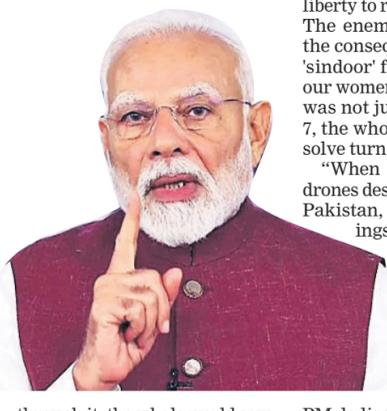


PM: Won't tolerate nuclear blackmail

Key takeaways

- Pak pleaded to stop military offensive
- Op Sindoor now India's new policy against terrorism
- Talks with Pak only on terrorism & PoK
- Blood and water cannot flow together
- Pakistan slumped into gloom



through it, the whole world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

"India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan, the future will depend on their behaviour. Operation Sindoor is now India's new policy against terrorism, a new line has been drawn," he said.

Modi said India will not see terrorists and their state sponsors separately.

"This is not an era of war but it is also not an era of terrorism," he said.

Pakistan has to dismantle its terror infrastructure. There is no other way to peace, the PM said.

"Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the prime minister said.

"Pahalgam attack was the most barbaric face of terrorism, it was a personal pain for me. We gave the armed forces full

liberty to raze terrorists to dust. The enemy has now realised the consequences of removing 'sindoor' from the forehead of our women. Operation Sindoor was not just a name... on May 7, the whole world saw our resolve turn into action," he said.

"When our missiles and drones destroyed terror sites in Pakistan, not only their buildings but their spirit was also demolished. When 'Nation First' is our resolve, steely decisions are taken," he said. Saluting the security forces, the PM dedicated their bravery to mothers, sisters and daughters of this country.

Pakistan slumped into gloom after the Indian attack on terror camps, "but they dared to attack us rather than helping fight terrorism. More than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered in the Indian attack", Modi said.

"The entire world saw how Pakistani drones were downed by our military might. India has struck at the heart of Pakistan, our missiles attacked with precision to damage their air bases," he said.

Modi also said, "This is not an era of war, but it is not an era of terrorism either. Unity is India's greatest strength in the fight against all forms of terrorism. Zero Tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee of a better and safer world," he said.

Modi asserted that Pakistan's military and government have continuously nurtured terrorism, warning that such actions will eventually lead to Pakistan's own downfall.

He declared that if Pakistan seeks survival, it must dismantle its terror infrastructure—there is no other path to peace.

"Any discussions with Pakistan will focus solely on terrorism and any negotiations with Pakistan will centre around PoK," he said. On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the PM reflected on Lord Buddha's teachings, emphasising that the path to peace must be guided by strength.



A Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) photo Monday shows air defence system launched by Indian Navy to neutralise Pakistani drones and missiles

Drone downed in Jalandhar

Jammu/Chandigarh, May 12: Suspected drones were observed along International Border in Samba district of Jammu region Monday, while armed forces downed a 'surveillance drone' in Punjab's Jalandhar district.

Security forces were engaging the suspected drones in Samba district, the Army said.

The drone activity along the border came barely hours after PM Narendra Modi's first address to the nation following Operation Sindoor and the meeting of the DGMOs of India and Pakistan.

The Army said the situation is calm and under full control.

"No enemy drones are being reported at present," it said.

"A small number of suspected drones have been observed near Samba in J&K. They are being engaged," it said.

In the backdrop of the situation, several areas witnessed blackouts in Samba, Kathua,



Rajouri, and Jammu.

Lights were switched off at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi and along its track as a precautionary measure, sources said.

The latest hostilities began in the northern districts of Kupwara and Baramulla in Kashmir Valley before spreading southwards to Rajouri, Poonch, Akhnoor and the Pargwal sector along the

International Border in Jammu district. The firing affected five border districts — Baramulla, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu.

The recent round of cross-border firing further undermined the ceasefire agreement reached in February 2021, which has largely been seen as ineffective due to Pakistan's frequent violations along the 740-km-long LoC.

We haven't hit Kirana Hills: IAF

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) Monday trashed social media rumours that it hit Pakistan's Kirana Hills, which reportedly has a nuclear facility. "We have not hit Kirana hills, whatever is there," Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said at a media briefing on Operation Sindoor.

He was asked about social media rumours that India hit a site called Kirana Hills that reportedly has a nuclear storage facility during its counter-offensive. India's strikes hit an airbase in Sargodha and there were some reports that the base is linked to an underground nuclear storage facility in Kirana Hills. Along with Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod addressed the media briefing. Bharti also said all the military bases and systems of India continue to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any mission if the need arises.

Sensex zooms 3k pts; Nifty eyes 25k



Mumbai, May 12: Benchmark stock indices roared back to life in a dramatic fashion Monday, with the Sensex vaulting over 3,000 points and the Nifty surging past 24,900, notching gains of more than 3.5%. This comes after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions and US and China announced a deal to lower tariffs significantly.

After opening on a high note, the 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points or 3.82 per cent to a high of 82,495.97.

The 50-issue Nifty of NSE skyrocketed 916.70 points or 3.82 per cent to close at 24,924.70. In intra-day trade, the barometer zoomed 936.8 points or 3.90 per cent to 24,944.80.

Sensex and Nifty logged their biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on across the board buying led by IT, metal, realty and tech shares. Sensex had previously posted its biggest single-day gain of 2,507.45 points and Nifty by 733.20 points on June 3, 2024.

Stock markets welcomed the understanding reached between India and Pakistan on Saturday to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea.

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

₹50cr for Santali language devpt

Bhubaneswar/Baripada, May 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday announced a special package of ₹50 crore to set up cultural institutions dedicated to Santal tribe, development of Ol Chiki language and preserve memorials related to Guru Gomke Pandit Raghunath Murmu in Mayurbhanj district.

Majhi announced this during a function marking the centenary celebration of the invention of Ol Chiki script for Santali language and the 120th birth anniversary of Pandit Raghunath Murmu.

The function was held at Mahuldaha in Mayurbhanj district. Pandit Murmu invented Ol Chiki script in 1925, which consists of 30 letters and is used to write and promote Santali literature and culture. Majhi said Pandit Murmu's residence and Samadhi Peeth would be developed into memorials, and the state government would commemorate the Ol Chiki centenary throughout the year.

The package will also be used to set up an Ol Chiki library in Baripada, Pandit Raghunath Murmu open theatre-museum and a heritage building at Murmu's workplace. Majhi said an international seminar would be organised in Delhi to promote Santali language on a global platform, which is likely to be attended by President Droupadi Murmu.

"Pandit Murmu's life was not just that of an individual—he was a movement, a consciousness, a craft, and a culture of knowledge," he said. The state government, Majhi said, is committed to preserving, promoting, and expanding the Ol Chiki language created by Pandit Murmu a century ago.

The CM further said the state government would advance this legacy by setting up Santali language institutions in primary education, produce textbooks, train teachers and create language development centres. He said Pandit Murmu was not only a promoter of knowledge and education, but also a personality who revealed the inner values of this land.



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Justice DK Shripad sworn in as HC judge

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad was sworn in as judge of the Orissa High Court (HC) at a ceremony held on the court premises in Cuttack Monday.

High Court Chief Justice Harish Tandon administered the oath of office to Justice Shripad, who was transferred from the Karnataka High Court to the Orissa HC May 1.

Justice Shripad enrolled as an advocate in July 1989 and was practising in the High Courts of Karnataka and Madras.

He was appointed the senior standing counsel for the Election Commission of India and as an additional central government standing counsel in 1999, official sources said.

Tariff war: US, China give 90-day pause

Geneva, May 12: US and Chinese officials Monday said they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Stock markets rose sharply as the globe's two major economic powers took a step back from a clash that has unsettled the global economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the US agreed to drop its 145 per cent tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed to lower its rate on US goods by the same amount to 10 per cent.

Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva.

The two officials struck a positive tone as they said the two sides had set up consultations to continue discussing their trade issues.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Bessent said. "And what had occurred with these very high tariff... was an embargo, the equivalent of an embargo. And neither side wants that. We do want trade. We want more balanced trade. And I think that both sides are committed to achieving that."

He made Gen Z fall in love with Red and Whites

New Delhi, May 12: Virat Kohli entered Indian drawing rooms as a quintessential 'West Delhi boy', grew on his fans like a never-ending love story with his boundless passion and finally called time on his career in whites when his legion of admirers yearned for 'One Last Dance'.

In his mind, he knew that although "it is not easy", it did "feel right". The question to be asked is when exactly did Kohli get this feeling?

Perhaps it was after a torrid tour of Australia where he scored only 91 runs after his second innings century in Perth. Swing and bounce together made life difficult and even for the eternal optimists, a

second coming looked distant. Yet, Indian cricket needed him in England but it seems, the mind, more than the body, had taken enough battering to last a lifetime and he didn't want to go through that rigour for another five Test series. Virat Kohli, the Test devotee, had decided to wave the white flag.

From being the chubby 'Cheeku' for his seniors, Virat for his contemporaries and now 'Bhaiyya' to the juniors, 'King Kohli' did traverse a fair distance and experienced joys of highs and the despair of lows in equal measure.

There was an 18-year-old Kohli, who in 2006, put his father Prem Kohli's last rites on hold, scored 90 to save Delhi from follow on and headed straight to

the crematorium from an empty Feroz Shah Kotla.

And then in 2025, 36-year-old global superstar Kohli was cast by a little known Railways medium pacer Himagshu Sang-

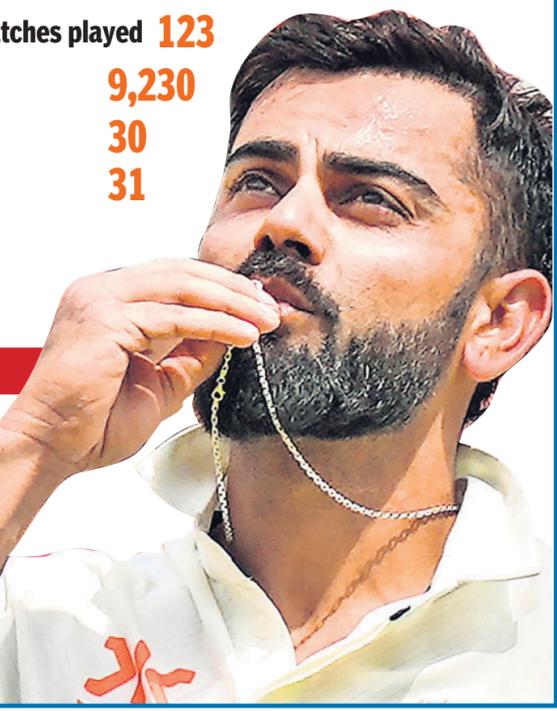
plete with 'back-stories' about whether there was a nudge or push, no one should have any doubts that Kohli has timed his Test adieu perfectly.

In times when attention span

of an average Indian fan is as brief as an Instagram reel, Kohli made the millennials and Generation Z fall in love with Test cricket, managing to draw their attention away from the glitzy Indian Premier League.

Test matches played	123
Scores	9,230
100s	30
50s	31

KOHLI SAYS GOODBYE TO TEST



leisure



GILLIAN ANDERSON NOT TO QUIT ACTING

The X-Files star Gillian Anderson has declared she will never quit acting to focus on her other projects - insisting she never 'gives up' on anything even if it seems too 'hard'. She has ventured into other areas in recent years - releasing a number of books and launching her own drinks company

JUSTIN BALDONI MAKES RARE APPEARANCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Hollywood actor-director Justin Baldoni broke his silence amid his ongoing legal battle with actress Blake Lively to pay tribute to his wife and his mom. He shared a family photo on Instagram Sunday, reports *People* magazine.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be indecisive today, which is not usually the case with you. Ganesha says this could lead you to indulge in speculation, which is not so bad unless you risk all your money in it. Besides, when it comes to matters of the heart, you must exercise a great deal of caution.

