needless anxiety.

10. EXHAUSTION BEFORE EXAM DAY

You should perform at your best on August 3rd, not before. Steer clear of last-minute studying the night before the test. Relax slowly, get enough sleep, and have faith in your planning.

The final portion of NEET PG preparation is a test of mental toughness, dedication, and strategy. Steer clear of these typical errors, polish your editing, and put your health first. Just as important as hard work is smart preparation.

The author is Founder – Career Xpert

SALAD LIFE: REVOLUTIONISING HEALTHY LIVING

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

From the visionary minds behind Louis Burger, Nashville Fried Chicken, and Slyce Pizza, Massive Restaurants Pvt. Ltd. proudly introduces Salad Life, a bold new brand redefining the salad experience for modern India. With a focus on uncompromising taste, nutrition, and freshness, Salad Life is not just about tossing greens; it's about crafting crave-worthy, chef-curated bowls designed for today's health-conscious, on-the-go generation. Now live on Zomato and Swiggy, Salad Life brings wholesome, satisfying meals straight to your doorstep — one delicious, nutritious bowl at a time.

With a wide-ranging menu that features Vegan, Vegetarian, and Non-Vegetarian options, Salad Life brings together bold global flavours and fresh, high-quality ingredients. The offerings include a variety of signature salads, healthy rice and quinoa bowls, soups, wraps, sandwiches, cold-pressed juices, smoothies, and guilt-free desserts. Hero dishes such as the Burrito Bowl, Grilled Chicken & Hass Avocado Salad, Falafel Hummus Salad, and Granola Tiramisu Parfait are crafted to balance taste, texture, and nutrition, while maintaining full transparency of ingredients and calories. The thoughtfully curated packaging ensures

