



Pakistan breaches ceasefire agreed with India

RAHUL DUTTA, MOHIT KANDHARI ■
New Delhi, Jammu

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri slammed Pakistan Saturday night for the ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) within hours after an understanding was reached between the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan to stop the military action that was going on for the last few days.

Briefing media persons after Pakistan resorted to multiple ceasefire violations across Poonch, Rajouri, Akhnoor and RS Pura sectors, the Foreign Secretary said the forces have been instructed to deal strongly with any violations on the borders.

"An understanding was reached this evening between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan to stop the military action that was going on for the last few days. For the last few hours, this understanding has been violated by Pakistan. This is a serious breach," Misri said.

Referring to the Indian response to these fresh incidents of ceasefire violations, the Foreign Secretary said, "The Indian Army is retaliating and dealing with this border intrusion. This intrusion is extremely condemnable and Pakistan is responsible for it. We believe that Pakistan should understand this situation properly and take appropriate action immediately to stop this intrusion." He asked Pakistan to contain the aggression by its Army.

Before the press briefing started, suspicious movement was spotted by an alert sentry at the Nagrota Military station in Jammu late Saturday night. The sentry sustained a minor injury during a brief exchange of fire. Nagrota-based White Knight Corps in a post on X said, "On noticing suspicious movement near the perimeter, alert sentry at Nagrota Military Station issued a challenge, leading to a brief exchange of fire with the sentry. The sentry sustained a minor injury. Search operations are underway to track the intruder(s)." Before India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire agreement, six persons, including a senior J-K government official and



(Left) Vehicles moving on a road during blackout in Srinagar; (Right) Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting Saturday evening with top government functionaries, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, following the announcement that India and Pakistan have reached an understanding to stop military actions. NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and all three service chiefs were among those who attended the meeting. PTI

a BSF Sub Inspector, were killed in intense mortar shelling and drone strikes by Pakistan across different sectors early Saturday morning.

At the same time, explosions were also heard in Srinagar late Saturday night, prompting the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to question, "What happened to the Ceasefire?" "What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar!", posted Omar Abdullah.

Earlier, India and Pakistan on Saturday agreed to ceasefire from five pm and stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea. The two sides also agreed to hold talks on May 12 to review the implementation of the pact, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced.

He said the two sides consented to immediate cessation of activities after Director general of military operations (DGMO) of Pakistan called his Indian counterpart at 3.35 pm.

The announcement came days after India carried out 'Operation Sindoor' on

SUSPENSION OF INDUS TREATY, VISAS TO STAY

Even as the two countries have come to an understanding to halt all military action on land, air and sea, suspension of Indus Water Treaty and visas to Pakistani nationals will continue, it was learnt. These measures were announced on April 23, a day after the Pahalgam terror act. Also, terrorism will not go unpunished and India's resolve on terrorism remains firm, sources said. On the understanding between the two sides to end the hostilities, they said Pakistan called it a bilateral arrangement.

May 7 striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) to avenge the Pahalgam attack on April 22 killing 26 tourists.

Since the operation, Pakistan attempted to target various Indian military installations on Thursday and Friday by launching drones and missiles targeting Indian military installations and cities. India,



however, repulsed all attempts and neutralized the incoming drones.

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

The DGMO of Pakistan called the DGMO of India at 3.35 pm earlier this afternoon, Misri said. "It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land, and in the air and sea, with effect from 1700 hours IST Saturday," he said.

"Instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to this understanding. The DGMOs will talk again on May 12 at 1200 hours," he added.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a social media post later "India and Pakistan have today 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 man-

ifestations. It will continue to do so."

India and Pakistan directly worked out the stopping of military actions, government sources said on Saturday. The source-based clarification came after US President Donald Trump announced that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by the US.

There is no decision to hold talks on any other issue at any other place, they said. Every misadventure and future escalation by Pakistan will be responded to with strength and decisive action, Indian military said. The remarks came shortly after the two neighbours reached an understanding to stop military actions.

"While we will be adhering to the understanding reached today, we remain fully prepared to defend India's sovereignty," Commodore Raghu Nair said.

We remain fully operationally ready to launch whatever operations may be required in defence of the nation, he said at a media briefing.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said Pakistan's claim of destroying India's S-400 missile base is completely false.

Several attempts were made by Pakistan to spreading mis-information, she added. Pakistan has suffered heavy losses in both land and air domains, Singh said. The military officer also said Pakistan's claim of destroying a BrahMos installation was false. "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," the US President announced in a social media post.

"Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump added.

The announcement by Trump came after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir.

Any act of terror will be war, warns India

J GOPIKRISHAN ■ New Delhi

In a significant toughening of its counter-terrorism doctrine, the Government on Saturday declared that any future "act of terror" will be treated as an "act of war" and will be responded to accordingly.

A top Government official said, "Any future act of terror in India will be considered an act of war against the country and will be responded to accordingly." The statement marks a formal shift in India's rules of engagement, drawing a clear red line for Pakistan-based terror groups. New Delhi has made it clear that it will not hesitate to respond militarily to any attack, anywhere in India.

With this decision, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to draw a red line against terror incidents and makes clear that it will follow a similar military response as it has after the Pahalgam incident if terrorists linked to Pakistan target India again.

The Government's decision formalises India's firm response to any future act of terror. The warning is not an escalation, but a clear red line drawn in response to Pakistan's repeated acts of aggression, including sustained drone and missile attacks targeting Indian military and civilian infrastructure.

In international law, an "act of war" refers to action taken by one state against another that amounts to the use of armed force or aggression, typically signalling the start of an armed conflict or war. The United Nations Charter (Article 2(4)) prohibits member states from using

force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, except in cases of self-defence (Article 51) or when authorised by the UN Security Council.

The term "act of war" is not strictly defined in the UN Charter, but historically, it referred to actions that could justify a state in responding with military force. Any act of terror which would be

The Government, since 2014, has drastically amped up its response to terror incidents linked to Pakistan, targeting nine terror sites in the neighbouring country

considered a declaration of war would include bombings, firing, flight hijacking, and cyber, biological or chemical attacks. These include attacks on Government buildings, military camps and institutions. While non-State actors usually carry out terror activities, some nations openly support terrorism, such as terror attacks launched at the behest of and after encouragement and instigation by Pakistan. India has blamed Pakistan-based terror groups for a series of violent incidents targeting soldiers and civilians inside its territory for a long period of time, with the April 22 killing of 26 civilians at Kashmir's famous tourist site only the latest in such acts.

PM Modi has chaired a number of high-level meetings, including with the security establishment, since the hostil-

ities broke out between the two countries, and the decision was an outcome of extensive consultations.

The Modi Government, since coming to power in 2014, has drastically amped up its response to terror incidents linked to Pakistan, with the armed forces, in their most expansive strike against terrorist organisations, targeting nine terror sites in the neighbouring country and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7 under Operation Sindoor.

Pakistan has since then attempted to attack a number of military installations and civilian population along India's northern and western borders. India has said it has responded befittingly. India on Saturday said it has effectively blunted Pakistan's provocative action of employing multiple threats along the western border using drones, long-range weapons and fighter jets, targeting civilian areas and military infrastructure, as the conflict between the two neighbours widened further.

Pakistan has been observed to be moving its troops into forward areas, indicating an "offensive intent", to further escalate the situation, the Indian military said, adding that it remains in a high state of operational readiness.

As fears of a larger military conflict loom, military spokeswoman Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said the Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is reciprocated by the Pakistani military. India has asserted that it was Pakistan that escalated the situation with the Pahalgam terror attack.

Indian strikes killed five top terrorists

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Operation Sindoor killed five top terrorists, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar's brothers-in-law Hafiz Muhammad Jameel and Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, who were among the masterminds of IC 814 Kandhar hijacking in 1999. The five terrorists, who were killed in Indian strikes, were identified as Mudassar Khadian Khas, Hafiz Muhammad Jameel, Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, Khalid alias Abu Akasha, and Mohammad Hassan Khan, who were tasked with important roles in the Pakistan-based terror groups, JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Funerals of these terrorists were attended by senior Pakistan Army officers and police personnel. Besides wreaths were placed on behalf of the chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab province, Maryam Nawaz, providing an open testimony of the Pakistan's collusion with terrorist organisations.

Sources said Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, listed at number 21 in the most wanted list of terrorists prepared by the Union Home Ministry, was the brother-in-law of Maulana Masood Azhar and one of the masterminds of the IC-814 hijacking in 1999. Yusuf, who was in his late 50s, had sneaked into India in 1998, a year before hijacking, using a fake passport arranged by his point person Abdul Latif. At the time, Yusuf had an Interpol Red Notice against him.

In 2002, India gave him 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. The hijacking ended with India releasing JeM founder Masood Azhar and two other terrorists, Omar Sheikh and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, in exchange for passengers and crew.

Officials said he made plans several times to free Masood Azhar from the Jammu jail. In 1999, he travelled to

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Pakistan Army Chief and Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of former PM Nawaz Sharif and niece of current PM Shehbaz Sharif

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.

Yusuf Azhar was present in the Bahawalpur headquarters of the JeM, where he imparted weapons training to the cadres, with his family members, when Indian munitions hit it with clinical precision, reducing it to rubble.

Another brother-in-law of Masood Azhar, Hafiz Muhammad Jameel, who was in-charge of Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, a massive training centre for JeM terrorists, was also eliminated in the strike. Jameel was actively involved in the radical indoctrination of youth and fundraising for the JeM. LeT terrorist Mudassar Khadian Khas, who went by the alias Mudassar and Abu Jundal and was

in-charge of Markaz Taiba, Muridke, was killed in the strike on the proscribed organisation's nerve centre by Indian forces. His funeral exposed the active collusion between the Pakistan State and terror after videos of him getting a guard of honour from the Pakistan Army were circulated on social media.

It was noticed that wreaths were laid on behalf of the Pakistan Army Chief and Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, who is the daughter of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and niece of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The funeral prayer was led by Hafiz Abdul Rauf of Jamaat al-Dawah — who is a designated global terrorist — and attended by a serving Lt General of the Pakistan Army and the Inspector General of Punjab Police in a government school, concrete evidence of the State being hand in glove with the terrorists.

A Lashkar terrorist, Khalid alias Abu Akasha was involved in multiple terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, besides weapons smuggling from Afghanistan.

His funeral, held in Faisalabad, was attended by senior Pakistani Army officials and the Deputy Commissioner of Faisalabad. Mohammad Hassan Khan, the son of the operational commander of JeM in PoJK, Mufti Asghar Khan Kashmiri, was also eliminated in the strike. Khan played a key role in coordinating terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, they said.

Sources said Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the spokesperson for the Pakistan Army, has a dark past with a shadow of terrorism looming large.

Operation Sindoor: India's new response to cross-border terror

GEN ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA ■ New Delhi

There was no let up in the trading of drones and missiles between the two warring nations for the third day following India's bold and effective kinetic retribution for the Pahalgam massacre. It deserves repetition that Operation Sindoor marked a paradigm shift in India's response matrix to cross border terrorism (CBT).

Christine Fair, whose study of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and proxy wars excels any other study on the subject, has noted that she was terribly surprised by India's daring strikes against dens of terrorism in Muridke and Bahawalpur; that too in the heart of Punjab, adding she was also impressed by the sophistication of the precision strikes. But it did not mean the end of CBT.

While Balakot strikes had strategic implications they caused no damage to terrorist infrastructure, she said.

So, where were we on the escalation ladder? After testing India air defences with drones and missiles for two days, Rawalpindi finally launched its counter offensive, Operation Buniyan ul Marson — taken straight out of the Quran.

It targeted Indian military airfields and installations across the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) using its full spectrum of air assets inflicting limited damage and causing civil and military casualties.

India's response was directed at Pakistan's air bases, radars, weapon dumps, and command and control facilities, inflicting substantial damage. Further India's response was qualified with the usual adjectives 'non-provocative' and 'non-escalatory'.

The nature of damage caused to each other's war waging capacity is unknown. India's strategy was to locate and take out air defence systems, followed by disabling the air fields as part of counter-air operations.

Night felt endless: 16-year-old recalls Pakistan attacks

PARINA KANDHARI ■ Jammu

It was a normal school day. After returning home, everyone in the family was busy with their daily routine. I was studying in my room, papa was engrossed in his office work, dadu was watching television, my sister was riding her bicycle outside, and mumma and dadi were sitting in the balcony, enjoying the pleasant evening breeze. Everything felt calm-until the clock struck 8:15 pm.

At first, I heard a few explosions, but dismissed them as firecrackers. However, as the intensity grew, I realised something was wrong. I rushed out of my room and alerted Papa. We stepped outside to see what was happening-and for the first time in my life, I witnessed something that chilled me to the core: around 15 to 20 red projectiles-missiles or flares-streaking across the night sky. It was a terrifying sight. My sister, who had been cycling with her friends, screamed in panic and threw her bicycle aside upon seeing the red trails in the sky.



Papa quickly ran to the rooftop to record the incident. Moments later, a complete blackout engulfed the area, and warning sirens wailed through the air.

To give some context, I am 16-years-old,

born and brought up in Jammu. As far back as I can remember, I have never experienced such an intense and direct attack. It was the first time in the history of the India-Pakistan conflict that civilian areas were

being so openly targeted. While the Sunjwan Army Cantonment, just 10 minutes from our home, has been attacked in the past, and other such incidents have occurred across Jammu and Kashmir, this time it was different.

This time, it was personal. The trajectory of those projectiles indicated they were aimed at damaging strategic locations like the Sunjwan Cantonment and the Jammu Airport. The initial explosions were followed by several more throughout the night. It was then that I truly felt what it means to live in a conflict zone. That night felt endless.

The next morning, both my school and coaching institute were closed due to security concerns. My sister and I remained shaken, but Mumma and Papa reassured us and encouraged us to follow our routine. Despite the closures, online classes continued as scheduled via Google Meet and Zoom. We attended sessions, completed our assignments, and tried our best to stay composed throughout the day.

'Ceasefire' changes mood at Shaurya Smarak gathering

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ Bhopal

An evening of patriotic fervour took a reflective turn on Saturday as citizens assembled at the Shaurya Smarak in the state capital to pay floral tributes to Bharat Mata. The event, originally intended to express solidarity with the armed forces, coincided with news of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, softening the mood but not the emotions. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, along with senior BJP leaders, attended the ceremony. Though the formal tone remained celebratory, conversations among attendees revealed a mix of pride, caution, and contemplation about the recent escalation. Vikas, who came with his sister Keerti, voiced

strong sentiments. "After a long hiatus, India demonstrated Pakistan's position to the world. Yet, countries and global entities such as the US and IMF often provide indirect support to our neighbour and encourage terrorism," Keerti struck a balanced note. "An eye for an eye makes the world blind, but self-defence is essential. As one Latin philosopher suggested, peace is best safeguarded by preparing for conflict." A group of college students gathered near the memorial, flags draped around their shoulders. Vijay said, "India thrives on unity in diversity. Despite internal differences, when it comes to our country, we stand united. Pakistan must realise its divisive strategies won't suc-

ceed." His friend Bhavesh added, "In our culture, non-violence is the supreme virtue. However, some adversaries don't comprehend peaceful language. In such cases, it becomes necessary to respond firmly — and our soldiers have done just that." Former army officer Ashok Tomar looked ahead with hope. "It's time to dissolve boundaries. Decisions made during partition shouldn't determine future generations' fate. People in Pakistan struggle for sustenance. Showing compassion, we should aim for a unified subcontinent." His wife Menka, watching the tribute silently before speaking, said, "Every year, countless mothers lose their children to terror and border violence. This issue needs a

permanent resolution." Some turned to symbolism. Rahul and Vinita snapped photos at the Bharat Mata statue, reflecting on the neighbour's economic state. "Our neighbour should focus on its own citizens. A country surviving on international loans cannot compete meaningfully," Rahul remarked. Young brothers Vivan and Ankur stood proudly before the monument. "Since 1947, India has emerged dominant in every conflict with Pakistan. Despite repeated defeats, it's hard for Pakistanis to accept that we remain out of their reach. They lose territory, reputation and their citizens' trust every time they engage in aggression." Their cousin Yash added with a smirk, "Someone who errs once is naive, twice is

ignorant — but one who repeats it endlessly is Pakistan. India has stopped forgiving these mistakes." For Madhavi Tiwari, the evening was about national unity beyond politics. "It's encouraging to see opposition parties support the central government. The damage is done, and it will take Pakistan over a decade to recover its image, resources, and public trust. Possessing nuclear arms and using them are two very different things. Those who boast the most often act the least." As dusk settled over Shaurya Smarak, the crowd united in chants of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai," reminding all that even amid uneasy truces and geopolitical shifts, public patriotism remains unshaken.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis exchange documents after signing an MoU regarding 'Tapi Basin Mega Recharge' project at Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Digital boost for cheetah monitoring in Gandhisagar sanctuary

PNS ■ Mandasaur

In a major step toward modernizing wildlife conservation efforts, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has equipped frontline staff at Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary with advanced smartphones integrated with digital surveillance applications to enhance real-time monitoring, patrolling, and protection of reintroduced cheetahs. The devices, distributed under a strategic digital empowerment initiative, are loaded with specialised apps including M-Stripes (Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status), Locus, and Van Suvidha. These tools are designed to streamline field operations, enabling forest personnel to record patrol activities, track wildlife movements, and report incidents instantly.

"This is a powerful step toward smarter conservation," said Dr. B. S. Annigeri, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. "These smartphones will assist forest guards in monitoring patrol routes, documenting wildlife behavior, and ensuring faster responses to any threats. Tools like M-Stripes are crucial for planning and analyzing patrol data, while GPS-enabled apps like Locus help in accurately tracking cheetah movements." M. R. Baghel, Chief Conservator of Forests, Ujjain, emphasized the broader impact of the initiative: "This marks a transformative milestone in the use of digital technology in wildlife management. It boosts operational efficiency, ensures structured patrolling, and strengthens accountability." During the official distribution event, Sanjay Raykhare,

Divisional Forest Officer of Mandasaur, highlighted the practical benefits of the applications and urged field personnel to utilize them diligently. "Capturing and transmitting real-time data will be key in identifying threats, documenting animal behavior, and safeguarding the ecological balance of the sanctuary," he said. The technological upgrade comes at a critical time as Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary has emerged as a key site for India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction program. The sanctuary, selected for its suitable habitat and prey density, is now home to these iconic felines, making effective monitoring a top priority. Experts note that integrating digital tools with traditional conservation methods can significantly close gaps in wildlife protection.

Shahar Qazi urges peace, unity

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a rare reaction, Shahar Qazi, Mushtaq Ali Nadwi, has issued a call for peace and harmony in light of threats caused by external forces. His message urges citizens to uphold national unity and brotherhood. He emphasised the Islamic duty to protect life, property, honour and dignity. He declared that loving and safeguarding one's country is not only a legal obligation but also a religious one. Quoting the Quran, the top religious leader of Muslims in the city shared the prayer asking for peace in one's city. He stressed that peace should be prayed for wherever one resides,

reflecting the importance of unity and harmony. He offered prayers for the soldiers stationed at the border, asking for divine protection for them. He acknowledged their dedication and wished for their safety in their commitment to national peace and security. In reference to the Pakistan-sponsored massacre of tourists in Pahalgam, he prayed for the annihilation of those with intentions to cause strife in the country. Recently, the Qazi had condemned a rape and blackmail case involving Hindu students. He reiterated Islam's strict punishment for zina, demanding strict government action against the accused without mercy.