TAURUS
This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. Your warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else. Hanging out together with them will give you immense pleasure and contentment.

GEMINI
You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, job and such things will be on your mind and will give rise to mental stress and worry. You need to take care of your health and hygiene, says Ganesha.

CANCER
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

LEO
You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will be really very tough today, like a man of steel, but there is enough warmth in your heart. Forbearance, positivity and extremely artistic abilities will predominate. Ganesha advises you to pursue the arts in your studies. Your deep insight in to life will help you in serving society in a better way.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will be able to attain a huge benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you to give your best. Ganesha says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

SCORPIO
Nothing much to do today, as you are lost in thoughts. Bouts of depression may make you feel lonely. Meditation, yoga or listening to soft music may bring some respite to your disturbed mind. According to Ganesha, there's light at the end of every tunnel; be hopeful.

SAGITTARIUS
A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time off unandgames with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards.

CAPRICORN
If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesha. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong. Socially, you will build a stronger reputation, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesha. Travelling is on the cards for you.

PISCES
To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesha says you feel nice as things around you change.

Kriti's fuel behind her motivation

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Kharbanda disclosed the source behind her motivation. She revealed that being around her loved ones is her ultimate fuel.

The diva took to her Instagram handle and dropped a goofy selfie. The post also included two pictures of Kriti playing with a little girl, however, she did not disclose the face of the little munchkin. *The Guest in London* actress also shared a picture of a jar of pickle, along with an image of a delicious dessert.

Kriti further penned a note expressing her feelings when she is around her loved ones.

"#familytime — my favourite #mondaymotivation and that last picture, fuel hai mere fire ka! Feeling the energy of your loved ones around you is the best feeling no? They always find a way to show you a silver lining even in your darkest moments! (I'm not saying I was in a dark place, but u get the point I'm trying to make here right?) Ho gayi energise ab kaam karte hain! How's your Monday treating you!? Batao :)," she wrote.

Work-wise, Kriti is gearing up for her OTT debut with the second installment of the popular show, *Rana Naidu*, featuring Rana Daggubati, Daggubati Venkatesh, Arjun Rampal, and Surveen Chawla.



Kareena reveals her '9 a.m. call partner'

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan took to social media to share a heartfelt birthday tribute to someone who's played a pivotal role in both her personal and professional journey — her longtime friend and manager, Poonam Damania.

Calling her the "9 a.m. call partner," Kareena opened up about the unbreakable bond they share, highlighting how Poonam has stood by her side through every high

and low. Bebo took to her Instagram handle Monday and posted a heartfelt video compiling her cherished moments with her manager.

In a video montage, Kareena celebrated their deep bond with a series of candid photos featuring the duo together at vacations, parties, and family gatherings. One of the touching moments in the montage shows them posing with Karisma Kapoor. For the caption, the *Udda Punjab* actress wrote, "happy birthday to my rock of gibraltar wishing you happiness and only joy on your big day love...may our 9am calls always be forever thank you for being with me through it all and more @poonamdania."



Shalini on her Cannes debut

Mumbai: Actress Shalini Passi and acclaimed artist Padma Shri Paresh Maity are set to make their red carpet debut at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2025 with "Longitude 77."

Shalini expressed her excitement, highlighting how this opportunity allows her to represent India's rich artistic heritage on a global platform. She views Cannes not only as a premier film festival but also as a celebration of art in all its forms, where Indian creativity can be appreciated by a wider international audience.

Speaking about her debut at the prestigious event, the *Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives* actress shared, "I am honored to represent Longitude 77 at such a prestigious global platform. This collaboration is a meaningful opportunity to showcase the exceptional artistry and craftsmanship that India offers to the world on the prestigious red carpet of the Cannes Film Festival. I look forward to being part of this celebration that bridges Indian creativity with global appreciation."

Talking about his debut, Maity stated, "It is truly special to bring Indian artistic expression to the Cannes Film Festival through this collaboration with Longitude 77. This represents a unique dialogue between different creative forms, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and contemporary vision of India on the world stage."



Sriti gets philosophical

Mumbai: Popular television actress Sriti Jha took to social media to share a philosophical musing, where she drew a poetic parallel between the simplicity of a glass of wine and the vastness of the universe.

The *Kumkum Bhagya* actress took to Instagram Monday and posted a glass of wine alongside a passage from physicist Richard P. Feynman's Six Easy Pieces, drawing attention to the fascinating intersection between science, philosophy, and the human experience—all through the lens of a simple glass of wine.

In the excerpt, the glass of wine becomes a metaphor for the vastness of the universe and the interconnectedness of all things. Sriti highlights how observing something so ordinary can lead to an exploration of physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, and even psychology.

The actress wrote, "The whole universe is in a glass of wine. We will probably never know in what sense he meant that, for poets do not write to be understood. But it is true that if we look at a glass of wine closely enough we see the entire universe. There are the things of physics: the twisting liquid which evaporates depending on the wind and weather, the reflections in the glass, and our imagination adds the atoms."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

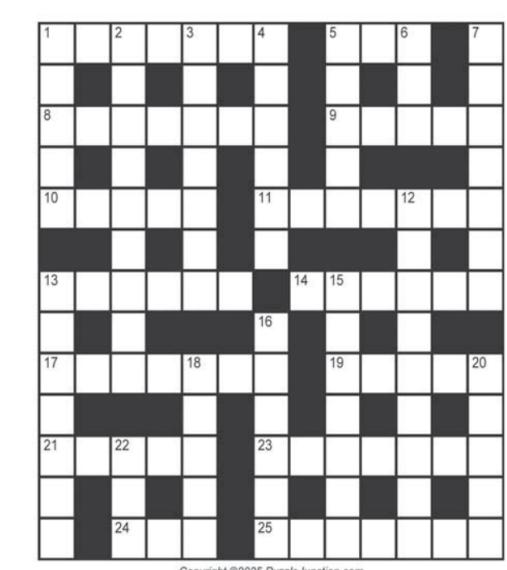


BREVITY



FUN POST

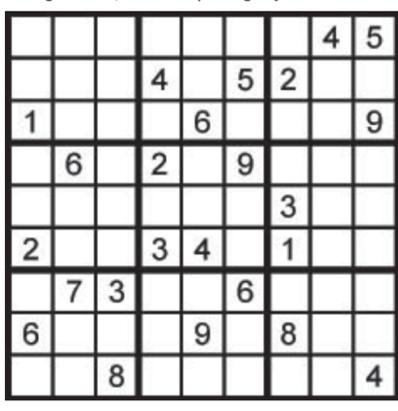
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Cheat
 - 5 Navigator's need
 - 8 Reveals something new
 - 9 Parachute material
 - 10 Small herring
 - 11 Blight
 - 13 Fortified wine
 - 14 Paths
 - 17 Have coming
 - 19 Après-ski drink
 - 21 Excuse
 - 23 Pirate
 - 24 Quiche, e.g.
 - 25 Helps out
 - Down**
 - 1 Potatoes
 - 2 City in Scotland
 - 3 Vagrant
 - 4 Results
 - 5 Animal disease
 - 6 Sidekick
 - 7 Hats
 - 12 Lens makers
 - 13 Shooting iron
 - 15 Fancy flowers
 - 16 Mouselike jumping rodent
 - 18 German wine valley
 - 20 Much of Chile
 - 22 Mischief-maker

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Rush of devotees at Lokanath Temple in Puri, Monday



downtown

'Vajra' to guard Srimandir

Ahead of Rath Yatra, DGP reviews security arrangements in Puri



36 Dhaura timber logs sent to Puri

Bhubaneswar: Thirty six specially-selected Dhaura timber logs have been sent from Baibali Reserve Forest under the Ghumsur North Forest Division in Ganjam district for construction of chariots in Puri, an official said Monday. Each log, measuring 20 feet in length and six feet in girth, will be used for construction of axles for the three majestic chariots of the Srimandir deities during the annual Rath Yatra, he said. The logs were chosen through a meticulous process led by forest officials and approved contractors following strict adherence to centuries-old rituals, he added.

Bahadur Khurania held detailed discussions with senior officers regarding the smooth management of the upcoming Sannan Yatra and the world famous Rath Yatra in Puri, crowd control, smooth management of traffic system, movement of dignitaries and orderly darshan and safe chariot pulling, etc." Khurania also reviewed the engagement of modern security infrastructure, CCTV mon-

itoring, rapid response units, and coordination with local authorities. "The DGP oversaw the crowd control measures, traffic management, vehicle parking, and actions to be taken in an emergency during the Rath Yatra," a senior official said, adding that the festival will be held for about a fortnight in the last week of June. The DGP has asked the authorities not to lower the ex-

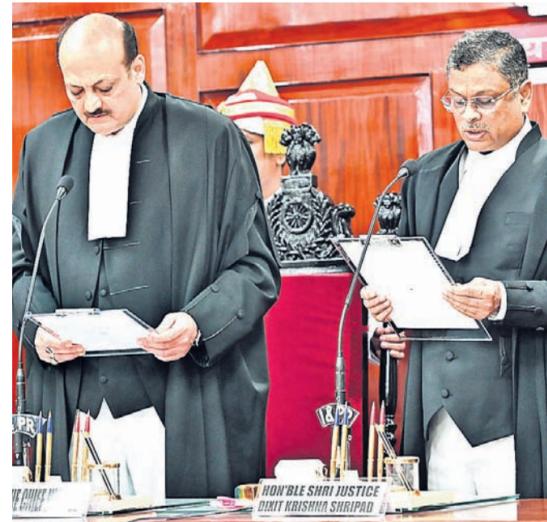


isting guards and maintain security protocols even though India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea. Heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the Puri temple has been noticed since the Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor to retaliate to the Pahalgam terror attack. At least eight platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) of personnel were deployed in and around the temple, the officials said. The force deployment would be strengthened as the Rath Yatra approaches, the officials said. Earlier this month, a team of National Security Guard (NSG) commandos conducted a routine security review. The DGP also reviewed the measures taken in four marine police stations located in Puri district, deployment of lifeguards on the beach, the outreach programme for the fishing community, the officials added.

Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad takes oath as Orissa HC judge

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad took oath as a judge of the Orissa High Court (HC) at a ceremony held on the court premises in Cuttack Monday. Orissa HC Chief Justice Harish Tandon administered the oath of office to Justice Shripad, who was transferred from the Karnataka HC to the Orissa HC May 1. Justice Shripad enrolled as an advocate in July 1989 and was practising in Karnataka and Madras HCs. He has also served as standing counsel for the Election Commission of India and as an additional Central government standing counsel in 1999, official sources said. He also served as standing counsel for the University Grants Commission, the Competition Commission of India, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and



the National Institute of Unani Medicine, to name a few, they said. Having been appointed as the assistant solicitor general of India in 2014, he was appearing for the Central government in important cases till his elevation as a judge of the Karnataka HC February 14, 2018.

No dilution in India's foreign policy: Samal

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Asserting that there has been no dilution in India's foreign policy, state BJP president Manmohan Samal Monday said the Centre would give a proper response to the Congress, which had raised questions about it. Samal made the remark while replying to reporters' questions about the Congress seeking answers from the Cen-

tral government on whether it had accepted third-party mediation on Kashmir, following US announcements made on behalf of India and Pakistan regarding no military action on the border. "It is obvious that we abide by the Simla Agreement. There should be no doubt about it, no deviation in it. We will not make any compromise on foreign affairs," Samal added. The Congress Monday urged the Centre to clarify whether it is open to third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue, warning that such a stance could potentially violate the Simla Agreement. Referring to US President Donald Trump's daily statements, claiming that he was intervening in the matter, the Congress said a clarification from the Union government on the matter was inevitable.