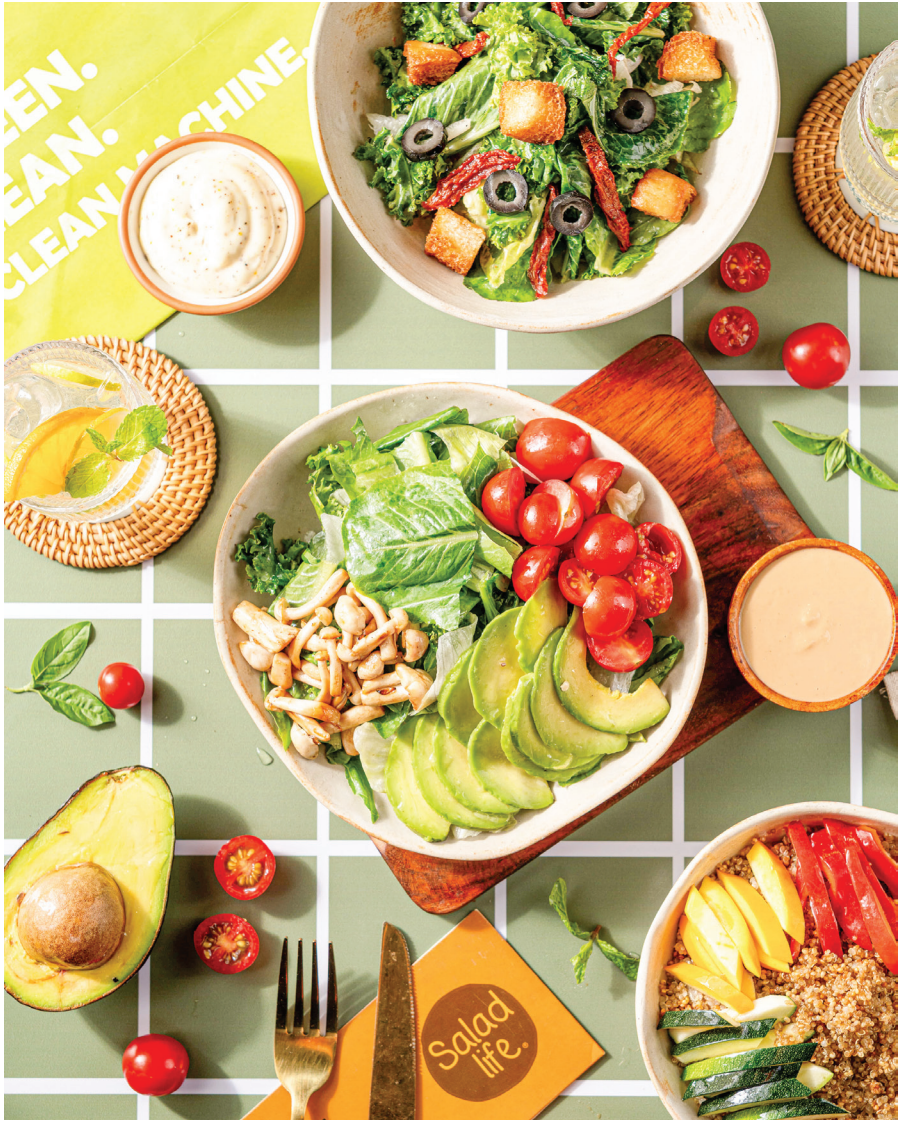


Zorawar Kalra, Founder & MD, Massive Restaurants Pvt. Ltd.

that each dish reaches customers fresh and intact.

As a vision for his new brand, Zorawar Kalra, Founder & Managing Director, Massive Restaurants Pvt. Ltd. (Salad Life), shared, "With Salad Life, we're not just launching another food brand, we're responding to what our audiences are genuinely craving today: food that nourishes the body but doesn't compromise on taste. People are tired of boring health food. Whether you're looking for a light lunch or a hearty post-workout meal, we want to give you something exciting, flavourful, and actually good for you. This brand is about joy, indulgence, and wellness—all rolled into one."

By offering a modern, ingredient-first menu with smart packaging and door-



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step convenience, Salad Life aims to solve the everyday dilemma of choosing between taste and health.

It caters to today's dynamic urban consumers, those who want to eat well without sacrificing flavour, variety, or ease. Salad Life is now available for delivery in Delhi NCR via Zomato and Swiggy.

Redefining healthy eating: A guilt-free feast for the senses

SANJANA CHAWLA

As someone who is committed to a calorie deficit and healthy diet, food cravings are a relentless foe. Often, the path to healthy eating feels like a culinary sacrifice, a world of bland, unsatisfying meals. However, my recent experience with Salad Life completely changed this notion, proving that deliciousness and dietary goals can't only coexist but thrive!

I ordered in a variety of salad bowls from Salad Life, and the star of the show was the Falafel Bowl. It was a vibrant tapestry of fresh ingredients: crisp cucumber, juicy tomatoes, black olives, and vibrant bell peppers, all crowned with a generous sprinkle of crumbled feta cheese. The falafel patties were a delightful surprise – perfectly browned, with a satisfyingly crispy exterior and a tender, flavorful interior. It was a hearty and substantial bowl that never felt heavy, a testament to its fresh components and thoughtful preparation.

Alongside the falafel, the Grilled Veggies Salad Bowl offered a simple yet incredibly effective side. A medley of bell peppers, zucchini, and onions, they were grilled to perfection, retaining a slight crunch with a wonderfully smoky char. This dish highlighted the natural sweetness of the vegetables, proving that less is truly more when it comes to healthy cooking!

For all Delhites - you know how erratic the weather has been in the monsoons! So I also ordered the Tomato Basil Soup which was a warm embrace amidst Delhi rains. Its rich,



velvety texture and deep, aromatic tomato flavor were comforting and satisfying. The basil notes were prominent without being overpowering, adding a fresh, herby lift. It felt like a hug in a bowl, a classic done right and a perfect complement to the other, more substantial dishes!

The Caesar Salad arrived with crisp, fresh lettuce, and flavorful

croutons, all of which was incredibly tasty. It maintained the essence of a classic Caesar without the usual guilt, offering that familiar savory, tangy profile that makes it so popular. Then came the Burrito Bowl, a vibrant and hearty option that promised a burst of flavor. The appearance of this bowl was certainly enticing and so was the taste! The cilantro rice, beans, the salsa and the bust of vegetables is just what I needed!