MP-Maharashtra sign MoU for Tapi Basin recharge project

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the Tapi Basin Mega Recharge Project will mark a new chapter in the development of both Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. He announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project is being signed today between the two state governments. Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnis will be present on this special occasion. In a message to the media, Dr. Yadav stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Madhya Pradesh is progressing in partnership with neighboring states to

ensure equitable water distribution for the benefit of the public, especially in terms of drinking water and irrigation. He said that today's MoU with Maharashtra is a major step in this direction. A new water storage project is being developed through mutual cooperation, which will be one of its kind in the world. Dr. Yadav extended a warm welcome to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Fadnis and appreciated the joint efforts of both states. Dr. Yadav also highlighted that Madhya Pradesh is actively participating in the national river-linking campaign initiated by Prime Minister Modi. He noted that work has recently begun on the Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project, which

is set to transform the lives of people across the Bundelkhand region. Similarly, work has also started on the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project in collaboration with the Rajasthan government, which will benefit various regions of Malwa and Chambal. In the same direction, the Tapi Basin Mega Recharge Project is now being advanced. This initiative will benefit several districts in the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh, including Khajuraho, Jabalpur, Mandla, and Bilaspur. The project is expected to provide significant benefits to rural communities in these areas.



People celebrate the success of 'Operation Sindoor' at Shaheed Gate in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

PHQ issues advisory on rising cyber threats in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan, cybersecurity authorities have reported a significant increase in cyber threats targeting government agencies, defense personnel, infrastructure systems, and common citizens. Cybercriminals are exploiting the prevailing geopolitical unrest to carry out phishing scams and spread malware through popular communication platforms like WhatsApp, email, and social media. These malicious campaigns are being disguised as conflict-related updates, leaked war footage, or official alerts, creating a false sense of urgency to deceive recipients. Many users are receiving links or files claiming to offer "Live War Updates," sensational videos, or sensitive news. In reality, these links redirect to phishing websites or deliver malware through infected attachments,

such as .exe and .apk files. The .apk files, often promoted as mobile applications or tools, are particularly dangerous. Once installed, they can access personal data, lock devices for ransom, or allow remote hacking of bank and social media accounts. Likewise, .exe files disguised as urgent updates can infect computers and compromise system security. Cybercriminals are also embedding these malicious links within messages that appear to come from trusted sources or groups, increasing the likelihood of users falling victim. In many reported cases, these attacks begin with a message or media file forwarded by someone the user knows, which increases trust and reduces suspicion. Once clicked, the link may lead to a website that mimics official portals or news agencies, tricking users into entering sensitive information like passwords, bank details, or identification numbers. Even viewing

certain images or videos sent from unknown numbers can initiate background processes that compromise a device's security. Authorities have issued a stern warning advising the public to refrain from opening unsolicited messages, downloading unverified apps, or clicking on forwarded links related to the conflict. Users are strongly advised not to share or forward such messages, as doing so not only spreads misinformation but also risks amplifying the reach of cybercriminals. Mobile users should disable auto-download features on messaging apps to prevent unintentional downloads of harmful content. Cybersecurity experts are also urging citizens to avoid joining groups where provocative or unverified content is being circulated. In such cases, users are encouraged to exit, report, and delete those groups to prevent being associated with or exposed to harmful material.

Emails from unknown senders should be treated with caution, especially if they contain attachments or links. Users are advised to verify email addresses, avoid downloading files from unfamiliar sources, and enable two-factor authentication for additional security. Officials stress that individuals must rely only on verified news sources and should fact-check information before sharing it. Maintaining regular data backups and activating emergency features like SOS alerts and emergency contacts on smartphones are also recommended. In the event of a cyber fraud or security breach, immediate action is essential. Victims should report incidents without delay by contacting the national cybercrime helpline at 1930 or by filing a complaint through the Cyber Crime Portal at www.cybercrime.gov.in. Timely reporting helps authorities respond more effectively and can reduce potential damage.

EOW raids expose massive illegal wealth of engineer, school teacher

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a major crackdown on corruption, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Madhya Pradesh has uncovered startling cases of disproportionate assets during raids conducted at the residences of a government engineer and a school teacher. The raids have revealed unaccounted wealth worth several crores, raising serious questions about financial irregularities within the public sector. In one of the most significant discoveries, the EOW raided the properties of an assistant engineer employed with the Madhya Pradesh East Zone Electricity Distribution Company. Preliminary findings suggest that the engineer owned assets nearly 280 percent more than his known sources of income. Officials found six bungalows and twelve plots located in prime areas, with an estimated value running into crores of rupees. According to EOW sources, the evidence indicates that the engineer may have leveraged his official position over an extended period to accumulate illegal wealth. Seized documents and property records are now under scrutiny as part of the ongoing investigation. In a parallel operation, the EOW

carried out a raid on a government school teacher posted in Shivpuri district, uncovering assets worth over Rs 8 crore, despite his total official earnings being only around Rs 38 lakh over the years. The teacher reportedly owns 52 land plots, several residential homes, commercial properties, luxury vehicles, and a significant quantity of gold and silver ornaments. Investigators suspect that the teacher used his influence and local connections to invest heavily in real estate and other ventures far beyond his legitimate means. "These cases are indicative of deep-rooted corruption and abuse of power within the system," an EOW official said, confirming that comprehensive investigations are underway. "Further legal proceedings will follow based on the evidence collected." The revelations have sparked public outrage and renewed calls for stronger financial oversight and transparency mechanisms for government employees. Experts and anti-corruption activists stress the need for stricter asset monitoring and regular audits to curb the misuse of public office. Both cases highlight the pressing need for systemic reforms to ensure accountability in public service and to restore trust in government institutions.

Cop shot in police station, dies

Bhopal: A police head constable who was shot by a criminal on the campus of Jaitwara police station last week has died from his injuries, an official confirmed on Saturday. Head Constable Prince Garg, who had been receiving treatment at Max Hospital in Delhi, succumbed to his injuries on Friday. Garg had sustained a bullet wound near his shoulder in an attack that took place around midnight on April 28. The accused, identified as Achchu Sharma, was arrested after a brief encounter with police last week. Following the shooting, Garg was airlifted to Delhi on May 7 for specialized treatment. Despite efforts to save his life, Garg passed away at the hospital on Friday. Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashutosh Gupta said. As per government rules, Garg's family will receive Rs 1 crore in assistance along with a government job on compassionate grounds. Garg's last rites were performed in his native village in Satna on Saturday morning.

Fatal highway collision leaves three dead, several injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a devastating road accident in the early hours of Saturday, three people were killed and at least 18 others injured when a passenger bus collided head-on with a dumper truck near Sirolia Bridge on the Maxi bypass in Shajapur district, Madhya Pradesh. The incident occurred around 2:30 a.m., approximately 28 kilometers from the district headquarters. According to police reports, the bus—operated by a private transport company—was en route from Indore to Guna when it collided with a heavily loaded dumper truck. The impact of the collision was so severe that the bus veered off the road and plunged into a deep ravine. Both the bus driver and the dumper-truck driver died on the spot, along with one bus passenger. The deceased have been identified as Gulab Singh, the bus driver and a resident of Guna; and Aman Chaurasia, a 24-year-old passenger from Mhow. The identity of the dumper-truck driver remains unknown at the time of reporting. Gopal Singh Chouhan, Sub-Divisional Officer (Police) of Shajapur,

confirmed to IANS that emergency teams, assisted by local volunteers, responded swiftly to the crash site. "All injured passengers were immediately taken to Shajapur District Hospital, where they are reported to be in stable condition," he stated. Initial findings point to high speed as a likely cause of the collision. A case has been registered at the Maksi police station, and further investigation is underway to determine the full circumstances of the incident. Rescue operations were challenging due to the condition of the vehicles. A crane was deployed to extract the body of the bus driver, who was trapped in the mangled front cabin of the vehicle. Eyewitnesses described the front portion of the bus as being completely destroyed, bearing the full force of the impact. Authorities estimate that 30 to 40 passengers were aboard the bus at the time of the accident. Several sustained minor injuries and were treated on-site or at nearby health centers. Following the crash, local police and community members worked together to recover personal belongings and safely evacuate the remaining passengers from the wreckage.

Bhopal and Smolensk become sister cities

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Bhopal and Russia's Smolensk have formally become sister cities, opening the doors to deeper cooperation in education, culture and trade between the two historic urban centres. Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai and Smolensk Mayor Alexander Novikov signed the Sister City MoU on Victory Day in Russia. The official ceremony was part of the 80th anniversary celebrations of Russia's victory in World War II. Mayor Rai attended the Victory Day Parade in Smolensk as a state guest, invited specially by Mayor Novikov. She was accompanied by officials including Tina Yadav, Additional Commissioner of Bhopal Municipal Corporation, and representatives from industry federations. Addressing the Russian audience, Mayor Rai conveyed greetings from Bhopal and said India and Russia have always shared a close and historic friendship. She echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of strengthening international diplomacy through mutual cooperation. Rai



described her participation in the parade as a moment of great pride for herself and for the nearly 2.5 million citizens of Bhopal. She said she came bearing a message of friendship from the heart of India. Comparing the two cities, Rai said Smolensk's green landscapes and water-rich lakes reminded her of Bhopal, known for its natural beauty, heritage and the iconic 31-square-kilometre Upper Lake built by Raja Bhoj. Speaking about the Sister City agreement, Rai said Bhopal's rich legacy aligns naturally with Smolensk's. She hoped the connection would build last-

ing people-to-people ties stronger than diplomatic exchanges alone. The agreement, she said, would help residents of both cities understand each other's heritage, education systems, science and technology better. A special event is also being planned in Bhopal, near the Upper Lake, to honour this new partnership. Rai also highlighted Bhopal's achievements in cleanliness under the national Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched by PM Modi. She said Bhopal has twice been ranked India's second cleanest city and twice named its most sustainable capital.

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Early Monsoon likely in MP; IMD predicts above-normal rainfall this season

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh is expected to receive an early onset of the southwest monsoon, with its arrival projected around June 15-16, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The seasonal rains are likely to cover the entire state within five days, offering a timely boost for the upcoming agricultural season. Unlike previous years—when the monsoon's entry was delayed, as in 2024, when it arrived on June 21—this year's early monsoon aligns with IMD's broader forecast for an early onset over India by May 27. The monsoon is expected to enter MP through its eastern districts, including Mandla, Seoni, Dindori, Balaghat, and Anuppur, which are predicted to receive the highest rainfall during the initial phase. Meanwhile, pre-monsoon activity has already intensified across the

state. On Saturday, regions like Gwalior and Mandla saw evening showers, while Dindori experienced intense rain for about 30 minutes, causing a sharp drop in temperature by 8°C to settle at 31°C. In Betul's Chicholi, strong winds reportedly damaged the roofs of six houses. A senior IMD meteorologist attributed these weather conditions to two active systems, resulting in widespread instability. Light rain and thunderstorms are expected to continue through May 13, impacting over 40 districts, including Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Bhand, Datia, Neemuch, Mandasaur, Ratlam, and Khargone. Additional rainfall activity is likely in districts such as Burhanpur, Harda, Sagar, Narmadapuram, Betul, Chhindwara, Rewa, and Balaghat, as per the IMD's latest bulletin. On Friday, rain and thunderstorms were reported in parts of

Bhopal, Sheopur, Betul, and Shivpuri, with daytime temperatures remaining under 40°C—Bhopal recorded 34.2°C, Indore at 34°C, and Gwalior at 37.6°C. Pachmarhi remained the coolest at 30.6°C, while Khajuraho registered the highest temperature at 39.6°C. Encouragingly, the IMD has forecast better-than-normal rainfall across Madhya Pradesh this year, estimating 104-106% of the long-period average. Regions under the Jabalpur and Shahdol divisions are likely to witness the highest cumulative rainfall, while districts in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, and Rewa divisions could see up to 150% of average rainfall. This projection has lifted the hopes of farmers and agricultural planners, especially in light of last year's excess rainfall in 44 districts, including Bhopal and Jabalpur, which contributed significantly to a bumper crop of soybean and wheat. The IMD's earlier predic-

tion from April 2025 of above-normal rainfall between June and September now seems increasingly probable, fueling optimism for a prosperous kharif sowing season. Agricultural experts have advised farmers to stay updated on weather advisories and prepare for timely sowing to make the most of the expected rains. With monsoon preparedness now underway, district administrations and agriculture departments are also coordinating efforts to ensure water conservation, seed availability, and crop insurance coverage, aiming to build resilience against both drought and excess rainfall scenarios. To ensure preparedness, the Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Department has begun coordinating with local Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to disseminate timely advisories and updated crop calendars. Farmers are being encouraged to adopt climate-

resilient practices, such as early sowing, contour farming, and crop diversification, especially in regions that may receive heavy and continuous rainfall. Agricultural extension workers are also promoting the use of high-yield and flood-resistant seed varieties to mitigate potential losses due to extreme weather. In tandem with these efforts, the state's Disaster Management Authority has initiated pre-monsoon infrastructure checks, particularly focusing on low-lying and flood-prone areas. Drainage systems, embankments, and irrigation channels are being inspected and repaired to prevent urban flooding and waterlogging, which often disrupt both rural livelihoods and transportation during heavy spells. Authorities are also preparing emergency shelters and ensuring adequate stock of relief materials, signaling a proactive approach to monsoon management this year.



A social activist and blood campaigner makes a blood portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in solidarity and success of 'Operation Sindoor' in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo



Principal District and Sessions Judge Manoj Shrivastava lights a ceremonial lamp to inaugurate National Lok Adalat at the district court in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Innovation fest gets underway at RGPV

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A two-day innovation festival got underway on Saturday at Rajiv Gandhi Pradyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (RGPV) campus in the state capital. The event, Srijan 2025, aims to showcase 150 innovations shortlisted from 1,627 student entries submitted from across Madhya Pradesh. Inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar, the event is presided over by RGPV Vice-Chancellor Prof Rajeev Tripathi. It is being organised under the Innovate MP Mission with government support. Public Relations Officer Dr Shashiranjana Akela said the event is designed to help students turn ideas into practical solutions and link with industry for future startup ventures.

The exhibition is open to all, with students presenting their models, prototypes and posters between 1 PM and 4 PM on both days. Visitors include startup representatives, educators and curious citizens. Registrar Prof Mohan Sen said Srijan 2025 aligns with the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', and promotes innovation in technical education aimed at solving grassroots challenges. Projects are divided into six categories: Industry (435), Smart Education (328), Health & Life Sciences (290), Rural Technology (222), Clean & Green Energy (214), and Waste Management (138). Each category will see a first, second and third prize, plus 12 consolation awards and one special empowerment award. Promising ideas may also get patent, startup and training support.

Madhya Pradesh intensifies water conservation

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The Jal Ganga Samvardhan Abhiyan, launched on March 30, 2025, continues across Madhya Pradesh until June 30, 2025. The campaign aims to rejuvenate rivers, ponds, lakes, traditional wells, stepwells (bawdis), and other water sources. Efforts include desilting, cleaning, demarcation, and restoration of these water bodies. Citizens are being made aware of responsible water usage, rainwater harvesting systems, and the construction of soak pits near water sources. At a mass wedding ceremony in Chanderi, Ashoknagar district, organised under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah-Nikah Yojana, 54 couples tied the knot—46 Hindu marriages and 8 Muslim nikahs. After the ceremonies, the couples and their families were administered a water conservation pledge under the Jal Ganga campaign. In Chhindwara district, the MP Jan Abhiyan Parishad, along with villagers, conduct-

ed a cleanliness drive along the banks of the Teen Dhari river in the model village of Bhutha Chhabri in Junnardeo. Villagers took part in a human chain and pledged to keep water sources clean and avoid water wastage. Volunteers also cleaned the historic stepwells of Deogarh village in Mohkhed block, known for their sweet and culturally significant water. A cleanup drive was held at Lallu Talab in Shahdol through community effort. Municipal officials, sanitation teams, and local residents participated. Along with constructing new ponds, wells, and stepwells is underway. Work is also being done to keep riverbanks clean and maintain water quality, especially at sites of historical and religious significance. In Dewas, officials and staff carried out a cleaning drive at Utavali Check Dam under the Jal Ganga campaign. Wearing gloves and masks, they formed a human chain to collect waste and dispose of it using tractors. The district will also construct a Rs 25 lakh Amrit Sarovar

(sacred reservoir) at Ponas, spanning 10,000 sq.m. with a storage capacity of 25,000 cubic meters. The reservoir will enhance base flow to the Kalisindh River. District In-charge Minister Shri Jagdish Deora performed the bhoomi-pujan of the Amrit Sarovar and stated that Narmada water will reach every farmer's field, enabling them to grow three crops annually. The event was dedicated to the Indian Army, with former soldiers being honoured and a tri-colour-themed human chain formed with messages of pride in the armed forces. Farmers in Sehore district have initiated the construction of over 687 out of 1,670 targeted farm ponds. Additionally, 2,250 out of 2,600 approved recharge pits are underway, with 1,440 already under construction. The SIPRI software developed by the Madhya Pradesh State Employment Guarantee Council has been instrumental, using modern geospatial and hydrological techniques to identify optimal construction sites.

BMHRC escalates readiness

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Stepping up preparedness, Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre on Saturday activated emergency protocols to ensure full readiness for any medical crisis. Acting Director Dr Manisha Srivastava convened a high-level meeting with senior doctors and administrative officials to review preparedness, assess resources, and finalise a rapid response strategy for potential emergencies. She issued immediate orders cancelling all leave for doctors, nursing staff, and employees. No new leave requests will be approved to ensure uninterrupted medical services. Departments have been

instructed to stockpile essential medicines, life-saving drugs, and critical medical equipment without delay. Emergency services must remain fully functional and alert round the clock. "Our duty to the nation and society demands utmost sincerity and readiness. Timely, quality care for all patients remains our top priority," said Dr Srivastava. She added that BMHRC's medical teams are fully prepared to provide relief and assistance outside the hospital premises if required by the situation. The administration has instructed medical, nursing, emergency, pharmacy, supply chain, and technical departments to work in close coordination and shorten response times.

Illegally transported liquor worth Rs 5 lakh seized

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a major crackdown on illicit liquor transportation, the Bhopal Police seized a truck carrying 285 boxes of illegal liquor valued at approximately Rs 5 lakh during a routine night check on the Indore Highway. The seizure took place near Barkheda Salam village late Friday night, and police officials disclosed the details of the operation on Saturday afternoon. According to Town Inspector Neeraj Verma, the police team was conducting a vehicle-checking drive around 1 a.m. when they signalled a truck to stop. On spotting the police barricade, the driver reportedly attempted to evade the checkpoint and sped up. A brief chase ensued,

after which the police successfully intercepted the truck and apprehended the driver. Upon inspecting the vehicle, the police discovered a large consignment of liquor concealed in the cabin area. The consignment, packed in 285 boxes, did not bear any official documentation or permits, raising suspicions of interstate smuggling. The driver was taken into custody on the spot and the truck was impounded. The accused has been identified as Chiju Jamra, a 25-year-old resident of Alirajpur district. During preliminary interrogation, Jamra informed the police that he had been instructed by an unknown individual to deliver the liquor near a toll plaza, though he was unable to provide

further details regarding the source or destination of the consignment. Investigators believe he may be acting as a mule in a larger smuggling operation. The police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Madhya Pradesh Excise Act and initiated a deeper probe into the case. Authorities suspect that the liquor may have originated from another district or possibly another state, given the quantity and method of concealment. The involvement of organized smuggling networks is also under investigation. Officials have summoned the truck owner for questioning, as they seek to determine whether the vehicle was knowingly used in the illegal operation or rented without the owner's knowledge.

Administration warns against social media rumours

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The district administration on Saturday issued a series of directives to curb misinformation and rumour mongering on social media platforms and boost civil defence readiness across the district. In a prohibitory order, Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh, invoked the Indian Civil Protection Code, 2023, to ban the posting or forwarding of misleading or unverified content on Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, X and other platforms. As per the notice, unsubstantiated and sensitive content, whether in the form of posts, videos, reels or files, will be considered a threat to law and order and social harmony. The order, which came into effect immediately, said violators will face legal action. Meanwhile, a meeting to strengthen civil defence measures under the 1968 Act was held under the chairmanship of Additional Collector (South). It focused on

It was decided that civil defence teams would be formed at the sub-divisional level under the leadership of SDMs

Instructions were issued for resource mapping, installation and checking of sirens, maintenance of available equipment, registration of volunteers, and mock drills in schools and colleges in collaboration with voluntary organisations. Officials were also directed to implement earlier district orders, including maintaining minimum stock levels at petrol pumps and preventing black-marketing and hoarding. These measures aim to ensure stability in essential supplies. To widen outreach and improve coordination, the administration will also seek support from political and non-political organisations for public awareness and strengthening of civil defence teams at the grassroots. Later in the day, Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan and Smart City CEO Anju Arun Kumar were named as assistant nodal officers to oversee the functioning and installation of sirens at key locations in the state capital.