Mohan Bhagwat on 5-day Odisha visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 12: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat reached Bhubaneswar Monday evening on a five-day visit. During the visit, Bhagwat is scheduled to chair organisational meetings and training sessions. Amid tight security, he arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar and was received by senior RSS leaders and volunteers. Though Bhagwat's itinerary was not made public, RSS leaders said he would attend a training session and chair closed-door meetings. "He will stay at the Sangh Sikshya Barga (training camp) at Gatiropatna in Cuttack, and not attend any programmes outside the campus," an RSS leader said. Bhagwat will leave the state May 16, he said. He is likely to address the RSS volunteers on three separate occasions during his stay at the camp, the leader said. Bhagwat will also review the ongoing activities of the RSS in the state, and help prepare a roadmap for the centenary celebrations of the RSS here, he said.



NHRC seeks ATR from CS over DMF funds underutilisation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, May 12: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) over the allegations of underutilisation of District Mineral Foundations (DMF) funds in various mining-affected areas of the state. The NHRC has also directed the Chief Secretary to submit the ATR within two weeks of receipt of the order. The apex rights body issued the order while hearing a plea filed by activist Manoj Jena. "The complainant has drawn the attention of the Commission over the issue of underutilisation of DMF Funds in Odisha. Further, Odisha has collected over ₹30,000 crore in DMF funds, but nearly ₹18,000 crore is still unspent, leaving mining-affected areas lacking in basic services like healthcare and clean water. He urges the concerned authorities to use the funds properly, involve local communities, and ensure transparency," reads the order. The NHRC also termed the allegations made in the complaint by Jena as 'serious violations of human rights' of the people residing in mining-affected areas across the state. The rights activist, in his complaint, raised questions over the sheer negligence on the part of the district administration and local MLAs and MPs in properly utilising the DMF fund in their respective districts for the socio-economic uplift of people in

areas impacted by mining operations. "Why, despite provisions under law with district Collectors as chairpersons of DMF trusts and the local MP and MLAs being the members of such forums, there is huge negligence in spending of development funds? It is a serious violation of the right to development of the people in the mining area," stated Jena. He further noted that the mining sector contributes about 10 per cent to the Gross State Domestic Product in Odisha. Jena alleged that in spite of all these growths, the benefits are not being substantially transferred to the people in mining areas in changing their vulnerable condition. The rights activist further added that the major contributor districts such as Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Koraput and Angul remain backward in terms of human development, access to healthcare, sanitation, safe drinking water, basic amenities, condition of women and children, employment and livelihood, and environmental conditions. He alleged the fund created at the Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OMBADC) is also largely unspent. He urged the Commission to recommend that the state government take necessary action against the errant government officers for the failure of utilisation of DMF funds, frame a time-bound for the spending of the funds and carry out a social audit of the DMF fund involving local people and different domain experts.

DOUBLING CULTIVATORS' INCOME

BJP Krushak Morcha plans farmer rallies to thank CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 12: To thank Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for doubling the income of cultivators, Odisha BJP Krushak Morcha will organise mega farmers' rallies across the state from Tuesday. According to the Morcha, Majhi has been tirelessly working for farmers' welfare since taking oath in June last year. Morcha president Maheshwar Sahu Monday said the rallies will be held at Chandbali in Bhadrak district May 13, Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district May 15, Jagatsinghpur May 17, Angul May 18, Subarnapur May 20, Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district May 22, Rayaga-



da May 26, Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district May 28, Sundargarh May 30 and Dhenkanal May 31. He added that Majhi and Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra will participate in these events. "Several other dignitaries, in-

cluding state and Central ministers, MPs, MLAs, and senior BJP leaders will also attend the rallies," he said. "Majhi has ensured that farmers receive ₹3,100 per quintal as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy. While the Central government fixed the MSP at ₹2,300, the state government provided an additional ₹800 per quintal," Sahu added. The Morcha also lauded the state government for the smooth procurement of 74 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from 17 lakh farmers during the Kharif season. "This initiative is a groundbreaking step towards improving the financial status and morale of farmers," Sahu said.

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Min orders action on sand smuggling

Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena reviews mining and transport departments and orders tech-based monitoring and transparency at sand ghats



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Commerce & Transport and Steel & Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena issued firm instructions to initiate strict action against illegal sand smuggling in the state. The directive came during a high-level review meeting held Monday at the Circuit House in Subarnapur district, where he assessed the functioning of the Mining and Transport departments.

Stressing the need for greater regulation and transparency at sand ghats and quarries, the Minister ordered that clearly visible information boards be installed at all operational sand sites within a week. These boards must display key details

such as the ghat name, license holder, license number, daily lifting target, available stock, and other relevant information — aimed at improving public accountability and administrative oversight.

To curb unauthorised transport of sand, Jena also directed that sand-laden vehicles must operate only on approved routes. He further instructed the installation of CCTV cameras at sand ghats and GPS tracking systems on transport vehicles to enhance monitoring and deter illegal activities. Such steps, he stated, would not only reduce illegal operations but also help boost government revenue from mining.

In the transport sector, Minister Jena reviewed the

department's annual revenue collection and enforcement activities related to unauthorised driving, drunk driving, overloading, and vehicle showroom inspections.

He also discussed safety measures for accident-prone areas and evaluated the implementation of the FTTF (Financial Assistance for Treatment of Trauma Cases) scheme, which provides aid to accident victims.

Underlining the significance of people-centric governance, Jena called for better coordination among departments to ensure efficient service delivery and inclusive development at the district level.

The meeting opened with a welcome address by District Collector Anya Das, followed by a vote of thanks from Additional District Collector Rajendra Majhi.

Among those present were SP Narayan Nayak, Sub-Collectors Soumya Rupa Rath and Lalatendu S, Additional CEO Pallavi Rani Raj, RTO Akshay Kumar Jena, Transport Manager M Rajalakshmi, the District Mining Officer, all BDOs, Tehsildars, and other senior officials.



ART SHOWCASE: Visitors at solo art exhibition 'BASTU' by Subhamaya Biswal organised by Together at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday. PIC- BIKASH NAYAK

Patnaik takes credit for industrial growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Opposition BJD president Naveen Patnaik Monday expressed satisfaction that Odisha registered the highest industrial growth in the country between 2015 and 2024 when he was the chief minister of the state.

Patnaik, who was at the helm from 2000 to 2024, also said that Odisha's growth was mainly fueled by the manufacturing sector.

"Glad to share that #Odisha's industrial gross state



value added (GSVA) grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent between FY2015-FY2024, highest among

all states as per the report from @ICRALimited," Patnaik, the leader of the opposition, said in a post on X.

GSVA measures the total value of goods and services produced by a state within a specific period, typically a year, at basic prices.

With constant effort to attract investment through 'Make-in-Odisha' enclaves and meticulous nurturing of the industrial environment, the industry share in GSVA has reached 51 per cent in 2024, which is among the highest in

the country, Patnaik said.

The former chief minister also said that Odisha has also recorded the second highest growth in GSVA at constant prices at more than 7 per cent, compared to 5.8 per cent growth recorded by the national economy.

"The sustained industrial growth not only transformed #Odisha's economy but also brought prosperity for the people, which would not have been possible without the support of 4.5 crore people of #Odisha," Patnaik said in the post.

Two more arrested for vandalising bar

Bhubaneswar: Two more people were arrested Monday, bringing the total to 13, for allegedly vandalising a Bhubaneswar bar and shooting a security guard after being asked to leave at closing time, police said.

Enraged after being asked to leave as it was 2am already, they hurled stones at the bar located in the Chandrasekharpur area, which shattered some glasses.

While some members of the group stayed put outside the bar, others went to get more men to intensify the vandalism, Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh.

Around 4am, when the security guard who had asked them to leave came out, they assaulted him and then shot him, he said.

The guard, identified as Surya Kanta Pradhan (34), sustained a gunshot wound on his right leg, police said, adding that he is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital here and is in a stable condition.

10th PHW explores cultural legacy of Narendra Sarovar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 12: The 10th edition of Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) took participants on an immersive journey through the sacred precincts of Narendra Sarovar and its surrounding heritage landmarks Sunday. The event drew around 20 enthusiasts from Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, and Rourkela.

The walk began with a visit to the holy Narendra Sarovar, followed by stops at key spiritual and historical sites such as Kalindiswara Temple, Gopal Jew Mutt, Brahma Jaga, Jatia Babaji Ashram, Kuladananda Brahmachari Ashram, and Baya Baba Mutt.

At Kuladananda Brahmachari Ashram, a discussion session was held where convener Sanjay Baral welcomed the group. Ashoka Manjari Nayak offered deep insights into the heritage and history of Narendra Sarovar and the Chandan Yatra. She



explained how the yatra, originally held at Chandanpur, was relocated to Narendra Sarovar after its construction, and detailed the associated rituals.

Ritu Pattanaik, an author known for her work on Odia cuisine, spoke about the traditional "Mandua Bhoga" offered during the festival. Nutritionist Jyotsna Mohapatra shared her personal experiences with PHW, while advisor Debi Prasanna

Train services begin from Bhubaneswar new station

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: In a relief for rail passengers, train services officially commenced from the newly constructed Bhubaneswar new railway station Monday.

Three prominent express trains—Konark Express, Visakha Express, and Intercity Express—have been shifted to start and end their journeys at the new station instead of the existing Bhubaneswar main station. According to East Coast Railway officials, the move aims to ease congestion at the main station and enhance operational efficiency. The following trains will now terminate, or originate, at Bhubaneswar new station: Konark Express (11020/11019) - between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai CSMT, Visakha Express (17015/17016) - between Bhubaneswar and Secunderabad Intercity Express (22819/22820) - between Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, railway officials stated that these trains will maintain their existing schedules beyond Bhubaneswar main station, with Mancheswar added as an intermediate halt between the two Bhubaneswar stations.

Opposition slams govt over farmers' neglect

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 12: The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress Sunday slammed the BJP-led government over alleged negligence of farmers and questioned the relevance of the 'Dhanyabad Mukhya Mantri Mohan Charan Majhi' programme scheduled from May 13 to 31.

Addressing media persons, Nayagarh BJD MLA Arun Kumar Sahoo said, "Our army and farmers are the backbone of the country and deserve utmost respect. The state government's programme to thank the chief minister seems misplaced. They should thank the farmers first, not the CM."

Sahoo added that farmers have contributed significantly by producing large quantities of paddy to feed the nation. "The government had promised to remove the 'Katni Chatni' practice, but it still continues. They must take immediate steps for

farmers' welfare," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, Jeypore Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati stated, "The government has failed to fulfil promises made to farmers before the elections. The 'Katni Chatni' system has worsened, increasing threefold under the current regime. There is also a lack of proper irrigation facilities. The government must be held accountable." In response, BJD state spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra defended the government's efforts. "The BJP-led government is about to complete one year in office, and it has implemented more schemes than previous regimes. We are giving an additional Rs 800 bonus to farmers, and paddy storage has reached a record high this year," he said.

Mohapatra further added, "The BJD and the Congress are making baseless allegations for political gain. Our government gives special priority to farmers, labourers, women, and others."

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, SURESH KUMAR PAIKARAY, Father of SRADHA SUMAN PAIKARAY, P.O.-Sunabeda-2, Dist.-Koraput, presently residing at Qtr. No.-U-131, HAL Township, P.O.-Sunabeda-2, P.S.-Sunabeda, Dist.-Koraput (Odisha) being the father of my minor daughter do hereby declared that by virtue of affidavit dated-07.05.2025 before the Notary Public, Sunabeda my daughter name to be changed from ADYASHA PAIKARAY to SRADHA SUMAN PAIKARAY and she will be known as SRADHA SUMAN PAIKARAY for all purposes.

Sambalpur sizzles at 42.9° Celsius

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Heat-wave conditions prevailed across Odisha Monday with the mercury soaring past 40 degrees Celsius in 17 places.

