



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday.

Pak attacked civilians including Temples, Gurudwaras & Churches: Defence Minister

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian military displayed courage and restraint and has given a befitting reply to Pakistan by attacking many of its military bases, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday.

Speaking virtually at an event in Lucknow to inaugurate a BrahMos production unit, Singh said Operation Sindoor was not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social and strategic will to fight terrorism.

It was a demonstration of India's strong will against terrorism, he said on the operation.

Singh said the entire country is "congratulating the Indian military for success of the operation.

"This operation is a demonstration of India's strong will against terrorism and also the capability and determination of the military power," he said.

"We have shown that whenever India takes any action against terrorism, even the land across the border will not be safe for the terrorists and their masters," he said.

Indo-Pak War: Modi chairs high-level meeting

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday with top government functionaries, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, a day after India and Pakistan reached an understanding

Singh said Indian forces launched Operation Sindoor with the aim of destroying the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

"We never targeted their civilians. But Pakistan not only targeted civilian areas of India but also tried to attack temples, gurudwaras and churches," he noted.

"The Indian Army has displayed valour and courage as well as restraint and has given a befitting reply by attacking many of Pakistan's military bases," he said.

"We not only took action against the military bases near the border but the threat of Indian forces was felt even in Rawalpindi where the headquarters of the Pakistani army is located," he added.

The defence minister said the whole world saw the consequences of committing and getting terrorist incidents carried out in India.

After the Uri incident, our army entered Pakistan and carried out surgical strikes, after the Pulwama attack, we carried out Balakot air strikes, and now the world is seeing

how India entered Pakistan and carried out multiple strikes following the Pahalgam attack, he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor.

India and Pakistan on Saturday announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Through Operation Sindoor, the Indian military punished those terrorists who wiped off vermilion of many families, he added.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that the new India will take effective action against terrorism on both sides of the border, he said.

The world has seen how India entered Pakistan and carried out multiple strikes after the Pahalgam terror attack, he added.

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.

India had accused Pakistan of violating the terms of the understanding on Saturday night and asked it to

take "appropriate steps" to address these violations and deal with the situation with "seriousness and responsibility". The situation has since cooled down even though residents in several border areas continue to live in a state of apprehension following days of shelling and drone incidents.

Foreign Secy Vikram Misri locks X account

MI News Service, New Delhi: India may or may not be bracing for war at the border, but it's already deep into one online. And the latest to fall isn't a soldier, but a statesman.

A day after Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri announced the ceasefire following India's missile retaliation against Pakistan for the Pahalgam terror attacks, his X account went private.

Not because of national security concerns. But because a faceless army of trolls had decided he was the enemy.

They came for his credibility. Then for his daughter.

What began as dissatisfaction over a diplomatic move escalated into character assassination. Misri, a career diplomat, found



The directive authorises the CISF to conduct random checks and oversee access control to these "critical facilities". All the airports under the cover of

the CISF have "already implemented" the new strengthened system, the spokesperson said.

The new arrangement, aimed at introducing a

crucial secondary layer of security checks, will be in place till May 18, the spokesperson said.

Before this arrangement, the CISF was only tasked with frisking passengers and their cabin baggage. Cargo and IL-HBSS checking was done by private security staff engaged by the airlines and airport operators. "The enhancement of CISF's mandate is essential to reinforce security arrangements at all civil airports," the spokesperson said.

Decisive DGMO meeting to decide Pak fate

MI News Service, New Delhi: The decisive May 12 DGMO meeting would certainly going to decide the fate of the ongoing war and the fate of Pakistan as well. In India, Director General of Military Operation (DGMO) is usually held by a Lieutenant General. The current Indian DGMO is Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, while Pakistan's DGMO is Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah.

After nearly a week-long standoff at borders, India and Pakistan agreed to stop all military actions—on land, air, and sea—starting Saturday evening, said foreign secretary Vikram Misri.

This decision was made during a phone call between one of the top military officials from both sides, known as the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs).

The Pakistani DGMO contacted the Indian DGMO at 3:35 PM IST, and both agreed to begin the ceasefire from 5:00 PM the same day. However, Pakistan violated the agreement just a few hours later.

India's DGMO and his Pakistan counterpart are scheduled to hold another round of talks on May 12 at noon.The DGMO, or Director General of Military Operations, is a high-ranking army officer in charge of military planning and border operations.

In India, this position is usually held by a Lieutenant General. The current Indian DGMO is Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, while Pakistan's DGMO is Major General Kashif Abdullah.

The DGMO remains in direct contact with counterparts in other countries to manage and de-escalate potential conflicts, as seen in the on-going India-Pakistan tensions following the April 22 Pahalgam attack, according to a report in The Mint.

A DGMO is responsible for planning and overseeing military operations, including combat missions and counter-terrorism efforts. Ensuring that the armed forces remain prepared for any kind of operation is a

key part of the job.

The officer coordinates closely with other branches of the military and various government ministries to ensure smooth functioning.

A crucial part of the role involves conducting weekly communication with the Pakistani DGMO through a dedicated hotline, which helps manage tensions at the border, especially during the time of escalation.

DGMO also keeps the army chief and the Ministry of Defence informed with regular operational updates.

A DGMO is often the first point of contact when tensions rise. In the case of India and Pakistan, the DGMO is already equipped with hotlines.

The direct communication helps prevent misunderstandings and control conflict at the border.

A DGMO is trusted to take quick decisions, share real-time information, and handle technical military issues like troop movement or ceasefire violations.

More than 100 terrorists killed as Operations are still on: IAF

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian Air Force on Sunday said it has successfully executed its assigned tasks with precision and professionalism and in line with national objectives during Operation Sindoor. The operation was launched on early May 7 to destroy seven terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor.

In a statement, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said the operation was "still ongoing".

"Since the operations are still ongoing, a detailed briefing will be conducted in due course. The IAF urges all to refrain from speculation and dissemination of unverified information," it said.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

The IAF said the operations were conducted in a "deliberate and discreet manner, aligned with national objectives."

India said Pakistan violated an agreement to stop military action against each other, hours after the accord was reached and had gone into effect on Saturday.

"For the last few hours, there have been repeated violations of the understanding arrived at earlier this evening," foreign secretary Vikram Misri said at a televised briefing.

"The armed forces are giving an adequate and appropriate response to these violations. We call upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with seriousness and responsibility."

India launched "precision strikes" under Operation Sindoor on nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. The strikes killed at least 10 family members of JeM chief Masood Azhar and four close aides.

The sites targeted were the Pakistani bases at Rafiqui (Shorkot, Jhang), Murid (Chakwal), Nur Khan (Chaklala, Rawalpindi) Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunian

Might of Indian military felt in Rawalpindi: Rajnath Singh



MI News Service, New Delhi: Under Operation Sindoor, Indian armed forces not only struck Pakistani military bases near the border but their might was even felt in Rawalpindi where the headquarters of the Pakistani Army is located, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday. He said the Indian military has punished anti-India forces and terrorists who had wiped off the vermilion of many families through the Pahalgam terror attack. Speaking virtually at an event in Lucknow to inaugurate a BrahMos production unit,

the defence minister said Operation Sindoor is not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social and strategic will against terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was launched on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor. India and Pakistan on Saturday announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. Singh said the entire country is "congratulating the Indian military for success of the operation. "This operation is a demonstration of India's strong will against terrorism and also the capability and determination of the military power," he said.

"We have shown that whenever India takes any action against terrorism, even the land across the border will not be safe for the terrorists and their masters," he said. Singh said Indian forces launched Operation Sindoor with the aim of destroying the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. "We never targeted their civilians. But Pakistan not only targeted civilian areas of India but also tried to attack temples, gurudwaras and churches," he noted. "The Indian Army has displayed valour and courage as well as restraint and has given a befitting reply by attacking many of Pakistan's military bases," he said.

"We not only took action against the military bases near the border but the threat of Indian forces was felt even in Rawalpindi where the headquarters of the Pakistani army is located," he added. The defence minister said the whole world saw the consequences of committing and getting terrorist incidents carried out in India. After the Uri incident, our army entered Pakistan and carried out surgical strikes, after the Pulwama attack, we carried out Balakot air strikes, and now the world is seeing how India entered Pakistan and carried out multiple strikes following the Pahalgam attack, he said. "Following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that this is the new India which will take effective action against terrorism on both sides of the border," he said.

How India bleeds Pak with 1000 cuts

MI News Service, New Delhi: India said armed forces had struck technical installations, command and control centres, radar sites and weapon-storage areas in 12 places in massive manner at Pakistan. The quantum of damage are furnished below:

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE (PAF) BASE, RAFI QUI IN JHANG DISTRICT, PUNJAB: Frontline airbase known to host four fighter squadrons of JF-17 and Mirage aircraft, besides a squadron of Alouette choppers

PAF Murid, Chakwal district, Punjab: Main operating base known to host five squadrons of Shahpar (Pakistani), Falco (Italian), Loong (Chinese) and Bayraktar (Turkish) drones

PAF NUR KHAN, RAWALPINDI, PUNJAB: Headquarters of the Air Mobility Command and home to PAF College.

Known to host five squadrons of transport and reconnaissance aircraft, including American C-130 and Russian IL-78. Integrated with Benazir Bhutto International Airport

PAF RAHIMYAR KHAN, PUNJAB: Forward operational base under Pakistan's Central Air Command, which overlooks Rajasthan. Integrated with Sheikh Zayed International Airport

AVIATION BASE IN SIALKOT, PUNJAB: Sialkot Cantonment Airport is operated by the Pakistan Army

Pasrur, Sialkot district: A radar site was targeted **SUKKUR, SINDH:** Specific details of target not revealed. Has a PAF base integrated with Begum Nusrat Bhutto International Airport. Known to host a squadron of American F16s

CHUNIAN, PUNJAB: Specific details of target not

revealed. Has a big cantonment

PAF QADRI, SKARDU, POK: Forward operational base of Pakistan's northern command

PAF MUSHAF, SARGODHA, PUNJAB: Central Air Command, Combat Commanders' School and PAF Airpower Centre of Excellence are based here. Hosts around seven squadrons of American F16 fighters, Chinese J7 and JF-17 fighters, French Mirage fighters and Falcon transport aircraft and Alouette choppers

PAF SHAHBAZ, JACOBABAD, SINDH: Hosts at least three squadrons of American F16s, Chinese JF-17s and Italian AW139 choppers. Forward operational base integrated with a civil airport

PAF BHOLARI, SINDH: Hosted an exercise with the Chinese air force in 2020. Known to host three squadrons of F16s, JF-17s and Swedish Saab transport aircraft



Inauguration program of online ticket booking and private bus tracking system through yatri sathi in present of snehasish chakraborty mic transport.

Wife of detained BSF constable wants to meet CM

MI News Service, Hooghly: The wife of BSF constable Purnam Kumar Saw, who was captured by Pakistan Rangers, said on Sunday that she has met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and



appealed for her intervention in her husband's release. She expressed hope that Banerjee can

Wife of detained BSF constable wants to meet CM

expedite the process.Purnam Saw, 40 years old , posted in Punjab's Ferozepur sector, had inadvertently crossed the international border on April 23 and was later taken into custody by Pakistan Rangers. "I have requested a brief meeting with Mamata Banerjee. Our Chief Minister is a strong leader so her intervention will help expedite the matter," Rajni Saw told a journalist . She had spoken to BSF officials after the understanding to stop all firing and military operations between India and Pakistan on land, air and sea but they did not get any substantial response. They had assured me. But there is nothing new in their response. Rajni said she was hopeful that her husband would be brought back through a possible exchange with a Pakistani Ranger. Senior TMC leader and MP Kalyan Banerjee, who has been asked by the state government to follow up on the matter, said Kalyan Banerjee had spoken to the BSF Director General on Saturday evening. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "I called the DG yesterday evening to ensure that this matter is now being taken seriously. The situation is improving and this is the right time to push for their release."

Jalpaiguri villages near Bangla border on high alert

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: The escalating situation along the India-Pakistan border has prompted the Border Security Force (BSF) to sound an alert in some of the areas in Jalpaiguri district, which are close to the Bangladesh border.

The BSF made public announcements, asking residents living in the South Berubari panchayat of Jalpaiguri Sadar block to get into their homes by 7pm and not move outside other than in emergencies.

"The BSF has made announcements, and the villagers are in their homes. Also, the patrolling of BSF troops has intensified in the entire area. We are on alert," said Sumita Deb Adhikari, the chief of South Berubari panchayat.

In Jalpaiguri, South Berubari shares the border with Bangladesh, and a 19 km-

long stretch is unfenced.

Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, the additional director general of the BSF's eastern command, visited some of the forward areas along the Bangladesh border in north Bengal.

Accompanied by Mukesh Tyagi, the inspector general of BSF's north Bengal frontier, Aggarwal discussed the operational and administrative challenges with officers and directed troops to be extra vigilant during the present security situation along the zero-line to thwart any attempt at trans-border crimes.

He visited the Teen Bigha corridor in Cooch Behar and reviewed the surveillance in the riverine area of Teesta River and the Dahagram-Angarpota enclave that is connected through the corridor, sources said.



Buddhist devotees worship Lord Budha ahead of the 2569th Budha Purnima festival at Rani Rashmoni Road road in Kolkata on Sunday.

Jalpaiguri gives HC ownership of circuit bench

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: The Jalpaiguri district administration handed over the permanent infrastructure of the upcoming Jalpaiguri circuit bench to Calcutta High Court Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam.

Shama Parveen, the district magistrate, handed over the documents of the permanent building that has come up near Paharpur in Jalpaiguri to Justice Sivagnanam in the presence of other judges and officials of the Calcutta High Court.

