



Gill-Pant duo set to take charge of Indian Test team, BCCI silent on Kohli

At least 20 people killed in Sudan after suspected drone strike hits prison

Taylor Swift denies involvement in 'It Ends With Us' amid legal battle



SPORTS PAGE-6 WORLD PAGE-7 FILM PAGE-8

3 DELHI

Delhi CM directs top officials to ensure emergency preparedness



5 STATE

Missile remains shell fragments found in two Himachal districts

6 SPORTS

India's challenge at Taipei Open 2025 ends after Ayush, Unnati's exit from semi-finals



7 BUSINESS

Agriculture Minister Reviews Farm Operations in Border States



MARKET table with columns for SENSEX, NIFTY, GOLD, SILVER and their respective values.

WEATHER table with columns for Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, Today's Prediction, and Tomorrow's Prediction.

CEASEFIRE, FRAGILE

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the ceasefire was initiated after a call by the DGMO. Blasts in Srinagar after ceasefire shock residents; all okay now, clarifies Centre

New Delhi/Washington India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of full scale war.



The directors general of military operations of India and Pakistan agreed on the understanding during a call this afternoon. "It was agreed between the Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan called the Director General of Military Operations of India at 1535 hours IST earlier today," Misri told the media at around 6 pm.

lations in a phase that marked the most severe confrontation following India's 'Operation Sindoor' launched on May 7 targeting nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK). The operation was launched in a strong retaliation to Pahalgalam terror attack on April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

India-Pak water treaty remains suspended despite ceasefire



New Delhi India's punitive measures against Pakistan including putting the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following the Pahalgalam terror attack will remain in place, government sources said on Saturday.

India counters Pak's actions, strikes 8 military installations

Srinagar India on Saturday said it had hit eight military installations in Pakistan in response to the neighbouring country's "provocative" action of targeting its defence infrastructure and civilian areas using drones, long-range weapons and fighter jets.



armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is reciprocated by the Pakistani military. She was addressing a special press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

J-K govt official, Army JCO among 7 killed in Pak shelling



Jammu/Pathankot Seven persons, including a JCO and a BSF trooper, were killed and several others injured in mortar shelling and drone strikes by Pakistani military early Saturday in India's border districts where debris of unidentified projectiles were also found and a crater was formed in an agricultural field.

Yusuf Azhar IC 814 mastermind killed on May 7 strike in Bahawalpur

New Delhi: Yusuf Azhar, one of the five terrorists killed when India struck the Jaish-e-Mohammed's headquarters in Bahawalpur, was terror group chief Masood Azhar's brother-in-law and one of the masterminds of the IC-814 hijacking in 1999, officials said.

In 2002, India gave his name to Pakistan as a wanted terrorist. He was also a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and wanted for the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar in December 1999. He ended with India releasing JeM founder Masood Azhar and two other terrorists, Omar Sheikh and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, in exchange for passengers and crew.



travelled to Dhaka with Latif and was joined by Masood Azhar's brothers Abdul Rauf and Ibrahim Athar at various points. Rauf arranged posh accommodation in Dhaka's cantonment, officials said.

Indian Airlines flight after noticing vulnerabilities in the airport's security set-up. Rauf also had a blueprint from the Harkat Ul Mujahideen to hijack a flight and demand the release of Masood Azhar and other terrorists in return.

CEASEFIRE, FRAGILE

CONT FROM PAGE-1
The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said there was no decision to hold talks on any other issue at any other place.

This statement came after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "the governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

"Over the past 48 hours, Vice President Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik," he said.

In his reaction, Jaishankar said India and Pakistan have worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action.

"India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so."

Pakistan foreign minister Ishaq Dar while confirming the ceasefire said Islamabad has always strived for peace and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Pakistani military's hostilities against India by targeting civilian areas and military installations came after 'Operation Sindoor' was launched. India also responded to the Pakistani actions firmly.

The fresh military offensives by the two sides since last night marked the most severe confrontations following India's May 7 action.

Earlier in the day, India said it had hit eight military installations in Pakistan in response to the neighbouring country's "provocative" action of targeting its defence infrastructure and civilian areas using drones, long-range weapons and fighter jets.

The Pakistani installations hit included a weapons depot and control centres, India's military said.

India counters Pak's actions, strikes 8 military installations

CONT FROM PAGE-1
"In a swift and calibrated response, Indian armed forces carried out precision attacks only on identified military targets," she said.

Pakistani military targets at Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunan were engaged using air-launched precision weapons from Indian fighter jets and the retaliation largely focused on command and control centres, radar sites and weapon storage areas, at Peshawar and Quetta.

Radar sites at Peshawar and the Sialkot aviation base were also targeted using precision munitions, she said, adding that India ensured minimum collateral damage while carrying out these responses.

Wing Commander Singh added that the Pakistani military continued with its "provocations", carrying out "aggressive actions" employing multiple threat vectors all along the western border.

Jairam Pushes for All-Party Meet Amid Peace Push

New Delhi
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday called for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately convene an all-party meeting and hold a special session of Parliament after India and Pakistan agreed to halt all military actions—on land, at sea, and in the air.

Ramesh said the government must take political parties into confidence and collectively address the pressing national security challenges.

He also called for a dedicated parliamentary session to deliberate on recent developments, including the terror attack in Pahalgal and its aftermath.

"In view of the unprecedented announcements from Washington, DC, there is now a need, more than ever before, for the PM to chair an all-party meeting and take the political parties into confidence. A special session of Parliament should be convened to discuss the events of the last eighteen days, beginning with the brutal Pahalgal terror attacks and the way forward, and to demonstrate a collective resolve," posted Jairam Ramesh on X.

In a crucial step toward de-escalation, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations contacted his Indian counterpart and the two sides agreed to halt all military actions—on land, at sea, and in the air—effective from 1700 hours IST.

Misri noted that international Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been

issued to enforce the ceasefire, with another round of DGMO-level talks scheduled for May 12 at noon.

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

Earlier, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that both countries had agreed to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site.

"Over the past 48 hours, VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Mu-



Ramesh said the government must take political parties into confidence and collectively address the pressing national security challenges.

misring stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so."

Earlier, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that both countries had agreed to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site.

"Over the past 48 hours, VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Mu-

nir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik. I am pleased to announce that the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence, and statesmanship in choosing the path of peace," he said.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in reply to the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgal on May 2.

The attack had killed 26 people. India had struck nine terror sites deep inside Pakistan. This saw Pakistan up the ante with a series of unprovoked escalations using artillery guns and drones.

Agency

Helicopter services for Char Dham Yatra running smoothly: Uttarakhand Govt

Dehradun
The helicopter services for the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand have run smoothly, the Uttarakhand government said on Saturday.

State Director General of Information, Bansidhar Tiwari, said that the services to the four Dhams, including Badrinath and Kedarnath, are operational from all helipads, including the Sahasradhara helipad in Dehradun.

In a post on X, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand is proceeding smoothly, with over 4 lakh devotees having visited the sacred shrines so far.

"Dear Devotees, Chardham Yatra is being conducted smoothly in Uttarakhand. So far, more than 4 lakh devotees have visited the Dhams. Heli services for Shri Kedarnath Dham are also fully operational. You

are requested not to pay attention to any kind of rumour," he wrote on X.

"The state government is constantly trying to make your travel experience safe and smooth. For any information and assistance, you can call helpline numbers 1364 and 0135-1364. #CharDhamYatra2025," he added.

"Every year a large number of devotees visit Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand for the Char Dham Yatra," the chief minister said, adding, "Our government is continuously working to make the journey smooth, safe and well organised," CM Dhami said.

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

Agency

CISF gets new mandate to oversee cargo, baggage screening at airports amid high alert

New Delhi
In a decisive move to strengthen aviation security, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has expanded the mandate of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to include direct oversight of cargo operations and the In-line Hold Baggage Screening System (ILHBSS) across civil airports in India.

According to an Official Memorandum (OM) dated Friday, the temporary arrangement will be in effect from May 9 to May 18, 2025. The decision comes in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgal, which has led to heightened security concerns nationwide.

The enhancement of CISF's mandate is essential to reinforce security arrangements at all civil airports.

CISF has responded immediately and resumed oversight over cargo and baggage operations. CISF will over-

see operations and the security of airport operators for ILHBSS. The directives also authorise CISF personnel to perform random checks and oversee access control to these critical facilities.

All the airports under the cover of CISF have already implemented the new strengthened system.

Before this directive, CISF's deployment as the primary aviation security force did not explicitly extend to



the direct security and screening of cargo operations and the In-line Hold Baggage Screening System.

Earlier on Saturday, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and relevant aviation authorities have issued a series of notices to Airmen (NOTAMS) announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across Northern and Western India for all civil flight operations.

The NOTAM is effective from May 9, 2025,

to May 14, 2025 (which corresponds to 0529 IST on May 15, 2025), due to operational reasons.

The list of 32 airports include Adampur, Ambala, Amritsar, Awantipur, Bathinda, Bhuj, Bikaner, Chandigarh, Halwara, Hindon, Jaisalmer, Jammu, Jammu-nagar, Jodhpur, Kandla, Kangra (Gaggal), Keshod, Kishanganj, Kullu Manali (Bhuntar), Leh, Ludhiana, Mundra, Naliya, Pathankot, Patiala, Porbandar, Rajkot (Hirapar), Sarsawa, Shimla, Srinagar, Thoise and Uttarpari.

A senior Ministry of Civil Aviation official informed that all civil flight activities at these airports will remain suspended during this period.

AAI has also extended the temporary closure of 25 segments of Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes within the Delhi and Mumbai Flight Information Regions (FIRs) due to operational reasons.

ED conducts raids in Mumbai, Surat; seizes Rs 6.30 crore in money laundering case

Mumbai
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out searches at four locations across Mumbai and Surat as part of its probe into M/s Platinum Itern Pvt Ltd (Torres Jewellery) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The investigation revealed large-scale Hawala transactions, leading to the seizure of Rs 6.30 crore in cash and incriminating digital evidence.