Sambalpur town was the hottest place in the state, recording a temperature of 42.9 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological centre in Bhubaneswar.

Hirakud recorded 42.4 degrees Celsius, Jharsuguda was at 42.2, and Bolangir at 42.1.

Capital city sizzled at 40.4 degrees Celsius, while it was 40 degrees in Cuttack city.

The weather office said hot and humid conditions are expected to prevail in most parts of the state on Tuesday. Thunderstorms with lightning are likely in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, and Ganjam, it said.

Need a full debate on Op Sindoor: Cong

BJP MP Sujet Kumar thanks PM for making it clear that terror and talk, terror and trade cannot go together

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first address to the nation after the Operation Sindoor is not sufficient to satisfy the country's people, and a special session of Parliament should be convened to bring more transparency.

The people of the country should know whether the government changed its foreign policy and allowed third party to intervene in the bilateral issue of India and Pakistan, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said.

"I do not want to make any adverse comment on the statement of the Prime Minister, but a lot of things remained untold. The country should know

The people of the country should know whether the government changed its foreign policy and allowed third party to intervene in the bilateral issue of India and Pakistan

BHAKTA CHARAN DAS | OPCC PRESIDENT



whether the government allows third-party intervention into the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir issue. We have suddenly withdrawn when our Armed Forces are all set to fight," Das told PTI.

critical junctures and there is no reason to go for sudden withdrawal, Das asserted.

"This decision has weakened us, impacted the nation's pride. The Prime Minister in his speech has not addressed these issues. Therefore, a healthy debate is required. This is possible if a special session (of Parliament) is convened," the Congress leader said.

BJP MP Sujet Kumar, however, thanked Modi for making it clear that terror and talk, terror and trade cannot go together.

"The PM has also said that blood and water also cannot flow together," said Kumar, who joined the BJP after resigning from the BJD.

He said that the Prime Minister has ended Pakistan's "nuclear" blackmail.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	40.7°	39.4°
Min Temp	27.5°	26.6°
Humidity	73%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST Partly cloudy		

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	82,429.90	▲ 2,975.43
NIFTY	24,843.95	▲ 835.95
DOLLAR	84.885	▼ 0.496
EURO	94.31	▼ 1.7595
GOLD	₹93,222	▼ ₹3,268
SILVER	₹95,770	▼ ₹947

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New rules to tighten noose around stone crusher units



The newly implemented rules and SOP mandate strict compliance from operators, with any violation resulting in cancellation of registration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 12: Illegal stone crushers operating along a stretch of National Highway 53—from Chandikhole Dak Bungalow Square to Chadheidhara—continue to pose grave risks in Jajpur district. Several crusher units, extracting and processing black stone without proper permission, have led to recurring hazards claiming labourers' lives, and law and order concerns in the region. Taking serious note of this issue, the State government's Steel and Mines department has prepared a new set of rules and a fresh Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the registration of stone crushers. As per the May 5 directive issued by Additional Secretary Daulat Chandrakar to the Director of Minor Minerals, the new rules mandate strict compliance from operators, with any violation resulting in cancellation of registration.

Since 2015, more than ten administrative crackdowns have been carried out on illegal crusher units under Dharماسala tehsil. These inspections included scrutiny of environmental clearance, transit passes, and sales receipts. Despite these efforts, little revenue has reached the government exchequer, and legal action against violators remains virtually non-existent.

In July last year, the Department of Mines conducted raids on 99 crusher units. Although locals had hoped this would lead to decisive action, no significant outcome followed. Illegal units operating without required permits continue to ignore environmental norms and siting criteria. Several units function dangerously close to schools at a distance of less than 500 metre, causing air pollution that has reportedly affected students' health.

Previously, the administration had promised to

develop a designated cluster for crushers. Land was identified in Barada, Anjira and Alajhatia within the Kalinganagar industrial zone, and a foundation stone was laid by then-MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantaray June 29, 2022. However, progress has stalled, allegedly due to resistance from vested interests fearing loss of monthly payouts from operators.

These crusher units often resume operations shortly after being shut down. Many possess massive stockpiles of black stone far exceeding what could have been extracted with legally sanctioned mining activity.

To curb the wrongdoings, the new SOP outlines detailed criteria for the units. Crusher owners must secure environmental clearance and e-transit passes through the i4MS system. Data on stone procurement, quantities crushed, and destinations must be maintained in a Form-C register and submitted during the first week of every month. All accounts and reports must be regularly updated and presented to inspecting authorities upon request.

Additionally, crushers must follow all environmental regulations, allow official stock audits, and install CCTV cameras and functional check gates. Non-compliance with these conditions will result in de-registration.

Whether these new rules will be enforced effectively in Jajpur remains to be seen, but discussions among locals indicate a cautious optimism that the government may finally act tough against illegal stone crusher activities.

22 villagers held for assaulting cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, May 12: Altogether 22 people, including 18 women, were arrested on the charge of assaulting police personnel at a coastal village in Ganjam district, an officer said.

At least six police personnel suffered injuries, and their vehicle was damaged when a group of people threw stones and bombs at them in Pati Sunapur village under Marine police station Sunday night when they were on duty during a festival.



While one group of the villagers was in favour of the Jogamma Yatra in the village from Sunday, another wanted to defer it to the last week of this month.

A key road was blocked by people carrying arms to stop the festival and procession of the deity in the village Sunday night.

Police reached the spot and discussed the matter with the agitators, besides the executive magistrate, to control the situation, the officer said.

Despite their efforts, the accused people abused the police and continued to block the road. They also threw stones and petrol bombs at police personnel, said Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M.

Due to the explosion of bombs and hurling of stones, six police personnel were injured and a vehicle was damaged, he said.

They blocked the village road for about three hours, causing severe inconvenience to the common people and obstructed the police from performing their duty, the officer added.

The situation was tense but under control in the village Monday. Four platoons of security forces were deployed in the village, the SP said. Attempts are being made to arrest the other accused people.

2 elephant tusks seized; 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bonai, May 12: Forest personnel seized two elephant tusks and arrested three ivory traders during a sting operation at Kunjur village under the Sola forest range and Bonai forest division in Sundargarh district Monday.

The accused were identified as Thomas Tete, Kuanr Bilung, and Shatrughna Nayak. Two elephant tusks and a motorcycle were also seized from their possession. The accused will be produced in the court Tuesday. This was stated here in a presser by Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Lalit Patra Monday.

The DFO said that the seized tusks weigh approximately 600 gram and 540 gram respectively. As per the investigation, Thomas and Kuanr had allegedly hidden the tusks at their residences for a long period. Acting on a tip-off, the Forest department launched a covert operation where an official posed as a decoy customer and initiated a fake transaction, leading to the arrest of the suspects.

The operation was conducted under the direction of DFO Patra and led by Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Jagannath Bisoi. Patra credited Bishoi and the forest personnel of the Jarada and Sola ranges for the successful execution of the operation.

Police bust fake note racket, arrest kingpin

FICN with ₹2.7L face value seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 12: Bhadrak Rural police have arrested the alleged mastermind behind a counterfeit currency racket and seized fake Indian currency note (FICN) with a face value of ₹2,72,800 from his residence in Chhanchina village under Dasarathpur police limits in Jajpur district, officials said Monday.

The arrest, made late Sunday night, follows an investigation launched after a suspicious ₹200 note was given to a stationery shop in Anandabazar under Bhadrak Rural police limits Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at Purunabazar police station Monday, Sadar SDPO Bichitrananda Sathy said a youth had initially bought items using a ₹200 note. When he attempted a second purchase with another ₹200 note, the shopkeeper identified it as fake. With help from a nearby shop owner, the youth was detained

and handed over to the police.

During interrogation, officers recovered counterfeit notes with face value of ₹7,100 from the suspect. Based on a complaint filed by Sub-Inspector Ramyaranjan Pradhan, police registered a case (240/25) and arrested the youth identified as Sushanta Sahu of Deulpal village Sunday.

Further investigation and interrogation led to the arrest of Chandramani Bal, the alleged kingpin of the racket. A counterfeit currency printing machine was also recovered from his residence.

Police said Bal is a repeat offender with multiple criminal cases lodged against him in police stations across Jajpur Town, Kaliapani and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. He had previously been arrested in similar cases and an outstanding warrant exists against him at Nilagiri police station in Balasore district.

In the preliminary investigation, it was found that he used to sell counterfeit notes of ₹1 lakh in face value for ₹20,000 in original currency.

Bhadrak Additional SP Sambit Majhi and Rural police station Sub-Inspector Monalisa Pradhan were also present at the press briefing.

37.5 gm brown sugar seized; 2 arrested



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 12: Bhadrak Purunabazar police seized 37.5 gm brown sugar and arrested two youths in this connection during a patrol operation Sunday morning, officials said at a press briefing.

In the press conference at Purunabazar police station Monday noon, Additional SP Sambit Majhi said Sub-Inspector Priyabrata Biswal and his team received a tip-off about illegal brown sugar trade near Sahidabad bridge under Purunabazar police limits. Acting swiftly, the team cordoned off the area and arrested two suspects identified as Farzan Saha, 21, and Sheikh Dayan, 26, from Shankarpur Darjipati.

Police seized 37.5 grams of brown sugar, a motorcycle, and two mobile phones from the accused. A case (108/25) was registered and the duo was produced in court Monday.

Sadar SDPO Bichitrananda Sathy and Purunabazar PS IIC Sushanta Sahu were also present at the briefing.

Vedanta installs 321 solar street lights in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium, has installed 321 solar street lights across the gram panchayats of Jharpalam, Mundelkhet, Garanjore, Kuraloi, Banjari, Lakhampur, and Belpahar in Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts.

Speaking about the initiative, Vedanta Aluminium Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sunil Gupta said, "We are deeply committed to sustainable development and inclusive growth in the regions where we operate. This intervention is part of Vedanta Aluminium's broader sustainability mission to foster green infrastructure and improve the quality of life in its operational regions.

The solar lighting project reflects our focus on meeting the needs of underserved communities through infrastructural support."

He added, "These lights are not only illuminating villages, but are also lighting the path to socio-economic progress by empowering local businesses, improving mobility, and enhancing public safety."

Notably, this green initiative will provide reliable and eco-friendly lighting to more than 10,000 residents along with contributing to the reduction of approximately 22 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission annually.

The solar streetlights have been installed across the marketplaces, village entrances, bus stands, community centres, schools and main roads.

23 fly-ash laden dumpers seized

SAMBALPUR: Police Monday seized 23 fly-ash laden dumpers under Thelkolei police limits in Sambalpur district on charge of transporting the material without necessary permits. Police said the dumpers were transporting the fly-ash from various industrial plants in Jharsuguda and dumping on the ground adjoining the Thelkolei Government High School without proper permits. On being informed, police reached the spot and verified the papers of the dumpers but the drivers failed to produce valid transit passes or dumping permits, prompting authorities to seize all 23 vehicles. A case (155/25) has been registered at the Thelkolei police station and further investigations were on.



Lightning claims 2 cowherds' lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patrapur, May 12: Two cowherds were killed by lightning strike during a thunderstorm near Narayanpur village under Jarada police limits in Ganjam district Monday.

The deceased were identified as M Sakili Kaniari, 55, and M Bhavesh Kaniari, 18, son of M Sanya in Narayanpur village. Villagers rushed them to the Patrapur Community Health Centre where doctors pronounced them dead. Jarada police sent the bodies for

post-mortem to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and launched an investigation.

The incident occurred when the two had gone to graze a herd of buffaloes at the riverbank near their village. They left their buffaloes to graze and started cooking food at a nearby mango orchard when heavy rain accompanied by gusty wind and lightning lashed the area. The two collapsed to the ground and lost their consciousness after lightning struck them during the thunderstorm.