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Bomb blast threat at Holkar Stadium in Indore turns out to be a hoax

PNS ■ Indore

The Holkar Stadium in Indore was put on high alert after an email threatening a bomb blast was received by the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) on Friday. The sender of the email claimed that the stadium would be targeted in retaliation for India's "Operation Sindoor" by the armed forces. However, after extensive searches by authorities, the threat was determined to be a hoax. According to Tukoganj Police Station in-charge, Jitendra Singh Yadav, the threatening email was sent to the official email address of the MPCA. The email, written in English, stated that a bomb would be detonated at the Holkar Stadium in response to the military operation. The police immediately mobilized and dispatched four teams along with a bomb squad to

thoroughly check the premises of the stadium. The police conducted a meticulous search for over five hours, but no suspicious items or explosives were found at the stadium. "No suspicious material was discovered in the Holkar Stadium," said Yadav. The search was carried out with the utmost urgency, as authorities took all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the venue, which often hosts large crowds during cricket matches. Following the incident, the police launched an investigation into the origin of the email, collaborating with the cyber squad to trace the sender. Authorities have also warned that legal action will be taken against the person responsible for the hoax. Preliminary investigations suggest that the email may have been a "copy-paste" job intended to cause mischief rather than a legitimate threat.

Wife hires contract killer to murder husband for pension and property in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a shocking turn of events, a 32-year-old woman, Bitti George, has been arrested for conspiring to murder her 64-year-old husband, George Kurien, by hiring a contract killer. The crime, which was committed on April 18, was carried out by Bitti's tenant, Rekha Suryavanshi, and her lover, Sanjay Pathak. The murder was initially thought to be an accidental death, with Bitti telling the police that her husband had slipped and fallen in the bathroom. However, following the post-mortem report, authorities discovered the truth and registered a murder case. The police arrested all three

accused: Bitti, Rekha, and Sanjay, after they confessed to the crime. Sanjay Pathak has been taken into police custody for one day, with his remand lasting until Sunday. According to police investigations, Bitti George had hired Rekha and Sanjay for Rs 10 lakh to kill her husband. She had already paid them an advance of Rs 50,000, which was confirmed by bank records showing the online transfer. Bitti, who had been working at George's house, wanted to eliminate him to gain control over his pension, property, and financial assets. Bitti stated that she wanted to live independently after her husband's death and that his constant scolding and controlling behavior had pushed her to

take such a drastic step. She also resented George's close relationship with her tenant, Rekha, who had allegedly provided her with information about George's character. Rekha encouraged Bitti to kill George, promising a comfortable life in return. Rekha and Sanjay, both of whom had planned the murder together, agreed to carry out the killing. They took Rs 50,000 as an advance from Bitti and planned that the full payment would be made after George's pension was transferred to Bitti's name. On the night of April 18, Sanjay entered George's home at Bitti's request. While George was sleeping, Sanjay strangled him with a towel, and Rekha held his feet to

prevent him from moving. Despite George's desperate struggle, Sanjay continued to apply pressure until the elderly man stopped moving. Bitti then checked her husband's body, and seeing no reaction, she took him to the hospital, where the police were informed of the incident. During the post-mortem examination, it was discovered that George had tried to fight off his attacker. A struggle mark was found on his neck, confirming that he had fought for his life before succumbing to the strangulation. The post-mortem also revealed the cause of death as strangulation by a towel. Rekha had been living in George's house on rent for just four

months. She is a widow originally from Sehore district, where she owns agricultural land. Sanjay, a property broker, was a close friend of Rekha's late husband and had become involved with her to assist in selling her land. Following the arrests, police have confirmed that all three accused have confessed to their roles in the murder. Police are continuing their investigation and legal action will be taken as per the law. Bitti's daughter, who is only nine years old, is now left without both parents. Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Lal emphasized that this crime highlights the dangerous consequences of human greed and betrayal.

Habibganj Police bust jewelry thieves gang

Bhopal: In a significant breakthrough, the Habibganj Police Station has successfully apprehended a gang of thieves responsible for stealing valuable items from local jewelry shops. The criminals, who had been posing as legitimate customers, were caught following swift police action and a detailed investigation. The thieves employed a clever strategy, visiting jewelry stores under the pretense of being interested buyers, and discreetly stealing items during their visits. Their activities came to light on May 8, 2025, when Meenal Agarwal, the owner of a jewelry shop in Arera Colony, reported the theft of gold jewelry worth approximately Rs 70,000. The stolen items included two pairs of gold earrings weighing 2.60 grams and mangalsutra beads weighing 5 grams. Habibganj police thoroughly reviewed CCTV footage from the shop, which clearly captured the theft in progress. This footage became crucial in identifying and tracking down the suspects. Police traced their movements from Rani Kamlapati Railway Station to No. 12 Market. When the officers approached the area, two suspects attempted to flee but were quickly apprehended. The arrested individuals, identified as Babita Jatav (36) and Yogendra Khare (27), initially denied any involvement but confessed when confronted with the video evidence. Further investigation revealed that both suspects had prior criminal records. Babita Jatav, a resident of Gwalior, had been involved in three previous theft cases across different locations. Yogendra Khare, from Morena, also had a history of theft-related offenses.

संचालनालय राष्ट्रीय कैडेट कोर (राज्य कोष्ठ) मध्यप्रदेश
पी-77 सुलतानियां इंफेन्ट्री लाईन
 भोपाल (0755-2926566)
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उप संचालक (राज्य)
G-12649/25 संचालनालय राष्ट्रीय कैडेट कोर

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
 No.-JHS/Commercial/E-Auction/2025-104 Dated:-08.05.2025
E-Auction Notice
 On Behalf of The President Of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) JHS invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-
Category: Parking **Catalogue No.:** JHS- PARKING-35
Asset Details
 Parking Contract for Two wheeler & Four Wheelers at different category of Railway stations in Jhansi Division-

S.N.	Station	Location	Auction Start Date & Time
1	VGLJ	Near west side booking office	23.05.2025 at 11:00 hrs
2	VGLJ	Infront of GRP Thana	
3	VGLJ	Adjoining to Pay office	Auction End Date & Time
4	VGLJ	Circulating area in front of Deluxe toilet	23.05.2025 at 12:10 hrs
5	BNDA	PF No. 01 side	

 Note:-Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. **803/25(DG)**
 North central railways @CPNCR www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
L. No. JHS-ELG-W-T-30-2024-25 Date: 09.05.2025
E-Tendering Tender Notice
 For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-
Tender No.: JHS-ELG-W-T-30-2024-25 **Completion period:** 06 months
Description of work: Electrical/G work for- **Part-A:** Jhansi Division: Construction of Rest house for Track machine depot staff at Chitahari, Udayapura & Duriyaganj under ADEN/MBA. **Part-B:** Jhansi Division: Construction of Rest house for Track machine depot staff at KID, CKTD & BSZ under Sr. DEN/East section, **Part-C:** Jhansi Division Replacement of 7 Nos. old steel OHT with RCC OHT, pump house, pipe line connection at Bharwa sumerpur, Badosa & Chitrakut Dham
Tender value: ₹ 29,47,464/- only **Bid Security:** ₹ 59,000/- only
Closing date of tender: 02.06.2025 (upto 15:00 Hrs.)
 Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 02.06.2025 (upto 15:00 Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> **805/25 (MG)**
 North central railways @CPNCR www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

Office of the Executive Engineer
P.W.D. (Maintenance) Division No. 2 Bhopal
Tender Notice
 Bhopal, Date 02/05/2025
 Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below :-

S. No	Tender No.	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lack)
1	2025 PWDRB_420859_1	Zonal Patch Repair work on Various Roads Under P.W.D. (Maint.) Division No. - 2 Bhopal	First	220.96

 The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for Purchase and Submission of document on line is **16/05/2025 up to 17:30 PM**. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in news paper.
Executive Engineer
PWD (Maint.) Division No. 2 Bhopal
G-12614/25

Pakistan claims of destroying Indian Air Force bases false: Misri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

India responded on Saturday to the Pakistani military's "provocative" and "escalatory" actions in a measured way and Islamabad is resorting to a wanton campaign of targeting innocent people and civilian infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said.

As the military conflict between the two neighbours escalated, Misri said at a media briefing here that Pakistan's claims of destroying various places and military installations in India are "completely false". The Indian and Pakistani militaries targeted each other's installations using missiles in the last over 12 hours, further escalating the already tense conflict situation.

The foreign secretary said the Pakistani claims about destroying the Sirsa and Surat air force stations are "completely false". "There is a claim that has been made that the S-400 base at Adampur was destroyed, completely false, once again," he said.



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri addresses the media on 'Operation Sindoor' in New Delhi

"Claims made about large sections of Indian critical infrastructure, power systems, cyber systems etc. Being attacked and destroyed are completely false," he said. The foreign secretary said that Pakistan is peddling these lies for "obvious purposes". "Pakistan continues with its execrable and wanton campaign of targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially in the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab," he said.

"There is also, on its part, a consistent attempt to sow discord between communities in India," Misri said.

The foreign secretary noted that there has been a particular focus in Pakistan's targeting of civilian infrastructure and the population in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. "Earlier this morning, Pakistan shelled the town of Rajouri, killing Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa, adding to the civilian casualties and damage there," he said. "We have also observed overnight damage to property and injuries to civilians in Ferozpur and Jalandhar, among other places," he added.

DG Shipping increases maritime security for Indian ports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Directorate General of Shipping has increased maritime security for Indian ports, terminals, and Indian-flagged vessels to "MARSEC Level 2 or heightened security", considering the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, a senior government official said.

The directive was issued on May 8, the official added.

The Directorate General of Shipping functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), forms a crucial part of the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention. It was adopted in response to growing global concerns over maritime security, especially in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

One of the core components of the ISPS Code is the classification of security levels. These levels are designed to ensure that ships and port facilities can operate securely under varying threat environments. Security Level 2 involves maintaining of appropriate additional protective

security measures for a defined period of time, in response to a heightened risk.

This level is activated before an incident occurs, often as a precautionary measure based on credible information.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), forms a crucial part of the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention. The directive was issued on May 8

Level 2 requires escalation of standard procedures and close monitoring of threat updates.

Earlier this month, India banned ships bearing the flag of Pakistan from visiting any Indian port. Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday conducted a comprehensive review of key maritime projects to ensure normal cargo movement. He directed officials to ensure that the business remains normal.

Kamikaze drones deployed by Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

From swarm drones, including the kamikaze variant, to armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Pakistan deployed these aerial assets to breach India's airspace in a bid to cause destruction during the ongoing conflict but the Indian military has effectively repulsed the attacks.

A kamikaze drone or suicide drone drops with or without a payload on a target and then engages in self-destruction, or it destroys itself after dropping ammunition, sources familiar with the technology said.

While drones, as a means of non-contact warfare, have played a key role in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and Russia-Ukraine war, it is seemingly the "first time" that drones have been used on such a large scale when seen in the context of India and Pakistan, sources in military establishment said. Pakistan has used swarm drones to intrude into Indian airspace, but have met with a proportionate and effective response from the Indian military thanks to its robust air defence system, they said.

On the intervening night of May 8-9, the Pakistan military carried out multiple violations of Indian airspace along the entire western border with an intent to target military infrastructure, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said at a press briefing here, along with Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

"Along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), drone intrusions were attempted from Leh to Sir Creek at 36 locations with approximately 300 to 400 drones.

"Indian Armed Forces brought down a number of these drones using kinetic and non-kinetic means. The possible purpose of these large-scale aerial intrusions was to test the AD (air defence) systems and

gather intelligence," she said during the briefing on May 9. Forensic examination of the drone debris is being undertaken, military officials have said.

"Preliminary reports suggest them to be of the ASISGUARD Songar drone of Turkey. Later in the night, an armed UAV of Pakistan attempted to target Bathinda military station, which was detected and neutralised," Wing Commander Singh had said.

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Songar armed drone system, developed by ASISGUARD, can be used in any kind of day or night military and security operations. The system can broadcast real-time video and operate within a mission radius of up to 5 km, according to the website of the Ankara-based company.

The military confrontation between the two nuclear-armed neighbours escalated in the past few days, with both military and civil authorities in India remaining on high alert.

On Saturday morning, the Indian Army said that Pakistan's "blatant escalation with drone strikes and other munitions continues along our western borders".

From the border areas of Rajasthan in the west to Jammu in the north, sighting of many drones in parts of these locations in the last couple of days, have caused anxiety among local residents, many of whom are spending sleepless nights amid blackouts and sounds of sirens after dark.

"In the early hours of today, at approximately 5 AM, Pakistani forces launched multiple Byker YIHA III kamikaze drones across the International Border towards Amritsar in Punjab, in a blatant attempt to strike densely populated residential areas," a defence source said. "As a result of the vigilance and rapid response of the Indian Army's Air Defence (AAD) network, the hostile drones were detected, tracked and engaged within seconds of breaching Indian airspace," the source said.

Using quick-reaction air-defence guns positioned in depth along the border belt, AAD gunners brought down the drones in mid-air, "ensuring that no debris fell on civilian property and that no casualties were sustained", they said. "Initial analysis indicates that the drones carried high-explosive payloads intended to inflict maximum damage on innocent civilians," the source added.

A kamikaze drone is essentially an unmanned air vehicle that "carries its own warhead", loiters over an area to locate a target, and then crashes into it, destroying both itself and the intended target, the source in the military establishment said.

The prompt neutralisation of this threat underscores the effectiveness of India's layered air-defence grid, which integrates ground-based radars, electro-optical sensors and automated command-and-control systems, they said.

Wing Commander Singh, along with Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Foreign Secretary Misri, also briefed the media on Saturday morning on the current situation.

"Pakistani military continued with its provocations, carrying out aggressive actions employing multiple threat vectors all along the western border. Pakistan employed UCAV, drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions and fighter aircraft to target civilian areas and military infrastructure," the IAF officer said.

Congress welcomes SC relief to women Army officers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday welcomed the Supreme Court's interim directive asking the Centre not to release from service Short Service Commission women Army officers who have challenged the denial of permanent commission to them, and asserted that it boosts the morale of women officers in the current environment.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress' 24, Akbar Road office here, Congress leader and Wing Commander (ret) Anuma Acharya said that in the current situation in the country, "we reiterate our commitment towards the Indian Armed Forces and salute their valour and courage".

"The central government had said that only 250 short service commission officers can be given permanent commission every year. It is very important to have a young cadre of officers in the army.

"On this, the Supreme Court said that the experienced women officers are also very important for the guidance and mental strength of the young soldiers," she said.

This decision of the Supreme Court is a ray of hope for women officers, Acharya said. The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre not to release from service the Short Service Commission women Army officers.

The top court called for not bringing the morale down of the women army officers in "the prevailing situation".

The decision of the Supreme Court gives a lot of relief and boosts the morale of women officers in the current environment of the country, she said. "Policies changed continuously after

2006. Two and a half years ago, women also got entry in the army through the NDA. Now we can imagine that after 30 years from today, we will see one or more women as the Army Chief," Acharya said.

Now the decision of the Supreme Court has come that women officers should be retained till the next hearing is held in August, she said.

"We welcome this decision of the Supreme Court. We are with the army of our country. We respect all the people of the army who keep the tricolour above themselves. We salute the bravery of every soldier," Acharya said.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh, which posted a batch of pleas filed by 69 officers for hearing in August, said they should not be released till the next hearing. "In the prevailing situation, let's not bring their morale down. They are brilliant officers, you can use their services somewhere else. This is not the time that they be asked to roam around in the Supreme Court.

They have a better place to be and serve the country," Justice Kant said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said it was an administrative decision based on a policy to keep the armed forces young.

She urged the top court not to grant any stay on their release and said the Indian Army needed young officers and every year, only 250 personnel were granted permanent commission.

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for Colonel Geeta Sharma, referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who had briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor on May 7 and 8.

Monsoon likely to reach Kerala on May 27: IMD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on May 27, earlier than the usual date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

If the monsoon arrives in Kerala as expected, it will be the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began on May 23, according to IMD data. The arrival of the main rain-bearing system over the Indian mainland is officially declared when it reaches Kerala, usually around June 1.

The monsoon typically covers the entire country by July 8. It starts withdrawing from northwest India around September 17 and completes by October 15. The monsoon had set in over the southern state on May 30 last year, June 8 in 2023, May 29 in 2022, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019, and May 29 in 2018.

An IMD official said there is no direct relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season.

"The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features," the official said.

The IMD had, in April, forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Niño conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent.

"India is likely to see above-normal rainfall in the four-month monsoon season (June to September), with cumulative rainfall estimated at 105 per cent (with a model error of 5 per cent) of the long-period average of 87 cm," M Ravichandran, secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences, had said.

According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal'.

Rainfall less than 90 per cent of the long-period average is considered 'deficient'; between 90 per cent and 95 per cent is 'below normal'; between 105 per cent and 110 per cent is 'above normal'; and more than 110 per cent is considered 'excess' precipitation.

The monsoon is crucial for India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of about 42.3 per cent of the population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the country's GDP. It is also vital for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water and power generation across the country.

SJM slams IMF loan to Pakistan amid conflict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) slammed the IMF on Saturday for approving loans to Pakistan and requested the member states, who supported the move, to reconsider their decision in view of the neighbouring country's continued support for terrorism.

It is "deeply concerning" that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$1.4 billion loan to Pakistan from its climate resilience fund, along with an additional \$1 billion loan under the existing \$7 billion economic stabilisation programme, the RSS-affiliate said in a statement.

The SJM "strongly expresses" its displeasure with the IMF's decision, it added.

"While we refrain from directly calling this IMF funding a support for terrorism, the fact remains that loans provided to Pakistan in the past have often failed to serve their stated purposes," SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan was quoted as saying in the statement.

These funds may be diverted to strengthen Pakistan's military or indirectly aid terrorist activities, rather than contribute to meaningful economic reforms, he said, taking serious exception to the IMF's decision.

"The SJM urges the member countries of the IMF who supported this loan to reconsider their decision in light of Pakistan's continued support for terrorism," Mahajan said.

"We also call upon the government of India to engage all available diplomatic channels to ensure that the newly-approved IMF funds are not misused," he said.

The SJM called for greater transparency and accountability in the IMF's "lending practices" and requested it to seriously consider the "broader geopolitical implications" of its financial support to Pakistan.

"In light of the recent Pahalgam ter-

ror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, SJM reiterates India's longstanding concerns over Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism," Mahajan said.

"We urge the IMF to implement strict monitoring mechanisms to audit how previously-disbursed funds were utilised, and whether they were used for economic stabilisation as intended or diverted for unintended purposes," he added.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) hailed the government's "firm and resolute" response to the "continued terrorism", supported and abetted by Pakistan, and said India's "bold step" has reflected the will of its people and leadership, and reaffirmed the country's "unwavering commitment" to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of its citizens.

"Pakistan has nurtured terrorism as an instrument of its state policy, resulting in the loss of countless innocent lives and sustained instability in the region.

India's decisive retaliation sends a clear and unambiguous message that terrorism will not be tolerated, and those who shelter and support such forces will face the consequences," it added.

The SJM also urged the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for its persistent role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

"In this critical hour, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch stands firmly with the government, our armed forces and the people of India. We appeal to all citizens to maintain unity, remain vigilant and support national initiatives aimed at eradicating terrorism from our soil," Mahajan said.