As per an ED release, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office conducted searches across Mumbai and Surat on May 9 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 4 premises as a part of the ongoing probe in the case of M/s Platinum Itern Pvt Ltd under the brand name 'Torres Jewellery.'

ED initiated an investigation on the basis of a complaint registered by the APMC Police Station, Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

"ED investigation revealed that M/s Platinum Itern Pvt Ltd has collected huge cash from its customers in lieu of sale of Moissanite Diamonds and other jewellery. Instead of using the said cash for its legitimate business purposes, the said cash has been routed through Hawala opera-

tors and later converted into USDT cryptocurrencies," the release read.

The key person, Alpesh Khara, not only facilitated the collection of huge cash from Torres showrooms across Mumbai on the instructions of Oleksandr Zapichenko alias Alex and Ms Olena Stoian but also assisted them in converting the said cash into USDT cryptocurrencies.

Alpesh Khara was arrested by ED on March 26 and was in custody of ED from March 26 to April 1.

"It was revealed during the course of investigation that Alpesh Khara was one of the franchise owners of a known Angadia entity, which is having branches across India and huge cash has been exchanged hands through those branches of Angadias as well as other various Hawala Operators," the release read.

ED carried out searches at those Angadias / Hawala Operators at Mumbai and Surat, who assisted in facilitating such Hawala transactions at Mumbai and Surat resulted into the seizure of huge cash of Rs 6.30 crore as well as incriminating digital devices. Earlier searches conducted in this case on January 23, resulted into freezing of bank accounts totalling to Rs 21.75 crore and seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices.

Ministry of Defence urges citizens to stay cautious of fake news on WhatsApp

New Delhi
Amid rising concerns over misinformation, the Ministry of Defence on Saturday urged citizens to stay cautious about fake news circulating on WhatsApp and rely on verified sources for updates.

The Ministry has encouraged people to follow its official WhatsApp channel for authentic information on defence matters.

In a post on X, Ministry of Defence said, "In these sensitive times, a lot of misinformation and fake news is being spread on WhatsApp. Be cautious and follow our WhatsApp Channel for all authentic information related to Ministry of Defence."

"Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated further on Saturday as Indian Armed forces conducted precision strikes on four airbases in Pakistan, responding to Pakistan's attack on 26 Indian locations.

Indian Army Colonel Sofiya Qureshi stated that precision strikes were carried out on Pakistani military targets in Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, and Chunan, as well as radar sites at Pasur and Sialkot aviation bases, using air-launched weapons from Indian fighter aircraft.

While speaking to the media, the Secretary Misri said, "Pakistan's actions constituted provocation, escalation. In response, India de-



of critical Indian military assets and infrastructure.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, while addressing the joint press conference, highlighted Pakistan's attempts to spread disinformation about damage caused to the S-400 system at Adhampur, airfields at Suratgarh and Sirsa, Brahmos space at Nagrota, and artillery-gun positions in Dehranagar and Chandigarh, among other allegations.

Wing Commander Singh emphasised that India unequivocally rejects these false narratives, which are part of a broader strategy to undermine India's military capabilities and instil fear among the public.

"The incidents of heavy shelling and cross-border firing were reported from various places aligning with Pakistan border on Saturday. Tensions escalated between India and Pakistan after the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor in the early hours of May 7th, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK).

Wing Commander Singh briefed the media about the ongoing developments amid the rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

Secretary Misri emphasised that the actions being undertaken by Pakistan against India are being seen as "escalatory" and "provocative" in nature. He made the remarks during a press briefing on Saturday, where proofs of Pakistan's escalatory and provocative actions were provided alongside exposing the lies being peddled by Pakistan.

While speaking to the media, the Secretary Misri said, "Pakistan's actions constituted provocation, escalation. In response, India de-

fended and reacted in a responsible and measured fashion".

Despite the intensity of the attacks, Indian forces successfully engaged and retaliated, though airbases in Udhampur, Pathankot, Adampur, Bhuj, and Bathinda sustained damage, and personnel were injured. Pakistan's use of high-speed missiles at 1:40 AM to target Punjab's airbase station and the unprofessional targeting of hospitals and schools in airbases in Srinagar, Awantipora, and Udhampur were particularly condemned.

India categorically rejected Pakistan's malicious misinformation campaign, which falsely claimed the destruction

Delhi govt issues guidelines for NIOS Class 10 admission for 2025-26 session

New Delhi
The Directorate of Education (DoE) has released a guideline for the registration of government school students seeking admission to Class 10 through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for the 2025-26 academic session.

The move is part of the NIOS project aimed at preventing dropouts among students, who have repeatedly failed in regular school exams and providing them a chance to complete formal education through open schooling, said a circular.

According to the circular, students from government schools under DoE who have been declared 'fail' or placed in 'compartment' in Class 9 or 10 for a minimum of two times up to the last session (2024-25) are



eligible to register for the NIOS Class 10 programme.

However, those who have failed or received a compartment for the first

time in the 2024-25 session are not eligible under this scheme and are advised to continue in their existing schools, it stated.

Only students with valid School Leaving Certificates (SLCs) issued by the concerned school are eligible, the circular read.

Heads of schools are responsible for identifying, contacting and enrolling eligible students. They must also ensure entries

are updated in the MIS module before registration, it stated.

The circular also outlines the process for registration and mentions that classes will be conducted in about 75 designated study centres across Delhi.

Students can opt for two languages, Social Science as a compulsory subject and two other subjects with practicals. The languages include Hindi, English and Sanskrit, the circular mentioned.

Other subjects available include Home Science, Painting and Science and Technology, it said.

Students will also be eligible for a uniform subsidy under the DoE's Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, the circular said.

The last date for submission of online applications and fees is July 31, it added.

Delhi CM directs top officials to ensure emergency preparedness

New Delhi
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday issued instructions to top officials of her government to ensure preparedness to handle emergency situations entailing need of shelters, blackouts, stocking hospitals with supplies amid an ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan.

Gupta chaired a high-level meeting with heads of different departments at Delhi Secretariat, took stock of the preparations and issued directions. She also had a meeting with ministers of her Cabinet, officials said.

Senior Delhi government officers said that, the chief minister asked for hospitals

to be prepared and to keep medicines in stock. The Health department was also instructed to keep ICU's ready.

The Power department has been asked to prepare for a situation if blackout is needed. Education depart-



ment has been directed to work in coordination with other departments to identify schools that can serve as shelters in case of an emergency, said one of the officers.

In the aftermath of killing of 26 persons mostly tourists in a terror attack last month in Pahalgam, India and Pakistan have been engaged in hostilities involving strikes with drones, missiles and heavy shelling in border areas.

Man wanted in multiple robbery cases arrested in Delhi



New Delhi
Police have arrested a 27-year-old man, wanted in multiple robbery cases, in Delhi's Outer Ring Road, officials said Saturday.

The accused, identified as Yusuf, had been on the run since February 14 after he and his associates allegedly robbed a man of Rs 3,000 at gunpoint using a stolen vehicle in north Delhi's Timar Pur area, police said.

"His criminal history revealed involvement in multiple serious offences across Ghazipur, Hapur and Noida. He had previously suffered a bullet injury on his leg when Hapur Police were trying to arrest him. He, however, managed to escape," a police officer said.

He was apprehended from Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Budh Nagar district.

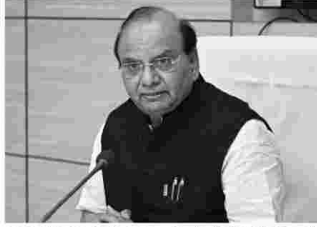
During the investigation, it was also found that Yusuf is a proclaimed offender in another case registered at Wazirabad Police Station on October 1, 2024, in connection with an armed robbery of Rs 4.65 lakh on the Outer Ring Road, the officer said. Further investigation is underway, the officer added.

Every religion in India not only survives but thrives says Delhi LG

New Delhi
Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Saturday said India cannot be divided on religious lines and stressed the strength of the nation's pluralistic identity.

The governor was addressing 'Sarva Dharam Sabha' organised at Delhi's Raj Niwas. The event brought together leaders from various religions, senior officials, and top Delhi government representatives.

"This country has a speciality - every religion has not only survived here but thrived," he said. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, "When our 26 innocent people were brutally killed by terrorists last month, every Indian



wanted justice. I thank the armed forces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh," she said. Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, MCD Mayor Raja Iqbal

Singh, Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee President Harneet Singh Kalka, Acharya Rajesh Ojha, Hafez Mohammad Javed from Jama Masjid, and other religious representatives were also present.

Delhi excise dept steps up action against eateries serving liquor without license

New Delhi
The Delhi government has intensified action against hotels, clubs and restaurants serving liquor without necessary excise licenses, officials said on Saturday.

Raids were conducted at 40 premises and over two dozen FIRs have been registered in the last few months, they said.

An Excise department officer said that between January-April this year, the enforcement teams raided 40 eateries in various parts of the city that were selling liquor without excise license.

The department also registered 24 FIRs in this



regard. The city has around 1,000 hotels, clubs and restaurants that serve liquor without proper licenses, he said.

A significant number of unlicensed premises are operating across the city without obtaining proper

licenses. The raids were conducted across Delhi, including in West Delhi and North West areas, and 24 restaurants were found serving liquor without liquor license, officials said.

These unauthorized operations are causing the government revenue losses as they don't pay any license fees and also sell liquor on which no excise duty is paid, they said.

The officials said that these establishments out of excise management net also escape effective monitoring by the department posing threat of spurious liquor, loss of revenue and other illegal activities.

The Excise department has initiated a special enforcement drive from January 2025, aimed at identifying such unlicensed premises and bringing them under the legal excise licensing framework, they said.