"The district administration has handed over the deed and other documents of the permanent infrastructure of the circuit bench today (Thursday). It is a memorable day. The monsoon season is ahead, and it will take some time to finish the remaining work on the infrastructure. It will be opened soon and help in providing legal aid to the people of

north Bengal," the Chief Justice told newsmen.

The Chief Justice reached the site of the permanent infrastructure with Justice Biswajit Basu and Justice Shampa Sarkar. They were accompanied by the registrar general and some other officers of the Calcutta High Court.

Jalpaiguri district magistrate Shama Parveen was there with the superintendent of police Umesh Khandbahale Ganpath and other officers.

Justice Sivagnanam inspected the infrastructure, held a meeting at the building and later went to the Station Road in Jalpaiguri town to visit the temporary infrastructure of the circuit bench. Later, he left for Kolkata.

Sources in the administration said the main building of the circuit bench is a five-storey structure with the court of

the Chief Justice and 10 other courts. Added to it are a library, six rooms for lawyers, space for the legal service authority, a meditation room, a data centre and offices of the advocate general, additional advocate general, solicitor general, government lawyers and others.

"There will be seven entry points to the infrastructure. The complex will have residences of the Chief Justice and 10 other judges, 80 quarters of employees, an auditorium, a club for judges, police barracks, a post office, a bank, parking space and ATM counters," said a source.

An official of the district administration said some work on the boundary wall, gates and staff quarters was left.

"Work is in progress and we believe these would be complete within another one-and-a-half months," said the official.

Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad introduces E-Carts

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: The Zilla Parishad in Jalpaiguri has introduced a conservancy system to curb pollution at the tourist destinations in the district's Malbazar and Kranti blocks. On Friday, the Zilla Parishad authorities handed over two e-carts (battery-driven vehicles) to both blocks' block development officers (BDOs). These vehicles, sources said, will move into the private and government resorts in these two blocks and will collect garbage every day. There are over 100 such government and private accommodations in these two blocks.

"We are putting impetus on a systematic collection and disposal of



garbage from these resorts to check pollution in the areas. The waste would be collected and recycled in the solid waste management units run by the panchayats," said Raunak

Agarwal, the additional district magistrate of the Zilla Parishad.

The initiative, he said, will help keep popular tourist sites like Lataguri, Batabari, and Kranti clean.

So far, there has been no proper garbage disposal system at the resorts in these two blocks. Time and again, nature lovers and wildlife conservationists have expressed concern over the absence of a conservancy system, as it can pollute the forests and the fringe areas. Previously, Mahua Gope, the karmadhyaksha of the public health department of the Zilla Parishad, said that a cart was handed over to tourist accommodations in Matiali block.

Asia's first Rabindra Bhavan in Ranaghat lies half-done even after a decade of renovation efforts.

MI NewsService,Nadia: In the heart of Ranaghat's Bosepara in Nadia district, Asia's first Rabindra Bhavan was established in 1991 to commemorate the birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore. Initiated by local cultural enthusiasts, the building once stood as a symbol of literary pride and Bengali heritage. Today, it stands abandoned—an unfinished structure caught allegedly in the web of bureaucratic delays and political indifference.The original building, constructed over a filled-up pond, suffered extensive damage during the devastating floods of 2000. Structural cracks appeared, and the building became unsafe for use. Eventually, it was demolished and the land was repurposed as a playground.Following public demand, in 2012, the Central and State Governments jointly launched a rebuilding initiative



under the "Rabindra Cultural Scheme 2012." The project was initially allocated a budget of 32 lakhs. In 2013, the West Bengal Government sanctioned 1.92 crores, and construction of the main structure began. However, in 2014, after a change in the Central Government, the cultural scheme was discontinued, leaving the project suspended indefinitely.Today, what remains is an incomplete concrete shell—weather-worn and symbolizing lost potential.

Local theatre artists, writers, and cultural activists express deep frustration over the government's failure to complete the project. They argue that this isn't just a building—it is a cultural monument that deserves revival and respect.Citizens across political lines are now demanding that the Rabindra Bhavan be completed and restored to its intended glory. It is not just about architecture—it is about preserving the soul of Bengali culture, lit-

erature, and artistic tradition for generations to come.Kushal Deb Banerjee, Chairman, Ranaghat Municipality said regarding the half-done Rabindra Bhawan in Ranaghat, " During the period of 2011 -12, the Central government didn't release their share of around Rs 3 crore. That's why since then the reconstruction of Rabindra Bhawan remained in an unfinished state. The Municipal has no such big fund to complete it. So, we have applied to the State Government for funds. Only if we get the funds, we may initiate the work."The Ranaghat has once got the touch of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and many other personalities connected to drama and culture.So, the cultural people and people of various walks of life from Ranaghat, want that this Rabindra Bhawan gets its desired shape soon.

7th World Meet Concludes Successfully at Royal Thai Army Club with Participation from Over 50 Nations

MI News Service, Bangkok:

The globally celebrated 7th World Meet concluded with grandeur and unity at the Royal Thai Army Club in Bangkok, Thailand. The event, which saw participation from more than 50 countries, emerged as a landmark gathering of diplomats, martial artists, cultural icons, and peace advocates — reinforcing the universal message of peace, brotherhood, and cultural solidarity. Founded in 2019 by Director HRH M. A. Ali, the World Meet was established as a global platform to unite nations through martial arts, diplomacy, culture, and humanitarian values. Since its inception, the meet has been held in various international locations — including the 5th World Meet in Manchester, UK, and the 6th World Meet in Indonesia — each contributing to global cooperation and cross-cultural understanding.This year's event was organized by the World Martial Artist Council in collaboration with the International Diplomatic



Cooperation Organization, and hosted with the full support and management of the Royal Thai Army. The Chairman of the Ceremony, General Chanathip Bunnag, played a significant leadership role, offering his full support and presence throughout the event. His commitment to fostering international friendship and respect through such gatherings was widely applauded.In his welcome speech, Director HRH M. A. Ali passionately stated:"We want peace everywhere in this world. We don't want bloodshed anywhere. Instead of violence, let there

be dialogue and understanding."Vice President Jun Shindo of Japan, who also played a major role in planning, delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of all delegates and acknowledging the participation of nations that have stood together in the spirit of cooperation. He called the event "a powerful reminder of how global harmony can be achieved through respect, culture, and discipline."President Jurapas, who previously led the 2023 and 2024 World Meets, played a vital leadership role in this edition, ensuring

every aspect of the program met international standards of diplomacy and inclusion.Adding cultural vibrancy, a renowned Muay Thai fighter participated in the ceremony, representing Thailand's martial spirit and global goodwill.Delegates and honorees from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas participated in forums, demonstrations, and award ceremonies. The event honored achievers from various fields and served as a platform to discuss global challenges and promote peaceful coexistence.

National Lok Adalat Day celebrated

NURUL ISLAM KHAN

National Lok Adalat Day was celebrated at Howrah District Court on Saturday.

On this day, the benches were held under the leadership of Howrah District and Sessions Judge Abhijit Som and the Secretary of the District Legal Services Centre, Smt Suparna Sarkar. There were 16 benches in

the District Headquarters Court and 3 benches in the Uluberia Subdivision Court.

Office Master Prosenjit Bhattacharya said ,"Most of the cases registered in the National Lok Adalat were disposed of , the amount of money in these cases is more than several millions rupees.

In the Howrah District Court, the National Lok Adalat Bench No 16 had a

three-member bench headed by Judicial Officer Asim Debnath. In this bench, the social worker was the 'bench member' of Calcutta High Court correspondent Molla Jasimuddin and lawyer Devlina Dey. In this bench, Pranab Saha, Somnath Kar and others were on behalf of SBI Bank. In the 3rd bench, CESC cases were disposed of under the leadership of

Additional District and Sessions Judge Plavan Mukherjee. The bench members were lawyer Anirban Adhikari, Vice Chairperson of Transgender Board Manabi Banerjee (Chairman- Dhola College). In other benches of the Howrah District Court, traffic laws, Cases related to money suits, title suits, banks, NGR, electricity, title suits, bond banks, etc. were settled.

State govt completes translocation of 984 Deocha trees

MI News Service, Birbhum: The state administration completed the translocation of all 984 trees from the site of the proposed Deocha-Pachami coalmine project in Birbhum district, a step necessitated to begin the first phase of work.

But it remains a challenge for the administration to ensure that all the trees survive at their new location. The translocation began on February 14 and took around 83 days to complete. The trees included 755 mahuas (madhuca longifolia), 139 arjuns (terminalia arjuna) and 87 murga (celosia cristata). Two siris (Albizia lebbek) and one bel (Aegle marmelos) were also among the translocated trees. "We are very happy that the translocation of nearly 1,000 trees was completed successfully. This initiative was led by the state government, particularly our chief minister, who supported the translocation of these ancient trees in

recognition of tribal sentiments," said Birbhum district magistrate Bidhan Ray.

"We are trying our best to ensure 100 per cent survival of the transplanted trees," he added.

Since the government announced a comprehensive compensation package for those who gave up land for the proposed coal mine in Birbhum district, it faced a new challenge with demands against any harm to the 984 trees located at a particular stretch of land. A source said the state government decided to relocate all the 984 trees following demands and protests by tribal people of Deocha-Pachami, who have worshipped these ancient trees for generations.

The government appointed a Hyderabad-based agency, led by Ramachandra Appari, who has experience in translocating 1.7 lakh trees across the country since 2010. All those trees have been translo-

cated to a new location, barely a kilometre away from their original site.

The translocation process was halted briefly because of protests by a section of tribal people opposing the coal mine project. The government is currently conducting basalt mining work, as the basalt layer needs to be removed to start coal excavation.

Multiple sources have said that completing the translocation cannot yet be considered a relief for the administration, as the success of the initiative depends entirely on the survival of the trees.

A major challenge in ensuring their survival is the need to provide adequate water for at least two months, or until the rainy season begins, in this naturally dry region with

rocky soil. "After translocation, each tree needs around 150 litres of water every other day. Since the area is dry and water sources are limited, we have de-

ployed multiple tankers to water the trees. We are happy that not a single tree has shown any signs of failing to survive so far," said Babul Mahato, an additional district magistrate overseeing the process due to his background in horticulture.

"We don't see any threat to a single tree, so far," he added.

A source said that apart from watering, the administration is also applying rooting hormones, termite-control pesticides, and organic nutrients to improve the trees' chances of survival.

A senior government official said ensuring 100 per cent survival is crucial.

"It is natural that one or two trees may not survive after relocation. Although there have been no such signs so far, we remain cautiously optimistic for the next three months. The loss of multiple trees could trigger new protests among the tribal community," the official said.

Indian Forces beef up vigil at Indo-Bangla borders

MI News Service, Kolkata: Escalating tension along the India-Pakistan border in northern and western India has put Bengal police and central agencies on high alert across the state that shares borders with Bangladesh, including that of Nepal and Bhutan.

On one hand, the state police and its agencies are working to uphold security. On the other hand, the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which guard the international borders, have intensified their vigil.

Other central security forces managing vital installations are also on alert, while the defence forces are constantly monitoring the situation, especially along the Siliguri corridor that connects the entire Northeast with the rest of India.

With Nepal in the north and Bangladesh in the south, the corridor, often referred to as Chicken's Neck, is a strategic part of the Indian sub-continent.

In the districts, the administration and the police are on alert and conducting coordination meetings with different agencies.

On Thursday night, the special task force (STF) of the state police nabbed two persons who are associated with Jamaat-Ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), a banner terror outfit in India, from Birbhum.

Arrested suspected JMB activist Ajmol Hos-sain. Picture by Prankr-ishna Hazra

The STF conducted raids in Nalhati and Murarai and arrested Ajmal Hossain and Saheb Ali Khan, respectively.

"The duo were found to be propagating the ide-ology of the JMB. They are a part of a module that is engaged in the dissemina-tion of seditious materials by using encrypted sophis-ticated media and also planning to target certain persons and places for committing acts prejudi-cial to the sovereignty and integrity of India," said a source.

"They were engaged in recruiting and motivating youths to join the terror outfit and radicalising them to wage war against the Government of India," the source added.

The STF found that Ajmal had tried to enter Bangladesh and had con-nections in some other parts of India.

"Both of them, along with some associates, also tried to procure firearms and planned to prepare explosives," a source said.

In North Dinajpur, BSF troops posted in the Das-para area intercepted nine Bangladeshis on Fri-day. They were from Dina-jpur and Narsingdi districts of the neighbour-ing country and were staying in India for almost a year.

"They worked as labourers in Rajasthan and were now staying at

Daspara. It seems they had planned to return to their own country ille-gally," said a source.

In Nadia, the Ranaghat police arrested 16 Bangladeshis on Thursday night.

Arrested suspected JMB activist Saheb Ali Khan. Picture by Prankr-ishna Hazra

A police source said that the group had ini-tially entered India with the help of an Indian tout and went to western India in search of work.

However, while at-tempting to return to Bangladesh, all the 16 were apprehended in a late-night operation by a special police team. The Indian tout, who facili-tated their movement, has also been arrested.

"Such arrests at the border hint that illegal Bangladeshi entrants in India are trying to return to their own country, fol-lowing the crackdown by police and other agencies in some Indian states," said a source.

The SSB, which guards the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders — both of which are unfenced — have also intensified the vigil.

On Thursday, a pa-trolling party of the SSB troopers apprehended a Tibetan national near Dangujote, a village lo-cated near the Nepal bor-der in Kharibari block of the Siliguri subdivision. During the investigation, the SSB officers found that Lhundup Dechen, the 45-year-old Tibetan, has been staying in India since 2000 and also has an Aadhaar card issued against an address in Kar-nataka and PAN card.