"Amidst the ongoing action against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, where our armed forces are engaged in the fight against terror, the Pakistani army is seen siding with terrorists, for example a slain terrorist is being given a state funeral wrapped in the national flag of Pakistan," he added.

RSS calls for unequivocal support to armed forces

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Amid the intensifying military conflict with Pakistan, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) on Saturday asked its affiliates to postpone all forms of strikes and agitations and provide "unequivocal" support to the government as well as the armed forces of the country. It also appealed to government employees at the Centre and in the states to refrain from taking leaves unless absolutely necessary. "Those who have taken leaves are requested to cancel them and resume their duties promptly," the BMS, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), said in a statement. "Postpone all forms of strikes, agitations, demonstrations and other trade union activities. If necessary, work overtime and increase productivity without taking any overtime charges. Raise awareness among workers and the general public on

the necessary precautions to be taken during war-like situations," the statement said. "Provide all necessary assistance to the Indian defence forces," it added.

Those employed in various departments and sectors, including defence, space, railways, civil aviation, road transport, telecommunications, health, power, and scientific establishments, both in states and at the Centre, will be instrumental in assisting the defence forces amid the prevailing situation, the RSS body said.

"The Kendriya Karya Samiti (national executive body of the BMS) directs all federations to modify their organisational programmes and prioritise this national cause, collaborate with the district authorities in civil defence works, blood donation programmes, local transportation, and other relevant initiatives," it said.

The BMS also asked all of its affiliates and trade unions to organise solidarity programmes in support of the armed forces

at the district and industry levels.

BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte said the decisions were taken at a national executive body meeting held virtually on Friday. In a resolution passed at the meeting chaired by BMS president Hiranmay Pandya, the national executive congratulated the armed forces for "successfully" executing Operation Sindoor, Himte said.

"The operation effectively demonstrated the government's resolve in combating anti-India terrorist forces operating from Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack," the resolution noted.

"The bravery exhibited by both male and female soldiers of the armed forces is commendable," it added. According to Himte, the meeting also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking "decisive decisions and demonstrating unwavering political will to combat cross-border terrorism without any compromise".

The BMS also asked all of its affiliates and trade unions to organise solidarity programmes in support of the armed forces

India debunks claims of drone attack on Nankana Sahib, Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The government on Saturday debunked claims that India had launched a drone attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan.

The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said such content is being circulated to create communal hatred in India.

"A video shared on social media is claiming that India has carried out a drone attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara. This claim is completely fake," it said.

Nankana Sahib is the birthplace of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak and the gurdwara is a revered shrine and pilgrimage centre for Sikhs.

The government also dismissed reports circulating on social media and some news platforms claiming that Pakistan had destroyed the Udhampur air base in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the base remains fully operational.

The clarification came after a video aired

by a platform named "AIK News" claimed on live television that the strategic air base was destroyed by Pakistan.

"A video aired by 'AIK News' on live TV claimed that Pakistan had destroyed the Udhampur Air Base," the PIB Fact Check Unit said, adding, "Udhampur Air Base remains operational".

The PIB Fact Check Unit also flagged what it described as a surge in coordinated disinformation campaigns aimed at India, largely propagated through Pakistani media and social media platforms, with some reach within Indian digital circles as well.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) termed the misinformation drive a form of psychological warfare, intended to spread panic and confusion among Indian citizens.

The government also dismissed as "fake" certain social media posts claiming that an Indian pilot ejected from his fighter aircraft in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and that a woman air force pilot was

captured in Pakistan.

It also debunked claims that India's power grid has been rendered dysfunctional in a cyberattack by Pakistan and that there was a temporary closure of the Mumbai-Delhi airline route.

"These claims are fake," the government said.

The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said such content is being circulated to create communal hatred in India

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has extended the temporary closure of 25 segments of Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes within the Delhi and Mumbai flight information regions due to operational reasons, it added.

The government also said an old video showing Indian soldiers crying was actu-

ally of youngsters from a private defence coaching centre celebrating their selection in the Army.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check Unit said the video in question was uploaded on Instagram on April 27 and was not related to the Army.

"The video depicts students from a private defence coaching institute celebrating their selection into the Indian Army. The youth in the video reportedly became emotional with joy upon receiving news of their successful recruitment," it said.

The government also debunked reports in a section of foreign media about 10 explosions around the Srinagar airport on Friday as well as separate claims of blasts near the Jaipur airport.

"These claims are fake. Rely only on official sources for authentic information," a government official said. The PIB Fact Check Unit said claims on social media about the destruction of Indian Army posts are false and that a video shared in this regard dated back to 2020.

Punjab and Haryana wake up to noise of explosions, air raid sirens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh

After a night of bristling tension, people woke up to explosion-like sounds in Punjab's Pathankot and Jalandhar districts, while air sirens rang out in Hoshiarpur, Amritsar and Ferozepur districts, as the military conflict between India and Pakistan took a sharp upturn, officials said.

In Haryana's Sirsa too, some locals claimed they heard blast-like sounds after midnight.

An unidentified projectile landed in a residential area at Kanganiwal village in Punjab's Jalandhar district early Saturday, officials said.

The locals said a migrant labourer was injured in the incident, while a few houses in the area also sustained damages. Parts of the unidentified object were lying in the area, they said.

"I was standing near a window when some object hit a water tank (of a house) around 1.30 am, shattering glasses of 4-5 houses before landing," a woman from the area said. A migrant labourer who suffered injuries on his arm was taken to the hospital, she said.

Satinder Kumar, a local, said, "The water tank of our house was damaged, while many window panes were also shattered. There was smoke all around."

Another local resident, Muskan, too said a big explosion took place at night



The debris of an unidentified projectile which landed amid the conflict between India and Pakistan in Jalandhar, Punjab on Saturday

that forced several people to come out of their homes.

"One car was damaged... We were all scared," she said. Sharing her experience, Surjit Kaur said a red-coloured light flashed in the sky which was followed by a big explosion. "Water tanks of some other houses in the area were also damaged," she said.

Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Himanshu Aggarwal has urged people to avoid large gatherings or crowding as part of the precautionary measures.

He also urged people to avoid moving

out in the open and movement in tall buildings, besides ordering closure of markets in Jalandhar Cantt and Adampur.

"Malls and high-rise commercial buildings in the rest of the district will remain closed today," the DC said, asking people to stay calm.

Blast-like sounds were also heard around 5 am in Pathankot and around 8:30 am in Jalandhar. However, there was no official word in this regard.

Meanwhile, air raid sirens were sounded in Hoshiarpur, Amritsar and

Jalandhar on Saturday morning, officials said. The Amritsar district administration at 7:54 am asked people to remain indoors and stay away from windows.

There were reports of explosion-like sounds being heard early Saturday in Amritsar and Goidwal Sahib in Tarn Taran district.

Debris of unidentified objects were found at some places at Beas in Amritsar, Jalandhar and Tarn Taran districts, officials said. The strikes followed after Pakistan launched a fresh wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India — from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat — for the second night on Friday.

According to officials, the security forces thwarted multiple drone attacks launched by Pakistan in Punjab's Ferozepur, Pathankot, Fazilka and Amritsar districts.

In Ferozepur, three members of a family were injured on Friday night after a crashing projectile from a Pakistani drone destroyed by the Indian air defence system landed at their house at Khai PHEME Ke village, setting the structure and a car on fire.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Locals in UP shower flower petals at Indian army convoy

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Garh

In a powerful display of national pride and unity, a group of Indian Army soldiers received a heartwarming and emotional send-off from local residents and staff at a roadside eatery in the Garh region of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday morning. The soldiers, who were travelling from Bareilly towards the northern border as part of their deployment, had briefly halted for a meal, unaware that their short break would turn into a spontaneous celebration of patriotism.

As the soldiers stepped out of the dhaba (roadside eatery) after finishing their breakfast, they were greeted with chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", "Vande Mataram", and "Jai Hind". The staff and passersby had gathered near the entrance and began showering the uniformed men with flower petals. Many folded their hands in reverence, while others saluted the soldiers with pride.

"We did not expect anything like this," said Naik Saurabh Yadav, one of the soldiers in the convoy. "This kind of love and respect from ordinary citizens gives us even more strength. It reminds us what we are fighting for — the people and the spirit of India."

The dhaba staff had also arranged drinking water bottles and snacks for the soldiers, insisting they take them along for the journey ahead. "It is a small gesture," said Rajeev Tiwari, a cook at the eatery. "These men are ready to give their lives for our safety. The least we can do is make sure they are cared for on the road."

The emotional farewell came in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, a large-scale counter-terror operation launched by the Indian Army in response to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Air Force had also carried out precision airstrikes targeting terror launch pads across the border in Pakistan, further raising patriotic sentiment across the country. "Every Indian stands with the armed forces right now," said Sangeeta Mishra, a schoolteacher who had stopped for tea and witnessed the scene. "What happened in Pahalgam shook us. But the way our forces are responding shows the strength of our nation. We owe them our unwavering support."

The gathering turned into an impromptu tribute to the Indian Army, with onlookers capturing the moment on their phones, clapping, and even singing patriotic songs like "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon". Children waved small paper flags and tried to interact with the soldiers, who humbly acknowledged the affection.

"We feel safe because they are out there on the frontlines," said Anwar Ali, a local shopkeeper. "In a way, every citizen is part of this mission. By standing with our soldiers, we are telling the enemy that India is united and unbreakable."

The convoy resumed its journey after a few minutes, but the moment left a lasting impression on all those present. Some eyes were moist and voices cracked as people raised their hands in final salutes.

CM Yogi, Rajnath to inaugurate BrahMos missile production unit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Lucknow will mark a historic milestone in India's defence journey on Sunday with the inauguration of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile production unit—part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

Launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (joining virtually from Delhi), the facility underscores India's push for self-reliance in defence and a major boost to UP's industrial growth.

It signals a powerful stride toward strengthening India's indigenous defence manufacturing capacity.

On this occasion, CM Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will also inaugurate the Titanium and Super Alloys Materials Plant (Strategic Materials Technology Complex). This plant will produce high-quality materials for the aerospace and defence sectors, which will be used in missions like Chandrayaan and in fighter jets.

Along with this, the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility will also be launched. This facility will play a key role in testing and assembling missiles. UP Defence Industrial Corridor, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, has been a top priority for the Yogi government.

There are six nodes in this corridor — Lucknow, Kanpur, Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, and Chitrakoot—where major investments are being made to boost defence manufacturing. In addition to the BrahMos unit, the foundation stone for a Defence Testing Infrastructure System (DTIS) will also be laid at the Lucknow node. This system will help in testing and certifying defence products.

Short films will be shown during the inauguration ceremony, highlighting BrahMos Aerospace, Aero Alloy Technology, and the Defence Corridor. DRDO Secretary Dr Sameer V Kamat will deliver the welcome speech, while Sachin Agarwal, Chairman of PTC Industries, will talk about the company's contribution.

Built at a cost of ₹300 crore, the BrahMos production unit in Lucknow stands on 80 hectares of land provided free of cost by the Yogi government. Completed in three and a half years, the facility will manufacture the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile—a joint India-Russia project with a range of 290 to 400 km and a top speed of Mach 2.8. The BrahMos can be launched from land, sea, or air and uses a "fire and forget" system, making it highly precise and difficult to intercept.

Uttar Pradesh is the second state after Tamil Nadu to establish a Defence Industrial Corridor, launched in 2019. Both corridors are key to the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, aimed at reducing defence imports, boosting indigenous production, generating employment, and encouraging participation from private firms, MSMEs, and startups. The six nodes in Uttar Pradesh's corridor—Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Agra and Chitrakoot—are located near major expressways like the Purvanchal Expressway and Ganga Expressway.

This ensures smooth transport and logistics. The corridor is being developed under the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA). Its strategic location offers excellent logistics for transporting raw materials, finished products and exports.

This strengthens India's defence self-reliance and supports its role in the global supply chain.

Security arrangements tightened at various installations in State, says Odisha Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bhubaneswar

A day after Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi revealed that there is a threat from the sea amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan, the police on Saturday said it has ensured unprecedented security cover along the coastline and around vital installations in the state.

The state police have made special security arrangements for safeguarding various installations like the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Balaore district, Shree Jagannath temple in Puri, Hirakud Dam in Sambalpur, Paradip Port in Jagatsinghpur, Ordinance Factory in Bolangir district and other public places.

Taking to X, the Odisha Police said, "The Indian Army is conducting Operation Sindoor and has issued a high alert. In this context, the state police is patrolling day and night to ensure the security of the coast of Odisha."

Trawlers and all suspects are being thoroughly checked, they said.

"We are always ready to prevent any terrorist attack. We are always vigilant to provide safety to the public. Their safety is our priority," the Odisha Police said on social media.

The state police are patrolling day and night to ensure the safety of the people of Odisha.

"Security arrangements have been tightened at railway stations to counter possible terrorist attacks. Armed forces have been deployed at all entrances and exits of stations. All train coaches and platforms are being checked using metal

detectors. If you see a suspicious person inside a moving train or at a station, immediately inform the police," the state police appealed to the people.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had on Friday said that Odisha sees a possible danger in the sea as it has a long coastline of 480 kilometres, and houses major installations like the missile testing centre at Chandipur and Shree Jagannath Dham in Puri.

The police conduct proper checking and frisking of devotees and they are requested to cooperate. Anti-sabotage squad personnel are conducting regular checks around the temple in Puri

— VINIT AGRAWAL, PURI SP

"Though there is no specific threat to Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, the extra precautions have been taken since terrorists had opened fire on tourists at Pahalgam in J and K after inquiring about their religion," a senior official said. Armed police personnel have taken positions around Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri as lakhs of pilgrims from across the country visit the shrine every year, he said.

"The police conduct proper checking and frisking of devotees, and they are requested to cooperate. Anti-sabotage squad personnel are conducting regular checks around the temple. The entire temple area and the pilgrim town are under CCTV surveillance," Puri SP Vinit Agrawal said.

A team of the National Security

Guard (NSG) visited Puri on May 5 and 6 and supervised the security arrangements at the 12th-century shrine. They reviewed the existing security arrangements at the entry and exit points, crowd management protocols, emergency response mechanisms and others, the official said. Puri district police sources said that hotel owners are also instructed to keep proper records of their guests and regularly update police if they find anything suspicious.

Regular checking of vehicles is underway at various locations across Puri, the police said, adding that marine fishing communities have been asked to keep an eye on vessels.

A high-level emergency meeting was held on the security of the ITR, Chandipur, on Friday afternoon.

The ITR premises also house the Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE), a premier DRDO laboratory.

Senior police officers, DRDO officials, coast guard and marine police personnel have chalked out a plan for ensuring proper security at ITR and Wheeler Island, where major missiles are test-fired, the sources said.

The security arrangements have also been strengthened at the Army Air Defence College near Gopalpur, the ordinance factory in Bolangir, INS Chilka and the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IERL) near Chhatrapur, they said.

The Hirakud Dam in Sambalpur district, which is the longest earthen dam in Asia, has also been placed under heightened surveillance.

The authorities of the Paradip Port in Jagatsinghpur district are also on high alert, another official said.

Rajasthan CM holds all-party meeting amid military conflict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jaipur

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Saturday held an all-party meeting at his office here and briefed party representatives about the state government's preparedness amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan.

The western part of Rajasthan, which shares International Border with Pakistan, has been facing aerial threats from the neighbouring country.

Even today, a high alert was issued in the border districts Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Sri Ganganagar amid threats of potential strikes by Pakistan.

The all-party meeting was attended by Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly and representatives of other political parties.

The chief minister shared details regarding the state government's preparations and also sought suggestions.

"The CM called an all-party meeting to discuss the situation. Details regarding our preparations were shared with the leaders of political parties and suggestions were sought. The leaders of all parties extended support," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said.

He said that representatives from all parties are united and gave their suggestions.

Leader of Opposition Jolly said that the government has made elaborate arrangements in view of the situation and the entire opposition is with the government.

He said that the entire nation stands with the defence forces of the country.

Karnataka won't approve leaves of policemen: Parameshwara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

In view of the prevailing security situation in the country, policemen will not be given leaves, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday. He said the Chief Minister will hold a special meeting this evening to review the preparedness to deal with any situation.

"We will not approve any leaves or holidays of policemen at this juncture because we don't know when normalcy returns. The Centre will inform us when the normalcy returns. Till such time we have to be alert," Parameshwara told reporters here.

He said the state government has to work effectively everywhere especially in the coastal region. "Learning from our past experience during war, security should be strong in the coastal regions. We have to be alert all along the coastal line, right from Uttara Kannada to Dakshina Kannada," the Minister explained.

According to Parameshwara, there are three layers of security in the coastal area, which are police, security arranged by ports and the Indian Navy.

He also said that Siddaramaiah will chair a meeting with officials of Home and Revenue Department to review the preparedness of the state government to deal with any situation.

Granthi dies in heavy Pakistan shelling

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Amarjeet Singh, an ex-serviceman and a devout Granthi who regularly performed Paath at the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Poonch town of Jammu on Wednesday, performed his last duty as a 'true soldier' before he became the target of the heavy Pakistan shelling and succumbed to his injuries. Minutes before stepping out of the Gurdwara, Amarjeet Singh used the public address system to appeal to the residents to stay indoors in the wake of heavy shelling in the Poonch town.

A local scribe from Poonch told The Pioneer, "It was around 7.00 am, I heard Amarjeet Singh relaying the advisory of the local police to stay indoors to ensure their safety and security as Poonch town was witnessing heavy shelling. Ten minutes later, as he stepped out to return to his home, he was badly hit by splinters of the Pakistani shell that exploded near the boundary wall of the Gurdwara."

Singh, who lived in the close vicinity of the Gurdwara, was immediately rushed to the district hospital, where doctors tried their best to save his life, but he succumbed to his fatal injuries.

16 civilians, including five children, were killed in cross-border shelling by the Pakistan army on Wednesday. Three other members belonging to the Sikh community, including a 33-year-old Balvinder Kour, Amreek Singh and Ranjit Singh, were among the deceased civilians. A local cleric from Mandi, Maulana Mohd Iqbal, who taught young children at Madrasa Zia-ul-Uloom in Poonch city, also lost his life in the heavy shelling. A seven-year-old Maryam Khatoon, became



Family members of Amarjeet Singh

the youngest victim of heavy Pakistani shelling while four minor kids, including siblings 14-year-old Ayan, 12-year-old Aruba, and 13-year-old Vihaan Bhargava, also lost their lives in the targeted shelling of civilian areas hours after India launched 'Operation Sindoor' to demolish terror factories operating in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir late Tuesday night. At least 10 other children were injured in the cross-border shelling.

After witnessing 'death and destruction', Poonch is silently mourning the loss of precious human lives.

The bustling Poonch town remains shut and the main markets wear a deserted look. The religious places hit during the shelling have once again opened their gates to allow disciples to offer prayers and heal themselves. However, uneasy calm prevailed everywhere as the majority of city inhabitants had shifted temporarily to safer places, and the ones who decid-

ed to stay behind bid farewell to their loved ones.

Narinder Singh from the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Poonch, while paying tributes after the cremation ceremony, said Amarjeet Singh, survived by his wife, a son in Class 6 and a daughter, used to regularly play the tabla at the gurdwara, while another victim, Amreek Singh, served as a raagi for over 28 years in Poonch. It is a great loss for the members of the Sikh community in Poonch as they have lost these people in the cross-border shelling.

33-year-old Balvinder Kaur, a homemaker, was killed in Mankote. She had three children, the youngest just a year and a half old.

The members of the Sikh community have appealed to the district administration to restore confidence in the local population to maintain communal harmony during testing times.

Ram Mandir makes special arrangements for Ramlala

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ Ayodhya

With Uttar Pradesh witnessing erratic summer weather — ranging from intense heatwaves to overcast skies and sporadic drizzles — the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has initiated several measures to ensure the well-being of Ramlala, the child form of Lord Ram seated in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

In recent weeks, the temperature in Ayodhya has been hovering around 38°C, making the conditions inside the stone sanctum particularly harsh. The heat had begun affecting not only devotees visiting the temple but also the priests conducting daily rituals in the inner sanctum. Responding to concerns raised by the temple priests and devotees, the Trust has now installed two high-capacity coolers inside the sanctum to regulate the temperature.