AAP to table Condemnation motion over Pahalgam attack

New Delhi
As the two-day session of the Delhi Assembly begins on May 13, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is set to take a bold and uncompromising stand on national security, moving a 'Condemnation Motion' to denounce the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

According to an official release, the party is also set to move a Motion of Thanks saluting the Indian Armed Forces for their courage and resolve in the face of India-Pakistan escalation.

Through Operation Sindoor, the Indian Armed Forces have launched a decisive offensive against terrorists and their backers - a battle that the Delhi Assembly, led by AAP, unequivocally supports.

"We not only want to thank the Armed Forces,



but also the families of our soldiers, whose sacrifice and dedication keep this nation secure," said the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, Atishi.

Announcing the agenda for the upcoming session, Delhi Assembly LoP Atishi said, "The session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly is scheduled for May 13. In this session, the AAP's legislative group brings forward two important resolutions."

Highlighting the party's stand against terrorism, Atishi stated, "First, the Aam Aadmi Party will move a censure resolution to strongly condemn the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Attacking unarmed civilians is an act against humanity, and we want the Delhi Assembly to denounce this in the strongest possible

terms."

Expressing gratitude to India's armed forces, she stated, "Second, the Aam Aadmi Party will move a resolution of thanks to honour and salute the Indian Army and all our armed forces. Through Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army has launched a decisive battle against terrorists and their supporters, and the Delhi Assembly - along with the people of Delhi and across India - stands firmly with them."

Acknowledging the sacrifices made by military families, Atishi added, "We not only want to thank the armed forces, but also the families of our soldiers for their sacrifice and dedication. With this resolution of gratitude, we express our deep respect for their selfless service to the nation."

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan agreed to halt all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air. In a crucial step toward de-escalation, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations contacted his Indian counterpart earlier this week. The two sides agreed to halt all military actions - on land, at sea, and in the air - effective from 1700 hours IST. Misri noted that instructions have been issued to enforce the ceasefire, with another round of DGMO-level talks scheduled for May 12 at noon. Addressing the press briefing on Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, "Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called Indian DGMO at 15:35 hours earlier this afternoon."

No need to panic all supplies in place Sirsa



New Delhi
Assuring that there is no shortage of supplies in the national capital, Delhi Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Saturday urged the public not to panic or resort to bulk buying of essential goods.

"There is no need to panic. The government is working 24x7. All essential items are sufficiently available in Delhi. People should continue with their daily lives as usual," he said.

Sirsa's remarks came as the residents of Delhi rushed to stock up on essentials amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

The minister emphasised that disaster management teams are fully active and the administration is prepared. "We are ready across all parameters. The government is monitoring the situation closely and making all necessary preparations," he said.

Sirsa urged people not to indulge in panic buying. "Do not stockpile items. Prices will not rise and there will be no scarcity,"

he said. Sirsa further said that the siren testing conducted at the Secretariat is part of preparedness drills. "There is no need for fear. We will also be discussing in our legislative party meeting how to keep the public calm and informed," he said.

"Taking a strong stance against Pakistan, Sirsa said, "Instead of fighting terrorism within its own borders, Pakistan is choosing to target India. The country will remember the lesson it gets this time for a long time."

Delhi airport operations remain normal, issues travel advisory

New Delhi
Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Saturday said that operations are proceeding smoothly at the Delhi Airport.

"Delhi Airport operations are running smoothly as usual. However, due to evolving airspace conditions and enhanced security measures as directed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, some flight schedules may be impacted and security processing times could be longer," the airport said in its latest travel advisory. The airport operator is



issued the advisory to passengers, which includes, "Stay informed with updates from their respective airlines. Follow hand baggage and check-in luggage regulations. Arrive early to

allow for potential delays at security checkpoints. Cooperate with the airline and security staff for smooth facilitation. Check flight status via their airline or the official Delhi

Airport website." "We encourage all passengers to rely on official sources for accurate information and avoid sharing unverified content," the advisory added.

Earlier, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and relevant aviation authorities have issued a series of notices to Airmen (NO-TAMs) announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across Northern and Western India for all civil flight operations.

The NOTAM is effective from May 9, 2025, to May 14, 2025 (which corresponds to 0529 IST on 15th May 2025), due to operational reasons.

Light rain overcast sky witnessed in national capital on Saturday

New Delhi
Parts of the National Capital witnessed light rain and brief drizzles on Saturday, as thick clouds loomed over the city and kept the sky overcast throughout the day.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning on Saturday for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kmph. Delhi on Saturday recorded a minimum temperature of 25.8 degrees Celsius, 0.7 notch below the season's average, according to the IMD.

The IMD has forecast a generally cloudy sky with

light rain, with the maximum temperature expected to settle around 37 degrees Celsius.

Relative humidity was recorded at 65 per cent at 8.30 am.

The air quality was recorded in the "moderate" category at 4 pm on Saturday, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 186. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed.

According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor', and 401 to 500 'severe'.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hereby inform the general public that my clients Sh Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh Arni Lal and Smt Maya Devi W/o Sh Naresh Kumar both R/o 65, No. 95/4/94, Near Rao Mansa Ram School, Gali No. 1, Kapashera, New Delhi-110097, have disowned and disbarred their son Sh Pankaj Yadav from his all his properties, movable or immovable. My clients shall not be responsible for any loan or advance given to him. He is residing separately from my aforesaid clients.
Rajiv Yadav
Advocate
Ch. No. 415, Dwarka Courts New Delhi



By Ajay Kumar

Sindoor ki Kasam - Terroristan won't be spared !



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sanctioned another installment of developmental fund to Pakistan, in the midst of the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, post Pahalgam attack in Kashmir valley. In its annual executive board meeting completing the first review of Pakistan's economic reform program, the IMF, granted a second tranche of \$1 Billion for financial year 2025, making a total of \$2.1 billion since 2024 for the avowed purpose of economic reconstruction. In addition, the IMF executive board also, approved the authorities request for an addition grant of \$1.4 Billion, under 'resilience and sustainability facility'. The IMF has sent a clear signal that it desires the Pakistani economy to continue on its path of reconstruction, as witnessed over the past one year, after IMF bailout package. It is believed that Pakistan has grown by some 17% in the last one year. The world is made to believe, that an economically failed Pakistan is a much biggest danger to the "free & democratic" world, in comparison to Pakistan's avowed support, aid and sponsorship to Islamic terror emanating from its land & people. Based on this

contextualism, India must feel indebted that it faces the lesser of the evils - terrorist attacks on its soil, where innocent civilians are killed & maimed with impunity. This despite an abstinence vote by India, with a vociferous appeal to the executive board, that Pakistan is going to divert this aid to its war chest.

Had this not been the case, how do the G 7 countries justify this overt support to Pakistan's economic reconstruction via IMF loan, knowing fully well about several diversion of developmental funds to terror infrastructure operational within its territory. Please do recall the downing of F 16 jets by Indian Air Force & missiles - these F 16 fighters to provided to Pakistan to fight terrorism emanating in the region, especially Afghanistan, by the American administration. Let's bear in mind that being the biggest contributor, the US commands 17% weightage in all IMF decisions and the combined clout of G 7 countries weigh as much as 40%. These are the very nations who sympathized with the loss of 25 innocent Indian lives during Hamas trained Pakistani terrorists attack in Pahalgam on 22nd April. The G 7 nations have put out a joint communique, seeking immediate de-escalation as further escalation poses serious threat to civilian on both sides and regional security. Clearly, the G 7 desires to kill two birds

with one stone - on one hand stand against terrorism on the side of humanism by shedding crocodile tears for Pahalgam victims and on the other provide continued economic support to the rogue Pakistani establishment, which, defiantly adopts Hamas styled terrorism as its state policy. The US Vice President J D Vance, washes his hands off the war like situation between India and Pakistan - "not going to be involved in a war that's fundamentally none of our business" - were his comments, when asked about dispute resolution arising out of Pahalgam terror attack. Statecraft got exposed, when the very next day, the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio picked up the phone - spoke to Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, advising de-escalation & US mediation - and, in the same breath, dressed down Pakistan Army Chief, Asim Munir, asking to stand down and open channels of dialogue with India. The G 7 countries seem to be playing the old hand, once perfected by the allied nations in 1941 - provide Nazi Germany

with infrastructure, resources, raw materials via bi-lateral trade, at the same time denounce right wing extremism and Hitlerian dictates when positioned as an 'Allied grouping'.

Ironie as it may sound, the dominant international playbook seems to repeat itself over and over. Or else, what explains post 9/11 attack action in Afghanistan - a cross-continental pursuit of Osama Bin Laden & Taliban - with the avowed purpose of destroying terror infrastructure built, sustained and protected by its ally, Pakistan. Or the recent Israeli war against Iran supported terror networks like Hamas & the Houthis rebels, post 7th October 2023, attack on Israeli civilians. These holy crusades find absolution and international communion, but Indian's quest to seek and destroy terror factories spread across Pakistan, find the Western nations supporting Terroristan (read Pakistan) from behind the curtains. It is abandonedly clear that those who have the military might & politi-

cal will, can pursue and kill. While those, who appear sensible or vulnerable, should abstain. Post Pahalgam, the sustained Indian strike on Pakistani military & terror infrastructure, the levers of control appear to shifted, out of the hands off, the powerful G 7 and therefore, the world is made to fear - 'irresponsible behavior of two nuclear powers'. Meaning thereby that the moment the India seeks a full stop to endless violence spearheaded under the garb of Kashmiri aspirations, by punishing a belligerent, rogue, nuclear military, under Pakistani flag, the world seems to be forced towards a 'nuclear catastrophe'. As the Hindi axiom goes, 'tum karo to sadachar, hum karo to atyachar'.