Couple donates bodies to support medical research

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, May 12: A married couple from Jeypore in Koraput district has pledged to donate their bodies and organs to support research in a local medical college and chose to forgo traditional cremation rituals to help save trees for environmental conservation.



The couple, identified as Gouri Prasad Pattanayak, 58, and Kaviya Pattanayak, 40, said they were driven by humanitarian values and a shared commitment to society and nature. "Once I attended a blood donation camp and that channelled my perspective towards helping others and conserving the environment," Gouri Prasad said.

He added that the local medical college lacks donated bodies for practical training, creating difficulties for students. "Cremation requires a lot of wood, which I wanted to avoid to save trees. So my wife and I decided to donate our bodies and organs after death. This will fulfil both of our goals." The couple was honoured by the Pratima Ambika Trust for their socially and environmentally conscious decision.

Brain-dead boy's kidneys give new lease of life to 2



POST NEWS NETWORK

Swasriayan Patra suffered a fatal brain injury when a heavy iron gate fell on him. In the face of unimaginable grief, his parents chose to transform their loss into hope for others

cal team, they made the brave decision to donate their son's organs — a move that ultimately saved two young lives.

The hospital coordinated with the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) to ensure swift retrieval and transportation of the kidneys. One was sent to AIIMS Bhubaneswar and the other to a private hospital in the capital city.

This donation marks the fourth such organ retrieval facilitated by SUMUM. The hospital has so far enabled the donation of 13 organs from brain-dead patients, helping save lives both within Odisha and across the country.

Bhubaneswar/Baripada, May 12: In a heart-wrenching yet inspiring act, the parents of a six-year-old boy from Baripada, declared brain dead after a tragic accident, donated his kidneys — giving two other children a renewed chance at life.

The boy, identified as Swasriayan Patra, suffered a fatal brain injury when a heavy iron gate fell on him. He was first treated in Balasore before being transferred to SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) in Bhubaneswar May 7. Despite intensive care, his condition continued to deteriorate. Following two rounds of the Apnea test, doctors officially declared him brain dead.

In the face of unimaginable grief, the child's parents chose to transform their loss into hope for others. After being counselled by SUMUM's medi-

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Age requirement: 18 years to 24 years as on 31-05-2025. Reservation of seats will be as per Presidential Directives/Govt. Guidelines.

Detailed common advertisement along with reservation, prescribed educational qualification requirement and other eligibility criteria/parameters is available on the website www.iocl.com.

HOW TO APPLY : Candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria for a trade/discipline, may visit the website www.iocl.com, go to 'What's New' > go to **Engagement of Apprentices under Refineries Division> Click on "Detailed advertisement"** (to refer to the Advertisement) > Click on "Click here to Register/Apply on NAPS/NATS" (to register/apply against opportunities) > Click on "Click here to Apply Online on IOCL portal"(to fill online application form). Those meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may submit their applications through the on-line application process only which shall require completion of BOTH STEPS as indicated below:

- **STEP I :** Registration on NAPS/NATS portal and Application to Opportunities notified on NAPS/NATS portal
- **STEP II :** Application on iocl website www.ioclrecruit.in

Candidates **must have** their own valid e-mail id, mobile no. and a valid & active Apprentice Registration/Enrolment Number registered on NAPS/NATS portal.

Upon completion of the apprenticeship period, the Corporation shall have NO obligation to offer employment to such apprentices NOR can an Apprentice claim right for employment on the grounds of completion of Apprenticeship.

Important dates to remember

DATE OF OPENING OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND IOCL PORTAL (www.ioclrecruit.in)	03-05-2025 (10.00 Hrs)
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND IOCL PORTAL (www.ioclrecruit.in)	02-06-2025 (17.00 Hrs)
TENTATIVE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES CALLED FOR DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	09-06-2025
TENTATIVE DATE OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	16-06-2025 to 24-06-2025

FOCUS **GEOPOLITICS**

BEYOND CEASEFIRE



Not showing military strength, even if it is economically costly for us, has adverse implications for us in terms of geopolitics

financial aid indirectly helps strengthen the stranglehold of the military on the economy and polity.

Pakistan may not be able to depend on the USA under President Donald Trump as their benefactor, but China is their replacement benefactor in a big way. So in that sense this four-day conflict has clearly shown that the big hostile factor has been China, which will continue to provide sophisticated weaponry to Pakistan. It is in India's interest to continue the trade and commerce dialogue with China, and support the thaw in border talks, five years after Galwan. China's own economy is weakening, made worse by the Trump tariffs. The success of India's free trade agreement with the UK, and a possible strong deal with America will surely arouse Chinese discomfort. So, there is some leverage.

Clearly the situation with Pakistan and China cannot be only seen through an economic lens, in purely utilitarian terms or merely in terms of costs and benefits. Not showing military strength, even if it is economically costly for us, has adverse implications for us in terms of geopolitics. Our adversaries can be very irrational which in turn puts certain constraints on how we respond to future border and terror caused conflicts. Economic reasoning might not be a sufficient guide to understanding or predicting their behaviour. So high military spending is inevitable. But it is clear, that peace is not possible without economic prosperity at home. It is also clear that projecting power abroad is not possible without high, sustained and inclusive economic growth. It is clear that a conflict free, relatively peaceful India will attract the maximum foreign capital in the world. For this to happen, we have to invest in building peace, and reiterate to the world, that this is not an era of war.

The writer is a noted economist.
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India's response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack was carefully calibrated, measured, precisely targeted and intended to not escalate or spin out. The main objective that was achieved was the establishment of a new doctrine, that terrorist attack by any Pakistan-based actors would now be treated as an act of war. This doctrine seems to have received tacit approval from the global community, since India did not receive any censure for its military strikes at multiple sites within Pakistan. What happened after the bombing of those nine sites could not have been fully anticipated. Would the military establishment in Pakistan use this excuse to touch the "hair trigger" and go nuclear? Would it resort to an irrational and disproportionate response, since its conventional counter attack did not work? And who would win the war of narratives? All of this got lost in the rapidly developing "fog of war," although this conflict cannot really be called a full-scale war by any means.

The "fog of war" was made foggier by much of the media, especially the social media. Some media even reported preposterous developments without fact checking or verification. Social media is indeed like a tiger that policymakers and military strategists have to reluctantly ride. It is impossible to control this tiger. But the halt of hostilities, whether due to behind-the-scenes third party intervention or not, is welcome. It has ended in four days and India's objective of laying down a new doctrine has been achieved. Other collateral success has been the quality of briefings by the military spokespersons, including women. These briefings were to the point, and frank in admitting the possibility of civilian casualties. They were as transparent and open as could be in the circumstances, without letting out the extent of casualties or costs suffered, being mindful of the impact on

security and morale.

What are the main take-aways from all this and what lies ahead? Firstly, it proved that the world is more supportive of military retaliatory action against terrorist attacks, launched from the other country. Secondly, the stoppage in four days, showed the possibility of keeping the conflict contained and controlled, even if under pressure from third parties. Thirdly it showcased military hardware made in the United States, China, Russia and France, and possibly other countries, and also made in India. It was a test of sophistication and effectiveness of modern weaponry, aircraft, anti-missile tech, and drones. There are lessons to be learnt here. Was the S-400 anti-missile system more successful than the fighter aircraft? Fourth, was the success of coordination between the three branches of the military? The longstanding demand for theatre based planning and response was perhaps partly implemented. Fifth is the demonstration of the importance of narratives, perceptions and quality of presentations. A case in point was the presentation made by India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, clearly connecting the dots between the Pakistan establishment and support for terrorists, and India's justified response. It was matter of fact, cold and crisp in logic and compelling. When In-

dia is clearly the more powerful State and adversary, there is no need to be loud and jingoistic. Understated is a more effective style. Sixth was the unanimous support across political parties shown to the government's strategy and decisions? Hopefully this show of not converting this war-like conflict on the border for domestic electoral advantage will sustain and become more accepted practice.

Looking ahead some points need to be kept in mind. Firstly, the current ceasefire may not last long. Another terrorist attack can unleash another cycle. Indeed random rogue actors might take advantage to provoke another military attack as retaliation for a terrorist incident. Hence there is no room for complacency. Secondly, India has much more at stake in economic and utilitarian terms, when it comes to evaluating the cost and benefit of escalation. We need to invite and welcome 2 per cent of GDP as foreign capital to be invested in manufacturing and services. That needs a stable conflict-free climate which requires peace at the border. Pakistan's stakes are different. It applied for emergency financial relief for the twenty fifth time to the International Monetary Fund. And the loan has got approved, presumably conditional on good behaviour and on "not going nuclear". But the military in Pakistan has deep connections in all sectors of the economy, and hence the



Ajit Ranade

WHEN INDIA IS CLEARLY THE MORE POWERFUL STATE AND ADVERSARY, THERE IS NO NEED TO BE LOUD AND JINGOISTIC

SPECTRUM **CURRENCY**

Who benefits from a global dollar?

US President Donald Trump thinks America is only for Americans. The US dollar, by contrast, is for everyone. Should the BRICS grouping of emerging economies create a new currency, Trump has tweeted, or "back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar." They will face 100% tariffs.



Andrés Velasco

IT IS NOT EASY TO DEVISE A POLICY THAT HURTS ALMOST EVERYONE, BUT MAGA ECONOMISTS HAVE MANAGED THIS FEAT

The chairman of Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, Stephen Miran, disagrees. On 7 April, he told the Hudson Institute that the global use of the dollar has "caused persistent currency distortions and contributed, along with other countries' unfair barriers to trade, to unsustainable trade deficits."

Miran is not the only MAGA economist to hold that view. Michael Pettis, not of the administration but influential within it, recently wrote a commentary in the Financial Times entitled "The U.S. would be better off without the global dollar."

Worldwide demand for greenbacks increases their value. Trump thinks this is a good thing, because strong countries should have strong currencies. But he has surrounded himself

with advisers who worry that a strong dollar makes American industry uncompetitive and sends jobs abroad. Who is right? When Filipinos, Malaysians, Saudis, Nigerians, Colombians, and pretty much everyone else use dollars to save and invest, they sustain what Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, when he served as finance minister to Charles de Gaulle, testily described as an "exorbitant privilege" for the United States – not an exorbitant cost, as Miran and Pettis believe.

Almost every government issues currency to help pay its bills. Locals accept pieces of paper in exchange for goods and services. Economists call this fragile arrangement "seigniorage." When people lose faith in the local currency and try to dump it – as has happened in countries from Argentina and Venezuela to Sudan and Zimbabwe – consumer prices skyrocket. The US is unique in that people everywhere wish to hold greenbacks, so it collects seigniorage on the whole world. The Federal Reserve estimates that foreigners hold more than \$1 trillion, or 45% of the total currency

in circulation. This is a source of cheap funding for the US.

All over the world, American bonds – and especially the Treasury bills issued by the US government – are used as collateral in financial transactions. Because of this convenience, foreigners are willing to hold Treasuries even if the interest rate is lower than that of other government bonds of equivalent risk and maturity. At the end of 2024, foreigners held nearly \$8.6 trillion in US federal debt.

Is America's gain the world's loss? Not quite. People around the world benefit from having safe, dollar-denominated assets in which to save and invest. No other economy can provide the same service today. Europe is the obvious alternative, but its capital market is far more fragmented than that of the US, since only in the last few years has the European Union begun to issue debt instruments. China also has a large economy, but its authoritarian political system and widespread capital controls mean that the world is not lining up to hold renminbi-denominated assets.

The dollar is a global currency

because American policies and institutions have historically been more reliable than those of most other countries. If MAGA economists think this is a problem, then their boss has a ready-made solution. By imposing tariffs that violate international treaties, speculating about the invasion of allies like Canada and Denmark (to take over Greenland), ignoring court rulings, and threatening to seek a constitutionally prohibited third term, Trump is making the US more like weak-currency, high-inflation countries.