Apart from enhancing the infrastructure, the temple administration has also introduced seasonal changes in Ramlala's daily worship routine. Recognising the intense heat of the summer months, particularly during the Hindu calendar month of Jyeshtha, several cooling offerings and garments have been introduced into the seva (daily service).

Ramlala is now being adorned in specially designed garments made from light silk and breathable cotton fabrics. These clothes not only offer comfort but are also in line with the traditional aesthetics of temple rituals. Floral decorations using fragrant summer flowers such as jasmine, desi gulab (native rose), champa and juhi are being used to create garlands and enhance

the sanctity of the inner chamber.

To help keep the deity cool, offerings of curd, fresh fruit juices, and lassi are now a part of the daily afternoon bhog (offering). In addition, Ramlala is being served Madhupark — a sacred mixture of honey, curd and desi ghee — five times a day, from Shringar Aarti in the morning to Shayan Aarti at night. According to temple priests, this mixture is both nourishing and symbolically cooling, and is believed to be among the Lord's preferred offerings.

The temple priests have welcomed these timely arrangements, stating that they make the worship environment more comfortable and spiritually conducive. "The sanctum is made of stone and naturally retains heat. During peak summer afternoons, it becomes difficult to perform rituals. These coolers and the seasonal changes in offerings have made a big difference," said one of the senior priests.

With the weather in Uttar Pradesh remaining unpredictable — shifting between hot spells and cloudy relief — the temple authorities have expressed their intent to continue monitoring conditions closely and make necessary changes to ensure Ramlala's comfort. Sources within the temple administration say that if the temperatures rise further, more cooling mechanisms, including fans and possibly air conditioning, could be considered.

These changes are part of a broader effort to maintain a balance between age-old traditions and modern comforts, ensuring that the spiritual and devotional atmosphere of the Ram Mandir remains intact while also addressing practical needs during the harsh summer months.

Russia assured full support to India in its fight against terrorism: MoS Defence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Moscow

Russia has assured full support to India in its fight against all manifestations of terrorism and promised to promptly fulfil military orders in the pipeline, visiting Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said on Saturday.



Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth

through existing frameworks and regular consultations. During the meeting, he thanked Russia for its support against cross-border terrorism.

During the visit, Seth laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He also addressed the members of the Indian community in Moscow on Friday.

"The colder the weather in Russia, the warmer the friendship with India," he said, observing that the month of May is supposed to be pleasantly warm, but this year it was unusually cold.

China urges India and Pakistan to exercise calm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Beijing

China on Saturday strongly urged India and Pakistan to exercise calm and restraint and return to the track of peaceful settlement amid reports of escalation of the military conflict between the two neighbours.

China is closely following the ongoing situation between India and Pakistan and is deeply concerned about the escalation, a statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here.

He was referring to a question about the reports of escalation of conflict between India and what it terms as iron-clad ally, Pakistan.

mental interest of both India and Pakistan, and for a stable and peaceful region. This is also what the international community hopes to see.

Since the Pahalgam terrorist attack, China, while condemning it, has called for restraint, besides a fair and swift investigation into the attack.

Tensions between India and Pakistan increased after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Bangladesh to ban Hasina's political party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

Bangladesh's interim government on Friday said it would take a "quick decision" on banning deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League.

The announcement by the interim government chief Professor Muhammad Yunus's office in a statement came after student-led newly floated National Citizen Party (NCP) activists overnight rallied in front of his official residence demanding Hasina's party be disbanded.

NCP leadership had spearheaded the massive student-led protests that resulted in the ouster of Hasina on August 5 last year, and Yunus had taken over on August 8. Those students came together to form the NCP earlier this year.

"The government considers with seriousness the recent demand raised on behalf of different political parties, organisations and the people to disband Awami League over allegations of autocratic rule and terrorist activities," the interim government statement said.

The government has established contacts with different political parties and "will take a quick decision in consultation with them," it said.

The NCP set up a makeshift stage near Yunus's official residence 'Jamuna' after midnight Thursday. The party activists also offered Friday prayers at the scene.

The government statement came as leaders of different Islamist parties and groups such as Jamaat-e-Islam, its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir and Hefazate-Islam on Friday also joined the rally of the NCP.

The statement urged everyone to keep restraint until a decision is made and added that the government has disbanded what it called "terrorist Chhatra League" regarded as the Awami League's front organisation.

"Our movement has started. This campaign may continue for one day or even a month. We will have to remain on the street until the announcement of banning Awami League is made," an NCP leader Sarjis Alam told the rally.

The activists also chanted slogans against the Awami League.

Later, NCP protestors enforced a road blockade at Shahbagh Square.

Media reports suggest that the movement spread to various parts of the country. "Until the government notification is issued on the ban, we will not return to our

home. We will dig Awami League's grave at Shahbagh," Alam said, as more rightwing and Islamist groups joined the Shahbagh blockade.

NCP convenor Nahid Islam, meanwhile, said on his verified Facebook account that activists would march towards Dhaka until an immediate decision comes.

He said the NCP activists had already erected blockades at different parts of the capital.

Earlier, NCP leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah on Thursday night initiated the sit-in protest near Yusuf's residence along with several supporters and other leaders such as Islam joined him after midnight.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which was Awami League's main rival, has already distanced itself from the demand saying they are opposed to a ban on any political party.

Most of the leaders of the Awami League are in jail or on the run at home and abroad.

Since its inception, NCP has been demanding a ban on Hasina's party.

The former prime minister, currently believed to be in India and several of the Awami League leaders face a series of cases against them in various Bangladesh courts.

Saudi minister Discusses tensions with Pak minister Dar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan on Saturday evoked its "close and balanced relations" with both India and Pakistan and discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions and end ongoing military confrontations between them.

Faisal held two phone calls, with Minister of External Affairs India S Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, a statement from the Saudi Foreign Office said. The discussions focused on efforts to de-escalate tensions and end ongoing military confrontations, it said, adding, Faisal affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to the security and stability of the region and its close and balanced relations with both friendly countries.

The Saudi statement came as the Indian and Pakistani militaries targeted each other's installations using missiles in the last more than 12 hours, further escalating the already tense conflict situation.

Earlier on Saturday, a brief statement from the Foreign Ministry said that upon the directives of the Saudi leadership, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir visited India and Pakistan on May 8 and 9 as part of the Kingdom's "ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions, end current military confrontations, and promote the resolution of all disputes through dialogue and diplomatic channels."

Al-Jubeir travelled to New Delhi on Thursday on an unannounced visit and discussed with Jaishankar the situation that has developed since India's military strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir early Wednesday prompted by the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

On Friday, the Saudi minister visited Islamabad, where he held talks with Pakistan's top leadership.

Tensions between India and Pakistan increased after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and PoK.

Gravely concerned: Singapore on India-Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Singapore

Singapore has said it is gravely concerned about the ongoing "military confrontation" between India and Pakistan and has urged both parties to de-escalate.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Pakistan launched a fresh wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India — from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat — for the second night on Friday.

"Singapore is gravely concerned about the ongoing military confrontation between India and Pakistan following the heinous terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22," Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said in a statement on Friday.

"We call on both parties to de-escalate tensions through diplomatic means and ensure the safety of all civilians," it said.

Singapore had strongly condemned the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives.

On May 7, the MFA advised Singaporeans to defer all non-essential travel to Jammu and Kashmir in India, and to Pakistan.

"Travellers should exercise precaution, especially at the border regions between Pakistan and India," said the MFA, citing the volatile security situation between the two countries.

Singaporeans in India and Pakistan are advised to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions for personal safety, including avoiding large gatherings, monitoring local news closely, and heeding instructions of local authorities, the MFA said.

Around 30 dead in separatist attack in southeastern Nigeria: Amnesty International

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Abuja (Nigeria)

At least 30 people have been killed after gunmen attacked travellers on a major highway in the southeastern part of Nigeria, rights group Amnesty International said.

The rights group said Friday that more than 20 vehicles and trucks were set ablaze during the Thursday attack along the Okigwe-Owerri highway in Imo state.

Police confirmed the attack but not the death toll.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but police suspect the Eastern Security Network, the paramilitary wing of the proscribed separatist group Indigenous People of Biafra.

The rights group said Friday that more than 20 vehicles and trucks were set ablaze during the Thursday attack along the Okigwe-Owerri highway in Imo state

The secessionist campaign in southeastern Nigeria dates back to when the short-lived Republic of Biafra fought and lost a civil war from 1967 to 1970 to become independent from the West African country. An estimated 1 million people died in the conflict, many from starvation.

The rights group said "international law requires the Nigerian government to promptly investigate unlawful killings with a view to bringing perpetrators to justice." One suspect connected to the attack was killed in a joint operation by law enforcement agencies, police spokesperson Okoye Henry said in a statement.

"An intensive manhunt is ongoing to apprehend the fleeing suspects and bring them to justice," Henry said. Two of the group's prominent leaders, Nnamdi Kanu and Simon Ekpa, are in custody in Nigeria and Finland, respectively. Kanu is standing trial on a seven-count charge bordering on terrorism and treasonable felony. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Nigerian government said Friday it has not begun extradition proceedings but is in talks with Finnish authorities to ensure Ekpa is held accountable for his alleged actions. For many years Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with at least 210 million people — has been wracked by violence related to the activities of armed extremist groups.

United States to accept white South African refugees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

The Trump administration will welcome more than two dozen white South Africans to the United States as refugees next week, an unusual move because it has suspended most refugee resettlement operations, officials and documents said.

The first Afrikaner refugees are arriving Monday at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, according to a document. They are expected to be greeted by a government delegation, including the deputy secretary of state and officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, which has organised their resettlement under its Office for Refugee Resettlement. The flight will be the first of several in a "much larger-scale relocation effort", White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told reporters.

"What's happening in South Africa fits

the textbook definition of why the refugee programme was created," he said. "This is persecution based on a protected characteristic — in this case, race. This is race-based persecution."

State Department refugee programmes have been put on hold since President Donald Trump ordered a review in February. While halting arrivals from Afghanistan, Iraq, most of sub-Saharan Africa and throughout Latin America, Trump also issued an executive order prioritising the processing of white South Africans who claim racial discrimination in their home country. "The US Embassy in Pretoria has been conducting interviews and processing pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order on Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa," the State Department said. "The Department of State is prioritising consideration for US refugee resettlement of Afrikaners in South Africa who

are victims of unjust racial discrimination."

The department said nothing about the imminent arrival of what officials said are believed to be more than two dozen white South Africans from roughly four families who had applied for resettlement in the US. Their arrival had originally been scheduled for early last week but was delayed for reasons that were not immediately clear.

The HHS refugee office was ready to offer them support, including with housing, furniture and other household items, and expenses like groceries, clothing, diapers and more, the document says. "This effort is a stated priority of the administration."

HHS didn't respond to messages seeking comment. The Trump administration has taken an outspoken adversarial position in regard to South Africa, which is the homeland of close Trump adviser Elon Musk and also holds the rotating presidency of the Group of 20 developed and devel-

oping nations. Secretary of State Marco Rubio notably boycotted a G20 foreign ministers meeting in Johannesburg in March because its main agenda centered on diversity, inclusion and climate change. Rubio also expelled South Africa's ambassador to the US in March for comments that the Trump administration interpreted as accusing the president of promoting white supremacy. Shortly thereafter, the State Department ended all engagement with the G20 during South Africa's presidency. The US is due to host G20 meetings in 2026. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's office said in a statement Friday that he had spoken with Trump late last month on issues including the US criticism of South Africa and the Trump administration's allegations that Afrikaners are being persecuted. Ramaphosa told Trump that the information the US president had received "was completely false", the statement said.

Myanmar's military government chief holds meeting with China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

The chief of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, has for the first time since seizing power four years ago met with President Xi Jinping of China, a top ally of his military government, state-run media in the Southeast Asian nation reported Saturday. The Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported that Xi pledged to provide assistance for recovery after Myanmar's devastating earthquake in March and aid in efforts to end the country's civil war. The two leaders met Friday in Moscow on the sidelines of the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Its report said they also discussed "bilateral relations, enhancing cooperation in all sectors, and cooperating in regional stability and peace" China has been using its influence with ethnic rebel organisations to ease their pressure on the military government in an apparent effort to stabilise it. China, along with Russia, is a major arms supplier to Myanmar's military in its war against pro-democracy and ethnic minority resistance forces. Beijing is also Myanmar's biggest trading partner and has invested billions of dollars in mines, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure. Its interests in security in Myanmar are especially strong because the two nations share an 890-mile (1,440-kilometer) border. China's government has maintained good working relations with Myanmar's ruling military, which is shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for the army's February 2021 takeover from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and for major human rights violations. It is also one of the countries providing major relief and

reconstruction assistance after the 7.7-magnitude March 28 earthquake that killed more than 3,700 people in Myanmar and injured more than 5,100. The quake worsened an already dire humanitarian crisis, with more than 3 million people displaced from their homes and nearly 20 million in need due to the war, according to the United Nations. Beijing has been concerned about instability that threatens its interests in Myanmar since Myanmar's army suffered unprecedented battlefield defeats over the past few years, especially in areas near the Chinese border. An offensive began in October 2023, by the "Three Brotherhood Alliance", comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Taang National Liberation Army, was able to quickly capture towns and overrun military bases and command centres and strategic cities along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state. It was widely seen at the time as having Beijing's tacit support to help stamp out rampant organised crime activities in areas controlled by ethnic Chinese. In early 2024, Beijing helped broker a ceasefire, but that quickly fell apart when the alliance launched new attacks. Myanmar's ruling generals and China's government showed concern as pro-democracy guerrillas and armed ethnic minority groups, sometimes working hand in hand, gained the initiative in fighting. The alliance's offensive lost momentum after China shut down border crossings, cut electricity to Myanmar towns and took other measures to discourage the fighting. Under increasing pressure from Beijing, the Myanmar National

Democratic Alliance Army or MNDAA, withdrew its forces and administration authorities last month from the strategically important town of Lashio in northeastern Myanmar, which hosts a major regional military headquarters but which the rebel group seized in August last year.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sanjeev Dhingra, S/o Madan Lal Dhingra, R/o G-49, Top Floor, Lajpat Nagar-2, New Delhi has changed my name from Sanjeev Dhingra to Sanjiv Dhingra for all future purposes. PD(2010)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sajda, wife of Lt. Sh. Javed Akhtar, resident of House No. 239, Street No. 3, New Lahore Colony, SDM Court, Shastrri Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031, has disowned her daughter Rani Baby (DOB: 28.01.2002) from all my movable and immovable properties due to her misconduct and misbehavior. She has severed all relations with her, and my client shall not be responsible for any of her acts, deeds, or financial transactions of any nature whatsoever from this day forth. GAGAN KUMAR SINGHAL, D/4022/2015 (Advocate) for GCS LEGAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Manoj Singh Mehta to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Urvasi Rana Ch. Padam Singh Rana is purchasing the Built-up Second Floor Front Side (Left Portion), Flat Pvt. No. SF-01, without roof rights, built on land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of total land area measuring 350 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 1915, situated in the area of Village Burari, abadi known as Satyawati Bhawan, Gali No.2, A-1 Block Extn., Sant Nagar, Burari, Opp. Burari Police Station, Delhi-110084 from Mrs. Anita Kumari who became owner vide Notarized GPA dated 10.07.2023, Notarized ATs dated 10.07.2023 & Notarized Deed of Will dated 10.07.2023 executed by Mr. Ram Kumar Tomar and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. So to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim right/life/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301>Contact No: 120-4289379

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़) ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना. क्र. 1441/निर्माण/2025 दिनांक 02.05.2025. एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

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Spieth chases Grand Slam again at PGA Championship 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Jordan Spieth headed to Quail Hollow for the PGA Championship with more expectations than pressure for being next in line to join the most elite fraternity in golf with the career Grand Slam. Only the Wanamaker Trophy was missing. That was eight years ago. He tied for 28th.

"I really had no reason not to have had a better chance," Spieth said as he tried to recall the 2017 PGA Championship. He was fresh off his astonishing birdie-eagle-birdie-par finish to win the British Open at Royal Birkdale, the third leg of the Grand Slam.

Spieth had said going into that PGA, "If I don't win one in the next 10 years, then maybe there's added pressure. And hopefully, we don't have to have this conversation in 10 years."

It's getting close to that. He tries for the ninth time when the PGA Championship returns to Quail Hollow on May 15-18. If there are renewed expectations, they come from Rory McIlroy getting the final piece of his Grand Slam puzzle with a dream win at the Masters.

Now the attention falls to Spieth, although there are glaring differences, particularly their form. McIlroy had already won Pebble Beach and The Players Championship this year going into the Masters. Spieth hasn't won in more than three years.

Not many doubt Spieth is capable. He shot 62 in the final round of the CJ Cup Byron Nelson, enough to ask if golf could get another career slam in a span of 35 days. "Odds would say he's good enough

to do it," Scottie Scheffler said. Spieth, however, is only six months removed from surgery on a left wrist he believes first was injured toward the end of 2017 and the start of 2018.

As much as he has talked about this being a fresh start, and a 10-year outlook for what he wants to achieve, he can't help but look back and wonder how differently his career could have gone if he had taken care of his wrist sooner.

"If I'm really feeling petty about myself, I lost six years because of this," he said. "I can remember specific lessons where my grip got too weak and I couldn't strengthen it by the time I got to a 4-iron. ... And then I started getting into really bad habits just to make up for an open face. And never fixed it until the end of '20 and beginning of '21."

But the pain never went away. The tendon that connects the forearm to the wrist would pop out, first a week before the 2023 PGA Championship, even during the final round of the British Open last year at Royal Troon. That's when he realized surgery was his best option.

"I look back at that and say, 'If I did something right away, I think last year looks a lot different,'" Spieth said. As much as he wants to move forward, the past is where Spieth needs to look to rebuild the swing that took him to No. 1 in the world and three majors before his 24th birthday.

The past also tempts to remember how good it was. "Yeah, I've lived that way before and it doesn't help," Spieth said. "I bounce around back a little bit, like 'What if I had just got on top of it back then? What could



have happened?' Really, in 19 and '20, I was living in the past every day."

That wouldn't seem to help. "Not at 25 years old," he said. "It's not really healthy."

He has talked about giving himself grace in his return to golf after being out six months from the August surgery. He is writing in a journal, his thoughts mainly about gratitude to be playing again. But then he gets into competitive mode and finds himself in a hurry to have everything the way it once was.

Ten years ago, he won the Masters and U.S. Open, and he was tied for the lead in the British Open when he missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th hole at St. Andrews. He missed the playoff by one shot, and a month later was runner-up to Jason Day in the PGA Championship.

He was three shots away from a shot at the Grand Slam. Jack Nicklaus in 1975 was the only other player that close (aggregate score) in the four majors.

"Let's not forget when he won all the majors and all the tournaments at such a young age, they came so quickly," Curtis Strange said. "Can you sustain that over the next eight or ten years. He didn't. One was because of some injuries. But his ball striking ... Just look at the stats. His ball striking is not near what Scottie Scheffler's is. What does he have to do? He has to chip and putt like we know Jordan can, and sometimes that doesn't happen every single day."

Spieth was 22 during that dream season in 2015, which ended with him winning the FedEx Cup. Now he is married, the father of two, another on the way this summer.

How does he convince himself his best golf is ahead when the past includes a season that only comes along once in a career for anyone not named Nicklaus or Tiger Woods. "My situation is a really interesting one," Spieth said.

"You want to be as present as possible, and in my situation it's a really hard thing to do. Because I'm trying to live a little bit in the past, but I'm also trying to satisfy the future for the past, for whatever length of time I have left playing at a high level."