But the true grand finale, and a testament to Salad Life's innovative approach, was the Granola Tiramisu Parfait. Often, desserts are the first casualties in a calorie-deficit diet. However, this parfait was a game-changer. Layered with light, creamy mascarpone, soaked red velvet granola, and a dusting of cocoa, it offered all the indulgent flavors of a traditional tiramisu without the heavy feeling. The granola provided a delightful textural contrast, adding a satisfying crunch that elevated the experience beyond a typical dessert.

Salad Life has truly cracked the code for healthy eating that doesn't compromise on flavor or satisfaction. The portions were generous yet sensible, and the variety ensured there was something to appeal to every palate. This meal wasn't just about sticking to a calorie deficit but about discovering that nutritious food can be incredibly delicious, deeply satisfying, and leave you feeling truly nourished, both physically and mentally. If you're looking to transform your perception of healthy eating, Salad Life is undoubtedly a place to explore!

McDonald's Ranveer Singh Meal: A Burst of Energy on the Menu

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

McDonald's India has tapped into Bollywood star power by launching the Ranveer Singh Meal in its North and East India outlets — and much like the actor himself, this meal is bold, vibrant, and full of personality. Priced at Rs 249 for the vegetarian McVeggie Xplode and Rs 269 for the non-vegetarian McChicken Xplode, this limited-edition combo brings a playful twist to familiar McDonald's flavors.

The meal is built around your choice of burger — either the McVeggie Xplode or McChicken Xplode. Both pack a punch: the veggie version features a crisp patty layered with a spicy, tangy sauce, while the chicken option delivers the same zesty kick with tender meat inside. Ranveer's "Xplode" tagline lives up to its name — the flavors are designed to be bold and slightly over the top, much like his onscreen persona.

Alongside the burger come Golden Crispy Pops, a snacky side that feels like a fun alternative to regular fries. These bite-sized,



crunchy morsels are mildly spiced, making them easy to pop one after another without feeling too heavy. But the true scene-stealer of this meal might just be the Bobaaa Blast drink — McDonald's attempt to add the bubble-tea craze to its menu. Served in a bright, colorful cup, it's sweet, fizzy, and dotted with chewy boba pearls, making every sip an experience.

The packaging is another nod to Ranveer Singh's quirky, maximalist style.

about clean eating — it's about fun, indulgence, and a little bit of theatre on your tray. The portions are generous enough for a filling lunch or indulgent snack, and the price point makes it accessible for fans who want a taste of the Ranveer hype.

Verdict: The Ranveer Singh Meal is a limited-time offering that succeeds in what it promises — a burst of flavor, a dash of quirk, and a whole lot of Ranveer Singh energy. Whether you're a fan of the star or just looking to try something different at McDonald's, this combo is worth a taste before it disappears from the menu.

ful fonts, instantly making the meal feel like something to show off on Instagram.

Is it healthy? Not really. But that's not the point. The Ranveer Singh Meal isn't

FIZZY ROSEMARY CIDER – ELEVATED MOCKTAIL RECIPE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

THE DRUNKEN BOTANIST

Ingredients:

- 60 ml Apple Cider (non-alcoholic) – for a naturally sweet and tart base

- 60 ml Club Soda – adds lightness and effervescence
- 1 tablespoon Rosemary Syrup – brings a warm, piney herbal note
- Ice cubes – for serving
- 1 fresh rosemary sprig – for garnish
- (Optional: a thin apple slice or

lemon twist for an extra visual touch)

For the Rosemary Syrup (if making at home):

In a saucepan, combine 1 cup water, 1 cup sugar, and 3–4 sprigs of fresh rosemary. Bring to a gentle boil, then simmer for 5–7 minutes.

Remove from heat and let steep for 20 minutes. Strain and cool before using. Store in the refrigerator.

Method:

1. Prepare the Glass

Take a highball glass and fill it halfway with ice cubes to keep the drink chilled and refreshing.

2. Mix the Base

Pour 60 ml of chilled apple cider into the glass. Add 1 tablespoon of rosemary syrup. Stir gently to blend the flavors without losing carbonation.

3. Add the Fizz

Top up the drink with 60 ml of club soda. Pour slowly to maintain the

fizzy texture and prevent overflow.

4. Garnish & Serve

Lightly clap a fresh rosemary sprig between your palms to release its oils, then place it upright in the glass. For an extra visual flourish, add a thin apple slice or lemon twist on the rim.