He was trying to cross the border illegally to enter Nepal without a proper exit permit, as is required for a Tibetan na-tional. Later, he was handed over to the Kharibaripolice station.

The Railway Protec-tion Force (RPF), which guards the railway assets and works for the safety of passengers, is also con-ducting joint patrolling with other agencies along the rail tracks in north Bengal and the Northeast.

Stretches of railway tracks in these areas move through areas which are closer to the Bangladesh border.

RPF sources said they had strengthened their se-curity protocols in sta-tions, trains and on railway premises. In the Northeast Frontier Rail-way (NFR) zone, coordi-nated mock drills have been conducted, and vigi-lance has been increased.

The RPF recovered eight pistols and 16 mag-azines in Tripura. The RPF personnel were checking an empty gen-eral coach of the 14620 Tripura Sundari Express, which connects the Firozpur Cantonment rail-way station in Punjab with Agartala, NFR sources said.

India-Pak ceasefire, Trump post hints at "settlement"

MI News Service, Kolkata: The recent India-Pakistan ceasefire has become a subject of intense political discourse following statements made by the US President. Through his posts on the social media platform X, Donald Trump asserted that the United States would be increasing trade with both India and Pakistan, suggesting that the Kashmir issue could be resolved within a year through collaborative ef-forts. In a subsequent post, he conveyed his pride in the two na-tions for recognizing the neces-sity of ceasing aggression.

These pronouncements have elicited strong reactions from within the Indian political spec-trum. The Congress party, led by General Secretary Jairam

Ramesh, has raised critical ques-tions regarding the circum-stances and implications of this ceasefire. Ramesh pointed to the sequence of events – an initial announcement from Washington D.C., followed by confirmations from both the Indian and Pak-istani governments. He further questioned the reported involve-ment of a neutral Foreign Secre-tary, Marco Rubio, in facilitating talks between the two nations. A central concern voiced by the op-position revolves around the po-tential abandonment of the Simla Agreement, a bilateral accord that has historically framed dis-cussions between India and Pak-istan. Ramesh inquired whether India has inadvertently opened the door for third-party media-

tion, a departure from its long-standing policy of addressing bi-lateral issues directly. He pressed for transparency regarding any promises made or assurances re-ceived, particularly from the US, demanding a formal statement from the Prime Minister to clarify the government's stance. Echo-ing these concerns, Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee explicitly interpreted the US President's tweets as indicative of American interference leading to a "settlement." Banerjee re-marked that the timing of the ceasefire, occurring when there was a national sentiment for a strong response to Pakistan, was particularly noteworthy, espe-cially given the US President's declaration from a considerable

distance. He lamented the ab-sence of leaders like Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, implicitly suggesting a different approach might have been adopted under their leader-ship. The opposition's apprehen-sion is further fueled by past incidents, including the alleged ceasefire violations by Pakistan following the killing of tourists in Pahalgao. They question the au-thority and rationale behind a third-party intervention in bilat-eral relations, particularly by the US President. In this context, his-torical parallels are being drawn, notably to the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Former Congress MP Adhir Chowdhury recalled an instance where then-US President Nixon

had urged India to halt the war. Adhir Chowdhury highlighted In-dira Gandhi's resolute stance, as-serting that India would only cease hostilities after the libera-tion of Bangladesh and the cap-ture of Pakistani territories, ultimately leading to the capture of 93,000 Pakistani soldiers and the subsequent Simla Agree-ment. Adhir Chowdhury's re-marks underscore a sense of a shift in India's strategic auton-omy and its approach to dealing with Pakistan in the absence of such decisive leadership. The current developments have therefore ignited a debate about the principles guiding India's for-eign policy and its engagement with both Pakistan and the United States.



A traffic sergeant takes a water splash on a scorching afternoon in Kolkata on Sunday.

Mamata greets all mothers on 'Mother's Day'

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sun-day greeted all mothers on 'Mother's Day'. She said that a mother has always been an inspiration, love and passion and is present throughout our entire being. Banerjee, who was very close to her late mother, remembered her and paid hom-age to her.

"Mom is my mother. On Mother's Day, I salute all mothers from the bottom of my heart," she posted on X. "Mother" - the sweetest name in the world. Be it the mother of birth or the motherland - she is

our inspiration, our love, our passion. She is present throughout our entire being," she added. "I have remembered and paid homage to my mother in many of my proj-ects. The beginning of 'Mother - Earth - Manush' is with my mother!" the Bengal CM said. Stating that she has honoured mothers in many songs and poems she has penned, Banerjee shared a few lines from one such song in her post. Mother's Day is celebrated on this day around the globe to honour the mother, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers on society.

State provides work to about 75L job card holders

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) said that Bengal Chief Minis-ter Mamata Banerjee always delivers on her promises, and it was evident in the case of the state government's 'Karmas-ree' scheme that has already provided work to around 75 lakh job card holders in 2024-25 fiscal.

In a post on X, Trinamool Congress stated: "Under the leadership of Smt. @MamataOfficial, Bengal is self-reliant. Despite the Centre's denial of MGNREGA funds, GoWB's Karmasree scheme has provided work to nearly 75 lakh job card holders in 2024-25, reinforcing our com-mitment to livelihood and dignity for all." The ruling party in Bengal once again al-leged that MGNREGA remained sus-pended due to the apathy of the Central government. It was with the rural poor of Bengal in mind that Mamata Banerjee launched the "Karmashree" scheme.

Chief Minister Banerjee had launched the state's own scheme 'Karmasree' to provide 50 days' job to each job card holder in a year. Since its inception, the employment opportunities under 'Kar-mashree' have steadily increased, Tri-

namool Congress claimed.

The scheme, a brainchild of Chief Min-ister Mamata Banerjee, was introduced from the 2023-24 fiscal to provide jobs to the genuine job card holders in the back-drop of the Central government stopping disbursal of funds for workers involved in 100 days work in Bengal from December 2022.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, the state had provided jobs to 64 lakh job card holders. The job card holders in the state have been engaged in various schemes like Pathashree (road construction and repair), Banglar Bari (rural housing), Jal Jeevan Mission (potable water supply to households), setting up of health centres and ICDS centres, making of school uni-forms, mid day meal related work etc to mention a few. Around 52 departments had also been converged to ensure that the genuine job card holders are guaran-teed at least 50 days work. The state Pan-chayats and Rural Development department maintained strict supervision for ensuring that job card holders from all parts of the state were engaged under Karmashree.

Local protest power cut in Khanakul, halt traffic

MI News Service, Kolkata/Hooghly: Amidst extreme heat gripping the state, residents of Khanakul are protesting a nearly 24-hour power outage in the Rammohan-2 Panchayat area. Frustrated by the prolonged disruption, locals blocked the Ram-nagar-Digruighat road, demanding immediate restoration of power, alleging the outage is causing severe hardship, especially for the vulnerable, and hin-dering access to essential water through submersible pumps. This protest occurs as South Bengal braces for continued heatwave conditions, with the meteorologi-cal department issuing warnings for intense heat and humidity, alongside predictions of thunder-storms and gusty winds in several districts. Facing relentless heat and a power outage stretching for nearly 24 hours, irate residents of the Rammohan-2 Panchayat area in Khanakul took to the streets on Sunday to protest the disruption in electricity supply. The demonstra-tion involved a blockade of the Ramnagar-Digruighat road in

Helan, causing significant traffic congestion and highlighting the growing frustration over the pro-longed lack of power.

According to local sources, the power service in the affected area has been intermittent since Satur-day afternoon, exacerbating the already challenging conditions posed by the extreme heatwave currently affecting South Bengal. The road blockade, which lasted for approximately an hour, also impeded the movement of vehicles belonging to the electricity depart-ment, underscoring the commu-nity's demand for immediate intervention and a swift resolution to the power crisis. Police author-ities subsequently arrived at the scene and managed to lift the blockade.

Residents allege that the per-sistent power outage and low vol-tage are severely impacting their daily lives. The disruption is re-portedly hindering the operation of submersible pumps, leading to water scarcity. Concerns are also mounting over the health and well-being of vulnerable individu-

als, including children and the eld-erly, who are struggling to cope with the oppressive heat in the ab-sence of electricity for fans and other cooling appliances. The sweltering conditions are report-edly making it difficult for many to breathe comfortably, amplifying the urgency for a prompt restora-tion of power. The local protest in Khanakul unfolds against a back-drop of escalating heatwave con-ditions across South Bengal. The meteorological department has is-sued warnings for intense heat and humidity in the coming days, with heatwave conditions ex-pected to persist in districts such as West Burdwan, Bankura, Puru-lia, Jhargram, and West Midnap-ur, where temperatures are hovering around the 40-degree Celsius mark. A yellow heatwave warning is currently in effect for these districts.

Furthermore, other parts of South Bengal, including Nadia, Hooghly, North and South 24 Par-ganas, and West Midnapore, are bracing for potential thunder-storms and gusty winds, with

speeds ranging from 40 to 50 kilo-meters per hour. Districts like West Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram, and West Midnapore also remain under the threat of heatwave conditions, with temper-atures potentially exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. Similarly, Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas, West Midnapore, and Jhargram face the risk of gusty winds and possible rainfall. Thunderstorms are also predicted in Murshid-abad, Birbhum, Nadia, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas, and East and West Burdwan, accom-panied by the possibility of strong winds.

The confluence of the extreme heat and the prolonged power out-age in Khanakul has created a critical situation, underscoring the urgent need for efficient and reli-able power infrastructure, espe-cially during periods of peak demand. The local protest serves as a stark reminder of the chal-lenges faced by communities when essential services are disrupted amidst adverse weather condi-tions.

TMC MP's controversial call all-party meet

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay has sparked controversy by re-portedly calling for India to "occupy Pakistan and Bangladesh" during an all-party meeting following the Pahalgao terrorist at-tack and the subsequent "Operation Sindoor." His remarks come amidst heightened tensions, with reports of Indian military actions against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kash-mir, and growing concerns about strained relations between India and Bangladesh.

A significant con-troversy has erupted follow-ing revelations that Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay called for India to "occupy Pakistan and also occupy Bangladesh" during an all-party meeting held in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack. This con-tentious statement, attrib-uted to sources present at the meeting, has drawn sharp attention amidst heightened tensions in the region. The all-party meet-ing was convened in re-sponse to the recent militant attack in Pahalgam, which prompted the Indian Army to launch

"Operation Sindoor" late Wednesday night. This op-eration involved strikes on nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, reportedly result-ing in the destruction of several terrorist camps and the elimination of over a hundred militants.

Defense Minister Raj-nath Singh briefed the all-party meeting on the details of "Operation Sin-door," a 25-minute mili-tary action. While confirming the destruction of terrorist infrastructure and the elimination of mil-itants, the Indian Army clarified at a subsequent press conference that the operation did not target Pakistani military installa-tions or civilian popula-tions. Minister Singh also addressed the issue of al-leged unprovoked firing by the Pakistani army, stating that Indian soldiers were providing a "befitting reply." He further empha-sized that while "Opera-tion Sindoor" had concluded, India remained prepared to counter any future attacks from Pak-istan.

Against this backdrop, Sudip Bandyopadhyay's reported remarks regard-ing the occupation of Pak-istan and Bangladesh have

generated considerable controversy. The timing of his statement is particu-larly sensitive, given the existing geopolitical com-plexities in the region. Fur-thermore, there is a growing perception among international political ana-lysts that India's relations with Bangladesh have ex-perienced a period of strain in recent months. Allegations of anti-India rhetoric from certain Bangladeshi political fig-ures, particularly following the departure of Sheikh Hasina from the country, have contributed to this perception. Some of these figures have even made statements concerning the "occupation" of India's Seven Sister states. In light of these developments, Sudip Bandyopadhyay's call for the occupation of both Pakistan and Bangladesh is being viewed as a highly signifi-cant and potentially in-flammatory statement, raising questions about its implications for regional stability and diplomatic re-lations. The remarks add a layer of complexity to an already tense situation, de-manding careful considera-tion from political observers and policymak-ers.

State excise dept & Howrah rural police seize illicit liquor

MI News Service, Kolkata/Howrah: A scheduled joint raid operation by the state Excise department's preventive wing in as-sociation with Howrah rural police at the distillation spots of Sankhabhaga in Ulube-ria has led to the recovery of a huge quan-tity of fermented wash and illicit distilled liquor whose market value is worth Rs 2.32 crore. The team initially spotted two motorboats near the riverbed being loaded with illicit distilled liquor (approximately 50,000 litres of fermented wash). As the Excise team began destroying the stock, the miscreants quickly fled with the boats. Lacking their own boat, the team was un-able to pursue them. After a short while, a large mob gathered at the spot and threat-

ened the raiding team. Considering the gravity of the situation, police assistance was requested from the Superintendent of Police (SP), Howrah Rural. As the police force and backup Excise force took some time to reach the scene, the miscreants began to throw stones at the team. How-ever, with assistance from the police, mem-bers of the raiding team were safely rescued. The team managed to seize around 38,000 litres of fermented wash and 4300 litres of illicit liquor. Later at the initiative of SP Howrah Rural, assistance from Diamond Harbour Police District was roped in to search for the fleeing boats and it's personnel. Till now no arrests could be made, investigation is underway.