Spieth played in the final group on Saturday of the 2019 PGA Championship at Bethpage Black. He was seven shots behind and had no idea where the ball was going unless he had a putter in his hands. He tied for fourth, six shots behind. That was his best finish in the PGA with the Grand Slam at stake and it was never close.

As tough as it was for McIlroy to finally win the Masters, he doesn't see it much easier for Spieth in the PGA Championship.

"You have to go back to the same tournament every year for Jordan, but not the same golf course," McIlroy said. "It's a bit of a different proposition for him rather than me having to go back to the same venue every year."

What doesn't change are the stakes. McIlroy now can speak from experience.

"You know that you're not just trying to win another tournament, you're trying to become part of history, and that has a certain weight to it," McIlroy said. "I've certainly felt that at Augusta over the years. I'm sure Jordan has felt that a bit going into each PGA that he's had a chance to do the same thing."

India face tricky Sri Lanka test in ODI final showdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIAN ■ Colombo

Indian women's team will bank on its smooth-functioning batting line-up to ward off a tricky Sri Lanka and win the ODI tri-series final here on Sunday.

India's lone defeat in this event came against the Lankans but Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been the most dominant team, finishing at the top of the points table with three wins from four matches.

Sri Lanka finished second with two wins and as many losses while South Africa were at the bottom of the pile with only one win in four games.

Winning this contest will also be paramount for both India and Sri Lanka, as it would help them in the buildup to the ODI World Cup later this year.

The primary reason behind India's fine run in the tournament is their excellent batting effort. With 201 runs at an average of 67, including a century (123) against South Africa, Jemimah Rodrigues has been India's best batter here.

Others like Pratika Rawal (164), Smriti Mandhana (148) and Deepti Sharma (126) have proved to be vital cogs with timely contributions.

Deepti's 93 consolidated India's position against South Africa in a league match but it was also symbolic of the stability in their lower-order.

Skinner Harmanpreet hasn't had any big score to her credit so far and often failed to convert the starts into big scores. However, her 41 not out, 30 and 28 in the last three matches indicate a big knock could be around the corner.

Sneh Rana has been the best bowler in the competition taking 11 wickets which included a five-wicket haul against South Africa. On their part, Sri Lanka will hope star batter Harshitha Samarawickrama



continues to fire against India in key clashes as her 53 played a pivotal role in the hosts' win in a league match.

The 26-year-old Samarawickrama will also draw confidence from her match-winning 69 not out against India in the T20 Asia Cup final last year, which had powered the Islanders to an eight-wicket victory. With two fifties and 177 runs in four matches, the left-handed Samarawickrama has been Sri Lanka's best batter in this series. The home captain and key all-rounder Chamari Athapaththu, with 88

runs and five wickets in four matches, hasn't been at her best so far and her contributions in the summit clash could also influence its outcome. Dewmi Vihanga (nine wickets) has had the strongest of impacts in the competition among Lankan bowlers but the Indian batters have negated her well earlier in the tournament.

Teams (from): India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati

Reddy, Sneha Rana, Nallapureddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay.

Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne, Hansima Karunaratne, Hasini Perera, Piumi Wathala, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Nilakshika Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (c), Kavisha Dilhari, Manudi Nanayakkara, Rashmika Sewwandi, Dewmi Vihanga, Inoshi Priyadarshini, Achini Kalasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Malki Madara, Inoka Ranaweera.

Ayush, Unnati lose in semifinal at Taipei Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Taipei

Rising shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda ended their impressive runs with semifinal finishes in the men's and women's singles respectively, bringing curtains down on India's campaign at the \$240,000 BWF Taipei Open Super 300 here on Saturday.

Ayush, 20, a bronze medalist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, fought hard before going down 18-21, 17-21 to local favourite and world No. 7 Chou Tien Chen, a veteran of nearly two decades on the international circuit.

Earlier, Unnati, the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters winner, showed early promise but couldn't sustain the momentum, losing 19-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes to top seed and world No. 8 Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, the 2022 World Junior Champion.

Armed with a powerful smash and solid net play, Ayush had beaten top names including All England runner-up Lee Chia Hao, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, and Canada's Brian Yang in earlier rounds.

He began strongly against Chou, attacking the forecourt and using sharp angles to build an 8-4 lead.

But a few unforced errors allowed Chou to close the gap to 10-9 before taking a narrow lead at the break.

From 11-11, both players matched each other point for point. Ayush continued to push with his forehand smashes and attacking play, but Chou's experience showed.

At 18-18, the local star produced a body smash and followed it with a

sharp backhand to take the opening game. The intensity remained high in the second game. Ayush stayed aggressive, mixing up his strokes well to keep Chou guessing and led 11-10 at the interval.

However, Chou quickly turned the tables, winning a net duel and a parallel exchange to go up 13-11. Ayush fought back to 14-13, but a couple of long shots hurt his rhythm.

Chou kept up the pressure with angled returns, pushing Ayush to the corners and earning four match points at 20-16. The Indian saved one but eventually sent a backhand into the net to concede the match.

Hooda vs Miyazaki
Hooda started brightly, showing good control in the front court and using her smashes well to unsettle Miyazaki, opening up a 7-3 lead.

A body smash, a quick net return, and a deceptive block gave her an 11-6 advantage at the break.

After the change of ends, errors crept into Hooda's game. Miyazaki narrowed the gap to 10-12 and eventually levelled at 18-18 when Hooda netted a return.

The Japanese grabbed a game point as Hooda went wide and sealed it with a perfectly placed straight smash.

Miyazaki raced to a 4-0 lead in the second game as Hooda looked rattled. Trailing 2-8, the Indian missed key opportunities, including a point when her opponent was on the floor.

Hooda's inconsistency continued, while Miyazaki stayed sharp, capitalising on a lucky net chord and building a 15-6 lead before closing out the match with ease.

Indian archers win gold, silver and bronze at Archery World Cup Stage 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Shanghai

Indian compound archers delivered a stellar performance, clinching a gold, silver and bronze apiece in the team events at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Saturday.

The highlight of the medal rush was the gold won by the men's team comprising Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Rishabh Yadav who defeated Mexico 232-228 in a tense final.

India began strongly taking a 2-point lead with a near-flawless 59 in the first end to Mexico's 57. The second end saw Mexico fighting back with 58, while India managed 56 to level the match at 115-115 at the half-way stage.

In the third end, India edged ahead again with a 58 as Mexico posted 57, giving the Indians a slender 173-172 lead.

The Indian trio held its nerve in the final end, shooting a superb 59 to seal the gold with Mexico managing only 56. In the women's compound final, the team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam,

Madhura Dhamangaonkar and Chikitha Taniparthi settled for silver after a 221-234 loss to a strong Mexican side.

It was a one-sided contest, but the Indian women showed promise throughout the tournament to earn a podium finish. Adding to the medal tally, the Indian compound mixed team of Verma and Madhura clinched bronze, defeating Malaysia in a low-scoring third-place play-off. The 24-year-old Madhura, who had never won a World Cup medal before, is making her second appearance in the competition having made a comeback after three years. Her last appearance was in the 2022 Archery World Cup Stage 4 in Medellin. These results underline India's growing depth and consistency in compound archery on the world stage.

With compound archery set to make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 featuring a solitary event in the mixed team category, India will be eyeing its first-ever medal in archery in the mega sporting show.

Aditi Ashok fails to make cut at Mizuho Americas Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jersey City (USA)

Aditi Ashok failed to make the cut at Mizuho Americas Open after shooting a second round of even par, having previously carded 77 in the first round and finished with a total of five-over 149.

Starting on the back nine, Aditi opened the day with a birdie before dropping a shot on the 13th hole. She soon picked up another shot on the 18th hole. On the eighth, Aditi made another birdie to close the day at even par. The first

day's score of five-over par proved to be a detriment to her campaign this week as the cut fell at one under par.

The world No 1 Nelly Korda played four-under par for the second day in a row as she placed herself in tied first alongside Somi Lee (69-67) and Andrea Lee (68-68) with a combined total of eight under par.

Nelly started her round from the back nine and had birdies on the 11th and 14th holes before dropping shots on the 17th and holes.

Gimenez brace lifts Milan to 3-1 win over Bologna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Milan

Santiago Gimenez scored twice and had a goal disallowed as AC Milan rallied to beat Bologna 3-1 in Serie A on Friday and keep alive its hopes

of European soccer next season. It was the second game in row in which Milan has come from behind to secure three points. Milan is eighth in the Italian league, a point above Fiorentina and two points behind a faltering Bologna. The top four will go into

the Champions League and the fifth- and sixth-placed teams qualify for the Europa League and Europa Conference League, respectively. Juventus is fourth with 63 points, the same as the two teams behind it, Roma and Lazio.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

ZONAL OFFICE, CIVIL LINES, Jabalpur- 482001
Ph: 0761-2624977. Email: zobjabalpur@indianbank.co.in

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD APPENDIX- IV-A" [RULE 9(1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of the amounts and Interest due to Indian Bank branch there mentioned against account herein below. The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

S. No.	Branch Name Name of the Account Name of the Borrower / Prop./Director/ Partner / Guarantor / Mortgageor	Detailed description of the Property For E- Auction	Amount Outstanding	
			Encumbrances On Property	Reserve Price EMD Amount
1.	Raipur Hoshangabad Branch 1. Shri Sunil Kumar Sarathe S/o Lal Chand Sarathe 2. Sarita Sarathe W/o Shri Sunil Kumar Sarathe (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor) Contact Person - Ms. Anjana Minz (BM) - 9146370206	One residential house no 03 area 360 Sq Ft i.e. 35.45 Sq. Mt. out of plot no 137 diverted khasra no 60/1, situated at Mouza Rasuliya popularly known as "Ashutosh Nagar" ward no 25 new no 22 PC NO 17 Settlement no 270, Narmadapuram Tehsil and Dist Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram) M.P. Property Owner- Sunil Kumar Sarathe and Sarita Sarathe Boundaries:- North: Road, South: Plot of Shiv Parwar Shānkār Mandir, East: Area Of Seller, West: House of Lalchand Yadav Prop. Id. - IDIB3252558579	Rs. 10,30,702/- (as on 10.12.2019)	Rs 10,50,000/-
			+ interest and other expenses	Rs 1,05,000/-
			Not Known	Rs 10,000/-
2.	Civil Lines Jabalpur Branch Borrower - M/s Skylight Pack Zone Prop: Mr. Sawan Shrivastava s/o Late Surendra Nath Shrivastava Guarantor - Mr. Sudama Prasad Shrivastava & Smt. Asha Devi Shrivastava. Contact Person - Mr. Rajendra Mohanty (BM) - 8763997164	Residential building bearing house no.1783, constructed on diverted layout plot no.5 of Jagantara Prospective Housing society, Jabalpur at present Plot No.5B P/o Khasra No.391/12 JH, NB: 131, PC No.22 situated at Mouza: Shobhapur (Bhadrapura), New Shobhapur Colony, Gokulpur Ward, Jabalpur admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. (20ft.*60ft.) standing in the joint name of Sawan Shrivastav, Asha Shrivastav and Sudama Shrivastav. Bounded: North: House of Pramod Jha, South: Side road and Durga Temple in park, East: House of S C Jha, West: House of Mr.Pal Prop. Id. - IDIB30087491040	Rs. 46,87,430/- (as on 27.09.2018)	Rs. 33,50,000/-
			+ interest and other expenses	Rs. 3,35,000/-
			Not Known	Rs 10,000/-
			Physical Possession	

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://baanknet.com>) of our e auction service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://baanknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** Contact No. 8291220220. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with (<https://baanknet.com>)
Date: 11/05/2025

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

In times of turmoil, it is often cinema that rekindles the spirit of national unity through stories of heroism and honour, says **ABHI SINGHAL**



CINEMA SALUTES

THE BRAVEHEARTS

Cinema has long been a powerful and responsible medium for storytelling, capturing and portraying real-life events with depth and authenticity. Over the years, Indian filmmakers have brought to the screen numerous stories rooted in the nation's complex history and its geopolitical relationships with neighbouring countries. These films take you into the harsh realities of war, terrorism, and propaganda, offering not just entertainment but meaningful insights into the sacrifices made by the armed forces and the challenges faced in safeguarding national security. Through compelling narratives, emotional depth, and striking visuals, such films serve as eye-openers, stirring patriotism and prompting reflection among audiences.

Amid current events, with rising awareness and heightened sensitivity to national issues, scenes from several of these films have found renewed relevance. Clips and dialogues from patriotic movies are going viral on social media platforms, resonating with the public, reinforcing the spirit of unity. For instance, powerful scenes from the 2008 film *Shaurya*, featuring *Kay Kay Menon*, are being widely shared online as symbols of national solidarity. These cinematic moments echo the collective resolve of a nation that stands united against terrorism and divisive forces.

Uri: The Surgical Strike (2019): Based on India's 2016 surgical strikes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir the film follows Major Vihaan Singh Shergill of the Para (Special Forces) as he leads a covert operation to avenge a deadly terrorist attack in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir. The film has won four National Film Awards. The ensemble cast features Vicky Kaushal, Yami Gautam, Paresh Rawal, and Mohit Raina.



Hindustan Ki Kasam (1973): Hindustan Ki Kasam (1973), directed by Chetan Anand, is a patriotic Hindi war film set against the backdrop of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The story follows an Indian Air Force pilot who undertakes a covert mission deep into Pakistani territory after being presumed dead. The film stands out for its powerful portrayal of national duty, emotional intensity, and aerial warfare sequences, making it a tribute to the Indian armed forces. With music composed by Madan Mohan and a memorable title track evoking patriotic fervour, the film captured the spirit of the era and continues to resonate with audiences today.

1971 (2007): Directed by Amrit Sagar, is a Hindi-language war drama based on the true story of Indian soldiers held as prisoners of war (POWs) in Pakistan following the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The film follows six Indian Army officers who attempt a daring escape from a Pakistani camp after years of

unlawful captivity. With a gripping narrative and powerful performances by Manoj Bajpayee, Ravi Kishan, Piyush Mishra, and Deepak Dobriyal, the film highlights themes of resilience, sacrifice, and patriotism. Critically acclaimed for its authenticity and emotional depth, 1971 serves as a reminder of forgotten war heroes and unacknowledged suffering.

Shershaah (2021): A biographical war film that chronicles the life and heroism of Captain Vikram Batra, a Kargil War martyr who was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra. The film captures Batra's valour during Operation Vijay and his undying sense of duty and patriotism. Through intense combat sequences and emotional depth, the film offers a heartfelt tribute to one of India's most celebrated soldiers.

Shaurya (2008): Directed by Samar Khan, is a courtroom drama inspired by the Hollywood film — A

Few Good Men, set against the backdrop of the Indian Army. The film follows two army lawyers, Majors Siddhant Chaudhary and Akash Kapoor, as they defend a fellow officer accused of murder in Kashmir. As the case unfolds, hidden truths emerge, forcing the protagonist to confront his own values and fears. The film stars Kay Kay Menon, Rahul Bose, Javed Jaffrey and Deepak Dobriyal.

Sam Bahadur (2023): Directed by Meghna Gulzar biographical war drama that chronicles the life of India's first field marshal, Sam Manekshaw. The film traces his military career, from his early days at the Indian Military Academy to his pivotal role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, which led to the creation of Bangladesh. The narrative showcases Manekshaw's strategic brilliance and commitment to the nation.

Border (1997): Based on the Battle of Longwala during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. It features an ensemble cast including Sunny Deol, portrays the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers. The film's stirring music and patriotic narrative made it a major critical and commercial success.



LOC Kargil (2003): War film based on the 1999 Kargil conflict between India and Pakistan. Featuring a vast ensemble cast, it recounts the bravery of Indian soldiers during Operation Vijay. The film emphasises patriotism, sacrifice, and the harsh realities of mountain warfare.

These films are more than just cinematic experiences as they are powerful chronicles of courage, sacrifice and patriotism. As they continue to resonate with audiences, especially during times of national reflection, they serve as emotional anchors and reminders of our shared history. In every scene and dialogue, they echo a united call: we stand together, always.

The Ghazi Attack (2017): Hindi-Telugu bilingual war film inspired by the mysterious sinking of Pakistan's PNS Ghazi during the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War. The film portrays the crew's tense underwater standoff as they attempt to thwart an enemy attack on India's aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. The cast includes Rana Daggubati, Kay Kay Menon, Atul Kulkarni.



John Abraham shines again in a Patriotic Drama

A taut story of an Indian woman's fight for freedom in a foreign land finds its soul in *The Diplomat*, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

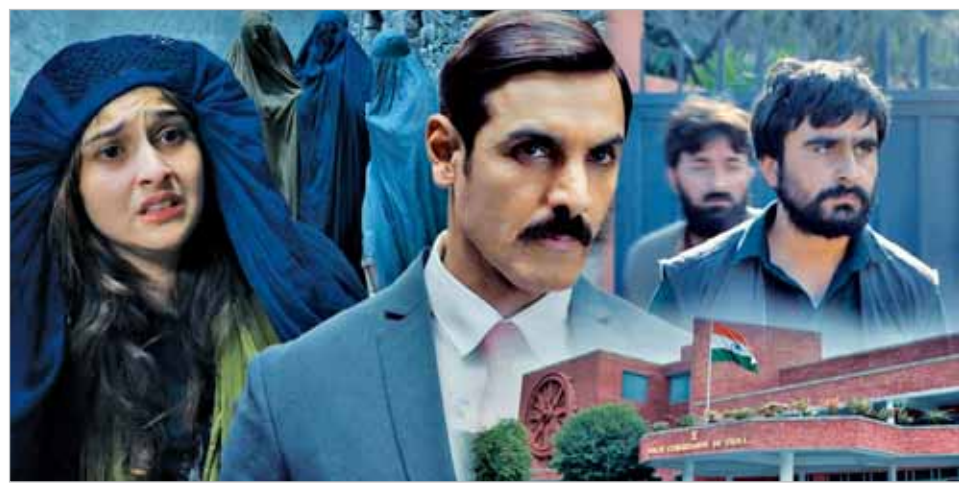


RATING
★★★★

When I hear the name *John Abraham*, a strong wave of patriotism rises within me. Over the years, he has become synonymous with roles that portray undying national pride and commitment to duty. Whether it is donning the uniform of an army officer, stepping into the shoes of a government official, or now taking on the role of a sharp and compassionate diplomat, his performances are so compelling that one might easily imagine John as an actual government representative, embodying the spirit of national service with conviction and intensity.

John's latest film, *The Diplomat*, now streaming on Netflix, takes that patriotic resonance to another level. The movie is based on the true story of Uzma Ahmed, an Indian woman who found herself trapped in Pakistan under distressing circumstances, only to be rescued through the bold efforts of Indian diplomacy. The film opens powerfully, with a distressed Uzma bursting into the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, pleading for help to return to her homeland, India.

The narrative then unfolds to reveal the events that led her to this desperate situation. Uzma, living in Malaysia, was lured into a trap by Tahir, a man from Pakistan posing as someone trustworthy. Fooled by his false promises and charm, she travelled to Pakistan only to discover the harsh truth behind his real intentions. The film cap-



tures her trauma and the fear of being held against her will, evoking empathy from the audience.
Cast — John Abraham, portraying JP Singh, the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Pakistan, delivers a power-packed performance. His body language, calm authority and nuanced dialogue delivery add immense weight to the character. John's ability to blend into such roles like a chameleon proves once again why he is a

favourite for films with patriotic themes. *Sadia Khateeb*, as Uzma Ahmed, gives a deeply moving performance. She portrays a range of emotions — from initial hope to fear to sheer desperation — with remarkable authenticity. Her portrayal of a woman caught in a foreign land, fighting for her basic right to return home, forms the emotional core of the film.

Kumud Mishra plays NM Sayeed as the Pakistani advocate adds a touch of much-needed humour and warmth in an otherwise intense story. *Jagjeet Sandhu*, previously known for his role in *Paatal Lok*, convincingly plays Tahir, the antagonist who traps Uzma. His menacing presence and powerful screen delivery make his character both believable and chilling. His performance captures the manipulative nature of his role, making the audience loathe him with every scene. Veteran actress *Revathy* appears as the late Sushma Swaraj, Union Minister of External Affairs.