More than 400 drones have been fired by Pakistan, within Indian territory. Pakistani fighters swarm the air space near the line of control (LOC) between Pakistan & India, firing a range of air borne missiles. Long range missiles & projectiles have been fired with impunity on civilian habitations and military

installations, as deep inside Indian territory, as Hissar, near national capital Delhi. At numerous LOC & international border junctions, the Indian army, today, stands eye to eye, with the Pakistani army. Hundreds of innocent lives have been lost due to heavy artillery and mortar firing from across the border & LOC, by Pakistan. All because, India chose to locate, eliminate & destroy, terror outfits and dreaded killers, safely tucked under Pakistani state protection. Now isn't this a real, stretch. Pakistani Prime Minister and Army mandarins attend the burial of known terrorists and terror abettor, but the world expects India to take the Pakistani retaliation as a side punch and walk away. The international community and communion of nations shall guilty of oversight and partisan blasphemy, if Pakistan is allowed to renege its commitment to fighting terror & terror network and continue on its path of inflicting a thousand cuts on India. The second most populace nation and the fourth largest economy of the world, shall not digest such discriminatory international chess play - it shall find its own path to redemption and national pride.

About the Author

(Ajay Kumar, Commentator & Journalist)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

7	1						8	5
		2					3	4
			1	2				4
	9		4		5			8
5				6	7			
	7					2		
3	6							9

Solution, Sudoku

5	4	8	7	9	6	2	3	1
9	1	3	5	8	2	6	4	7
2	7	6	1	3	4	9	8	5
7	2	1	8	6	3	4	5	9
3	9	5	2	4	1	7	6	8
6	8	4	9	5	7	1	2	3
1	3	9	4	2	5	8	7	6
4	5	7	6	1	8	3	9	2
8	6	2	3	7	9	5	1	4

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

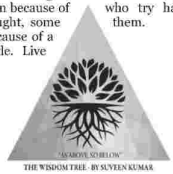
THE EASIEST WAY

The easiest way to come closer to your goal is to change your life style, the easiest way to minimize the competition is to change your life style, the easiest way to find your way is to change your life style and the easiest way to change your life is to change your life style. Natural is not what you develop, natural is what is developed, style is not that you create style is what is followed. Sometimes it is not a man within you that makes you a warrior, it is the war-field, sometimes it is not your special act that makes you stand out but your ordinary act that you do everyday.

There are shortcuts of success and they successfully work. Shortcut is not skipping, it is about bearing maximum pain in minimum time, it is about fighting harder instead of longer, it is about wanting badly and turning feisty, it is about changing faster to master.

You will have to have a different lifestyle to make a difference. Living like everyone and being that someone is impossible. And everything that is impossible for human is possible by the God. Paint yourself as you want to appear.

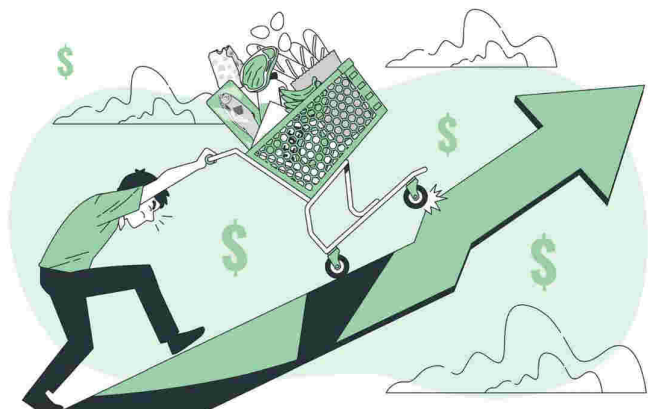
Moral: The easier ways are found by the ones who try hard to find them.



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

"The business of crisis: inflation, profiteering and government warnings"

■ Government crackdown on ration black marketing: Ground reality and empty promises



Whenever a crisis looms over a country, the common people are the first to be affected. It is a bitter truth that problems like inflation, black marketing and hoarding become common in times of crisis. Recently, in view of the increasing tension between India and Pakistan, news of black marketing of food items, petrol, diesel and cooking gas across the country is in the headlines. Amidst these difficult circumstances, the government has announced strict action against hoarders and black marketers. The question is whether these announcements will really make any difference or will this also remain just a paper strictness like other government promises?

History is witness that whenever tensions between India and Pakistan have increased, there has been a shortage of food items and fuel not only in the border areas but also in the entire country. This problem is not only economic but also political. Often, for political gain, hoarding and black marketing are not only ignored but also indirectly encouraged. Governments have often justified inflation and shortage in the name of 'national security'. It is a popular policy to arouse

the feeling of patriotism to divert people's attention in times of crisis, but the common citizen has to bear the brunt of it.

Despite strict instructions issued by the government, their implementation at the ground level has always been a big challenge. Usually, administrative officials do not take them seriously or turn a blind eye under pressure from local traders and politicians. This is an open secret that black marketers often flourish under political patronage. In such a situation, the question arises whether the problem will be solved by just issuing orders? Will the administrative machinery work with transparency and honesty in its work or will this also remain confined to files?

When hoarding happens, it has the worst effect on the common people. Inflation starts skyrocketing, essential commodities disappear from the market, and people are forced to pay higher prices. Governments make plans for relief packages and cheap rations, but reaching the benefits to the needy often becomes a challenge. Not only corruption but lack of awareness at the ground level is also a big problem behind this. Poor and middle class families have to bear the brunt of this the most.

The government has made it clear that strict action will be taken against hoarding and black marketing, but will this promise turn into reality? Will the government machinery really take a strict stand

this time or will this also fade away with time like other government instructions? Real reform is possible only when the government takes concrete steps to turn its strict instructions into ground reality.

Transparent information should be given about the availability and distribution of goods in every district. This will help the general public to know the real status of the goods and put an end to rumours. Transparency should be brought in stock and price using digital platforms. Monitoring hoarding and black marketing using technical means can be easy in today's digital age.

Along with strict legal action against the cul-

prits, their names should be publicly disclosed so that people stay away from such activities. The public should be made a partner in this fight so that black marketers can be easily identified. Community vigilance groups should be formed which regularly monitor the market situation. In times of crisis, poor and middle class families should be given relief through financial assistance and subsidy.

Problems are not solved by mere announcements, but improvement is possible only by solid and honest implementation. If the government really wants to crack down on black marketing, then it will have to change its policies and administrative structure. Otherwise, this strictness will also

remain just a 'hollow slogan'. The public will also have to be vigilant so that no hoarder can snatch their rights.

Problems are not solved by orders and announcements alone, but improvement is possible only through solid and honest implementation. The government has to understand that the issue of inflation and black marketing is not only an economic one, but also a moral and political challenge. Unless there is transparency, accountability and will-power in the administrative system, the hope of ground-level improvement is futile. Government policies being limited to paper strictness is not only a betrayal of the public, but also an insult to the basic principles of a democratic country.

Apart from this, the general public will also have to play its role. Co-operating in identifying hoarders and black marketers, helping the needy and being aware of one's rights is the need of the hour. The problem will not be solved by criticism alone, but only collective efforts can create a healthy and equitable society. Otherwise, this strictness will also remain just a 'hollow slogan', and the struggle of the common man will never end.

About the Author

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh is a post-graduate journalist, and columnist.)

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-422517, 4241284for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (981899989), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (0858692450)

FORADVERTISING IN
TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before action on any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of The Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

Missile remains shell fragments found in two Himachal districts

Una/Nurpur (HP)

Missile remains and shell fragments were recovered from two Himachal Pradesh districts, officials said on Saturday and added three explosions were heard in the forest areas of Kangra district.

The recoveries came during a military standoff between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor. The two countries have since agreed to a ceasefire, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announcing that the directors general of military operations of India and Pakistan had decided to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday.

During preliminary in-



vestigation, splinters and components of guided missiles were found at the blast sites in Kangra district's Dantala area, as confirmed by defence personnel, according to a statement is-

sued by the police headquarters.

While there were no human casualties, two cattle were found dead, bushes charred and electrical wiring damaged.

Meanwhile, suspected shell fragments were found in the Behad village of Una district, according to the statement.

Suspicious objects resembling drone remains

were also found.

Located around 10 kilometres from the Chintpurni temple, Behad was rocked by the sound of an explosion at 1:30 am on Saturday during a blackout in the region amid the Pakistani military's attempts to hit Indian installations, the officials said.

The village is adjacent to Punjab, which shares a 532-kilometre-long border with Pakistan.

The officials said locals spotted the object in the morning and informed the police.

The district administration said in a statement that while preliminary investigations suggested that the object was unarmoured, a team of experts was examining it.

Pakistan tried to attack India's northern region on

Friday and early Saturday and it seems rocket fragments fell at Behad, the officials said.

The area has been cordoned off by the police and locals told to remain alert and not approach such objects.

In Hamirpur, residents spent a sleepless night after army aircraft could be heard piercing through the night sky around 2 am, the officials said.

Deputy Commissioner (Hamirpur) Amarjeet Singh had directed all departments to remain alert and prepared for any emergency.

He had urged people to avoid spreading misinformation on social media and beware of artificial intelligence-generated fake news and videos.

UP CM pays tribute to martyrs of 1857 revolt

Lucknow/Meerut (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday marked the 168th anniversary of First War of Independence by paying tribute to the freedom fighters and termed the Revolt of 1857 as "people's revolution", and a symbol of India's self-respect, courage, valour, sacrifice and independent consciousness.

He also paid tribute to the martyrs who participated in it.

In a post on X, Adityanath said, "To free Mother India from British rule, the first freedom struggle was started on this day in the year 1857 by the immortal sons of Mother India. Heartfelt tributes to all the martyrs who participated in this 'People's Revolution', a symbol of India's self-respect, courage, valour, sacrifice and independent consciousness."

Meanwhile, a "prabhat pheri" was taken out in Meerut, which started from Gandhi Ashram and ended

at Shaheed Smarak via Indira Chowk and Budhana Gate. The programme was organised with the co-operation of the district administration.