Name Change
I, Sk. Asfar Ali S/O Sk Sirajuddin, resident of Vill-Kabarpara,PO-Bankra, PS- Domjur, Howrah, Pin-711403, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Asfar Ali, as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025 Sk Asfar Ali and Sk Asfar Ali both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk.Morselim S/O Sk Sirajuddin R/O Vill-Kabarpara,PO-Bankra, PS- Domjur, Howrah, Pin-711403, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Morselim as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025. Sk. Morselim and Sk Morselim both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Hari Narayan (old name) S/O Gajanan Sharma, residing at 1/20, Bangur Avenue, Block-C, Flat-16D, 3rd Floor, Bidhannagar, Pin- 700055, Lake Town, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hari Narayan Sharma (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025. Hari Narayan Sharma (new name) and Hari Narayan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD JAMALADDIN SHAIKH S/o- MUNSUR ALI, Residing at, Vill- Shiyalmara, Post-Radharghat, Ps- Berhampore, Dist-Murshidabad, Pin- 742187, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD JAMALADDIN SHAIKH To JAMALUDDIN SEKH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) JAMALUDDIN SEKH in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 16 April 2025, JAMALUDDIN SEKH and MD JAMALADDIN SHAIKH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) KAMAL HOSEN MONDAL S/o- KASHIM ALI MAN- DAL, Residing at, Vill- Faziadinagar, Post- Faziadinagar, Ps- Thantapara, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741165, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from KAMAL HOSEN MONDAL To KAMAL HOSSAIN MANDAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) KAMAL HOSSAIN MANDAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 16 April 2025, KAMAL HOSSAIN MANDAL and KAMAL HOSEN MONDAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) DILIP KUMAR GHOSH S/o- ANANDA GHOSH, Residing at, Vill- Panditpur, Post-Panditpur, Ps- Dhubulia, Dist-Nadia, Pin- 741140, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from DILIP KUMAR GHOSH To DILIP GHOSH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) DILIP GHOSH in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 16 April 2025, DILIP GHOSH and DILIP KUMAR GHOSH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) NARIYA BIBI W/o- LUTFAR SARKAR, Residing at, Vill-Tentulia, Post- Tentulia, Ps- Tentulia, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742 302, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NARIYA BIBI To NABIA BIBI (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) NABIA BIBI in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 16 April 2025, NABIA BIBI and NARIYA BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) LAILA YASMIN BIBI W/o- SAHABUDDIN SK, Residing at, Vill- Rali bazar Colony, Post-Barua, Ps- Beldanga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742189, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from LAILA YASMIN BIBI To LAILA YASMIN (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) LAILA YASMIN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 16 April 2025, LAILA YASMIN and LAILA YASMIN BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mr. Swapan Roy, S/o Late Rasik Lal Roy residing at 228, Aswini Pally School Road, P.O & PS- Barasat, Kolkata - 700124 declares that my mother's name and my name have been in advertently recorded as SUMATI RANI ROY and SWAPAN KR. ROY in her "Identity Slip for members of the minority community in East Pakistan desiring to stay in India" issued on 25/6/1964 by Govt of West Bengal instead of our actual Name SUMATI ROY and SWAPAN ROY respectively. My mother's name also inadvertently recorded as SUMOTI ROY in her death Certificate bearing It's Regd No. 1479 on 5.02.2007 issued by the Health Department of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation instead of her actual name SUMATI ROY as mentioned in her Voter Card. That SUMATI RANI ROY & SUMOTI ROY and SUMATI ROY all are same and one identical person i.e, my mother and SWAPAN KR. ROY and SWAPAN ROY both are same and one identical person i.e., myself vide affidavit No. 2786 dated 24.04.25 before the 1st Class of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Barasat.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Guddu, son of late Md Hasnain, resident of Old lane room No. 417, Bansberia, Hooghly do hereby declare that I have changed my name and DOB from Mohammad Guddu 15 / 03/1987 to Md Jawed Hussain and date of birth 15/08/ 1989 and henceforth I shall be known as Md Jawed Hussain DOB 15/08/1989 in all purpose, vide affidavit no 35625sworn before the Notary Public at 1st class Judicial magistrate Hooghly at Chinsurah on 7 th May 2025 Md Jawed Hussain and Mohammad Guddu both are same and one identical person.

Kolkata celebrates legacy of Gauhar Jaan with ‘My Name is Jaan’

MI News Service, Kolkata: The legacy of Gauhar Jaan was duly celebrated at Kolkata's Kala Mandir recently in the form of a very successful staging of ‘ My name is Jaan’. Celebrated actor Arpita Chatterjee portrayed the title character in much acclaimed theatre production like this. Garden Vareli, one of India's most popular textile brands collaborated with this iconic theatrical production named “My Name

is Jaan” — a moving tribute to the legendary Gauhar Jaan. This association with “My Name is Jaan” reflects its enduring commitment in celebrating the arts and honouring the legacy of remarkable women who have shaped India's cultural narrative. This collaboration is a tribute to Gauhar Jaan, one of India's first recording artists and an iconic figure in the country's musical heritage.

Media & entertainment industry to reach \$100 bill within next decade: Ambani

MI News Service, Mumbai: India's versatile media and entertainment industry can grow more than three-fold to USD 100 billion in the next decade, creating millions of jobs and a ripple effect across sectors, billionaire Mukesh Ambani said.

Ambani, whose group controls Network18 - one of India's largest media conglomerates - as well as digital platforms, entertainment channels and content streaming platforms, said the fusion of storytelling and digital technologies has created a strategic and economic opportunity. "India's media and entertainment industry is today valued at USD 28 billion. It can grow to over USD 100 billion in the next decade. This growth will drive entrepreneurship, generate millions of jobs, and create a ripple effect across sectors," he said while speaking at the inaugural session of the WAVES 2025 conference here. Stating that India has become a front-ranking digital nation, he said the fusion of storytelling and digital technologies is unique to India. "It has multiplied the impact and reach of entertainment and cultural experiences beyond imagination. The tools of AI and immersive technologies can make our stories more captivating than ever before — and take them instantly to audiences across languages, countries, and cultures." By mastering these tools, India's super-talented young creators will rule the global entertainment industry with blockbusters, Ambani noted. "In an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, our stories give the hope of a better future with their power to unite, inspire, and enrich," he said. India's entertainment and cultural industry is not just soft power - it is real power. "In our civilizational heritage of over 5,000 years, we have vast treasure troves of timeless tales - from the Ramayana and Mahabharata to folklore and classics in dozens of languages. They touch people's hearts around the world because they celebrate universal human values - brotherhood, compassion, courage, love, beauty, and care for nature," he said.

Name Change
I, Md Suja Mondal (old name) S/O Sawkat Ali Mondal, residing at Daulatpur, Laskar Para, P.O.- Vivekananda Pally, P.S.- Mahesh-tala, Pin- 700139, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suja Mondal (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025 Suja Mondal (old name) and Md Suja Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhas Karan (old name) S/O Late Rameswar Karan, residing at Raghunathpur, P.O.- Jhargram, P.S.- Jhargram, Jhargharam, Pin- 721507, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhas Chandra Karan (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025 Subhas Chandra Karan (new name) and Subhas Karan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kiran B Mehta (old name) wife of Samir Mehta, residing at 66, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Road, 1st Floor, Kolkata- 700026, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kiran Mehta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/05/2025. Kiran Mehta (New Name) and Kiran B Mehta (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Purba Dey (old name) W/O Sne-hangshu Dey residing at Flat B3 3rd Floor, B38 New Scheme Near Sub-hash Pally Rickshaw Stand Garia, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin- 700084 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Purba Chatterjee Dey (new name) as declared before the first class judicial magistrate Alipore Court vide an affidavit (no. 26660) dated 30/04/ 2025 that Purba Dey and Purba Chatterjee Dey both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Gobinda Kumar Kundu (old name) son of Late Ratan Kumar Kundu, residing at Adarsha Pally, Birati, North 24 Pgs- 700051, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gobinda Kundu (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 23/04/2025. Gobinda Kundu (New Name) and Gobinda Kumar Kundu (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Debajit Chakraborty (old name) S/O Bidyut Kumar Chakraborty, residing at Chandipur, P.O.- Kundarali, South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743610, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debjit Chakraborty (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/05/2025. Debjit Chakraborty (new name) and De-bajit Chakraborty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Intense ticket checking is going on over ER



Intense Ticket Checking is going on over Eastern Railway

*** On an average daily about 2200 persons were apprehended over Howrah Division in April, 2025 for ticketless travelling.**
*** All are requested to check the valid journey ticket with them before boarding a train**

MI News Service, Kolkata: The tendency of travelling in a train without a valid journey ticket is a social menace. The train tickets are available in abundance and also in various alternative modes now-a-days like tickets from ATVM, UTS on Mobile and at a very low cost, compared to any other means of transport. However, some people are seen travelling without a valid journey ticket or with unbooked luggage regularly. As the access to the Railway journey ticket is very easy and the cost is very low, the ticketless travelling appears to be a habit or the psychic trend rather than a compulsion. The incidents of ticketless travelling is not only unethical in respect of the person engaged in such an act but also highly immoral as it affects the value system of the community i.e. the broader population. Eastern Railway time & again has conducted several campaigns in social media, conventional media and also through direct communication for purchasing a valid journey ticket before a Railway journey.

However, some of the people are still not leaving their practice of ticketless journeys. Eastern Railway has recently intensified the ticket checking drive so that a transformation may take place in the behaviour of the rule breakers. The bonafide passengers also may cooperate and raise their protest against ticket-

less travellers as these travellers are intruding into their space for which they have paid for. If you take the example of Howrah division alone, we can see the intensified ticket checking throughout the Howrah division has resulted in apprehension of 66,130 penalty cases in the month of April 2025 alone. This apprehension of penalty cases in Howrah division is 11% higher than the previous year's figure of 59,550 numbers of penalty cases detected in April 2024. This clearly indicates that with more intensive ticket checking higher numbers of free trippers could be nabbed over the division. During April, 2025 on an average about 2200 persons were apprehended daily over Howrah Division for not purchasing journey ticket.

The apprehension of unbooked luggage cases have also increased to 21,310 in April 2025 compared to detection of 17,450 cases of unbooked luggage over Howrah division during April 2024, registering more than 22% increase in detection of un-booked luggage cases during the month of April in the current year. Eastern Railway once again appealed to all sections of the passengers to travel in train with a valid journey ticket and/or with properly booked luggage. Eastern Railway is conducting a regular ticket checking drive to end such practices of ticketless travelling. All are requested to cooperate with the Railway administration so that the bonafide passengers can get relief from the presence of ticketless travellers in the compartment. It will also increase safety & security of the other passengers.

Recovered Trolley Bag returned to a Com-muter by Metro Staff



MI News Service, Kolkata: On 09.05.2025, at 12.40 hrs an on-duty RPF staff posted at Dakshineswar Metro station while conducting a routine checking of a Metro rake recovered an unclaimed trolley bag from the rake and deposited it to the Station Master's Office after proper security checking. After opening the bag, some valuable items were found therein.

Thereafter, Station Master made repeated announcements requesting the owner of the bag to collect it from the Station Master's Office and a control message was also communicated to all the stations. After sometime, a commuter came to the Station Master's Office of Dakshineswar Metro station and claimed the ownership of the recovered trolley bag and the items contained therein. After proper verification and fulfilling all official formalities, the trolley bag along with all other items were handed over to him.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Metro Railway authorities for helping him to get back his lost trolley bag along with all other items.

SEBI chairman calls for collaboration between regulator & industry

MI News Service, New Delhi: Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey called for collaboration between the regulator and industry on corporate governance and the need for corporate boards to exercise self-regulation. Speaking at the CII corporate governance summit in Mumbai, the Sebi chief said that the regulator is cognizant that “over-regulation” can stifle growth and innovation. At the same time, too little regulation can lead to a decline in trust. “There is a need for optimum regulation – regulations need to be rationalised by removing what is no longer relevant, and reducing overlaps. Stable and adequate financial regulation can help in creating a high trust environment, increase attractiveness for investors and promote economic growth,” Pandey said. The Sebi chief's comments come at a time when the government is looking to simplify the existing regulations relating to corporate governance while also decriminalising offences under the Companies and LLP Acts. Government data shows that there has been a decrease in the number of cases filed for corporate fraud or non-compliance in 3 years, from 1774 in 2021-22 to 1509 in 2023-24. Pandey urged corporate boards to ask difficult questions to the company's management and said that auditors and independent directors must act as gate-

Celebrating 100 Years of Howrah Division: Honouring Heritage Through the Gitanjali Museum



Glimpse of Gitanjali Museum

As the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway marks its 100th year, it stands as a testament to a century of relentless service, development, and national integration. Established in 1925, the division has grown into one of the most vital arms of Indian Railways, connecting millions of people across regions and shaping the economic and cultural landscape of eastern India.

Beyond being a transportation hub, the Howrah Division has also embraced its role as a custodian of heritage. A shining example of this commitment is the establishment of the Gitanjali Museum at Bolpur, an extraordinary tribute to the legacy of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore. On the occasion of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary, the Ministry of Railways decided to honour this literary giant by creating a space that reflects his profound impact on Indian and global thought. The museum takes its name from Gitanjali, the Nobel Prize-winning collection of poems that earned Tagore international acclaim and completed 100 years in 2010. With its architecture inspired by the 'Udyan' building of the Uttarayan complex at Shantiniketan, the museum blends seamlessly into the cultural landscape of Bolpur, a town deeply intertwined with Tagore's life and vision.

One of the most emotionally powerful elements of the Gitanjali Museum is the preservation of the railway carriage in which Rabindranath Tagore undertook his final train journey to Kolkata on 25th August 1941. Situated on the ground floor of the museum, this carriage serves

as a symbolic connection between the poet's physical journey and his enduring spiritual and intellectual legacy. Visitors are offered a chance to reflect on the historical significance of that final ride, deepening the emotional resonance of the museum experience. The museum is not only a memorial space but also a vibrant repository of Tagore's ideals. It houses an extensive archive that includes his letters, manuscripts, and rare photographs, along with writings about his family, friends, travels, and memorable moments. The exhibit

tion portrays Tagore's deep sense of patriotism, his philosophical outlook, and his unwavering commitment to humanism. These elements come together to form a rich narrative of a man who belonged as much to the world as he did to Bengal.