The world's reaction to Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs was unambiguous: the dollar lost nearly 7% of its value against the euro while the yield on ten-year Treasuries rose by almost half a percentage point.

It is not easy to devise a policy that hurts almost everyone, but MAGA economists have managed this feat. If the global dollar goes down the drain as a result, it will have many mourners.

The writer is Dean of the School of Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science.
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The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it

THE MOTHER



Breaking Walls

It is of great significance that Robert Francis Prevost, who has succeeded Pope Francis, repeated the word 'peace' ten times during his speech delivered recently at Saint Peter's Square. He also used the word 'bridge' three times. At the same time as the new Pope he assumed the name – Leo XIV – referencing Leo XIII who made social justice a key Catholic priority at the end of the 19th century.

Pope Leo XIV owes his rise so much to Francis. Appointed bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, by Francis in 2014, he was called to Rome to head the strategic congregation for Bishops in 2023 and made a cardinal the same year. It cannot be a coincidence that Pope Leo echoed the key words of 'peace' and 'bridge' from his predecessor's lexicon. Francis broke himself free from the shackles of a highly conservative papacy and stood out against injustice to the poor, migrants and war. When he died and his successor was being chosen, it was feared whether the new Pope would revert to the old, conservative order or continue with the reforms started by Francis making the fight against abuses and corruption in church a key principle of his doctrine. For Francis, the social question was primarily about those 'without,' the 'homeless,' 'jobless,' and 'landless.' Leo XIV, who hails from both North and South America, seems to have sent the message across with his repeated use of words, central to Francis' concept of papacy, that he is ready to continue with the legacy. For Francis 'bridge' was always preferable to 'walls' and he amply demonstrated it by taking an unambiguous stand against war and nuclear arms. "A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian," Francis had said. In fact, he refused to blame Russian President Vladimir Putin for invading Ukraine stating the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had provoked him to take the step.

The question is whether Pope Leo XIV will position himself as Francis' heir. This is because the world has changed so much since Francis assumed papacy in 2013 when there was neither a war in Ukraine nor unprecedented devastation in Gaza. The Islamic State organisation had not yet taken control of parts of Syria and Iraq. Yet, the Argentine pope, who foresaw what he phrased as "a third world war in pieces," gradually made 'peace' the key component of his doctrine. He deemed the possession of nuclear weapons illegitimate, rejecting deterrence and the concept of a just war, a notion crafted by generations of Christian thinkers.

Now is the time for his successor to make his own voice heard. However, the walls Francis talked about are now higher than ever. Trump was reelected US President in November 2024 and since assuming charge he has built tariff walls putting international trade and commerce and the life of the common man in jeopardy like never before. Likewise, Europe is adopting increasingly restrictive legislation and providing funds to Mediterranean countries to build walls against migrants even before they reach the continent.

Against this backdrop the election of the first American Pope is of utmost importance. The Chicago-born Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, can be seen as a strong, progressive response to the signs of the times. While senior Catholic figures around President Trump are busy implementing an insular MAGA (Make America Great Again) agenda, the new Pope from the USA who spent two decades working in one of the poorest regions of Peru, could be expected to don Francis' mantle and lead the world to sanity. His previous posts on a social media account under his name suggest he shared Francis' stand on the Trump administration's draconian immigration policies. This is a much needed voice in an era of rising nationalism which poses a grave threat to global responses to challenges such as migration and the climate emergency.

WISDOM CORNER

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step

LAO TZU

The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

The truth is a snare: you cannot have it, without being caught. You cannot have the truth in such a way that you catch it, but only in such a way that it catches you

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1846:** US declaration of war on Mexico approved. Tensions between Mexico and the United States—stemming from the U.S. annexation of Texas (1845)—led the U.S. Congress on this day in 1846 to approve overwhelmingly a declaration of war against Mexico.
- **1909:** The Giro d'Italia cycle race is held for the first time. The Giro is considered one of the world's most important cycle races. Luigi Ganna won the first edition, which went from Milan to Naples and back.
- **1940:** Igor Sikorsky pilots his VS-300 helicopter's maiden flight. The helicopter was the first successful model to use the single vertical tail rotor that most helicopters feature today.
- **1950:** The first Formula One World Championship season kicks off. Giuseppe Farina won the first FIA World Championship of Drivers for the Alfa Romeo team.
- **1950:** American musician Stevie Wonder, a child prodigy who developed into one of the most creative musical figures of the late 20th century, was born in Saginaw, Michigan.
- **1960:** A Swiss expedition led by Max Eiselin reached the summit of Dhaulagiri in the Himalayas.
- **1981:** Pope John Paul II survives an assassination attempt. Turkish right-wing extremist Mehmet Ali Aca fired two shots at John Paul II on St. Peter's Square. The Pope was seriously wounded but survived thanks to a 5-hour operation and went on to visit his attacker in prison.
- **1989:** Thousands of students begin a hunger strike on Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The non-violent occupation of the square was part of anti-corruption and pro-democracy demonstrations. Some 3000 unarmed civilians were killed when the army cracked down on the protesters on June 3-4, 1989.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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History's quirks

Sir, Russia held a massive Victory Day parade to mark the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Hitler's Nazi army in the Second World War. Back then, in 1945, the Soviet Union, which included Russia, acted as a liberator in the sense that it helped free Europe from Nazi rule. Fast forward to 2025, and the same country, under Putin, is acting as an aggressor. It has annexed Crimea which had been a part of Ukraine since 1954, and has been engaged in an unprovoked war against Ukraine since February 2022. Bangladesh is yet another instance of history executing a sharp and sudden U-turn. The country which freed itself from the vice-like grip of West Pakistan in 1971 is again cosying up to it. Over and above this, it has turned hostile to the very nation that had a pivotal role to play in its liberation from the Pakistan army -- India. The country's interim administration even wants to erase from public memory Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, under whose charismatic leadership Bangladesh was born. As the US writer Kurt Vonnegut has said: "History is merely a list of surprises. It can only prepare us to be surprised yet again."

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS

Sublime artist

Sir, At their prime, there are different types of batsmen in world cricket. There are some who painstakingly build their innings. There are some who knock the living daylight of the bowlers. Then, there are the likes of Rohit Sharma who make batting look so easy by their unique playing style. Legends Gundappa Vishwanath, Mohammed Azharuddin and VVS Laxman, too, belonged to this category. When batsmen of that type are at their best, there are no peers, and there is no dull moment for the viewers. They tear into the opposition bowlers without actually seem to be doing so. The Mumbai cricket artist, who has announced his retirement from Test cricket, was once described by the legendary Australian Ian Chappell as a player "who makes batting look ridiculously easy."

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



In my opinion Central government should have called for an all-party meeting before the ceasefire. Also, the Parliament should have been called, because it is a very serious matter

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

COMPLAINT AGAINST RAHUL

A complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was filed in Varanasi court Monday over his alleged remarks at a US university describing Lord Ram as a mythological and fictional figure, demanding that an FIR be lodged under the relevant penal provisions



of the day quote

The first condition of democracy is dialogue. Only through a dialogue can problems be resolved and the goals of ease of doing business and ease of living can be achieved. We should be able to provide maximum facilities to the public, listen to the common man as much as possible, (and) this is the basis of the success of democracy

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Our priority so far has been saving lives, but now that the ceasefire is in place, assessments will begin and relief will follow. As per the proforma, we will give compensation

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

I salute the armed forces. Mumbai is extremely important as it is the state's financial capital. Intelligence sharing will be extremely important and adequate care needs to be taken on the cyber security front

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

Congress demands Modi's answers on Trump's claims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The Congress Monday demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on US President Donald Trump's claims, made minutes before the prime minister addressed the nation, asking if the operation against Pakistan was stopped due to trade obligations and whether he had accepted American mediation on Kashmir.

The Congress also reiterated its demand for a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor and the cessation of military action against Pakistan on US mediation, asserting that a collective resolve from Parliament was the need of the hour.

Asserting that India would not tolerate any "nuclear blackmail", Modi Monday said operations against Pakistan had only been kept in abeyance and the future would depend on the neighbouring country's behaviour.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, "The prime minister, his drumbeaters, and his apologists should answer."

"The prime minister's much-delayed address to the nation was completely upstaged by President Trump's revelations a few minutes earlier. The prime minister was completely silent on them. Has India agreed to US mediation? Has India agreed to a 'neutral site' for a dialogue with Pakistan? Will India now give in on US demands for opening Indian markets in autos, agriculture, and other areas?" Ramesh asked. Trump Monday reiterated his



In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after it promised to stop its misadventure

The Prime Minister termed the Pahalgam attack the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was a personal pain for him but the enemy had realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the foreheads of our women".

The Prime Minister also said Operation Sindoor was not just a name but, through it, the entire world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, telling the south Asian neighbours that the US would do a "lot of trade" with them if they ended the hostilities.

Ramesh, a former Union minister, said Modi should immediately have a meeting with

leaders of all political parties -- something he had studiously avoided in the last 20 days. "The months ahead will demand both painstaking diplomacy and a collective resolve. One-liners and dialogue-baazi are poor substitutes," he asserted.

Congress media department in-charge Pawan Khara noted Trump's statement came a few minutes before the prime minister's address and called it "very disturbing".

There is a need to know what the nation gained and what it lost. This question remains to be answered, Khara asserted. Asked if the Congress was dissatisfied with the prime minister's address, he said, "We are all satisfied in view of the armed forces action and we salute them but we have to discuss politically with the prime minister and there are several questions to be asked."

Khara also said there had been several governments in the past and all of them attempted to de-hyphenate India and Pakistan as the two countries could not be equated.

Left parties back Misri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: Left parties Monday slammed the trolls targeting Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, with the CPI(M) questioning the BJP-led government's silence over the issue and its leader, John Brittas, writing to Home Minister Amit Shah for an inquiry into the online attacks faced by the senior diplomat.

In a post on X, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) shared an image quoting a report on Misri and his daughter being trolled online. "Why is the government silent? Shame on the trolls," the CPI(M) said. Brittas, the parliamentary party leader of the CPI(M) in the Rajya Sabha and a member of the Parliamentary Panel on External Affairs, condemned the barrage of online attacks targeting Misri and his family, and requested the home minister to take action.

Brittas said the coordinated online assaults, far from being isolated acts of malice, reveal a disturbing pattern of digital defamation aimed at discrediting the very custodians of the country's constitutional and administrative order. "It is distressing that his articulation of policies and decisions, duly approved by the ruling dispensation, has been misconstrued and cynically weaponised to personally vilify him. It is, therefore, deeply alarming that Shri Misri has been singled out for a vile torrent of abuse on social media, with his children even being dragged into the mire of toxic commentary," the Left leader said.

He also mentioned the targeted campaigns of cyber hate and abuse against Himanshi Narwal, the widow of naval officer Lieutenant Vinay Narwal who was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, over her call for communal amity, and Arathi, the daughter of slain tourist



N Ramachandran, who faced cyber bullying for expressing gratitude to local Kashmiris, who came to her aid during the April 22 terror strike. Brittas urged the home minister to order an immediate inquiry into the online trolling of Misri and the bereaved family members of Pahalgam terror attack victims.

"I also request your good self to instruct the investigation authorities to investigate the source, intent and patterns of digital abuse and take punitive measures against the perpetrators of these heinous actions, and ensure protection for public officials and citizens alike," the CPI(M) leader said. In a post on X on Sunday, Brittas called Misri "one of the finest officers" in India. "Not surprised the way hate and hatred heaped on one of the finest officers of this nation. Vikram Misri discharged the functions assigned by the govt. If parivar handles are unhappy about the ceasefire they should turn it on their leaders who misled with their hawkish postures!" he said. The Communist Party of India (CPI) claimed that the foreign secretary is being targeted for saying "terrorists want to divide India on communal lines, and people of India defeated that with unity".