District Magistrate VK Singh hoisted the national tricolour at the Shaheed Smarak and visited the exhibition on the 1857 revolution in the museum.

Amid the heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, he appealed to the people not to pay attention to the rumours spread on social media and follow the guidelines issued by the administration.

A cultural programme was also presented by the students at the Shaheed Smarak, attended by government officials and dignitaries.

Earlier, District Magistrate VK Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada reached Baba Augharh Nath Temple and paid floral tribute to the martyrs.

Blackout orders restrictions withdrawn in Punjab after Indo-Pak ceasefire

Chandigarh

Authorities in Punjab withdrew orders pertaining to enforcement of blackout on Saturday evening after India and Pakistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire.

District administrations of Sangru, Rupnagar and Fazilka withdrew blackout orders while authorities in districts like Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Patiala also cancelled restrictive orders.

Several district authorities had earlier decided to enforce blackout on Saturday evening in the wake of conflict between India and Pakistan.

The order for enforcing blackout from 8 pm till 6 am in the Sangru district has been cancelled, said an official.

"All restrictive orders are hereby withdrawn. Thank you for your support," said Patiala Deputy Commissioner Preeti Yadav.

A similar order was issued by Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal.

"All restrictive orders are immediately withdrawn within the district. Things may resume as normal. Thanks for all your support," said the Jalandhar DC in a message.

Hoshiarpur DC Aashika Jain said, "All restriction orders stand suspended. Normalcy restored.

Thanks for all your cooperation, support and efforts in challenging times." Earlier in the day, authorities in districts including Jalandhar, Pathankot, and Kapurthala had advised closure of markets and commercial establishments and had urged citizens to avoid large gatherings.

On Friday, the Mohali district administration had ordered the closure of cinema halls and shopping malls from sunset to sunrise till further orders.

The directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced in Delhi.

The brief announcement by the foreign secretary came shortly after US President Donald Trump said India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by the US.

MP Chahar Provides Financial Assistance to Victim Family in Kheragarh

Akash Jain

Agra

In a compassionate gesture, Member of Parliament Rajkumar Chahar extended financial support to a Dalit family in Kheragarh following a heinous crime against their minor daughter.

On April 17, late at night, a youth from the village kidnapped a 12-year-old girl from her home and subjected her to rape at a nearby location. The incident was promptly reported to the police, who registered a case and arrested the accused. The suspect was sent to jail on April 21.

In the aftermath of the tragic event, MP Rajkumar Chahar visited the victim's family from the Valmiki community to offer support. Upon learning about their circumstances, he announced a personal financial aid of one lakh rupees to assist the family, particu-

larly for the girl's future education. The occasion was attended by several prominent leaders and officials including former MLA Mahesh Goyal, SDM Rishirao, Naib Tehsildar Vinod Kumar, District Vice President Dinesh Goyal, senior leader Shyam Sundar Parashar, former divisional president Mahesh Garg, Mohan Goyal, Rajiv Jain, Raju Lavania, Harish Tyagi, SSI Harendra Kumar, and others.



ularly for the girl's future education. The occasion was attended by several prominent leaders and officials including former MLA Mahesh Goyal, SDM Rishirao, Naib Tehsildar Vinod Kumar, District Vice President Dinesh Goyal, senior leader Shyam Sundar Parashar, former divisional president Mahesh Garg, Mohan Goyal, Rajiv Jain, Raju Lavania, Harish Tyagi, SSI Harendra Kumar, and others.

ularly for the girl's future education. The occasion was attended by several prominent leaders and officials including former MLA Mahesh Goyal, SDM Rishirao, Naib Tehsildar Vinod Kumar, District Vice President Dinesh Goyal, senior leader Shyam Sundar Parashar, former divisional president Mahesh Garg, Mohan Goyal, Rajiv Jain, Raju Lavania, Harish Tyagi, SSI Harendra Kumar, and others.

'Tiranga Yatra' to be Organised in Panchkula in Honour of Armed Forces

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh

A 'Tiranga Yatra' will be organised in Panchkula on Sunday to honour the Armed Forces and promote the spirit of national pride. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will lead the yatra, which is expected to witness participation from thousands of citizens.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the event, Director General of Information, Public Relations, Languages, and Culture Department, K. Makrand Pandurang, convened a preparatory meeting at the Panchkula District Secretariat on Saturday. The meeting was attended by all officers from various departments and representatives of voluntary organisations. During the meeting, key directives and logistical plans were shared to facil-



itate the successful execution of the yatra.

K. Makrand Pandurang appealed to people from all communities and political backgrounds to actively participate in the event as a mark of respect for the nation's soldiers.

The 'Tiranga Yatra' will

commence from the open-air theatre at Yavanika Town Park, Sector-5, Panchkula, and conclude at Major Sandeep Shankla Chowk. At the memorial, floral tributes will be paid by Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini and other dignitaries.

Special Officer (Community Policing and Outreach) IG Pankaj Nain, Deputy Commissioner of Panchkula Smt. Monika Gupta, along with officers and staff from various departments and educational institutions, were also present at the coordination meeting.

India-Bangladesh border being monitored no unnatural activity: Assam CM

Guwahati

The India-Bangladesh border in Assam was being actively monitored, and there has been no unnatural activity in the last 10 days, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Sarma said patrolling has been intensified along the border.

"We have not seen any activity along the border during the last 10 days, though patrolling has been intensified," he said.

"The central government, however, will be in a better position to explain this as they have a different mechanism to ascertain this," he added.

Sarma said cross-border infiltration is a major issue in the region, and the agencies are detaining illegal immigrants but not bringing them "into the country".

"The infiltrators are being 'pushed back' from the border itself to their country, he said.

"We will not go through the legal process. We will not bring them back but hand them over to the officials of the neighbouring country. 'Push back' is the new phenomenon and will not allow any infiltrators to enter the country," he said. Sarma said the Centre has deported illegal immigrants, including Rohingyas, from different parts of the country, including the Matia detention centre in Goalpara.

Hope Pakistan brought to its senses says Punjab Congress chief Warring

Chandigarh

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Saturday evening welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, hoping that the neighbouring nation has been brought to its senses that it will no longer sponsor and support terrorism.

The directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has announced.

The brief announcement by the foreign secretary in the national capital came shortly after President Donald Trump said that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by the US.

The US-brokered ceasefire came hours after the militaries of India and Pakistan attacked each other's facilities and escalated the standoff.

Warring congratulated the country's defence forces for bringing Pakistan to its heels just within 48 hours and said India has always maintained that it did not want any war.

"Our defence forces had only struck the terrorist training camps and killed the terrorists there," he pointed out and said that it



The brief announcement by the foreign secretary in the national capital came shortly after President Donald Trump said that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by the US.

was Pakistan, which escalated the conflict by attacking civilian population.

The Ludhiana MP reiterated the Congress' demand for an all-party meeting at the national level and a special session of Parliament as suggested by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

"We have supported the government and we would like to know what have been the terms and conditions of the ceasefire," he said in a statement.

The Congress leader hoped that the government has asserted the country's position and kept the national interest paramount while agreeing to a ceasefire.

Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, also hailed the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, calling it a positive step towards peace in the region.

"I welcome the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. Peace along the borders is in the interest of both nations, especially for the people of Punjab which shares a 553 km border with Pakistan. Stability in these areas is

not just a matter of diplomacy, but a necessity for the prosperity and safety of our border communities," he said in a statement.

Asserting that national security cannot be compromised, Bajwa said, "India has always stood for peaceful dialogue, but terrorism and cross-border infiltration cannot be tolerated. Peace cannot come at the cost of our national security."

The Congress leader emphasized that Pakistan must take concrete steps to dismantle terror infrastructure on its soil if the peace process is to be sustained.

"While I support all efforts toward peace, it is equally important that Pakistan ensures no terror infrastructure is allowed to operate from its soil," he said.

Over 3 000 enrol in Punjab as civil defence volunteers

Chandigarh

More than 3,000 young people stepped forward with an unwavering resolve to serve as civil defence volunteers at an event here on Saturday that was held hours before the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan agreed on a ceasefire.

The event was held amid a military conflict between India and Pakistan.

However, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri subsequently announced that the DGMOs of the two countries have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, civil defence enrolment and training camps were held at the Tagore Theatre in Sector 18 and Tiranga Urban Park in Sector 17. The camps witnessed an overwhelming response.

Punjab Governor and the Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria's words on the occasion struck a deep chord with every listener, especially youngsters, who stood silently yet solemnly as he addressed them not as mere citizens, but as the protectors of the country's soul.

"While I support all efforts toward peace, it is equally important that Pakistan ensures no terror infrastructure is allowed to operate from its soil," he said.

Recalling India's long tradition of unsung heroes who served the country without a rank or recognition, the governor spoke about the "invisible war-

riors" of the past — those who during the wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971 turned schools into bunkers, carried the wounded to safety and worked day and night with no expectation of any reward.

"They had no medals," he said on the occasion. "But they had the heart of India beating inside them."

Kataria reminded everyone that while the brave soldiers guard India's borders, it is the civil volunteers' responsibility to safeguard the spirit of the country.

"Civil defence is not just a service," he said, adding, "It is an emotion, a sacred responsibility, a vow to stand up when the motherland calls."

Addressing the gathering at the Tagore Theatre, the governor made a heartfelt appeal to youngsters, urging them to become the strength behind the frontline.

"You are the future of India. But at this moment, you are also its shield," he said.

At the Tiranga Urban Park, under the tricolour, hundreds took the pledge to serve the country not just in times of war, but during every crisis — be it a disaster or an emergency.

The governor, according to an official statement, walked up to the volunteers, encouraged them and reminded them that they are "no less than a soldier".

Gill-Pant duo set to take charge of Indian Test team, BCCI silent on Kohli

■ **Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests with talented batter Shubman Gill set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format**

New Delhi
Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests with talented batter Shubman Gill set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format.