Final Thoughts — The movie is well-paced, and the tension builds gradually with gripping courtroom scenes and powerful diplomatic exchanges. Also, the best part is doesn't have to prove again and again that it is a patriotic film and just leans on the story's timeline. The climax is especially stirring. As the tricolour unfurls and patriotic music swells in the backdrop, set dramatically at a border location reminiscent of Wagah, it is hard not to feel emotional, leaving viewers teary-eyed and proud.

SUGGESTED BINGES

Carème
OTT - Apple TV+
Cast - Benjamin Voisin, Jérémie Renier, Lyna Khoudri

The Royals
OTT - Netflix
Cast - Ishaan Khatter, Bhumi Pednekar, Sakshi Tanwar, Zeenat Aman

The Diplomat
OTT - Netflix
Cast - John Abraham, Kumud Mishra, Vishal Vashishtha, Sadia Khatib, Revathy, Ashwath Bhatt

Long Way Home
OTT - Apple TV+
Cast - Ewan McGregor, Charlie Boorman

Gram Chikitsalay
OTT - Amazon Prime Video
Cast - Vinay Pathak, Arno Parashar, Akash Makhija

Gram Chikitsalay
OTT - Amazon Prime Video
Cast - Vinay Pathak, Arno Parashar, Akash Makhija

Gram Chikitsalay
OTT - Amazon Prime Video
Cast - Vinay Pathak, Arno Parashar, Akash Makhija

The Pioneer AGENDA

"Reflecting on where I came from helps me to appreciate and balance what I have now"
— Meghan Markle

The root of conflict
The roots of the conflict lie in the McMahon Line, a boundary drawn during the 1914 Simla Convention between British India and Tibet, which China does not recognise. This disagreement led to the Sino-Indian War of 1962

The border
This is the closest point to the China border civilians are allowed. Yet, there are no visible Chinese posts - only a mountain separating the two sides.

The dispute
The Indo-China dispute over Arunachal Pradesh is a long-standing territorial conflict. Arunachal Pradesh, shares a 1,129 km border with China and has been a point of contention since the 1950s

All quiet on Eastern Front!

As we trace the winding roads, climb misty hills, and meet the soldiers who call this unforgiving terrain home, we begin to understand the true cost of peace, the quiet dignity of service, and the powerful contrast between performative nationalism and the real courage of standing a post, writes
GYANESHWAR DAYAL

As we prepare to leave Machuka in Arunachal Pradesh for the Indo-China border, there is a quiet thrill among us — the anticipation of witnessing firsthand how our borders are guarded, and what it takes to man some of the harshest terrains on Earth, where temperatures in winter can plummet to minus 50 degrees Celsius.

Our motorcade departs early. The road to the Palang border is smooth, winding through the hills in a journey that takes roughly two hours. The landscape is breathtaking. Arunachal Pradesh, after all, boasts the highest forest cover in India — nearly 85 percent of its area is blanketed in lush greenery.

As we ascend, human habitation becomes sparse. Villages dwindle to mere clusters of one or two houses. Along the way, we pass cascading waterfalls, jagged rock formations, and spiritual landmarks — a temple, a monastery, and a Gurudwara — their small prayer flags fluttering in the crisp April breeze. Our driver points to a rock formation said to resemble Lord Hanuman, believed by locals to guard the border.

We stop. The resemblance is uncanny. Some of us clasp our hands in awe, others close their eyes in silent prayer. Some simply marvel — it's more a matter of faith than reason. In such places, we often see what we believe.

The breeze turns colder, the road bumpier. At a check post, our permits are verified, and headcounts taken. We're reminded to

avoid photographing army installations. As we move on, the drizzle begins, but the weather remains pleasant enough to continue.

We halt briefly near a waterfall where an army post — resembling a cottage perched on the hillside — overlooks the path. After a few more vehicle checks, we arrive at the point where we must proceed on foot for the last kilometre. This is the furthest civilians are allowed. Soldiers are scattered across the area, many relaxed, and temporary army quarters dot the landscape.

A flat expanse, roughly the size of a football field, serves as both a helipad and an open-air gym. Today, it's a cricket pitch where soldiers are engaged in a friendly match, a large cutout of "I Love My India" standing behind them — a popular selfie spot for visitors. We are told this is the closest point to the China border. Yet, there are no visible Chinese posts — only a mountain separating the two sides. The actual border lies less than a kilometre away as the crow flies, but it takes eight days on foot for a patrol party to reach it due to the unforgiving terrain.

Our guide, a young soldier named Dinesh from Haryana, dressed in track pants and a jacket, walks with us, sharing valuable insights. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Indian Army primarily man this area. Though the border has been mostly peaceful, the Galwan clash changed the equation, prompting both nations to increase infrastructure and presence.

Guarding such a remote frontier is no small feat, before confronting any adversary, soldiers must first withstand the brutal elements. I learn that the ground beneath my feet lies buried under six feet of snow in winter, the only colour visible then being white. Today, however, it is a vibrant green, with moss — covered trees and camouflaged posts that blend seamlessly into the landscape, invisible from even 100 meters away. Patrolling is conducted for six months of the year; during the harsh winter — from November to March — neither side sends patrols. When active, patrols consist of 20 or more soldiers and take eight days to complete a round. To mark

their presence, they leave behind biscuit wrappers and empty cans — a subtle, silent message acknowledged by the Chinese in kind.

I ask Dinesh if he has ever seen Chinese soldiers up close, and whether they ever exchange words. He smiles: "Not usually. Sometimes from a distance. But we're not here for pleasantries. We do our job, they do theirs. The tension and vigilance, however, are constant." On our way back, we pass a riverbank where the remains of a crashed helicopter lie — a tragic reminder of a pilot who lost control two decades ago. The wreckage still rests there, undisturbed. We are now at the foothills of the mountain that separates two powerful nations. Even in an age of fighter jets and missiles, human presence on the ground remains vital.

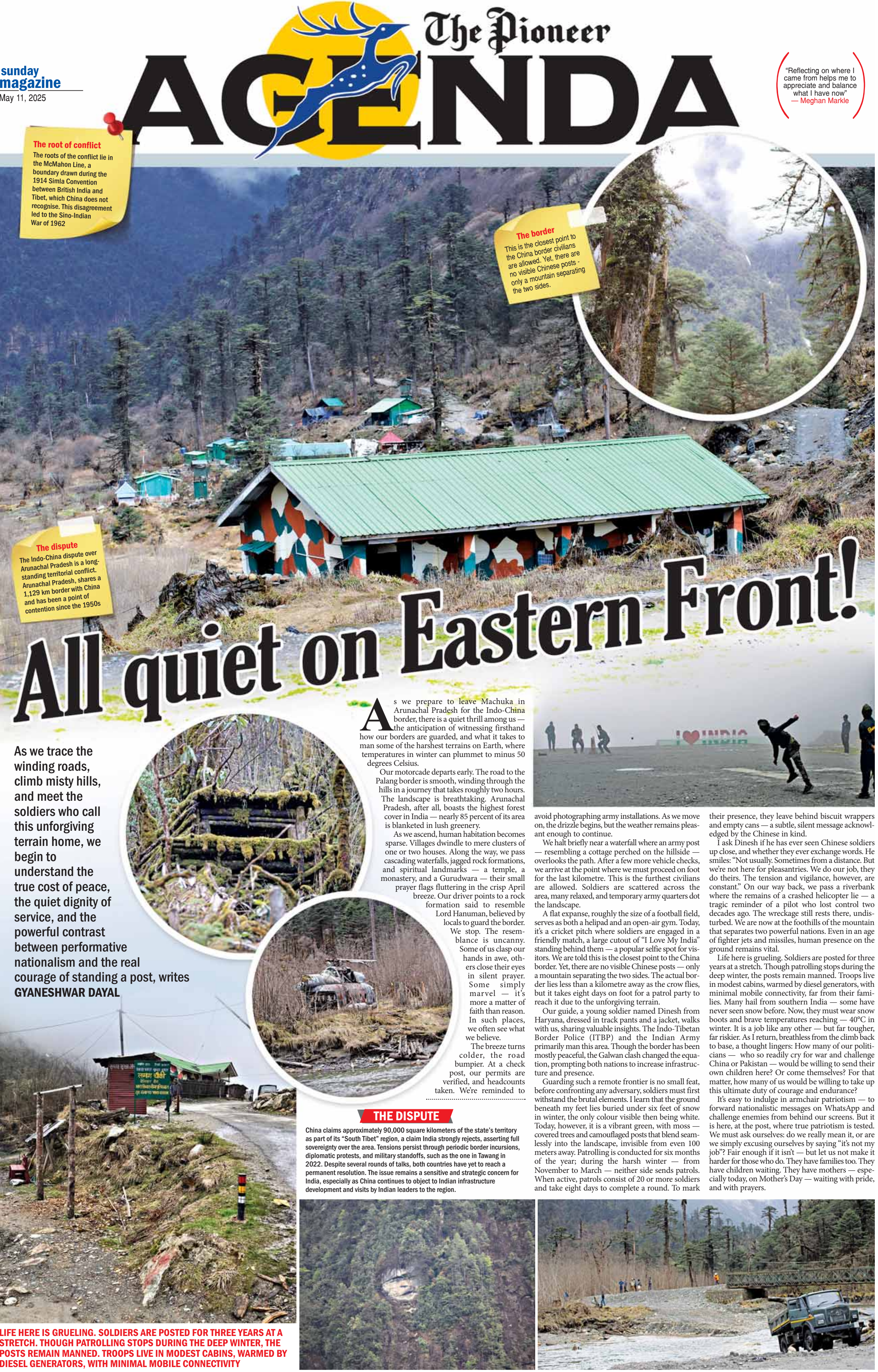
Life here is grueling. Soldiers are posted for three years at a stretch. Though patrolling stops during the deep winter, the posts remain manned. Troops live in modest cabins, warmed by diesel generators, with minimal mobile connectivity, far from their families. Many hail from southern India — some have never seen snow before. Now, they must wear snow boots and brave temperatures reaching — 40°C in winter. It is a job like any other — but far tougher, far riskier. As I return, breathless from the climb back to base, a thought lingers: How many of our politicians — who so readily cry for war and challenge China or Pakistan — would be willing to send their own children here? Or come themselves? For that matter, how many of us would be willing to take up this ultimate duty of courage and endurance?

It's easy to indulge in armchair patriotism — to forward nationalistic messages on WhatsApp and challenge enemies from behind our screens. But it is here, at the post, where true patriotism is tested. We must ask ourselves: do we really mean it, or are we simply excusing ourselves by saying "it's not my job"? Fair enough if it isn't — but let us not make it harder for those who do. They have families too. They have children waiting. They have mothers — especially today, on Mother's Day — waiting with pride, and with prayers.

THE DISPUTE

China claims approximately 90,000 square kilometers of the state's territory as part of its "South Tibet" region, a claim India strongly rejects, asserting full sovereignty over the area. Tensions persist through periodic border incursions, diplomatic protests, and military standoffs, such as the one in Tawang in 2022. Despite several rounds of talks, both countries have yet to reach a permanent resolution. The issue remains a sensitive and strategic concern for India, especially as China continues to object to Indian infrastructure development and visits by Indian leaders to the region.

LIFE HERE IS GRUELING. SOLDIERS ARE POSTED FOR THREE YEARS AT A STRETCH. THOUGH PATROLLING STOPS DURING THE DEEP WINTER, THE POSTS REMAIN MANNED. TROOPS LIVE IN MODEST CABINS, WARMED BY DIESEL GENERATORS, WITH MINIMAL MOBILE CONNECTIVITY



"CAKES ARE HEALTHY TOO, YOU JUST
EAT A SMALL SLICE"
— MARY BERRY

VINTAGE VIBES

MODERN MUNCHIES

Set against the colonial backdrop of Lutyens' Delhi, SOCIAL's new outlet celebrates bold tastes and bites, says ABHI SINGHAL

With already 56 outlets in operation, SOCIAL, the hyped café-bar has opened its 57th outlet in Connaught Place, and it is nothing short of a love letter to Delhi's past. The newest outlet has its walls in the heart of the capital, Lutyens' Delhi. SOCIAL blends the charm of India's postal legacy with the brand's signature edge, creating a one-of-a-kind dining and cultural experience.

Bold Flavours, Big Cravings

SOCIAL's food offering continues to impress, and Connaught Place SOCIAL is no exception. The menu is a mix of crowd favourites and exclusive new creations, catering to every mood and palate. The *Butter Chicken Biryani* is a must-try, rich, creamy and indulgent. The *Crispy Corn Chakka* and *Fully Loaded Nachos* are perfect bar snacks, while *Old School Chicken Tikka* and *Paneer Tikka* bring smoky, satisfying flavours to the table. The *Hot Tennessee Chicken Wings* in the Munchies section is delicious and juicy with fried chicken wings tossed in a delicious hot sauce. Vegetarians will also enjoy the *Bell Pepper Pizza*, a zesty and cheesy delight. From the momos section



SOCIAL SUBSTANTIALS

From the special section you have many options like the *Classic Mac N Cheese Pasta*, *Keema Spaghetti Pasta*, for the main course lovers — *Kadhai Paneer*, *Dal Makhani*, *Punjabi Kadhi Chawal* and much more to savour.

the momo lovers can enjoy *Classic Veggie Momos* and other variations, with street taste and dough softer like no other.

A Cultural Playground

More than just a café or bar, the Connaught Place SOCIAL is set to become a buzzing cultural hub like its other outlets. With plans to host live music, curated performances, and artistic pop-ups, it is designed as a space where Delhiites can connect, create and celebrate. It is not just about the food or ambience, it is an experience in itself.

FACT SHEET

Connaught Place Social
Address: First Floor, The Colonnade, Plot No 5, Middle Cir, Block B, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
Price for Two: ₹1,600

BEVERAGES TELLING A STORY

No SOCIAL experience is complete without its legendary cocktails. Signature drinks such as *The Pink Pound*, *Trip on the Drip*, and the spa-inspired *Thai Malish* are just the beginning. The drink *LLITS* — (Longest Long Island Iced Teas) remains the crowd's favourite also delivering a potent punch and plenty of personality to the beverage lovers.

THE CRISPY CORN CHAKKA AND FULLY LOADED NACHOS ARE PERFECT BAR SNACKS, WHILE OLD SCHOOL CHICKEN TIKKA AND PANEER TIKKA BRING SMOKY, SATISFYING FLAVOURS TO THE TABLE

AMBIENCE: A POST OFFICE REIMAGINED

Inspired by the nostalgia of the Indian Post Office, this café-bar brings the bygone era of handwritten letters and telegrams alive through its immersive design. Every corner pays homage to the past, from vintage currency notes and old postal stamps to framed letters, telegrams, and even sorting tables repurposed as service counters. The grand oval-shaped bar draws inspiration from British-era teller windows, and the palette of deep reds, forest greens, and rich wooden textures instantly transports guests to a sepia-toned memory lane. The vibe is old-world yet electric, making it ideal for work, play or both.

CHOOSING IS YOUR POWER

The #Atmanirbhar China Box in the menu is where you can make your own combos by customising what you want to get added in there. You have the options of Fixes — paneer, chicken, prawn; Sauces — hot garlic, shezwan, social sexy and more; Carbs — fried rice, hakka noodles, steamed rice and the egg fried rice. Your choice, your taste!

If you are a shake lover you can go for the *Oreo Chocolate Shake* that would come in with a great presentation of a plant served in a mud pot. The *Ferrero Rocher Shake* is a bit thick and the after-taste is something different, chances only the *Ferrero Rocher* lovers might like it.



OFFERINGS AND VIBES AT SOCIAL

Connaught Place SOCIAL keeps on curating an exceptional lineup of events, featuring artists, musicians, and cultural experiences that reflect the soul of the city. From intimate performances, Mehfil Nights to thought-provoking gatherings, Connaught Place SOCIAL is where history and contemporary culture converge to create something truly extraordinary already loved and approved by the people at other outlets having the same fun and experience.



Flame-Kissed Feasts Worth the Hype

Although The Pit is undoubtedly a haven for non-vegetarians, even the vegetarians were left satisfied — a achievement in a meat-forward dining experience



PAWAN SONI
COLUMNIST
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

while the *Mushroom Sando*, served in pillowy soft bread, was a savoury treat even the non-meat eaters couldn't resist.

Then arrived the true evening heroes. The *Buttery Garlic Prawns* were decadently rich, while the meatloaf provided the kind of comforting depth reminiscent of classic American diners. The *Philly Cheese Sub* was packed with flavour, the *Chicken Wings* had just the right kick, and the pork belly — simply outrageous. The smoked grilled chicken came with crisped, golden skin and melt-in-the-mouth meat. The *Lamb Chops* were cooked to tender perfection, and the *Humble Jacket Potato* stood out enough to be a main course.



Punjabi Food Passion on a Plate

At Pind-e-Zaika, the essence of Punjab wasn't just served but was celebrated in flavours, writes ABHI SINGHAL

The taste of Punjab came alive at *Shangri-La Eros New Delhi* during the much-celebrated *Pind-e-Zaika* pop-up at *Tamra*. This exclusive culinary event paid tribute to the lively food culture of Punjab — a land known for its robust flavours, warm hospitality, and rich culinary heritage.

At the heart of the experience was *Chef Tikka Manpreet Singh*, a master of Punjabi cuisine whose deep-rooted knowledge and royal kitchen experience shaped every dish served. *Chef Singh* brought his culinary magic to *Tamra*, presenting a feast that captured the soul of Amritsar and beyond. Guests were treated to a menu steeped in authenticity and nostalgia, each dish telling a story of Punjab's bold spices and traditional cooking methods.

Signature creations by *Chef like Ferozepur Railway Mutton Curry*, *Tikka Singh Da Meat Tarrwala*, and *Paneer Bharwein Aam Ras* delighted meat

lovers and vegetarians alike, while classics such as *2 Din Walli Dal* and *Murgh Dahi Kali Mirch Walla* offered comforting, hearty bites. The Vegetarian delicacies like *Chooran Walli Bhindi* and *Chakunder Moongphali Di Tikki* added earthy depth to the spread.

The last of the meal were the awaited desserts such as *Rau Di Kheer* that provided a sweet end to this cultural journey.



FLAVOUR REVIVAL

Guests were treated to a menu steeped in authenticity and nostalgia, each dish telling a story of Punjab's bold spices. *Chef Tikka Manpreet Singh* brought his culinary magic to *Tamra*, presenting a feast that captured the soul and ingredients of Amritsar. A celebration of Punjab's rich culinary legacy unfolded in New Delhi.

SPECIAL MENTION
First, the cocktails. The *Jamuntini* — a bold twist on a martini made with frozen fresh jamun was beautifully balanced. What impressed me most

was the Pit's refusal to cut corners: no artificial syrups, no pre-mixes — just real ingredients. This commitment to quality shone through every drink.



"TO DESCRIBE MY MOTHER WOULD BE
TO WRITE ABOUT A HURRICANE IN ITS
PERFECT POWER"

— MAYA ANGELOU

A LOVE THAT FILLS EVERY ROOM

There's a quiet moment that no one sees. When the child falls asleep and the house is finally still, she looks at the bills, the dishes, the dreams. Her body aches, her heart carries stories no one knows. But she smiles. She touches her child's head gently and the storm inside her calms. She's not just raising a child. She's building a future. She's breaking cycles. She's rewriting what family means. She is not "incomplete." She is overflowing with love, with grit, with grace.

WHAT THE WORLD DOESN'T APPLAUD

There are no awards for showing up every single day. No medals for enduring courtrooms, stigma, or sorrow. No headlines for skipping meals so the child can have music lessons. Yet her victories are real. It's in the child who says "Mummy, I'm proud of you." In the teacher who says "She's a confident girl." In the friend who whispers "You've raised a good human." She doesn't need applause. But she deserves reverence.