Centre terminates services of CMD, SECI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The Centre has terminated the services of former IAS officer Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, who was serving as the chairman and managing director of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

New and Renewable Energy Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi has been given the additional charge of the CMD's post at the SECI. The order terminating Gupta's services, which came more than a month ahead of the completion of his tenure, did not cite any reason for the move.

The 1987-batch Gujarat-cadre former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was appointed to the post June 13, 2023 for a period of two years. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the termination of Gupta's services with immediate effect, the personnel ministry said in an order dated May 10. Gupta assumed charge as the CMD of the SECI June 15, 2023.

Before joining the SECI, he worked as the secretary in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The SECI is the leading Navratna central public sector undertaking, dedicated to the development and expansion of renewable energy capacity in the country.

The Centre Monday gave the additional charge of the post of the CMD, SECI to Sarangi. The competent authority has approved the assignment of the additional charge of the post "till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders", according to another order issued by the personnel ministry.

States need designated courts to try special offences: Apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: Saying it was imperative on the Centre and states to establish courts for the speedy trial of cases under special laws, the Supreme Court has sought their stand in two weeks.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was acting on the bail plea of a Naxal sympathiser from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. He was booked after 15 policemen of a quick response team were killed in a blast in the state. "Additional solicitor general of India has referred to the affidavit filed by respondent 2 - National Investigation Agency. We are, however, of the view that when trials are to take place under special laws, it is imperative on the Union of States to establish specialised courts with adequate infrastructure for ensuring speedy trial, for achieving the legislative object of the statute," the bench said in its order of May 9. ASG Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakre was, therefore, granted two weeks to obtain instructions on the matter as the bench posted the hearing May 23.

The top court asked the Centre and Maharashtra government why couldn't they conduct a judicial impact assessment of the special statutes after enactment of the laws and said adequate judicial infrastructure was required for the speedy disposal of cases.

SHORT TAKES

17 newborn girls named Sindoor

Kushinagar (UP): Inspired by Operation Sindoor, India's military action against Pakistan to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack last month, 17 newborn girls here have been named Sindoor by their families. "As many as 17 newborn girls born May 10 and 11 in Kushinagar Medical College have been named Sindoor by their family members," Principal Dr RK Shahi told PTI Monday.

2 die after family of 4 inhales toxic fumes

New Delhi: In a suspected case of suicide, a family of four allegedly inhaled toxic fumes in Delhi's Sangam Park area, resulting in the death of two minor children. The parents are under medical observation but in critical condition, police said Monday. The incident took place in the morning at a bike horn manufacturing unit at DSIDC Shed number 63 in the Sangam Park area, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisam Singh said. The deceased have been identified as Jagdish Singh, 16, and Hargul Kaur, 15. They were the children of Hardeep Singh, owner of the unit, and his wife, Harpreet Kaur (38).

Omar Abdullah visits Poonch

Poonch/Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday undertook an extensive tour of the Poonch district to assess the ground situation in the aftermath of the recent cross-border shelling and assured full support to the victims. Poonch was among the worst-affected districts in the cross-border artillery shelling, which resulted in the loss of 13 lives and injuries to many others. "Their pain is our pain. I salute the people of Poonch for their resilience, unity, and sense of coexistence during this crisis," he said.

Man stabbed to death; 5 minors held

New Delhi: Five minors have been apprehended for allegedly stabbing a 35-year-old man to death during a robbery attempt in the outer north Delhi's Bawana area, an official said Monday. The accused, aged between 12 to 17 years, were apprehended, police said.

SNIPPETS

32 airports to resume operations, says AAI

Mumbai: Airports Authority of India (AAI) Monday announced that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan. Airlines, including Air India, Airindia Express, IndiGo and SpiceJet, issued travel advisories/updates to their customers following the opening of the civil flight operations from these 32 airports. In a statement on Monday, state-owned AAI said the 32 airports that were closed for civilian aircraft operations till 0529 hours of May 15 are now available for operations with immediate effect. "It is recommended for travellers to check flight status directly with Airlines and monitor airlines' websites for regular updates," the statement said. Civilian flight operations from the 32 airports across northern and western India, including Srinagar and Amritsar, were suspended from May 9 to May 15. The AAI along with other aviation authorities had issued a series of Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs), announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across northern and western India for all civilian flight operations.

Raipur: 13 killed in trailer-truck collision

Raipur: Thirteen people, all women and children, died, and 14 were injured in a collision between a trailer and a goods truck in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, police said Monday. Four children and nine women died in the accident that took place late Sunday night near Saragaon on Raipur-Balodabazar road in Raipur district. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Lal Umed Singh said 35 persons, mostly members of a family, were returning from a family function in Bana-Bansari village when the goods truck they were travelling in collided with a trailer coming from the opposite direction and went on to hit another heavy vehicle. After getting information about the accident, a police team was sent to the spot, and the injured were taken to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital, Raipur. District collector Gaurav Singh said district administration officials also reached the spot. Police have registered a case, and the matter is being investigated, the collector said. Chief Minister Sai expressed grief over the incident and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured persons. Sai has instructed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured persons.

India, Pak DGMOs hold crucial talks

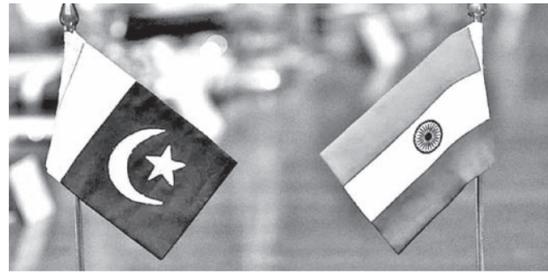
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday deliberated on ways to avoid "inimical" military actions and agreed on considering immediate steps to reduce troops of the two militaries from the borders and forward areas.

In the conversation over the hotline, the two officers focused on continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a "single shot" or initiate any "aggressive and inimical" action against each other, according to an Indian readout.

The nearly 45-minute talks took place two days after the two DGMOs reached an understanding on halting all military actions. The arrangement reached May 10 came after four days of intense hostilities that saw the two sides targeting each other's military installations with drones, missiles and long-range weapons that raised fears of a wider military conflict. The talks over the hotline were previously scheduled at 12 noon. However, it started at around 5 pm.

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



The nearly 45-minute talks took place two days after the two DGMOs reached an understanding on halting all military actions

May 10 night, there were no such incidents Sunday night. "The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu & Kashmir and other areas along the international border," the Army said in a brief statement earlier.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damage to a number of key Pakistani military installations,

including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Hours ahead of the DGMO talks, the Indian Air Force said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions if the need arises.

Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said the Indian military's fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure, but it was a "pity" that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists.

Pak cyber attacks continue even after ceasefire: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 12: Maharashtra Cyber has identified seven Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups responsible for launching over 15 lakh cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure websites across India following the Pahalgam terror strike.

Of these, only 150 attacks were successful, officials said Monday. Even after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military hostilities, Indian government websites are facing a barrage of cyber attacks from the neighbouring country as well as from

Bangladesh and the Middle Eastern region, they said.

Addressing reporters, a senior official of Maharashtra Cyber debunked claims of hackers stealing data from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, hacking aviation and municipal systems, and targeting the Election Commission website.

"The probe discovered that cyber attacks on (government websites in) India decreased after India-Pakistan ceased hostilities, but not fully stopped. These attacks continue from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Morocco, and Middle Eastern countries," he said. In



a report titled 'Road of Sindoor', prepared under the military operation launched by the Indian armed forces under the same name against terrorists,

the state's nodal cyber agency has detailed the cyber warfare launched by Pakistan-allied hacking groups.

The report has been submit-

ted to all key law enforcement agencies, including the Director General of Police and the State Intelligence Department.

According to the report, these cyber attacks originated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Middle East, and an Indonesian group, said Yashasvi Yadav, Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra Cyber.

The methods used included malware campaigns, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, and GPS spoofing. Defacement of Indian websites was also reported.

Many such attacks were thwarted and critical infra-

structure of India was saved, he said. 'Road of Sindoor' is a follow-up to Maharashtra Cyber's earlier report 'Echoes of Pahalgam', which documented cyber attacks following the Pahalgam terror incident.

The seven hacking groups identified in the report are: APT 36 (Pakistan-based), Pakistan Cyber Force, Team Insane PK, Mysterious Bangladesh, Indo Hacks Sec, Cyber Group HOAX 1337, and National Cyber Crew (Pakistan-allied). These groups collectively launched approximately 1.5 million targeted cyber attacks on Indian infrastructure, Yadav said.



Air Marshal AK Bharti speaks during a press conference on 'Operation Sindoor', in New Delhi



Residents of villages near India-Pakistan border, who were evacuated to safer places, return to their homes after both countries reached a bilateral understanding, at Uri in Baramulla district, Jammu & Kashmir



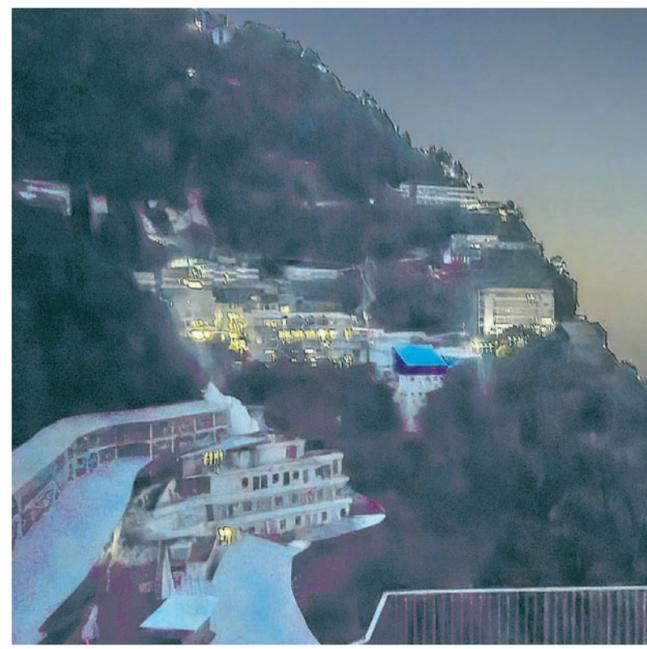
BSF personnel carry the mortal remains of BSF constable Deepak Chingakham, who was martyred in the line of duty, in Jammu



Imran Raza mourns as he pays tribute to his father, BSF Sub-Inspector Mohammad Intiaz, who lost his life in the line of duty in Jammu district, in Patna



A security personnel with a sniffer dog takes part in a civil defence drill at Delite Cinema, at Daryaganj in New Delhi



Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan during blackout, at Katra, in Reasi district, Monday



Security personnel keep vigil, a day after India and Pakistan reached a bilateral understanding, in Srinagar



People watch the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Nation, in Hubballi, Karnataka, Monday

FROM LAND TO SEA TO SKY

India crushed Pak aggression

Global media mocks Pak's bid to copy Op Sindoor press briefings

The joint operations under Operation Sindoor not only demonstrated India's defensive resilience but also sent a clear strategic message: any future act of cross-border terrorism will be met with swift, decisive, and overwhelming force across all domains — land, air, and sea



TOUGH ROAD AHEAD FOR PAKISTAN

NEW DELHI: The half-burnt portrait of Asif Ali Zardari recovered from the ruins of Rahimyar Khan air base symbolises the strategic and psychological blow dealt to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor—a landmark in India's military and non-military response to terrorism and aggression. India executed a calibrated, multi-domain operation that neutralized terrorist threats, deterred aggression, and showcased India's military precision. In a decisive military campaign, India conducted missile strikes on nine terror facilities—four in Pakistan (including Bahawalpur and Muridke) and five in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, targeting Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba strongholds. Simultaneously, India's non-military strategies reinforced its dominance. The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty was a crippling blow to Pakistan's agrarian economy and power supply. India's move gave it full control over western rivers, unlocking major developmental potential in Jammu and Kashmir. New Delhi also closed the Attari-Wagah border, ended bilateral trade, revoked visas for Pakistani nationals, and enforced a total ban on Pakistani artists and cultural content. Internationally, India exposed Pakistan's terror infrastructure, deepening its diplomatic isolation. Domestically, these measures strengthened national resolve and demonstrated India's capacity to act with precision and restraint. Operation Sindoor stands as a clear message: India will respond decisively to terrorism and aggression—with both firepower and strategic finesse.