The choice of vice-captain seems to be a straight forward one as Pant is one of India's finest Test batters in overseas conditions and Jasprit Bumrah can't be considered for the role of deputy due to his stature and also when his own fitness is iffy, making him uncertain for full series.

An average of 42 plus with hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa along with seven scores between 90 and 99 makes Pant of the best batters in the format.

"If Bumrah isn't the captain, then there is no point offering him vice-captaincy," a BCCI source said.

While the cricket fraternity is taken aback by talismanic Virat Kohli's wish to retire from Test cricket, it has been learnt that selection committee did ponder over the idea of handing over leadership to him in England to allow Gill some more time to groom.

As of now, Kohli has not made any official announcement and it is believed that he will be requested to compete in the upcoming five Test series in England as his experience will be required in challenging conditions, especially when Rohit Sharma has



also announced his Test retirement. BCCI however is tight-lipped on its conversation with Kohli with regards to his Test career. A agency reached out to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia but they are yet to respond to the query. "It is true that selectors did think about having Kohli as India skipper for the England series. This would have given Gill some time to grow into leadership role but at 25-and-a-half

years of age, he is yet to hit his peak. Due to Bumrah's fitness issues, Gill looks like the obvious choice for Ajit Agarkar's committee," a BCCI source privy to development said.

It is understood that KL Rahul isn't being considered as an option as he is already 33 plus and consistency has been an issue with the Bengaluru player even though he was one of the better performers in Australia.

After 11 years of Test cricket an av-

erage of less than 35 in 50 games isn't impressive.

The Indian team for the tour of England will be announced during the end of third week of May while India A team will be announced early next week. If there is one certainty among the rookies for the Test tour, it has to be Tamil Nadu southpaw Sai Sudharsan, who has made an impression. If all goes well, he will either open or come to bat at No.3.

Clubs that used the most players in ISL 2024-25 to find right mix

New Delhi
With the Indian Super League (ISL) evolving into an increasingly competitive and demanding tournament, the strategic use of squad depth has become more crucial than ever. Throughout the 2024-25 season, clubs frequently adjusted their starting elevens, guided by the tactical vision of their head coaches.

As the season draws to a close, a closer look at the teams that made the most of their player rosters offering compelling insights into how squad rotation shaped their journeys.

East Bengal FC struggled all season to find their best possible starting lineup and have used 32 players. Injuries to key players and facing several suspensions compelled them to make changes and look for other alternatives. The Red and Gold Brigade's inability to set up a perfect combination for the long run again dashed their playoff hopes for the fifth consecutive season, according to ISL website.

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kerala Blasters FC experienced a similar outing this season and both the clubs have used 29 players. Both Andre Chernyshev and Mikael Stahre left their roles as head coach in their respective clubs, followed by interim Indian head coach Mehrzad Wadoo and T.G. Puroshothaman respectively leading the team in the remaining games. The Blasters and the Black and White Brigade had also constantly tinkered with their squads leading to inconsistent performances.



“No reason for Dhoni to replace Khaleel, he has done well: Fleming backs pacer”



Mumbai City FC's performance this season didn't match their standards over the years. Despite the Islanders securing a playoff spot, Petr Kratky's men lacked consistency and couldn't produce a dominating performance at the Mumbai Football Arena. Lengthy injuries to Nikolaos Kavrelis, Jon Toral, and Brandon Fernandes forced them to go with an unchanged eleven and opened the floor for experiments in such crucial positions. They have used 28 players, the release said.

Punjab FC made a roaring start to the league, but dropping points at the mid-season juncture saw them finish outside the top six. Injuries again came into play as Filip Mrzjak, Luka Majcen, Ezequiel Vidal, and Ivan Novoselac were out of action for a couple of games throughout different phases of the season. Panagiotis Dilimperis also introduced a couple of academy players in the form of Muhammad Suhail, Manglenthang Kipgen, and Prameev Singh this season, aiming for a balanced squad in the coming years. They have used 27 players.

Diksha, Pranavi tied 19th after wet first day in Korea

Seoul
Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs started with cards of 1-over 73 each on the first day of the rain-hit Korea Championship, as per a release from the Korea Championship.

At even par through 17 holes Diksha was inside Top-10 till she came to the ninth hole, her closing hole of the day. She bogeyed the hole and dropped to 1-over and Tied-19.

Pranavi had just one birdie against two bogeys in her 73 and she was also T-19.

India's other two stars, Tvesa Malik (79) and Avani Prashanth (79) were both T-86 and needed good second rounds to make the cut.

The rain proved a tough test for the stars of the Ladies European Tour (LET). Only six players were under with France's Perrine Delacour and Germany's Patricia Schmidt tied at the top on three-under par. The former, a recent winner at the Investec SA Women's Open, also tops the Team event with her side on 13-under par.

Diksha started from the tenth and had two each of birdies and bogeys to turn in even par. On the second nine, she bogeyed the first but got the shot back with a birdie on the fifth. A dropped shot on the last hole saw her go over par.

Pranavi opened with a birdie on the tenth and then had bogeys on the 15th and the sixth.

Out in the first group of the day, Delacour, alongside her squad of Maha Haddioui, Eleanor Givens and Polly Mack, set the benchmark teaming up for 14 birdies to post a combined score of 13-under par. They lead Team Kouskova by one shot.

The captain, Olympian Delacour, led from the front carding five birdies and dropping just two shots at New Korea Country Club for a round of 69 (-3).

Joining her at the top of the Individual leader board is fellow LET winner Schmidt. The German, winner of the 2023 Belgian Ladies Open, also made five birdies, dropping her only shots of the day at the par-4 1st and par-3 11th.

In the team competition Team Dagar was T-6, while Team Urs was T-12 and she also had Avani on the team. Tvesa Malik, who was on Team Babnik, was T-24.

Three players share third spot on two-under par, a trio which includes South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace, Ecuador's Daniela Darquea and defending champion Hyo Joo Kim from South Korea.

IPL shortlists three venues in case of resumption in May as overseas players leave India

New Delhi
Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad had been picked out as the venues for the remaining 16 fixtures of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) if the season resumes in May after the tournament was suspended for a week in the wake of the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, according to ESPNCricinfo.

According to ESPNCricinfo, the IPL chose these venues in southern Indian cities in case the Indian government gives a nod to resume the tournament. On Friday, the BCCI announced that the tournament would be suspended for a week due to rising cross-border tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

Several team officials informed ESPNCricinfo that the remainder of the tournament could be played later in the year. When it comes to resuming the cash-rich league, among the most significant challenges that the BCCI faces in the current situation is bringing back overseas players.

After the suspension was announced, teams began to disband, and players began to get the next available flight to their respective destinations. According to ESPNCricinfo, a majority of the overseas players are expected to fly out of India by the end of Saturday.

The franchises remain optimistic about the return of overseas players in a scenario where the tournament resumes later in May. However, they offered no guarantee that the tournament would extend beyond the window of May 25, the date when the IPL 2025 final was scheduled to be held at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Several players will engage in their bilateral commitments and the World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa, which will be played at Lord's from June 11.

Overall, 57 matches were completed in IPL 2025, and the 58th fixture between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala was called off after 10.1 overs.

India's challenge at Taipei Open 2025 ends after Ayush, Unnati's exit from semi-finals

New Delhi
India's challenge at the Taipei Open 2025 badminton tournament ended on a bitter note after Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda fell short in their semi-final fixtures in men's and women's singles, respectively, on Saturday.

In a tightly contested affair, the 20-year-old Ayush tested the top seed Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei to his limits but eventually succumbed to a 21-18, 21-17 defeat in a contest that lasted for 42 minutes.

Ayush, ranked 44th in the men's singles, led the opening game with a slender 18-17 advantage, but the seventh-ranked shuttler won four straight points and sealed the opening game in his favour. 8

The second game followed a similar pattern as the scoreboard stood level at 16-16. However, Chou once again upped the ante and won five out of the six points to confirm his berth in the final.

Earlier in the tournament, the young Indian sensation stunned third seed Lee Chia-hao in his opening



clash and went on to knock out the former world number one Kidambi Srikanth in the round of 16. He continued his scorching form by ousting seventh seed Brian Yang of Canada in the quarter-finals.

In March, Ayush made it to the semi-finals of the Orleans Masters Super 300 after staging a massive upset and defeating the former world champion Lok Kean Yew in the round of 32. In the women's singles event, Unnati Hooda's impressive run in the

tournament ended following a defeat against the top seed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan by 21-19, 21-11.

The 17-year-old ranked 53rd in the women's singles, enjoyed a healthy 18-15 lead in the opening game. However, she squandered the advantage as the world number eight turned the tide with her late surge. In the second game, it was one-sided traffic as the Japanese shuttler dictated the terms of play and raced to victory to move to the final.

Truist Championship: Indian-American Bhatia lies tied third after 63 in first round

Flourtown
Akshay Bhatia started off the Truist Champion with a round of seven under par 63 at The Philadelphia Cricket Club (Wissahickon Course).

The Indian-American Bhatia sits tied third alongside Rickie Fowler, Colin Morikawa, and Sepp Straka. Bhatia, who was third at the PLAYERS this year, is two behind the leader, Keith Mitchell (61) and one behind Denny McCarthy (62).

Indo-British Aaron Rai played five under par and sits tied 11th while another Indian-American Sahithi Theegala played one-under par 69 and is placed tied 55th on the first day, a release said.

Mitchell, who is one of the four sponsor exemptions this week, shot 61 that shattered the course record at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. The previous Wissahickon Course record of 65 was shared by Colin St Maxen, Zac Blair and Angus Flanagan.

Bhatia had 10 birdies, the best in the field, and three bogeys in his 63. Starting on the back nine he birdied the 10th with a 19-foot birdie before dropping a shot on the 11th hole. Following this Bhatia made five consecutive birdies from the 13th to the 17th hole.