Beyond its displays, the Gitanjali Museum supports scholars, fulfilling an essential academic role. It offers priceless materials for scholars, students, and admirers of Tagore's writings, promoting a deeper understanding of his philosophical and literary achievements. This Railway's program demonstrates how culture and infrastructure can truly intersect to maintain a country's cultural and intellectual legacy.

As the Howrah Division celebrates its centenary, the Gitanjali Museum stands as a symbol of how the Indian Railways has not only powered the country's economic engine but also nurtured its soul. In bridging the past and the present, the division reminds us that true progress is built not only on steel and steam, but also on stories, values, and visionaries like Rabindranath Tagore.

Trade deal with India coming soon: UK experts

MI News Service, London/ New Delhi: Trade and industry experts in the UK have said that all indications are pointing towards an India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) being completed very soon, following significant progress made during Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visit to the UK. As the minister returned to London following a Europe tour to continue his discussions, there was a growing sense that the few remaining sticking points in the negotiations are on course to be ironed out.

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt. Order no.1000-15/22/2024 dated 27/02/2024.
This is to notify that Soni Devi wife of Sujit Misra resident of Panchgachhi Shiv Mandir, Kanyapara, Asansol, P.O. Kanyapara, Pin 713341, P.S. Asansol (North), Dist. Paschim Bardhaman in the State of West Bengal has purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of deed no. 230507786-2020 dated 11/11/2020 from 1) Naganjan Kundu, 2) Shandranjan Kundu, 3) Kumudranjan Kundu, 4) Mira Kundu, 5) Chittaranjan Kundu, 6) Mororanjan Kundu, 7) Ganapati Kundu, 8) Palesh Lochan Kundu, 9) Prashantnarayan Kundu, 10) Gopika Ranjan Kundu, 11) Nayan Ranjan Kundu, 12) Ramapati Kundu alias Rampati Kundu all resident of Marchanta, P.O. - Etora, PIN-713359, P. S. - Asansol (North), Dist. Paschim Bardhaman in the State of West Bengal with the help of Attorney at Law in the State of West Bengal on 11/11/2020 registered at ADRS Asansol dated 12/12/2020 registered at ADRS Asansol dated 12/12/2020 registered at ADRS Asansol executed by Amit Pal Chhabra son of Satyapal Chhabra resident of S.P. 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Pak has used bulk of Turkish drones in war: India

MI News Service, New Delhi: Pakistan is constantly using bulk of Turkish drones in the ongoing war against India. According to Indian Defence, Pakistan has been unsuccessfully using Turkish drones to attack different parts of India but unable to break the barriers of much superior warfare mechanism of India. The ministry of external affair said,Pakistan had used 300-400 armed drones on 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday to test India's air defence system. During the briefing wing commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sophia Qureshi said Pakistan is using its domestic passenger flights as a shield and India had shown restraint to ensure safe passage for international flights.

Centre advises TV channels not to use air raid sirens

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government advised all media channels to refrain from using civil defence air raid sirens sounds in their programmes other than community awareness drive. In an advisory, the Directorate General Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards said exercising the powers conferred under the Civil Defence Act, 1968, all media channels were requested to refrain from using civil defence air raids sirens sounds in their programmes other than for educating the community. It said that the routine use of sirens may likely to reduce the sensitivity of civilians towards the air raids sirens and civilians may misunderstood it as routine matter, used by the media channels, during the actual air raids. The advisory came amidst the heightened tension due to the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict.

Defence reforms: BJP hails Manohar Parrikar's legacy



MI News Service, New Delhi: The BJP recalled the contribution of late defence minister Manohar Parrikar in strengthening the defence sector while accusing the Congress of neglecting the country's security.

"Parrikar was one of the strong defence ministers who cemented our defence sector. Crucial purchases of Rafael jets, jackets for the armed forces, and essentials like helmets happened during Parrikar's tenure. We cannot do without saluting late Manohar Parrikar," Goa BJP president Damodar Naik said amid the growing military confrontation between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor.

He said Parrikar- who served as the Defence Minister from October 2014 to March 2017--oversaw some key defence deals during his tenure. "I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the armed forces. The entire country is rallying behind the PM in this action against terrorism," he told. The BJP leader alleged that the erstwhile Congress governments neglected the defence sector. "It was only after the Modi-led government came to power, the financial allocation to the defence sector increased and the era of modernisation began," he said, adding that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism should be uprooted to bring peace in the region.

Waste audit: Nepal & Bhutan join 'THC' campaign

MI News Service, Darjeeling: Nepal and Bhutan have joined The Himalayan Clean-Up (THC) campaign this year to work together to preserve the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas where plastic waste is one of the biggest threats. A total of 48 participants representing 27 organisations working across the Himalayan Region from India, Nepal and Bhutan convened at the Deer Park Institute at Bir in Himachal Pradesh for the Zero Waste Himalaya Network Meet recently. "The participants in the workshop discussed the specific challenges and issues of waste management in the mountains and its solutions," said a source. During the workshop, speakers pointed out the lack of plastic producers' responsibility towards cleaning the Himalayan region.

Last year's waste audit from 151 sites revealed that of the 12 lakh waste items collected, more than 10 lakh were plastic accounting for 75.2 per cent of the refuse. "Of these, 84.2 per cent of the waste came from food packaging," a source said. The clean-up drive was conducted in 450 sites across the Indian Himalayas by over 15,000 volunteers simultaneously. Over 350 organisations including government agencies had participated in the movement across nine Himalayan states and Union territories. The drive was conducted mainly in Ladakh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur. Sources said that the findings of the cleanup drive were shared during the meeting, including the one on plastic waste. The

findings also suggest that 70 per cent of plastic collected during cleanups were non-recyclable, with no available solutions or market value. "Also, over 80 per cent of this plastic waste was linked to single-use food and beverage packaging. The food and waste intersection emerged as a particularly alarming area, highlighting the depth of systemic problems tied to lifestyle, production and consumption patterns," a source said. The food packaging items came in the form of food wrappers, beverage packs and juice boxes. "After food packaging, smoking materials were the second highest, with waste items such as cigarette packets and butts, gutka and tobacco packets," said the source. Cigarette butts consisted of 17.9 per cent of the smoking material, followed by cigarette boxes, 15.9

per cent. Among the personal care products, shampoo sachets topped the list, followed by sanitary napkins and diapers. At the meeting, the participants decided to continue with The Himalayan Clean-Up (THC) campaign anchored by two India-based organisations, Zero Waste Himalaya and the Integrated Mountain Initiative. Following the findings of the waste audit, the representatives have decided to take forward the THC 2025. "The campaign will be held from May 26 to June 5 this year," the source said. The participants will also form a formal organisation structure under the banner of Zero Waste Himalaya Alliance to take forward the movement. "An organising committee has been formed to define the alliance, vision, mission and principles," the source added.



Fishermen pass by anchored boats at Kasimedu fishing harbour, amid the 61-day-long annual fishing ban along the coast of Tamil Nadu, in Chennai.

India deploys its first hydrogen-powered truck for mining logistics

MI News Service, Raipur: Adani Group has deployed India's first hydrogen-powered truck for mining logistics in Chhattisgarh, which can carry 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200-kilometre range, the conglomerate said. Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the group, flagged off hydrogen fuel cell trucks as it looks to promote cleaner transportation.

"These hydrogen-powered trucks will gradually replace diesel vehicles used in the company's logistics operations," the firm said in a statement. "In collaboration with an Indian and international energy technology firm and a major auto manufacturer, Adani is developing hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks for cargo transport. Each truck, equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200-km range." Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the first truck in Raipur. It will be used to transport coal from the Gare Pelma III Block to the state's power plant. "The launch of India's first hydrogen-powered truck in Chhattisgarh reflects the state's commitment to sustainability. Such initiatives will significantly reduce our carbon footprint and set a new standard for industry. Chhattisgarh is not only at the forefront in meeting the country's electricity demands but also leads by example in adopting sustainable practices," Sai said. The state-owned Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited has appointed Adani Enterprises as the mine developer and operator for the Gare Pelma III block through a competitive bidding process. "The initiative for hydrogen-powered trucks is a significant step towards Adani Group's commitment to decarbonisation and responsible mining. We are creating model mines with minimal environmental impact by incorporating autonomous dozer push technologies, solar power, digital initiatives, and tree transplanters to relocate trees. "We aim to ensure affordable and reliable electricity for all while pioneering new standards in sustainable mining practices," said Vinay Prakash, CEO - Natural Resources and Director, Adani Enterprises. The project is a joint effort between Adani Natural Resources (ANR) and Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL). Both entities are part of Adani Enterprises. ANR will source hydrogen cells from ANIL, which is also involved in green hydrogen, wind turbines, solar modules, and battery manufacturing. Hydrogen, the most abundant element, produces no harmful emissions. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles match diesel trucks in range and load capacity but emit only water vapour and warm air with minimal noise.

Since mining mainly uses diesel-powered machinery, switching to cleaner fuels will reduce emissions and noise.

Pak misusing Quranic verses: Owaisi

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Pakistan launched a pre-dawn missile and drone offensive on India from Friday night to early Saturday morning, calling it "Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos" — a military campaign that Islamabad says is its major retaliatory strike. The name, drawn from a Quranic verse, appears to have been selected by Pakistan to project an image of resilience and unity, portraying its forces as an impregnable front fighting for a cause. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi accused Pakistan of distorting the meaning of the Quranic phrase Bunyan al-Marsoos to serve its own political narratives. "They are deliberately misinterpreting the essence of Bunyan al-Marsoos and ignoring the core message of the Quran," Owaisi said. "The verse preceding Bunyan al-Marsoos clearly states: 'Why do you say that which you do not do?' Yet, Pakistan chooses



to overlook this and instead twists scripture to justify its stance." He further alleged that Pakistan's selective reading of religious texts is not new. "When Pakistani forces bombed Bangladeshi Muslims during the 1971 war, did they forget the spirit of Bunyan al-Marsoos then?" Owaisi asked, referring to the brutal military crackdown in East Pakistan.

"Their popular leader at the time, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, referred to Bangladeshi Muslims as 'pigs'. While India has stated that it did not target any civilian infrastructure or facilities, Pakistan's deputy PM and foreign minister Ishaq Dar, in an interview said, "This operation that we started today, it will all end in some way. It all depends on what India wants." In the attack late Friday, Pakistan reportedly used drones and missiles, including the Fattah-1 missile, after it claimed India struck three Pakistani air bases—Nur Khan (Chaklala, Rawalpindi), Murid (Chakwal) and Rafiqui (Shorkot in Jhang district)—on the night of May 9-10. Addressing the media in a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan military spokesperson Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry confirmed the Indian strikes but asserted, "All assets of the Air Force remain safe." He claimed India had used air-to-surface missiles in the offensive.

CDS Chauhan still remains a Kolkata man

MI News Service, Kolkata: An art enthusiast, a history buff and a man who doesn't tire of talking about the Maidan — the country's chief of defence staff, currently leading India's charge on Pakistan, is a Kolkata boy who remains so.Lt General Anil Chauhan, the country's second CDS, had attended Kendriya Vidyalaya, Fort William in Kolkata, before joining the National Defence Academy in Pune. The Maidan, an integral part of his childhood, stayed with him even when he moved out of the city and grew up to become a warfare specialist in the army. "I picked up small Bengali books of Class II and III so I could relearn what I had earlier," Lt Gen Chauhan had said during an interaction in the summer of 2021 before he hung up his boots as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Eastern Command. "Bangla aami bhujhitey pari," he had said, breaking into laughter. He assumed charge as the CDS in September 2022. On Friday, hours after India neutralised a series of drone attacks from Pakistan, Lt Gen Chauhan was busy meeting defence minister Rajnath Singh and the three service chiefs in the South Block. "Lt Gen Chauhan's style of leadership involved total trust and transparency. He is very passionate about history, particularly military history, and is very thorough with India's land borders," a senior officer posted in Calcutta during Lt Gen Chauhan's stint as the head of the Eastern Command said. The officer added: "He was deeply interested in the history of India's military formations, particularly their post-Independence operations and local military historians." Before taking up the charge of the Eastern Command, Lt Gen Chauhan was the director-general of military operations at the army headquarters in New Delhi, where he worked on formulating the national security policy. "Encouraged by his artist wife Anupama, Lt Gen Chauhan is an art aficionado. Tibetan art forms remained his key area of interest. It was largely because of his prodding that the armed forces along the northern borders study Tibetology so they can connect better with the population of that region," said another senior officer who was posted in the Eastern Command during the tenure of Lt Gen Chauhan.

Renaming effort of Mt. Abu creates fracas

MI News Service, Jaipur: Protest against the proposal of changing the name of Mount Abu, the sole hill station in Rajasthan, and banning non-vegetarian food and alcohol consumption in the open has gained momentum with several organisations expressing anguish over the proposed move. They argued that it will severely impact the local economy. A letter from the department of local self government to the nagar parishad commissioner on April 25 had sought a "factual comment" of the commissioner regarding renaming Mount Abu as 'Aburaj Teerth' and prohibiting meat and liquor consumption in the open. Looking at the religious significance of Mount Abu, a proposal to change the name to 'Aburaj Teerth' was passed in the board meeting of the Nagar Parishad in October last year. The proposal was sent to the state government, where it is pending. After this, several MLAs of the ruling party wrote letters to Chief Minister Bhajanlal

Sharma to change Mount Abu's name due to its religious significance and ban liquor and meat consumption in the open. Local businessmen argue that Mount Abu is known worldwide by this name and changing the name will create confusion. Moreover, prohibiting non-veg food and liquor consumption will drastically reduce the number of tourists, they argued. Twenty-three organisations, including Mount Abu Hotel Association, Laghu Vyapar Sangh, Sindhi Seva Samaj, Valmiki Samaj, Muslim Auqaf Committee, and Nakki Lake Vyapar Sansthan, handed over a memorandum, addressed to the chief minister to Sub Divisional Officer Dr Anshu Priya. The SDM said that the proposal is pending at the state government level. Saurabh Gangadia, secretary of Mount Abu Hotel Association, said that nearly five to six thousand tourists visit Mount Abu daily, and most of them come from neighbouring Gujarat, which is a dry state.