All in a mother's heart

Honouring the strength, sacrifice and love of mothers who shape lives everyday, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Behind every Princess is a mother who built the castle, her arms were walls, her love was the roof that sheltered us: She built a castle called home. She wasn't just my mother — she was my quiet warrior, my constant support, my compass. She carried the weight of the world with grace and never once let it touch us. In every small act of love, in every silent sacrifice, she became the hero I looked up to — strong, steady and endlessly giving.

She Plays Every Role

I've watched her for as long as I can remember. Every morning, she was up before dawn, while the rest of us still lay asleep. The clock had barely struck 5 and already, she was in the kitchen, kneading dough, stirring pots, packing lunchboxes. She worked so we could live well. By the time I was out of bed, she had already created a day's worth of meals, packed in containers, ready for the day ahead. Yet, it was never just about the food she cooked. It was about the sacrifices that went unnoticed, the sleepless nights when she stayed awake with her thoughts and fears, the extra hours at work to make sure there was enough to cover everything. She wanted us to rise above, to have a future filled with possibilities. She worked tire-

lessly, not just to earn a living, but to teach us how to make a living, to instil in us a sense of responsibility, and above all, to ensure that we knew how to survive on our own.

Home is where mother is

Behind every princess, there's a mother who builds the castle. And hers was no fairy tale. It wasn't made of gold or jewels, but of small moments, long days, late nights and endless sacrifices. It was built on love, hard work and the quiet promise to give us everything she never had. Her arms were the walls that held everything together and her love was the roof that sheltered us, no matter how heavy the storms outside. She didn't ask for recognition or reward.

There was no applause for the countless hours she spent working, no accolades for the patience she showed, no thank-yous for the love she gave. She did it because, in her eyes, this was what a mother does. This is what love looks like when it is unconditional. She stood for herself. She stood for us. She built a life out of nothing, piece by piece, brick by brick. She never faltered, never gave up, even when the world around her seemed to crumble. Her resilience was our inheritance. Her strength was our foundation. I think of her now

— how, even when her own dreams were delayed, she never let us doubt that we could chase ours. Her own struggles became lessons for us. She showed us what it meant to fight through life's challenges, to face hardship without complaint and to always, always rise above. Her courage wasn't loud, but it was constant. Her love wasn't flashy, but it was fierce. And every time she came home with hot meals, a tired smile on her face and no complaint on her lips, I saw the warrior she was. She wasn't just my mother — she was my hero.

Not all mothers were created equal

Some are widowed. Some are separated. Some walked away from violence. Some never married. But all of them made a decision: to protect, to nurture and to carry forward, alone. No woman dreams of doing it all by herself. But when life left them no choice, they stepped up. They didn't wait for rescue. They became their own rescue. And in a country where every festival, every form, every social event insists on a father's name or a husband's shadow, single mothers stand tall, unapologetic and unbroken. People question with stares not realising, how her child is thriving, happy, well-adjusted, deeply loved. Because presence matters more than tradition.

LET'S RAISE A TOAST

Single mothers don't want our pity. They want policies that recognise their reality. Workplaces must support single-parent households with flexible hours, maternity protections and empathy. Schools must stop insisting on a father's name. Landlords must stop asking questions. Society must stop staring. Because the truth is, she's doing the work of two, often better than both. So this Mother's Day, forget the marketing fluff. Let's raise a toast not just to mothers, but to her struggle, to her tears, her to-do lists, her tucked-away dreams. To the child she is raising, not despite the odds, but because of them. She doesn't need the world's permission to feel whole. She is the world.

SHE CREATES A COCOON OF NORMALCY IN A WORLD THAT OFTEN REFUSES TO ACCEPT. BUT SHE DOESN'T NEED THEIR APPROVAL. HER CHILD'S SMILE IS HER STAMP OF SUCCESS

WRAPPED IN LOVE

Maneyoon (name changed) is a woman whose life in the remote hills of Arunachal Pradesh is a quiet yet powerful story of resilience and love. She works for an NGO, dedicating her time to helping others and her greatest responsibility is the tiny bundle she carries every day. Wrapped securely in a simple towel, her baby rests close to her chest as she moves through her work, a reminder that she balances a carer and motherhood, fiercely protective and unyielding in her devotion. The towel holds not just a baby, but the weight of her dreams, the sacrifice of every moment spent away from her child, and the quiet strength that allows her to keep going. As she walks from task to task, with her little one cradled in that cloth, she shows what it means to love fiercely, to fight for her family, and to never stop, no matter the odds. Her journey is one of quiet determination.

The world does not pause for her, but she continues, motivated by the soft breaths of her baby against her chest. Every step she takes is a reminder of the sacrifices she makes and the strength she draws from her love for her child.

Balancing work and motherhood is never easy, but for Maneyoon, it's a daily act of love, and each moment is a treatment to her resilience. Her story is one of unspoken heroism, filled with sacrifices, tears and moments of vulnerability. She seeks neither applause nor recognition. Her quiet strength, her devotion to her family and the love she carries in her heart show that even the smallest acts of courage can create lasting impact.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Aastha Kumari (name changed), a teacher and single mother, lives alone with her 10-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter in Pakur, Jharkhand. Balancing work, family and the emotional weight of raising two children on her own, she navigates the daily struggles with strength and determination.

What's the hardest part of being a single mother?

"Not having someone to share the daily decisions with. Big or small, I have to figure it out alone, whether it's school fees, health scares, or just what to cook for dinner when I'm exhausted."

What do you wish people understood?

"People assume things or ask too many personal questions. But over time, I've learnt to tune it out. My focus is my child and our life. That's what matters and single mothers don't need sympathy. Just understanding and basic respect. We're doing our best, just like everyone else."

What keeps you going?

"My kids smile. When I see them going to school in their uniforms, laughing and learning, I feel everything is worth it."

MOTHERHOOD WITH STRENGTH AND GRACE

Nitu Singh is a single mother of two daughters, from Ranchi, Jharkhand, who has built her life with strength. She is someone who finds joy in the little things, the quiet presence of animals. Life hasn't always been kind, but she has met each challenge with steady resilience and a generous heart. Her roles are many, animal activist, organic farmer, social worker, and a dedicated member of the Khadi Board.

But beyond the titles, she is simply a woman who gives herself fully to whatever she does. In her presence, there is calm. In her silence, there is strength. And in her daily acts of service often unseen, often unspoken, there is the quiet courage of a woman who has chosen compassion as her path. She stands not in the spotlight but in the light of her own making, built from years of selfless care, honesty, and a belief in doing good — quietly, steadfastly, beautifully.

WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART OF BEING A SINGLE MOTHER?

The hardest part of being a single mother is being oneself. You want a companion to live your single life with and that person is nowhere to be found so sometimes, it hurts. But once you understand this, it becomes easier to handle yourself.

AND THE BEST PART?

The best part you show your children what it means to love oneself. How to trust oneself. Sometimes it can be difficult, but when you learn to trust yourself and teach your children the same, everything becomes easier.

ARE SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS DIFFERENT FOR SINGLE WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE?

Definitely yes. Society does not look at a single mother from the lens of motherhood. She is judged as a woman. Instead of helping her, people keep a sharp eye on her every activity. People judge you, create difficulties, or present



you differently. Men do not respect women, they often engage in character assassination.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

Only assumptions can be made about my personal life, it cannot be interpreted. The one who has not even seen a glimpse of my struggle, what can they guess? I follow the theory of "Let it go" and "less communication, less reaction."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER SINGLE MOTHERS?

Being a single mother is a matter of pride. Surely, we must have some special capability—that is why God chose us for this role. And I am happy with it.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK LIFE?

Balancing between both, raising growing children and working, is the most difficult part. It depends on the situation. Time management is the key, which makes coordination easier. This is my life, and I have the right to live it while setting boundaries.

ARE YOU JUDGED AND HOW YOU REACT?

I don't care what others think about my life, because those who haven't stood with me in my struggle, what opinion can they have about my life?

A MOTHER WHO DOES EVERYTHING ALONE IS A WOMAN WHO HAS LEARNED THAT PERFECTION IS A MYTH. IT'S THE EVERYDAY EFFORT, THE ENDLESS LOVE AND THE BELIEF IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH THAT COUNT

STORIES OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE

Motherhood, in all its forms, is a journey of love, sacrifice, and resilience. Whether it's a protective single mother rediscovering her identity, a woman navigating the harsh realities of poverty, or a surrogate learning the true meaning of love, these four films and series explore the multifaceted nature of being a mother. From Helicopter Eela to Mimi, each story delves into the emotional complexities and transformative power of motherhood, showing that no matter the circumstance, a mother's love knows no bounds.

Helicopter Eela (2018)

Starring Kajol, Helicopter Eela follows a single mother who, after dedicating her life to her son, returns to college to rediscover her dreams. The film explores the balance between motherhood and personal growth.

Maid (Netflix Series, 2021)

Maid is about Alex, a young single mother who, after

escaping an abusive relationship, becomes a maid to support her daughter. The series highlights the struggles of poverty, trauma, and resilience in single motherhood.

Gilmore Girls (2000-2007 and 2016)

This beloved series centers on the close relationship between single mother Lorelai and her daughter Rory. It celebrates unconditional love, sacrifices and the complexities of being a mother and daughter.

Mimi (2021)

Mimi tells the story of a young woman who becomes a surrogate mother and faces unexpected challenges. The film explores themes of motherhood, sacrifice, and societal judgment, showcasing the strength of a woman's love.





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week heralds a wave of good vibes that deepens your connection with your higher self. You'll feel a presence with you that is encouraging and shifting you towards greater awakening and understanding. The challenges you face will be resolved as you listen to your inner wisdom which is guiding you towards trust and confident decisions. The festivities, whether through new relationships, personal milestones, or fortuitous events will result in a bountiful amount of love and inspiration. Creative inspiration will also pour forth, bursting forth like a fountain overflowing with color. As you make progress on your goals, it will be evident that your deepest desires were indeed fulfilling. In love and friendship, even career – in all aspects of life, you will flow without friction and with immense ease, joy and effortless beauty.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week starts with some emotional strains with your close connections. As much as you wanted to stay optimistic, the actions of people around you may leave you feeling bitter. A wish to be alone may emerge as you want to hide from the rest of the world in order to find your footing again. Progressing through the week, challenges remain, needing you to be alert and concentrated on your tasks. An upcoming trip is likely, maybe with friends or family, changing the tempo and offering a good distraction. You could undergo a transition from deep thoughts caused by solitude to enhanced levels of enthusiasm which will inspire a shift in perspective mid-week. Personally, you will be sensitive, warm, and caring, whereas, in the professional life, your strengths as a go-getter will stand out.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You are eager to expand your skills and explore new opportunities, with a strong focus on your material well-being. It's important to pay attention to practical matters, gather useful information, and reflect on your values. A new business venture or project is on the horizon, so keep organized by making lists and securely storing important documents. Your commitment and patience will lead to a growing awareness. Midweek brings favorable conditions for your career, with potential for a business increase, a new assignment, or even a job offer. A new income source or a romantic opportunity could also arise. Towards the end of the week, be cautious—there may be some tension or disagreements, but a relative may come through with support. If you're facing any medical tests, the results will be positive.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you will face the truth head-on, even when it's difficult, quickly assessing situations with sharp insight. Your strong intuition allows you to detect hidden motives and understand others' desires, giving you the ability to get straight to the heart of the matter. You value honesty and directness, steering clear of games and deception. However, there is a need for balance—ensuring that work and action are harmonized with self-care, emotional control, and healthy habits. Trust your judgment and choose what is best for your well-being. If there are any legal matters, expect a fair resolution. You will soon be recognized and rewarded for your hard work, gaining the respect you deserve while restoring order to any chaos that once surrounded you.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Explore unconditional and trust based bonds this week. A more emotionally nurturing and balanced connection is opening up, bringing with it peace and a sense of security. Release self doubt. Your actively frustrating career is growing. Heightened expectations arrive midweek, and with them the determination to take charge of one's fate. You are successful as a partner, father, and leader, so long as your authority is not questioned. The current phase is good for 'out for blood' investments and hard work. Towards the end of the week, expect to be thrown into the deep end of unfamiliar territory all at once. Support at work will come from coworkers as well as family, but one of your family members is likely to need to head out of town for a bit.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

A fresh perspective will emerge regarding a lingering concern, bringing clarity. While intellectual achievements are important, it's essential to balance knowledge with compassion. You're steadfast in pursuing your goals, undeterred by obstacles, conflicts, or challenges that may arise. In your professional sphere, be prepared for competition, as someone may show interest in your field. The atmosphere at home could become tense, with strained communication leaving you feeling like walking away. However, stay grounded—change is on the horizon, working in your favor. With a blend of courage and sharp intellect, no obstacle will stand in your path. There are guiding forces at play, especially willpower and self-discipline. A consultation with a seasoned leader will offer invaluable guidance, providing the support needed to turn your dreams into reality.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Sharing your work with a partner can lead to growth, provided they match your dedication and responsibility. Your schedule will be filled with new projects and tasks, demanding focus and teamwork. Strategic planning, resource coordination, and tapping into the collective strengths of your team will be essential for success. You are in harmony with your emotions and exude a deep sense of wisdom. Your nurturing side shines as you offer support and healing to others through gentle gestures and understanding. In both personal and professional realms, you maintain a calm, composed demeanor. You have a strong presence in the business world, valuing structure. A spiritual journey may beckon, leading you to practices like meditation or community prayers, bringing transformative growth.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

As the week progresses, you feel a deep sense of happiness and satisfaction seeing the fruits of your efforts. Emotional release and new unexpected ties mark deepening relationships. While heart and mind seem in conflict, resolving one will clarify the other, unfolding towards success. An exploration or a different form of imaginative expression may capture your interest midweek which promises taking revolutionary steps towards your goals. You feel full of energy and in the best of health, ready to take on any challenges. By the week's end, you find yourself in a state of equilibrium and savoring the bliss in all aspects of life – financial, emotional, material and spiritual. Your social bonds are healthy and the relationships you have are fulfilling.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You exhibit emotional balance, confidence, and selflessness because you tend to think about other people. In relations, whether it be dialogue, friendship, or romance, you display a distinctive combination of charm, passion, and stimulation. But, it's crucial to make certain you keep that energy at its highest peak. Getting lost way too far into the deep end's either getting consumed by intense passion, or feeling waaaay too overwhelmed by emotional depth could spin the wheel of unwanted consequences. Especially from midweek, there might be hurdles tied around your workplace that introduce rivalry and competition. Be careful as some might try to take credit for your work. Concentrate on your profession, remember to use your diplomacy, tact, and 'executive politeness' to sail through toughest of situations. Defuse the blame approach and instead be more receptive to other possibilities.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Charcoal
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are at a stage of profound balance and coherence in which trust and understanding provide support to deal with challenges. A choice or an action will require one to deliberate deeply on the most prudent option. While some situation may seem hindering at first, in the end it will always come up as a valuable lesson or a set of opportunities. Your creative energy is at its peak, and because of your natural self-belief you will be able to assume control of affairs. Participation in social events and other activities will be energizing and beneficial to you in ways that you did not anticipate. By the close of the week, you will receive some form of recognition or supportive remarks that will not meet, but exceed, your expectations.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you remain focused on your spiritual journey your heart and head guiding you. A mentor or a trusted guide might be required to help you with your inner self and the divine within you irrespective of what you believe in. Prayers and group activities make you feel part of a community which you are comfortable in. As the week develops, your work life comes into focus and you handle it with a great deal of confidence and courage. You will participate in spirited auctions and take on new projects. There is bound to be new development in your career and you shall continue to enjoy good healthy relations with your peers. At the moment, you seem to be enjoying a position of great power and .

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week offers exceptional warmth, love, and support from family and friends. The environment around you is upbeat and balanced within the household. Your imagination and creativity are at their best, and family gatherings are enjoyable. Children bring so much of this joy into your life as most of them are doing wonderfully. For those wishing to expand their families, there is good news coming in terms of birth or conception announcements. By midweek, expect some newfound discipline, where you will apply it to both your professional and personal life through imposed routines. Stay on target but be careful not to put too much attention on a single issue. Obtain calmness and surety but accept that old habits are hard to break during the growth and renewal stages.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Emerald
Lucky day Wednesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

THOUGHTFUL INSIGHTS



Dr. Tanu Jain

Free yourself from emotional bondage – it is not worth sacrificing your mental and emotional well-being for relationships that are one-sided or draining

Moving From Inner Struggle to Conscious Evolution

Shifting from negativity to positivity is perhaps one of the most daunting journeys in life. Through personal experience, I have realised that while everyone advises us to “stay positive,” “be patient,” and “trust that things will change,” the real challenge lies much deeper than mere words or passing motivation.

Negativity is deeply ingrained in all of us, often in ways we don't fully comprehend. Our first thoughts are frequently clouded with doubt, fear, or hesitation — rarely are they purely positive or hopeful. Why is this so? Because we are socialised to see life through the lens of scarcity, struggle, and comparison. From a young age, we are taught to strive, compete, and measure our worth through external achievements.

As children, our needs are simple and our joys are spontaneous. But as we grow older, our desires become more layered, shaped by societal expectations and personal ambitions. Life, however, does not always align with these aspirations. We realise early on that it does not hand us everything we long for. Over time, the widening gap between desire and reality moulds our learned behaviour, breeding compromises, self-doubt, and the belief that life is full of unavoidable limitations.

We encounter strained relationships, financial hardships, career uncertainties, and a fiercely competitive world. Friends change, perceptions shift, and our notions of permanence are tested. Life teaches us many lessons — often the hard way. We



come to understand that even people we once believed were truly “ours” may, in fact, be part of a largely transactional world, where emotional loyalty is rare and self-interest often prevails.

So, what do we do? We must carve out a life for ourselves — consciously, courageously, and without fear of solitude. It is in those solitary moments that we begin to discover who we truly are. Strength does not always roar; sometimes, it whispers quietly in the background, guiding us through chaos.

First, strengthen your emotional quotient.

You cannot constantly seek emotional validation from others. It's an exhausting cycle that leaves you unfulfilled. Begin by recognising your triggers and learning to self-soothe. As Sri Aurobindo profoundly said: “Emotion must not govern the intellect, nor the intellect stifle the soul's deeper feelings; all must harmonise in the light of the Spirit.”

Let your feelings exist, but don't let them control you. Be rational, be practical. Understand the emotional needs of others — not to absorb them, but to protect your own peace. With that understanding, lib-

erate yourself. Create healthy distances. Free yourself from emotional bondage — it is not worth sacrificing your mental and emotional well-being for relationships that are one-sided or draining.

Second, master a skill with passion. Learning should not feel like a burden; it must be a fulfilling pursuit. Whether it's writing, coding, painting, or gardening, immerse yourself in something that sparks joy. Learning can become your greatest anchor in uncertain times. As Osho beautifully reminds us:

“Learn as if you have all the time in the

world — relaxed, playful, joyous. Then the learning becomes not just a means, but an end in itself.”

In a world obsessed with instant results and quick success, find peace in becoming a student of life. Be curious. Let learning become a lifestyle, not a task.

Third, and most importantly, invest in building yourself. That is the greatest and most reliable investment you can make. This includes developing your character, expanding your wisdom, and nurturing your spiritual and emotional foundations.

God has created you with immense potential. Strive every day to reach the highest version of yourself — not out of competition, but out of love for who you are capable of becoming. Be grateful for your body, your mind, your breath — for you already have everything you need to perform, flourish, and inspire. The journey from negativity to positivity is not about blind optimism. It is not about denying pain, or pretending that everything is fine. It is about conscious evolution — living with awareness, with resilience, and with gratitude.

It is about showing up for yourself each day, even when the world feels heavy. It is about refusing to let bitterness win, choosing instead to move forward with faith, and a belief that light always follows darkness.

— The author's views are personal. (The author is a civil servant at the Ministry of Defence and a spiritual speaker)