On the front nine of the Wissahickon course, Bhatia dropped a shot on the first hole before making a run of three consecutive birdies between the fourth and sixth holes. He dropped another shot on the eighth hole and closed with a 13-foot birdie on the ninth hole, the release said.

Bhatia's putting made possible

after the good iron play helped in the low score. He was tied first for putts per green in regulation.

Rory McIlroy, making his first individual start since completing the career Grand Slam at the Masters, had a 66 and was one of 64 players who beat par in the sixth USD 20m Signature Event of the PGA TOUR season.

England considering hosting remainder of IPL 2025 if approached by BCCI

New Delhi
England might consider organising Indian Premier League (IPL) games if the England and Wales Cricket Board is approached by Indian and global cricket bodies seeking assistance to finish the tournament, reported Sky Sports.

The IPL still has 12 matches to be played in the group stage before a knockout stage featuring four play-off matches. Conversations regarding the tournament's conclusion are currently taking place in India.

Shifting games to England would pose challenges because of the busy timetables of both domestic and international competitions.

On Friday afternoon, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced its decision to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL 2025, with immediate effect, for one week due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala was called off midway through the first innings on Thursday. Spectators were in-



formed of the cancellation and asked to vacate the premises, while both teams were escorted back to their hotel.

"At this critical juncture, the BCCI stands firmly with the nation. We express our solidarity with the Government of India, the Armed Forces, and the people of our country. The Board salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation, as they lead a resolute response to the recent terrorist attack and the unwarranted aggression by Pakistan's armed forces. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the Nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country."

Syria's president visits Bahrain discusses regional affairs with king

Syria's president flew to Bahrain Saturday where he discussed mutual relations and regional affairs with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his latest trip abroad since taking office in January.

Syria's state news agency, SANA, said President Ahmad al-Sharaa is heading a high-ranking delegation to Bahrain, a gulf nation that had relations with former President Bashar Assad until his removal from power in early December.

Bahrain's news agency said the two leaders discussed mutual relations and ways of boosting them, as well as regional affairs and ways of backing Syria's security and stability.

Al-Sharaa's visit to Bahrain comes days before US President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit the region for talks with leaders of gulf Arab nations.

Since taking office, al-Sharaa has visited Arab and regional countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Türkiye.

Earlier this week, he made his first trip to Europe where he met French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and announced that his country is having indirect talks with Israel.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

At least 20 people killed in Sudan after suspected drone strike hits prison

Cairo A suspected drone strike launched by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces hit a prison in the southern region of Kordofan on Saturday and killed at least 20 inmates, authorities said.

Fifty other detainees were wounded in the attack on the main prison in Obeid, the capital city of North Kordofan, Information Minister Khalid Aleiser said in a statement.

Aleiser, who is also the spokesman of the military-allied government, accused the Rapid Support Forces for the attack, which came as the militia escalated drone strikes on the military-held areas across the country.

Sudan plunged into civil war on April 15, 2023, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital Khartoum and other



parts of the country. Obeid is 363 kilometres south of Khartoum.

There was no immediate comment from the RSF, which earlier this month launched multi-day drone attacks on Port Sudan, the Red Sea city serving as an interim seat for the Sudanese government. The strikes hit the city's airports, maritime port and other facilities including fuel storages.

The military earlier

struck Nyala airport in South Darfur, where the RSF receives foreign military assistance, including drones. Local media say dozens of RSF officers were killed in last week's strike.

In the western region of Darfur, an artillery attack by the RSF on Friday on a camp for displaced people killed at least 14, according to the Emergency Room, an activist group track-

ing the war. The dead included two parents, their eight children and the children's grandmother, the group said.

The RSF has launched nearly daily attacks on the camp and the nearby city of el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur, which the paramilitaries have attempted to seize for more than a year.

Last month the RSF rampaged through Su-

Sudan plunged into civil war on April 15, 2023, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital Khartoum and other parts of the country. Obeid is 363 kilometres south of Khartoum.

dan's largest camp for displaced, Zamzam, killing more than 400 people. The militia took control of the camp, pushing its population to flee.

The war has killed at least 24,000 people, though the number is likely far higher. It has driven about 13 million people from their homes, including 4 million who crossed into neighbouring countries. Parts of the country have been pushed into famine.

Agency

Transgender issues are a strength for Trump: AP-NORC poll finds

Washington About half of U.S. adults approve of how President Donald Trump is handling transgender issues, according to a new poll — a relative high point for a president who has the approval overall of about 4 in 10 Americans.

But support for his individual policies on transgender people is not uniformly strong, with a clearer consensus against policies that affect youth.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey conducted this month found there's more support than opposition on allowing transgender troops in the military, while most don't want to allow transgender students to use the public school bathrooms that align with their gender identity and oppose using government programmes to pay for gender-affirming health care for transgender

youth. Schuyler Frichione, a 40-year-old stay-at-home mother from northern Virginia, is one of those who opposes the government paying for gender-affirming care, especially for young people.

She said she doesn't want people to make major changes that they might later regret. But she said that because of her Catholic faith, she doesn't want to exclude transgender people from public life. "It's very important to me that everyone understands their dignity and importance as a person."

"It is something I am kind of working through myself," she said. "I am still learning."

About two-thirds of U.S. adults agree with President Donald Trump that whether a person is a man or woman is determined by their biological characteristics at birth.

Agency

Ukraine its allies push for 30-day ceasefire starting Monday

Kyiv Ukraine and its allies are ready for a "full, unconditional ceasefire" with Russia for at least 30 days starting Monday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba said Saturday.

His remarks came as the leaders of four major European countries visited Kyiv to push for Moscow to agree to a truce and launch peace talks on ending the nearly three-year war.

They followed what

Sybiba said was a "constructive" phone call between them, US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Saturday also marked the last day of a unilateral three-day ceasefire declared by Russia that Ukraine says the Kremlin's forces have repeatedly violated.

In March, the United States proposed an immediate, limited 30-day truce, which Ukraine ac-



cepted, but the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

The leaders of France, Germany, Poland and

the United Kingdom arrived together at the train station in Kyiv, and met Zelenskyy shortly after to join a ceremony at Kyiv's Independence Square marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. They lit candles at a makeshift flag memorial for fallen Ukrainian soldiers and civilians slain since Russia's invasion.

The visit marked the first time the leaders of the four countries had travelled together to Ukraine, with Friedrich Merz making his first visit to Ukraine as Germany's new chancellor.

Sybiba on Thursday

called the Russian truce a "farce," accusing Russia of violating it over 700 times less than a day after it formally came into effect. Both sides also said attacks on their troops had continued on Thursday.

"We reiterate our backing for President Trump's calls for a peace deal and call on Russia to stop obstructing efforts to secure an enduring peace," the leaders said in a joint statement. "Alongside the US, we

call on Russia to agree to a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to create the space for talks on a just and lasting peace."

Retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, said Saturday that a "comprehensive" 30-day ceasefire, covering attacks from the air, land, sea and on infrastructure, "will start the process for ending the war and the longest war in Europe since World War II."

BUSINESS

SP Group Backs India's Military Resolve



New Delhi

Pallonji Group expressed strong support for India's armed forces and government, emphasizing unity in safeguarding the nation's integrity. The group's chairman, Shapoorji P. Mistry, praised the military's commitment in "Operation Sindoor" led by PM Narendra Modi, highlighting efforts against threats from Pakistan. Shapoorji Pallonji Group, a major player in engineering and construction, voiced its unwavering support for the Indian government's and armed forces' initiatives to uphold the nation's integrity and sov-

ereignty on Friday. The group applauded the Indian armed forces for their courage and commitment in conducting Operation Sindoor, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to counter threats emanating from across the border with Pakistan.

SP Group Chairman Shapoorji P. Mistry emphasized the necessity for national unity in these challenging times and reaffirmed the group's dedication to supporting the government and military in their efforts to combat terrorism and protect India.

Agriculture Minister Reviews Farm Operations in Border States

New Delhi Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday conducted a detailed review of farming operations across border districts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Jammu & Kashmir, with particular focus on ensuring uninterrupted agricultural activities for the upcoming kharif season.

During the meeting, Chouhan directed officials to identify villages within 10-15 km of international borders and the assessment of cultivable land in these areas. The exercise will cover border regions in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, an official statement said.

"We must identify exactly how many farmers are displaced or unable to reach their fields so we can develop targeted assistance plans," Chouhan said, stressing that



kharif sowing operations should not be disrupted under any circumstances. A comprehensive assessment will be conducted regarding total agricultural land, crops typically grown, affected farmer population, and required materials for cultivation, he added.

While assuring that the country faces no current shortage of essen-

tial agricultural inputs like urea, DAP, NPK fertilisers and diesel, Chouhan said supply chains will be closely monitored.

The ministry will co-ordinate with state governments to determine specific support needed from central agricultural and rural development departments.

The minister stressed

the importance of ensuring timely availability of seeds and planting materials for the upcoming kharif sowing season that begins with the onset of southwest monsoon in June.

"In the current circumstances, if farmers are unable to conduct normal farming operations today, we need to assess what seeds

New Delhi State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to explore the setting up of renewable energy projects of up to 1 gigawatt (GW) in the state.

"Under the MoU, the Government of Karnataka would facilitate GAIL to obtain necessary permissions/registrations/approvals/clearance/incentives, etc. from the concerned departments of the state, as per the prevailing policies/rules and regulations of the state government. GAIL intends to set up renewable energy projects of up to 1 GW within a period of five years," the company said in a statement.

GAIL, however, did not disclose financial details of the project. The company is targeting net-zero carbon emissions for its operations by 2035, and renewable energy projects are part of the plan for achieving that goal.

The MoU was signed in Bengaluru on May 9, 2025, in the presence of MB Patil, Karnataka's Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, and KJ George, Karnataka's Minister for Energy, Principal Secretary in the state's Commerce & Industries Department, and GAIL Executive Director (SD & Renewables) Parivesh Chugh.