Govt notifies Cashless Treatment Scheme for road accident victims

MI News Service, New Delhi: Road accident victims all over India will be entitled for cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for the first seven days at designated hospitals, said a notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The scheme is aimed at reducing the number of deaths arising from road accidents every year due to delay in timely medical intervention.

"Any person being a victim of a road accident arising out of the use of a motor vehicle, occurring on any road, shall be entitled to cashless treatment in accordance with the provisions of this scheme," the notification said. The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the programme, in coordination with police, hospitals and State Health Agencies etc. "The victim shall be entitled to cashless treatment at any designated hospital for an amount up to one lakh fifty thousand rupees per victim for a maximum period of seven days from the date of such accident," it added.

According to the notification, the treatment under this scheme at a hospital, other than a designated

hospital, shall be for stabilisation purposes only and shall be as specified by the guidelines. As per the notification, the State Road Safety Council shall be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme for that state or Union Territory and would be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Health Authority for adoption and utilisation of the portal for onboarding of designated hospitals, treatment of victims, payment to the designated hospital on treatment and related matters. The government has also set up an 11-member steering committee under the road secretary to monitor the implementation of the scheme. The committee will comprise CEO of National Health Authority, and additional secretary of MoRTH as members. On March 14, 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had launched a pilot programme in Chandigarh which was later expanded to six states to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims.

Recently, Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari had said that there were 4.80 lakh road accidents in 2023, resulting in 1.72 lakh deaths.

Despite hostile situation, India on with 4 Kashmir hydro projects



MI News Service, New Delhi: India has advanced the start date of four under-construction hydropower projects in the Kashmir region by months after suspending a water-sharing treaty with Pakistan that had slowed progress, according to an industry source and a government document. Though the war is on, still government is not halting the projects, but it might just quail down the pace due to obvious reason. The updated schedule for the projects, whose construction Pakistan generally opposes because it fears it would lead to less water downstream, is another sign of how India is trying to take advantage of its unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 following a deadly attack in Kashmir last month. India has said two of the terrorists who killed 26 men at a popular tourist site in Kashmir on April 22 came from Pakistan, and has taken a series of diplomatic and economic steps against Islamabad as ties between the nuclear-armed neighbours nosedive. Islamabad has denied any role in the attack, threatened legal action over the suspension, and said any "attempt to stop or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan ... will be considered as an act of war". Pakistan depends on the Indus system for 80% of its farms and most of its hydroelectric output. The armies have exchanged small arms fire across the border every night for nearly two weeks and Pakistan says India is on the verge of a military assault. New Delhi has so far ignored Pakistan's threats and made moves that have already throttled water supplies to Pakistan, including by running maintenance work to raise the holding capacity of two operational hydroelectric plants in the federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has asked authorities

to clear hurdles to speedy construction of four hydro projects with a combined capacity of 3,014 megawatts, according to the document, an undated list made by the power ministry and reviewed by Reuters. The four projects are: Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW) and Ratle (850 MW). All of them are on the Chenab River, whose waters are mainly meant for Pakistan but India is allowed to build run-of-water hydro projects without any significant storage. State-run NHPC, India's biggest hydropower company, is building all the projects. They are due to start between June 2026 and August 2028, the document shows. Various agencies, including those looking at law enforcement and labour supply, have been asked to help speed up the work, according to the document.

NHPC and the Indian ministries of power, water resources and foreign affairs did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Pakistan's Indus River System Authority said its officials held a meeting on Monday and "noted with concern unanimously that a sudden decrease in River Chenab inflows at Marala (the headworks that regulate flow) due to short supply by India would result in more shortages" for summer crops. Downstream reservoirs would be used pragmatically "keeping in view the crisis created by Indian short supplies in the Chenab River", the authority said in a statement late on Monday.

India's water minister vowed last month to "ensure no drop of the Indus River's water reaches Pakistan". The Indian industry source said there had been several meetings of officials from various private and government agencies with the power ministry in the past week about projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Now Customer will get better claim experience as Policybazaar's Assured Delivery Program expands to 100 cities

Ranchi : Policybazaar, one of India's leading insurance platforms, recently hit a major milestone in its customer-first initiative, the Assured Delivery Program. The program is now has expanded to 100 cities across the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. It is designed to provide consumers with a better claim and service experience.

With 100 cities now covered under the coveted program, policyholders in all metro cities, and most tier-I and tier-II cities, will be able to avail hassle-free claim settlement. The company had launched the Assured Delivery Program earlier this year to transform the motor insurance claims experience. It aims to prioritise convenience, transparency and speedy service for policyholders.

Speaking on the milestone, Sandeep Saraf, Business Head, Motor Insurance Renewals & Customer Experience, Policybazaar.com, said, "Reaching the 100-cities mark with our Assured Delivery Program is a step toward simplifying motor insurance claims. We designed this program to address common customer challenges like repair delays and lack of updates. Features such as dedicated relationship managers, guaranteed repair timelines, and cashless claims ensure a smoother, faster process. We're excited to expand this service further, making



claims easier and more transparent for policyholders nationwide."

One of the biggest highlights of the program is that all Policybazaar motor insurance customers get a dedicated relationship manager at the garage of their choice. The relationship manager oversees the entire claims process right from the pick-up of their vehicle to the completion of repairs, and even

all the claim approval formalities. Under the program, policyholders would also receive regular notifications about the status of the repair as well as the claim until the entire process is completed.

Under this program, the customers get a guarantee of completion of small repairs - that is, repairs involving claims under Rs 50,000 - within five

days. This is possible because at these workshops, the cars that qualify for this program will receive priority servicing, ensuring they are repaired faster and returned to the customer promptly for their use.

Moreover, all repaired electrical and mechanical parts come with a warranty.

The policyholders eligible for this program would also get free pick-and-drop service for their vehicles. This essentially means that in the event of a claim, the vehicle will be picked up from the customer's location and delivered post-repair, ensuring zero hassle. Notably, the program is exclusively available to policyholders who have purchased their motor insurance via Policybazaar. In a short timespan, it has become a hallmark of seamless claims processing.

The Assured Delivery Program exemplifies this vision. The company plans to expand the number of garages even further, thereby setting new benchmarks in the industry. The best part is that the program also offers cashless claim facility for all Policybazaar motor insurance customers. So no out-of-pocket expenses for repairs at recommended workshops. The Assured Delivery Program essentially empowers customers with unparalleled convenience and peace of mind.

New book explores collapse of empires and global struggle for new order



New Delhi : Hot on the heels of the 80th anniversary of World War II's end, best-selling author Phil Craig's new book offers a powerful and original retelling of how the war's closing chapters reshaped the future of Britain, its colonies, and dominions. Published by Hachette India, "1945: The Reckoning - War, Empire and the Struggle for a New World" delves into the collapse of the British, Dutch, and French empires as global power dynamics shifted.

It focuses on India, where a generation on the cusp of independence faces a tough choice between loyalty to the British Raj and supporting Subhas Chandra Bose's Japanese-backed Indian National Army (INA). Through the story of a family torn apart by these opposing paths, the book highlights the deep questions of loyalty, identity, and the future of a free India.

"The book explores the lives of real people and two of the most important in this book are Subhash Chandra Bose and Kodandera Subayya Thimayya. Through tracking them closely, all of the book's many themes fall naturally into place - the war, the fate of the British Empire and the way decolonisation happens (or in some places, does not).

"Both men believe passionately in independence, but they choose very different routes toward it. Their lives intersect in numerous fascinating ways, in fact Thimayya's brother joins Bose in the INA," Craig, who is also the co-author of "Finest Hour", told PTI. Thimayya, the first Indian officer to command a brigade in the Indian Army, fought against the INA as well as the Japanese. He eventually served as the third chief of Army staff from 1957 to 1961, playing a pivotal role in shaping

India's military landscape during the post-independence era.

May 8 is observed as the end of World War II as it marks the surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces, officially ending the war in Europe. This event, celebrated as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), marked the culmination of years of fighting. The book, in its description, also sheds a spotlight on a little-known Australian special forces mission in Borneo, secretly directed from London. However, the campaign goes horribly wrong as questions are asked about whether its true purpose is military or imperial.

"And in Indochina and the East Indies British Generals free and arm Japanese prisoners of war and use them in savage campaigns that aim to put colonial rulers back into their palaces," it added.

According to the publishers, "1945: The Reckoning - War, Empire and the Struggle for a New World" confronts "uncomfortable truths" with honesty and depth, offering a nuanced and human portrait of a world in transition -- and challenging readers to reconsider what "victory" in World War II really meant.

The book's foreword is written by renowned author, historian and broadcaster James Holland.

"This is a book that crosses the globe from Britain to Germany and from India to Indonesia...it is ambitious, deeply thought-provoking and, as with all the very best history, compellingly told," Holland writes in his preface to the book.

The book, priced at Rs 899, is available for purchase across online and offline stores.

Tibetan monks hold peace prayers for India-Pakistan victims of conflict



Shimla : Tibetan monks are holding special prayers for peace between India and Pakistan and for those who lost their lives in the recent conflict, at a Buddhist

Monastery in Panthagathi on the outskirts here, monks said on Sunday.

"The prayers for peace have been going on for the past 3 to 4 days and will continue for another six days," Lama Yangtil told PTI Videos on Sunday.

As Tibetans, we preach non-violence and empathy and Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama has always advocated peace, another monk Rora Sambu said.

He said that prayers are being held for peace between India and Pakistan and also for the departed souls of those who lost their lives in the hostilities, he added.

The recent conflict between India and Pakistan began when terrorists killed at least 26 tourists in Pahalgalam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22.

India armed forces retaliated and struck nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor.

This Mother's Day meet the women who sort waste raise families and protect the planet

New Delhi : On a day when gifts, cards and wishes mark the celebration of motherhood across the country, four women in the lanes of Delhi's huge urban sprawl begin their day not with rest, but with responsibility to their children, to their communities, and to the planet.

Jyoti, Reshma, Anita and Shagufa - while these women are all waste pickers living in different slum clusters of the capital, they are also deeply involved in grassroots environmental work. They tirelessly work on the ground, seldom seek recognition and rarely appear in headlines.

From sorting and collecting recyclable waste to spreading awareness door to door, and to reaching out to the victims of domestic violence, their contribution to the city's development is as relentless as their role as mothers.

"I wake up at 4 am every day. I prepare food and lunch boxes, take my children to school and only then go to work," Jyoti, who lives in Vivekananda Camp and works with the Chintan environmental group, told PTI.

However, Jyoti's day does not end with her job as a waste picker. She spends afternoons picking up her children from school and sending them to tuition. Whereas, her evenings are all about finishing household chores.

"From 4 am to 10 pm, I don't stop. Sundays are the only days I take off, to be with my children," she said.

Chintan, an environmental



research and action group, engages women like Jyoti in community-based work. Many of them go door to door in their neighbourhoods, not only spreading awareness on waste management and environmental issues but also helping women facing domestic violence, injustice or medical distress.

Another 41-year-old slum dweller Reshma, who lives in the Bhalswa Diary slum, said that she balances similar responsibilities, but without a partner's support.

"My husband left me a long time ago. I've raised my five children

alone," she told PTI, adding that only two of her children go to school.

She said that she does not take on other waste collection jobs when she is engaged in projects by Chintan. She was also a part of the recent 'Heat Solutions' initiative to reduce indoor temperatures in low-income homes.

"I got white roofs painted and used bamboo and jute sheets to cool homes. I've done this for 70 to 80 houses. I only take a day off if one of my children is sick. Otherwise, I keep working," Reshma told PTI. Without

any gifts, cards or even appreciation on days like Mother's Day, these women live vastly different lives. What remains with them instead is grit, sacrifice, and quiet resilience.

In another part of the city, Anita, 40, lives in a slum in the Nizamuddin area. She too juggles environmental work, waste picking and the full-time demands of motherhood. "I have six children. Three of them go to school. It's hard to manage everything," Anita said.

Anita's husband left her 15 years ago, and she has raised her family alone since.

Her work with Chintan includes community surveys, plastic waste collection, and awareness campaigns. "We speak to women in the area, listen to their problems, and try to help. We also talk about health, environment, and safety," she said.

In the same area lives 30-year-old Shagufa, who said her health has suffered due to the constant strain of managing work and family. "There are several health issues I've been facing because I don't get rest. I work as a waste picker and also help with the environment group's work," she told PTI. Even as these women work in the harshest conditions like sorting through garbage, walking long distances and breathing polluted air, they also carry out critical environmental interventions that touch hundreds of homes.

Albanian election sees old rivals new parties and an ambitious promise of EU membership

Tirana (Albania) : Prime Minister Edi Rama is seeking a fourth term as Albania's prime minister in a general election on Sunday, after taking on his political nemesis in a boisterous campaign dominated by the country's uphill effort to join the European Union.

Rama's Socialist Party says it can deliver EU membership in five years, sticking to an ambitious pledge while battling conservative opponents with public recriminations and competing promises of pay hikes.