Hydrogen, the most abundant element, produces no harmful emissions. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles match diesel trucks in range and load capacity but emit only water vapour and warm air with minimal noise.

Since mining mainly uses diesel-powered machinery, switching to cleaner fuels will reduce emissions and noise. It will also help lower India's oil imports and carbon footprint.

Adani Group Deploys India's First Hydrogen-Powered Truck

New Delhi Adani Group has deployed India's first hydrogen-powered truck for mining logistics in Chhattisgarh, which can carry 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200-kilometre range, the conglomerate said Saturday.

Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the group, flagged off hydrogen fuel cell trucks as it looks to promote cleaner transportation.

"In collaboration with an Indian and international energy technology firm and a major auto manufacturer, Adani is developing hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks for cargo transport. Each truck, equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200-km range."

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the first truck in Raipur.

The state-owned Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited has appointed Adani Enterprises as the mine developer and operator for the Gare Pelma III block through a competitive bidding process.

"The initiative for hydrogen-powered trucks is a significant step towards Adani Group's commitment to decarbonisation and responsible mining. We are creating model mines with minimal environmental impact by incorporating



autonomous dozer push technologies, solar power, digital initiatives, and tree transplanters to relocate trees.

"We aim to ensure affordable and reliable electricity for all while pioneering new standards in sustainable mining practices," said Vinay Prakash, CEO - Natural Resources and Director, Adani Enterprises.

The project is a joint effort between Adani Natural Resources (ANR) and Adani New Industries. Limited (ANIL). Both entities are part of Adani Enterprises. ANR will source hydrogen cells from ANIL,

"These hydrogen-powered trucks will gradually replace diesel vehicles used in the company's logistics operations," the firm said in a statement.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

Kichcha Sudeepa pens letter to PM Modi, lauds 'Operation Sindoor'

Bengaluru
Kichcha Sudeepa lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and praised the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, calling it "not just a response, but a statement."
Sudeep, in a letter to Modi, expressed his admiration for the Prime Minister's strong stance and the Indian defense forces' actions following the May 2 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives. Operation Sindoor, launched on the intervening night of May 7-8, struck nine terror sites inside Pakistan.
"Today, I write to you not just as a grateful son, but as

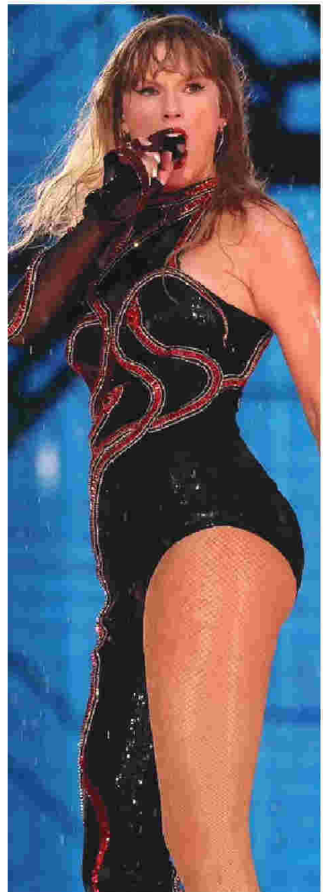
a proud Indian. As the nation salutes the triumph of Operation Sindoor, I write to you with deep admiration. It was not just a response; it was a statement—a bold, decisive message to the world that Bharat does not flinch, Bharat does not forget, and Bharat always rises," read a part of his letter.
Praising the discipline and courage shown by the armed forces under Modi's leadership, the actor added, "Under your leadership, our defense forces have demonstrated unmatched precision, discipline, and bravery. Their success is our pride. We stand united as ONE PEOPLE, ONE VOICE, ONE NATION."

Jai Hind. Jai Kar-
Mean-
while, on Saturday,
amid escalating cross-
border tensions between
India and Pakistan, US Presi-
dent Donald Trump an-
nounced that both nations
had agreed to a "full and
immediate cease-
fire."
Sharing a post on social media platform Truth Social, Trump wrote, "After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both countries for using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"



Shabana Azmi remembers her father Kaifi Azmi on his 23rd death anniversary

Mumbai
Shabana Azmi took a moment to remember her late father and renowned poet Kaifi Azmi on his 23rd death anniversary.
On Saturday, the 'Arthi' actress took to her Instagram account to share a black-and-white childhood picture with her father. Along with the picture, she also shared a caption that read: "Abba... 23 years since you left, but you live on in every pore of my being."
Kaifi Azmi, born Sayyid Athar Hussein Rizvi on January 14, 1919, in Uttar Pradesh, wrote his first poem when he was 11 years old. He later became one of India's most respected poets and passed away on May 10, 2002.
Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress was last seen in the crime drama Dabba Cartel.
Apart from Shabana Azmi, the drama also featured Jyotika, Nimisha Sajayan, Shalini Pandey, and others.
The series was created by Shibani Akhtar, Vishnu Menon, Gaurav Kapur, and Akanksha Seda.
The series follows the story of five middle-class women in Thane who run a tiffin service. Things take a turn when they unknowingly get caught up in a drug operation.



Taylor Swift denies involvement in 'It Ends With Us' amid legal battle

Washington
Taylor Swift's team has responded to reports that she was subpoenaed in the ongoing legal battle between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni.
According to E! News, Swift's representatives claim that the singer had minimal involvement in the film 'It Ends With Us,' only permitting the use of her song 'My Tears Ricochet' for the soundtrack.
Swift's team released a

statement denying any significant involvement in the film's production.
"Taylor Swift never set foot on the set of this movie," the statement read, adding, "She was not involved in any casting or creative decisions, she did not see any notes on the film," as quoted by E! News. The statement also noted that Swift did not see the film until weeks after its public release due to her busy tour schedule.
Swift's team accused Bal-

doni's team of using her name to draw public interest. "Given that her involvement was licensing a song for the film, which 19 other artists also did, this document subpoena is designed to use Taylor Swift's name to draw public interest by creating tabloid clickbait instead of focusing on the facts of the case," the statement read, as per E! News.
The legal battle between Lively and Baldoni stems from allegations of sexual harassment made by Lively against her co-star and director Baldoni.



Sanjay Dutt hails Indian Armed Forces amid India-Pak tensions

Mumbai
Actor Sanjay Dutt has lauded the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces amid rising India-Pakistan tensions and has called for unity and strength in the face of terrorism.
On Saturday, the actor took to his Instagram Stories to show his full support for the Indian Army following the recent rise in cross-border tensions between the two countries.

In his statement, Dutt made it clear that India will not tolerate continued attacks and will respond with firm determination. He also urged the nation to remain united and not be shaken by acts of terror.
"The relentless attacks on our people will no longer be tolerated. We will respond, not with hesitation, but with full force and unshakable resolve. The world must understand that our battle is not against a people or a nation, but against the terrorists who thrive on fear, chaos, and destruction. Let there be no doubt, we are not backing down this time," read a part of his post. Dutt also went on to describe the terrorists as "cowards" and hailed the strength and resilience of the Indian people and military.
"These terrorists are nothing but cowards hiding behind the veil of violence. They strike from the shadows, but they will learn that we are a nation that does not bow. We rise

stronger every time they try to break us. Our unity, our spirit, and our will to fight back are far greater than their hate." Calling the Indian Armed Forces the "true heroes," Dutt added, "I am proud of our armed forces. They stand tall at the frontlines, fearless and focused, answering every act of terror with courage and fire. They are not just defending borders; they are defending every child's dream, every family's peace, and the soul of this nation."

'The White Lotus' star Dom Monaghan boards Thai crime-horror film 'Debt Sentence'

Washington
The White Lotus' breakout star Dom Monaghan has signed on to star in "Debt Sentence," a Thai crime-horror film headed to the Cannes Film Market, reported Variety.
The project marks the feature directorial debut of Warun Sirirachai and is based on the viral short film "How to Run Away From Your Debt," which was one of the popular short films.
As per the outlet, the film centres around Suchart, played by Yasaka Chaisorn, a man whose wife, played by Savanee Utoomma and child were murdered in their apartment.

Suchart, the suspected perpetrator of the crimes, is determined to prove his innocence and find the culprit.
The film centres around Suchart, played by Yasaka Chaisorn, a man whose wife, played by Savanee Utoomma and child were murdered in their apartment.
Hetrakul gained significant visibility from HBO's "The White Lotus" Season 3. The series finale was highly watched by viewers.

According to Variety, Bangkok-based Night Edge Pictures is backing the project alongside production studio Wilan Prumpara and producer Panika Ngamsompong.
"We are excited to have this film in our roster of Thai films as we bring to the global stage more exciting Southeast Asian stories that challenge the norm and break the mold," said Hans Audric Estialbo, CEO of Night Edge Pictures, as quoted by Variety.
"Dom, Yasaka and Savanee are amazing global Thai talents, and their passion to bring independent films to an international stage is unmatched," added Hans Audric Estialbo.



Luke Newton confirms romance with Antonia Roumelioti on Instagram

Washington
"ridgerton" star Luke Newton has taken his relationship with girlfriend Antonia Roumelioti to Instagram, sharing a romantic photo of the couple.
The post, which includes a snap of Newton giving Roumelioti a loving kiss on the cheek, has caught the fans' attention on social media.
Newton and Roumelioti first confirmed their relationship in June 2024, after being spotted together in London.



like the BOSS One Premiere Party hosted by David Beckham, as per E! News.
As a rising star, Newton has been open about the challenges of dealing with sudden fame.
As per E! News, in an earlier interview, he shared his struggles with feeling overwhelmed, but credits his co-star Nicola Coughlan for being a great example of how to handle fame with grace.
Interestingly, Newton seems to have taken a page out of Coughlan's handbook when it comes to relationships.