Opening up the election to voters abroad for the first time has added to the volatility, along with the appearance of new parties, a shift in campaigning to social media and a recent TikTok ban. And Rama's opponents have hired a heavy hitter from the United States to steer their campaign.

The country of 2.8 million people, with 3.7 million eligible voters including the diaspora casting ballots for the first time by mail, will elect 140 lawmakers to four-year terms, choosing from 2,046 candidates representing 11 political groupings, including three coalitions.

Turnout until 10 a.m., was 13.15%, according to the Central Election Commission, slightly less than four years ago. Polls close at 7 p.m. Results are expected in the next 48 hours, according to the

election law. Black and blue baseball caps

Rama, 60, secured the start of EU membership negotiations last October and is relying heavily on that momentum.

Under the party slogan "Albania 2030 in EU. Only with Edi and SP," Rama insists that full EU accession is possible by 2030 with annual funding of 1 billion euros (\$1.13 billion) upon joining.

"Today is the people's words. Let's wait for the people to speak," said Rama after casting his ballot.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas is pressing Albania to continue reforms - particularly in governance and anti-corruption efforts - to stay on track for EU membership.

Commentators are also skeptical. "It is an electoral pledge which is a citizens' desire," independent analyst Aleksander Cipa says, describing Rama's timeline as "not realizable."

Rama's main challenger is Sali Berisha, a hoarse-voiced and energetic 80-year-old survivor of Albania's tumultuous politics. Berisha, a former president and prime minister, has led the conservative Democratic Party since its founding in 1990.

He argues that Albania still isn't ready for EU membership. Berisha's leadership - fraught with party feuds and corruption allegations - and messaging



remain contentious. He started the campaign borrowing from U.S. President Donald Trump's slogan, which he changed to "Make Albania Great Again," but eventually settled on "Grandiose Albania."

Democratic Party hired Chris LaCivita, the veteran Republican political consultant and architect of Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

Berisha often appears at rallies wearing a blue baseball cap marked with a No. 1, the party's position on the ballot. In response, Rama sports a black cap emblem

zoned with the Socialist Party's No. 5.

Economic and tourism pledges

Economic concerns have been central to the campaign.

The Socialists say they will accelerate a tourism boom, from 10 million arrivals in 2024 to 30 million by 2030, diversifying destinations by expanding infrastructure projects.

The Democrats argue that the government's dismal performance has driven more than 1 million Albanians to leave the country over the past decade.

Both parties have made similar promises: a minimum pension of 200 euros (USD 225), an average monthly salary of 1,200 euros (USD 1,365), and a minimum wage of 500 euros (USD 570) - about 20% or higher than current levels. Berisha also advocates a 10% flat tax, value-added tax refunds for basic food items, a consumer card loaded with government money for retirees to buy basic foodstuffs at discounted prices and other benefits.

The pledges have blurred ideological lines and politics dominated by two parties has

encouraged the creation of alternatives. Several newer parties - two from the center-right and two left-wing ones - could emerge as kingmakers, if no major party wins a majority.

But analyst Lutfi Dervishi considers that scenario unlikely.

"It's a campaign without debate and results without surprises," he said. "Elections won't shake up the current scene - neither the system nor the main actors."

Corruption and justice Despite Albania's significant improvement in Transparency International's corruption index - rising from 116th in 2013 to 80th in the ranking in 2024 - corruption remains the country's Achilles' heel and a stumbling block for European integration.

Sweeping judicial reforms launched in 2016 with support from the EU and U.S. led to investigations and prosecutions of senior officials. Several former ministers, mayors and high-ranking officials have been jailed, while others face ongoing investigations.

Despite promises of cleaner governance, both major parties are fielding candidates facing corruption allegations.

Berisha has been charged with corruption and is awaiting trial. In 2021, the U.S. government barred him and his close

relatives from entering the country over alleged corruption. The United Kingdom followed suit in 2022.

Last October, Ilir Meta, a former president and now head of the left-wing Freedom Party of Albania that's allied with Berisha, was arrested on corruption allegations. He's running for a parliamentary seat in Tirana.

The capital's mayor, Erion Veliaj, a senior Socialist official, was detained in February amid a corruption investigation involving public funds. All the accused have denied wrongdoing.

TikTok and the swamp owl' Social media has become a primary vehicle for campaigning. Rama hosts daily Facebook livestreams to engage with voters. Berisha has followed suit, though less frequently.

The government has imposed a 12-month ban on TikTok, citing concerns over incitement and online bullying. Opposition parties condemned the move as censorship.

A code of conduct introduced by the Albanian ombudsman to encourage ethical campaigning fell flat as political discourse grew increasingly toxic. Rama described Berisha as a "swamp owl" - a metaphor for graft - while Berisha branded Rama as a "chief gangster."

‘Never again war!’: Pope Leo XIV supports India-Pakistan ceasefire in 1st Sunday address

MI News Service, Vatican City: Pope Leo XIV appealed to the world's major powers for “no more war”, in his first Sunday message to crowds in St. Peter's Square since his election as pontiff. The new pope, elected on May 8, called for an “authentic and lasting peace” in Ukraine and a ceasefire in Gaza and release of all Israeli hostages. Leo also welcomed the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and said he was praying to God to grant the world the “miracle of peace. In his first Sunday noon blessing as pontiff, Pope Leo XIV made a powerful call for peace, urging a just and lasting resolution to the war in Ukraine, an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Ukraine ready for 30-day truce with Russia starting Monday : FM

MI News Service, Kiev: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on Saturday that Kiev is ready for a “full and unconditional” 30-day ceasefire with Russia starting Monday. Sybiha made the statement in a post on social media X, following a meeting with leaders of the “coalition of the willing,” an initiative led by Britain and France in support of Ukraine. A durable ceasefire can pave the way to peace negotiations, Sybiha said. Earlier in the day, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with leaders of the coalition, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. According to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, the five leaders also held a “fruitful call” with U.S. President Donald Trump, focusing on peace efforts.

Iran will not back down on nuclear rights: FM

MI News Service, Doha: Iran will not back down on its nuclear rights in the negotiations with the United States, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday, one day ahead of the fourth round of the indirect talks in Oman.

Speaking at the fourth Arab-Iranian Dialogue Conference in Doha, Araghchi reiterated that Iran has always been a committed member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and maintains its right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including uranium enrichment. “We are not seeking nuclear weapons, and weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's security doctrine,” he affirmed. “For this reason, we were among the initiators of the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the West Asian region.” Araghchi stressed that Iran continues to engage in talks with the U.S., as well as other countries, in good faith. “If the goal of these negotiations is to ensure that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons, this is entirely achievable, and an agreement is well within reach,” he said.

However, if the goal is to deprive Iran of its nuclear rights or impose other unrealistic demands, Iran will not retreat from any of these rights, he said. Iranian and U.S. delegations have held three rounds of indirect talks so far -- the first and third in Muscat, capital of Oman on April 12 and April 26, and the second in Italy's Rome on April 19.



View of the Kartavya Path at Vijay Chowk, leading towards the Raisina Hill, amid rainfall, in New Delhi.

Did Pakistan admit to Pulwama role? What its Air Force official said

MI News Service, Islamabad: Pakistan's Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed has referred to the Pulwama attack as “tactical brilliance” amid tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad following the Pahalgam terror attack. The footage of his remarks is being widely circulated on social media and has raised eyebrows, as despite being linked to it, Pakistan has consistently denied involvement in the Pulwama terror attack. “If Pakistan's land, skies, or waters are threatened, there will be no compromise...We tried to convey this with our tactical brilliance in Pulwama, and now we've shown our strategic skills too,” said Ahmed, who is Director General Public Relations for the Pakistan Air Force, said in a Friday press conference that included foreign reporters.

As many as 40 Indian paramilitary personnel were killed in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack when Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammed's (JeM) suicide bomber targeted a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy. India had responded with the Balakot Airstrike, targeting JeM training camp located in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. India's actions led to an aerial dogfight with Pakistani jets, following which an Indian fighter pilot, Abhinandan Varthaman, was captured in Pakistan. However, he was released



by Pakistan days later, amid heightened tensions between both nuclear-powered neighbours.

The Pakistani official's comments soon caught attention of internet users, who noted that it casts doubt on Pakistan's denial of involvement in the Pulwama attack. “Did he really admit about Pulwama attack,” wrote a X user, sharing the video of Ahmed's statement. “Dear world, this is the reality of Pakistan - they have openly admitted their involvement in a terror attack that killed 40 Indian soldiers,” wrote another social media user on X.

“Pakistan just confessed! “Pulwama was tactical brilliance. Now

we've shown operational progress.” That's Pakistan Army admitting Pulwama wasn't the doing of faceless terrorists. It was state-backed,” wrote a third X user. The rare admission from Pakistan comes amid Islamabad's denial of harbouring terrorism in the country in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. After both the Pulwama and Pahalgam attacks, Pakistan has denied responsibility, claiming India does not have evidence to prove Islamabad's role in the incidents.

However, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif recently confirmed long-standing accusations that Pakistan has harboured terrorists.

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



MI News Service, Gaza Strip: Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 11 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents. Other strikes killed a child and a man riding a bicycle, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike killed a 16-year-old boy, according to the Indonesian Hospital. The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes. Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to

release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages. Aid groups say food supplies are running low and hunger is widespread. US President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel. The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage. Fifty-nine hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel's offensive has killed over 52,800 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians.

Gazans reject U.S.-Israeli aid distribution plan, call for enhanced UN role

MI News Service, GAZA: A joint U.S.-Israeli initiative to distribute humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip has triggered strong backlash from Gazans, who say the plan undermines their dignity and sidelines established international relief channels. Palestinians displaced by months of conflict voiced deep mistrust of the effort, accusing Washington and Tel Aviv of politicizing aid delivery amid a worsening humanitarian crisis.

“Since we were forced to flee south at the start of the war, we've endured hunger, deprivation, and fear,” said Mohammed al-Ajrami, a displaced resident of Gaza City. “People here have little trust in any initiative involving the same actors they hold responsible for their suffering.” “What we want is aid that preserves our dignity,” he told Xinhua. “International institutions like the United Nations have treated us with humanity. We don't want conditional aid tied to political or military oversight.” Similar sentiments were echoed by Salah al-Ja'farawi, also from Gaza City. “After 18 years of blockade and over 19 months of war, people will not accept aid that comes at the expense of their dignity,” he said. “Emergency help is one thing, but if the long-term plan is to erode our rights, it will not be accepted.” The aid plan, announced this week by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, aims to provide food to roughly 1.2 million

people -- about 60 percent of Gaza's population -- through four distribution centers inside the enclave. The operation will be managed by a newly established private entity, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, and secured by U.S. contractors, with the Israeli military guarding the perimeter. Speaking at a briefing in Jerusalem on Friday, Huckabee said the objective was to prevent Hamas from diverting aid, reiterating longstanding Israeli claims that the group exploits humanitarian supplies. But in Gaza, many view the plan as an extension of foreign control. Rami al-Najjar, a local humanitarian worker, said aid should be delivered through neutral channels. “People trust international organizations to distribute aid professionally, without political agendas,” he said. “Introducing military actors into this process sends the wrong message.” The United Nations and other humanitarian agencies have repeatedly warned against politicizing aid and confirmed that, under existing mechanisms, most supplies have reached civilians despite logistical challenges.

The situation in Gaza has sharply deteriorated in recent months. In March, Israel tightened its blockade, restricting shipments of food, medicine, and fuel. Aid agencies report worsening food insecurity, with rising malnutrition rates, particularly among women and children.

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League Banned By Bangladesh's Yunus Government

MI News Service, Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim government on Saturday banned the Awami League, the political party of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, pending the outcome of a trial over its crackdown on mass protests that prompted her ouster last year. According to the United Nations, up to 1,400 protesters died in July 2024 when Hasina's government launched a brutal campaign to silence the opposition. Hasina remains in self-imposed exile in India and has defied an arrest warrant from Dhaka over charges of crimes against humanity. “It has been decided to ban the activities -- including in cyberspace -- of the Awami League under the Anti-Terrorism Act until the trial of the Awami League and its leaders ends,” Asif Nazrul, a government advisor on law and justice, told reporters. Bangladesh's interim leader,



Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, has led an interim government since Hasina was overthrown.

Nazrul said the decision was taken to ensure the country's “sovereignty and security” and “the security of the protesters” along with safeguarding “the plaintiffs and the witnesses of the tribunal.” Yunus's administration also simultaneously approved an amendment to the country's International Crimes Tribunal Act, allowing authorities to prosecute political parties and their affiliated bodies. The

Awami League rejected the administration's move, calling it “illegitimate.” The ban comes a day after thousands of people rallied outside Yunus's residence, demanding a ban on Hasina's party. On Thursday, former Awami League leader Abdul Hamid -- also under investigation -- successfully left the country.

At least three police officers responsible for overseeing airport arrivals and departures have been dismissed for negligence in the wake of Hamid's departure, officials said.

BSF pays tribute to Sub Inspector Md Imteyaz, killed in cross-border firing in Jammu

MI News Service, Srinagar: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday paid solemn tribute to Sub Inspector Md Imteyaz, who was martyred on May 10 during intense cross-border firing initiated by Pakistan along the International Boundary in the R S Pura area of Jammu. The Director General of BSF, along with all ranks, honored the fallen officer for his “supreme sacrifice” in the line of duty.

According to BSF Jammu, Sub Inspector Imteyaz was leading a border outpost when the firing occurred and “gallantly led from the front,” displaying exceptional courage and leadership. He was reportedly killed just hours before India and Pakistan agreed to halt hostilities following four days of escalating military confrontation. The Jammu region, particularly areas like Poonch and R S Pura, saw the brunt of the escalation, with several casualties and widespread destruction reported. Jammu city itself became a focal point in a drone-based exchange, marking a new dimension in the conflict between the two nuclear-armed nations. A wreath-laying ceremony with full military honors is scheduled to take place on Sunday at the Frontier Headquarters in Paloura, Jammu, as announced by the BSF. Later on Saturday evening, India's Ministry of External Affairs officially confirmed the cessation of hostilities. “It was agreed that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land, in the air, and at sea with effect from 1700 hours IST today,” Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri stated. He added that appropriate instructions had been communicated to military commands on both sides to enforce the truce. Sub Inspector Md Imteyaz's sacrifice is a reminder of the risks faced daily by security personnel guarding India's frontiers, and his bravery will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude.



Wildfires burn over 30 hectares in coastal Syria, cause still unknown

MI News Service, Latakia: Massive wildfires breaking out on Wednesday in Syria have scorched more than 30 hectares of land in the countryside of the coastal province of Latakia, the Syrian Civil Defense said Sunday. No injuries or damage to homes have been reported so far, and the cause of the wildfires has not been identified yet, it said.

According to the Civil Defense, strong winds, high temperatures, remnants of war, and difficult access remain key challenges for firefighting teams. Meanwhile, Ali Assi, head of administrative and technical units in Latakia, told Xinhua that intense heat and difficulties in gaining access to firefighting equipment and water sources due to steep terrain are hindering efforts to fully contain the wildfires.

“The fire has not been completely brought under control after four days,” Assi said. “We've contacted neighboring municipalities from Aleppo, Tartous, and Hama to send reinforcements. The fire has spread over dozens of dunams, and we're still awaiting the arrival of heavy machinery to support operations.”

Gaza death toll tops 52,800 as Israel continues genocidal war

MI News Service, Gaza: At least 52,810 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza since October 2023, the strip's Health Ministry said on Saturday.

A ministry statement said that 23 people were killed in Israeli attacks in the enclave in the last 24 hours, while 124 others were injured, bringing the number of injuries in the Israeli onslaught to 119,473. “Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads, with rescuers unable to reach them,” it added.

The Israeli army resumed its assaults on the Gaza Strip on March 18 and has since killed 2,701 people and injured 7,432 others, shattering a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that began in January. Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Movement against the Modi government will continue until the new Waqf Act is repealed: Kamruzzaman



Nurul Islam Khan

The movement will continue until the Waqf Amendment Act, the black law of the Modi government to take away the property of Muslims' mosques, madrasahs, Eidgahs and graveyards, is repealed, said Muhammad Kamruzzaman, general secretary of the All Bengal Minority Youth Federation and member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. At a public protest rally against the Waqf Act at Bamanpukur College ground in Minakha on Sunday, Kamruzzaman said that Modi government is trying to destroy the secular character of the country by using its power. We will request the secular political parties of the country and the state not to fall into the trap of the BJP RSS; and fight against the conspiracy to snatch the democratic rights of the

people of the country. Please do not follow the path shown by the BJP and do politics of division. If we indulge the BJP's politics of division and speak in the tone of the BJP, one day the Muslims of the state will turn away from the current government like the previous Left Front government. That is why there is a movement across the country against the Modi government's Waqf Amendment Act. Until this black law is repealed, this Waqf movement will continue in our state too. The meeting was presided over by Imam Muazzin Council's M. Akhter Hossain, while Pirzada Khobayeb Amin of Basirhat, writer Manik Fakir, Shia religious teacher Firoz Hossain, many members of the Minority Youth Federation, etc. Lawyer Arindam Goldar, M. Ghiasuddin and other prominent figures were present.

TURNING POINT OF CONFLICT WAS INDIAN STRIKES ON MAY 9, 10, SAY SOURCES

NEW DELHI: Indian air strikes against the terror establishments in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir were a 'hell on fire' and signalled a new normal regarding India's approach to counter-terrorism, sources said on Sunday.

According to sources, "The Turning point was air strikes by India on 9th May and 10th morning, it was a 'hell fire' by India, conversation changed."

Notably, in a decisive response to Pakistan's aggressive actions along the western border and Line of Control (LoC), the Indian Armed Forces on Saturday targeted critical Pakistani military installations, including technical facilities, command and control centres, radar sites, and ammunition strongholds.

Addressing a joint press conference by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence on Operation Sindoor, Indian Army Colonel Sofiya Qureshi stated that precision strikes were carried out on Pakistani military targets in Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, and Chunion, as well as radar sites at Pasrur and Sialkot aviation bases, using air-launched weapons from Indian fighter aircraft.

"In response to Pakistan targeting civilian targets, the Indian Armed Forces retaliated and targeted technical installations, command and control centres, radar sites and ammunition strongholds... Pakistan military targets in Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, rahim yar khan, Sukkur and Chunion were engaged by air-launched precision weapons from our fighter aircraft... Radar sites at Pasrur and Sialkot aviation bases were also targeted using precision weapons. While carrying out these attacks, India has ensured minimal collateral damage," she said.

Further, the sources noted that US Secretary of State Rubio, after talking to the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, Asim Munir, called External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and informed that "Pakistan is ready to talk."

India made it clear that talks should be between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) and no one else, the sources confirmed.

Following the decisive Indian strike on Pakistan air bases, Pak DGMO requested for time with the Indian counterpart at 1 pm in the afternoon on May 10, the sources added.

"It is to be noted that India informed Pakistan DGMO on 7th that it had conducted strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan, but he did not respond; he asked for time after India conducted strikes on its air bases," the sources said.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh on Wednesday informed that a total of nine terror sites were targeted and successfully destroyed. She asserted that the locations were selected so that there was no damage to civilians and their infrastructure.

On May 7, the Indian Armed Forces launched strikes on nine locations inside Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Pakistan.

These included Bahawalpur, Muridke, and Sialkot, and five in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The Indian forces selected the locations to target top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leaders involved in sponsoring terrorist activities in India.

The sources also informed about India's stand on Kashmir, saying that the country doesn't need anyone to mediate and there was only one issue at hand.



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

JAISH-E-MOHAMMED HEADQUARTERS IN PAKISTAN'S BAHAWALPUR HIT HARDEST: SOURCES

NEW DELHI: The Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) headquarters in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, was among the hardest hit in India's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor, sources said. "Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters at Bahawalpur (Pakistan) was hit the hardest, most potent weapon was used. Jaish-e-Mohammed was created by ISI. It was an important message by India," sources said. There were no talks between the National Security Advisors and the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan. There were only talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries, source added. This comes amid tensions between India and Pakistan following the Indian Armed Forces' launch of Op Sindoor.



INDIA'S PRECISION STRIKES SEVERELY DAMAGE PAK'S NUR KHAN AIR BASE

NEW DELHI: Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan in Chaklala suffered significant damage, while Rahim Yar Khan airbase's runway was completely flattened in India's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor, sources said.

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

This operation was a retaliatory response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians,

including one Nepali national. Following India's operation, the conflict between India and Pakistan deepened, which resulted in increased cross-border shelling from Pakistan and retaliatory action from the Indian Armed Forces.

Areas across the border were set up on high alert, and there were blackouts whenever attacks from Pakistan took place.

A surprising sequence of events unfolded as Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) proposed a ceasefire to India's DGMO, which was accepted. Pakistan's DGMO called India's DGMO at 3:35 pm,

proposing a ceasefire, which India agreed to.

At 5:25 pm, President Trump tweeted about the ceasefire announcement, which seemed to precede official statements from both governments. Shortly after, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio tweeted that India and Pakistan would meet for talks at a 'neutral site', adding another layer to the diplomatic efforts.

On Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations contacted his Indian counterpart earlier this and the two sides agreed to halt all military actions—on

land, at sea, and in the air—effective from 1700 hours IST.

Misri noted that instructions have been issued to enforce the ceasefire, with another round of DGMO-level talks scheduled for May 12 at noon.

However, hours after both countries agreed to stop all firing and military action on land, in the air, and sea, reports came of Pakistan violating the cessation of hostilities with India's air defence intercepting Pakistani drones amid a blackout in Srinagar.

Red streaks were seen and explosions heard as India's air defence intercepted Pakistani drones amid a

India to send team to UNSC with evidence highlighting Pak's complicity

NEW DELHI: The sources have confirmed that India will be sending a team to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) soon, with the latest evidence highlighting Pakistan's complicity with terrorism.

The 1267 sanctions committee, also known as the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions committee, established under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) in 1999, is likely to meet next week, sources added.

It is one of the most important UN subsidiary bodies working to combat terrorism, particularly in relation to ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. It oversees sanctions measures related to individuals, entities and groups, associated with the aforementioned organizations. This committee oversees the implementation of sanctions pursuant to UNSC resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015).

Notably, India has accused Pakistan of shielding the Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Pakistan reportedly blocked the mention of TRF's name in a UNSC statement condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians. Despite TRF claiming responsibility for the attack twice, Pakistan's actions suggest a pattern of diplomatic cover for terror outfits.

TRF is a designated terrorist outfit linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, emerging after Article 370's abrogation in Jammu and Kashmir. It's involved in planning killings, recruiting terrorists, and smuggling weapons.

India will approach the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate TRF as a terrorist organization, imposing sanctions and travel bans on its members. TRF has been involved in several

attacks, including targeted killings, grenade attacks, and ambushes in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Operation Sindoor, India's military operation in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, is ongoing and represents a shift in India's strategic posture, according to sources.

The operation, which involved precision strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, aimed to hold those responsible for the attack accountable.

Sources confirmed that the operation is not over and signals a new normal in India's approach to counter-terrorism, emphasising that Pakistan must accept the new reality and cannot expect business as usual.

"Operation Sindoor is not over, we are in the new normal, the world has to accept this. Pakistan has to accept this; it cannot be business as usual," the sources told ANI.

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

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

India made it clear to the world that 'We cannot equate victim and perpetrators'

NEW DELHI: India has delivered a strong strategic message by targeting terror camps in Muridke and Bahawalpur -- locations known to house the leadership of major terrorist organisations with links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), according to high-level sources.

"The message India conveyed after hitting terror camps of Muridke, Bahawalpur that are closely tied with ISI is that we have not lost sight and we will hit you at the headquarters. We will not go after small camps," said sources.

India made it clear to the world that we cannot equate victims and perpetrators.

Sources also said, that there was a gap between technical and military application, the difference between India and Pakistan was massive, Pakistan realised they were not in that league. India attacked at will, and most of Pakistan's attacks were foiled. Pakistan should have no doubt. Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan, situated in Chaklala was also hit badly.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday praised Operation Sindoor, asserting that the Indian armed forces have delivered a decisive blow to anti-India elements inside Pakistan.

Singh described Operation Sindoor as a testament to India's political will, military strength, and zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism.

"Today, India is one of the most powerful nations in the world. We are constantly increasing our strength. Those who were against India and the terrorist organizations that attacked our country and devastated many families, the Indian armed forces have brought them to justice through Operation Sindoor. The entire nation is today saluting the bravery of the Indian forces," Rajnath Singh said.

"Operation Sindoor is not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social, and military willpower. This operation is a demonstration of India's firm resolve and military strength against terrorism," he emphasised.

The Defence Minister highlighted that the Operation has shown that whenever India takes action against terrorism, even territory across the border will no longer be safe for terrorists and their masters.

"The Indian forces launched Operation Sindoor with the objective of destroying the terrorist infrastructure present in Pakistan. We never targeted their ordinary citizens."

EXPERTS ON INDO-PAK UNDERSTANDING TO HALT MILITARY ACTIONS

VICTORY OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES DIPLOMACY

NEW DELHI: As India and Pakistan reached an understanding to halt all military actions, defence experts termed it a "victory of the Indian armed forces" and hoped Pakistan will "not open another chapter" after the agreement.

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

Making the announce-

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

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

Strategic affairs expert Maj Gen P K Sehgal (ret'd) called the understanding to halt military actions a "very good beginning" for both the



nations, as both countries suffered as a result of the escalating tensions.

"As far as Pakistan is concerned, we have broken the back of terrorism. India showed that there is a very strong and decisive leadership in place.

"Over the last 11 years, India spent a lot of money to strengthen air defence, and increase the capabilities, competence and professionalism of the Army in a very big way," he told PTI.

The government has given all the "wherevithal and force multipliers" to them that are essential to win a modern war, he said.

Also, the integration and coordination applied by the three services were "absolutely immaculate", the strategic affairs expert said, terming the cohesion displayed by the ministries of defence, external affairs and home affairs "absolutely outstanding".

"You cannot win a modern war without all the forces working in synergy," he said.

He also said the actions prior to the Operation Sindoor on May 7 "completely isolated Pakistan, and as the entire world stood behind India, the country stood behind the armed forces".

"Indian armed forces have

emerged as a guardian angel of India's sovereignty and integrity," Maj Gen Sehgal (ret'd) said.

"I am sure that Pakistan will dare not fight again. It is not in Pakistan's interest. Its military infrastructure is depleted," he added.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Col Anil Bhat (ret'd) from Mumbai said the understanding between the two sides might have stemmed from an agreement that "Pakistan will not support terrorist groups, and ensure they are not again sent into India".

"Knowing the history of Pakistan, it remains to be seen whether it (the under-

standing) will be followed, and if so, how well it is followed," he said.

However, it is hoped that the Pakistani military establishment "sees the sense and takes a positive course, otherwise, God forbid, if they start again, the response will appropriately be a little more," the retired army officer said.

"We hope that Pakistan learnt some lessons and will not open a new chapter," he added.

Brig Vijay Sagar Dheman (ret'd) said the US could have "put pressure" on Pakistan to agree to the understanding with India.