Vice Admiral AN Pramod detailed the Navy's operations, noting that persistent surveillance, detection, and target tracking were critical to ensuring maritime dominance. Using advanced sensors and real-time intelligence inputs, the Navy operated under a layered fleet air defence system capable of neutralising aerial threats including drones, missiles, and aircraft. India's Carrier Battle Group, equipped with MiG-29K fighters and airborne early warning aircraft, served as the primary air defence line, enabling total control of the maritime domain. The Navy also validated anti-missile and anti-aircraft capabilities in a complex threat environment, reinforcing India's operational superiority in the region. Pakistani air and naval forces were effectively bottled up along the Makran coast, unable to project power or mount any meaningful retaliation.

Senior military officials Monday provided a detailed operational account of India's robust defence measures and offensive preparedness during and after Operation Sindoor, a decisive response to the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Army's Role: Defending without crossing borders

Lt Gen Ghai clarified that India did not cross the Line of Control (LoC) or the International Border (IB) during its operations. "All defensive measures were executed from within Indian territory," he said, countering speculative reports of escalation. He highlighted the evolution of terror tactics, pointing to the alarming trend of civilian tar-

getting, particularly the 2024 terror strikes at Shiv Khori, a famous cave shrine of Hindus devoted to Lord Shiva, and Pahalgam, as a turning point in strategic threat perception. Between May 9 and 10, India's multi-layered air defence

grid was put to the test as waves of drones, launched by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), attempted to penetrate Indian airspace. "Not a single PAF drone could breach the defence shield," Lt Gen Ghai stated. In his words: "From ashes

to ashes, dust to dust" — a phrase used to underscore the complete neutralisation of enemy UAVs before they could cause damage. **Navy's role: Total maritime superiority**

QUICK CLICK

All our military bases, systems remain fully operational: IAF

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions if the need arises. Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said the Indian military's fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure, but it was a "pity" that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists. "We have also iterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure," he said. "However, it is a pity that the Pakistan military chose to intervene and bat for the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind." Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral A N Pramod were addressing a media briefing on 'Operation Sindoor.' He said India's robust air defence system effectively foiled Pakistan's attempts to attack Indian military installations. On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, Air Marshal Bharti said, "I would like to emphatically state that, in spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise."

Unexploded shells found in civilian areas of Rajouri: Army

RAJOURI (JAMMU): Multiple unexploded shells have been found in civilian areas of Rajouri district in Jammu region — a discovery that debunks Pakistan's claim that no civilian area was targeted. The Poonch district accounted for the highest 20 of the total 27 fatalities with over 50 others injured since Wednesday, shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and PoK to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead. The heavy bombardment of civilian areas followed Indian Army strikes on nine terror facilities located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Foreign secretary to brief Parliamentary panel on Pak

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will brief a parliamentary committee next week on the India-Pakistan military conflict in the aftermath of the terror attack in Pahalgam. Members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs have been informed that Misri would brief the panel May 19. The meeting comes in the backdrop of the Indian Armed Forces launching Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam attack and the subsequent military actions by the two countries against each other. **AGENCIES**

INDIA HITS TERROR HUBS

Military sources confirmed that the strikes were concentrated on key facilities linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) — two of the most dangerous and state-supported terror outfits operating out of Pakistan.

According to Indian military officials, the Bahawalpur facility, long known as the operational headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed, was among the first and hardest-hit targets.

Military sources emphasised that these strikes were not mere retaliation but part of a strategic messaging campaign, aimed at both the Pakistani establishment and the international community.

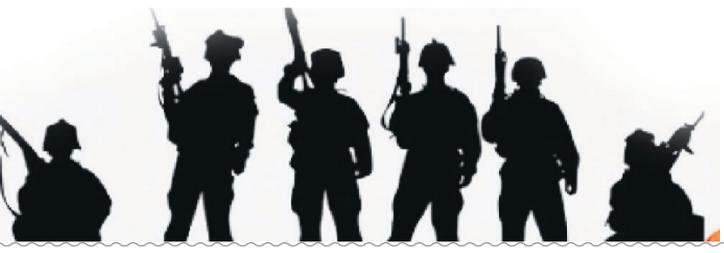
The message: India will no longer distinguish between terrorists and their enablers. India exposed Pakistan's terror

ecosystem globally and isolated Pakistan diplomatically. These steps imposed tangible economic and diplomatic costs

Collectively, these actions deepened Pakistan's isolation and reaffirmed India's commitment to a zero-tolerance stance on terrorism.

Echoing the ancient wisdom of the Ramayana, India conveyed a powerful message to Pakistan through the calibrated precision strikes of Operation Sindoor: when reason and restraint are ignored, decisive force follows.

The IAF successfully countered Chinese-origin PL-15 long-range air-to-air missiles and Turkish-origin Yiha loitering munitions. Visual evidence of quadcopters being shot down by our air defence systems was shown during the briefing.



Multi-layered air defence foiled Pak air attacks: DGMO

NEW DELHI, May 12: The budgetary and policy support provided by the government to the forces over the past decade helped build an impregnable air defence shield that helped repulse attacks by Pakistani forces, which was exhibited during India's anti-terror 'Operation Sindoor', said the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) in a press briefing Monday.

All airbases and military bases are operational and ready for their next missions, said Air Marshal AK Bharti, dismissing misinformation attempts. "Our fight is with the terrorists and not with Pakistani military or civilians," he said. Director General of Military Operations Rajiv Ghai said the multi-layered counter-drone and air defence grid proved to be the decisive shield that foiled all Pakistan air attacks on the night of May 9 and 10. The officials said during Op-

Indian jets hit military base near Karachi

NEW DELHI: India executed a coordinated tri-service operation targeting key military and terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), senior army officials confirmed Monday. At a special media briefing, Air Marshal AK Bharti, Director General of Operations for the Indian Air Force (IAF), revealed that precision airstrikes were conducted near Karachi, specifically targeting a surface-to-air missile installation at Malir Cantonment, a heavily fortified military facility nearly 35 km from Pakistan's commercial capital. "Each action taken was part of a deliberate and proportionate military response to the pattern of drone, missile, and cross-border aggression originating from Pakistan," Air Marshal Bharti said.

an airfields remain fully operational. "I want to praise the Border Security Force also, who complemented our efforts by joining our counter-armed response," he said.

"There has been absolute synergy in the three services, and not only have we been supported by government agencies, but also the 140 crore people," he said.

He described the multi-layered and integrated air defence (AD) as an impregnable shield which foiled all attempts made by Pakistani forces, including Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles, to violate Indian airspace.

The performances of the older battle-proven systems were stellar, in addition to the Akash system, he said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting with top government functionaries, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and NSA Ajit Doval.

Border regions come back to life as fog of war lifts

NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING SATURDAY TO HALT MILITARY ACTIONS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AFTER FOUR DAYS OF INTENSE CROSS-BORDER DRONE AND MISSILE STRIKES

After teetering on the edge for nearly a week, border regions in the north experienced a less fraught day, with no shelling, no sightings of drones, and a comparatively lighter yoke of emergency measures.

Markets teemed with people in the border areas of Punjab Monday, even though schools in some districts remained shut. New Delhi and Islamabad reached an understanding Saturday to halt military actions with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Schools in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Pathankot, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, and Gurdaspur districts, that lie on the border with Pakistan, remained shut Monday. In Pathankot and Gurdaspur, colleges and universities also remained closed. Punjab shares a



553-km frontier with Pakistan. "India has taught a lesson to Pakistan and it has been successful in sending a strong message to the neighbouring nation. And now Pakistan, which is a rogue nation,

will not dare to cast an evil eye on our country," a grocery shop owner in Pathankot said. Pakistan especially targeted Pathankot with multiple drone attacks, but they were thwarted by the Indian secu-

Villagers near LoC begin returning home

SRINAGAR: Residents of villages close to the LoC who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by the Pakistani military started returning home Monday. They started their journey back to their villages after bomb disposal squads cleared the residential areas of any leftover or unexploded shells, officials said. Some residents praised the army and other security forces for taking care of them. More than 1.25 lakh residents of villages close to the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts were evacuated to safety as their homes were at a very high risk of being targeted in Pakistani shelling.

rity forces. In Ferozepur, villagers who had moved to safer places were returning to their villages. Daler Singh, a native of Jallo Ke village near the border, said that most residents of nearby areas had left hearth and home.

A Ferozepur native said, "The situation is normal now. We hope the ceasefire holds and peace prevails." Jammu and Kashmir, the worst hit border, was peaceful last

night with no hostilities between the Indian and Pakistani militaries along the Line of Control and the International Border.

In Rajasthan, a complete blackout was observed in the border districts Sunday night. By Monday morning, an apparent sense of normalcy became palpable in the border districts with people gathering at tea stalls and shops and bantering.



The church recognises in these witnesses — I am thinking of those who report on war even at the cost of their lives — the courage of those who defend dignity, justice and the right of people to be informed, because only informed individuals can make free choices

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH HEAD

STOLEN BUDDHIST STATUE RETURNED TO JAPAN FROM SK

A 14th century Korean Buddhist statue stolen from a Japanese temple nearly 13 years ago was returned on Monday, following a yearslong legal battle between Japan and South Korea over its ownership that had further strained sensitive ties between the two Asian neighbours



of the day quote

I'm deeply humbled by the trust that was put into my government and we certainly won't take it for granted



ANTHONY ALBANESE | PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

In connection with the evidence that the Russian special services committed a reprehensible act of sabotage against the shopping center on Marywilka Street, I have decided to withdraw my consent to the operation of the consulate of the Russian Federation in Krakow



RADEK SIKORSKI | FOREIGN MINISTER, POLAND

Lord Buddha's teachings and his message of peace and non-violence are more relevant today at a time when we are facing conflicts around us



KP SHARMA OLI | PRIME MINISTER, NEPAL

SHORT TAKES

SK's presidential campaigns kick off

Seoul: Contenders for South Korea's presidency kicked off their campaigns Monday, vowing to unify a deeply polarised society and spur economic growth while navigating trade negotiations with the United States. Asia's fourth-largest economy will hold a snap presidential election June 3 to choose Yoon Suk Yeol's successor after the conservative leader was ousted over his shock martial law order that plunged the country into a political crisis.

Sri Lankan parties race to form local coalitions

Colombo: A week after the May 6 election, Sri Lankan parties are trying to stitch together coalitions to run the local councils. Out of the 338 local councils which went to polls, the ruling National People's Power (NPP), came first in 265. However, in 120 councils, the opposition parties together have more members elected than from the ruling party.

Expired ammunition explodes, kills 13

Jakarta: An explosion during the disposal of expired ammunitions in Indonesia's West Java province Monday killed at least 13 people, including four soldiers, military officials said. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear. Members of the Indonesian army were carrying out the disposal of unusable and expired ammunition — which had been stored in a military warehouse centre — in an environmental conservation area in Sagara village of Garut district.

Bangladesh officially bans Awami League

Dhaka/New Delhi: Bangladesh Monday issued a gazette notification, officially banning all activities of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party under an overnight revised anti-terrorism law. "The Home Ministry today issued the gazette notification banning all activities of the Awami League, its all front, associate and brotherly organisations," Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret.) Jahangir Alam told a media briefing here.

US, China to slash tariffs

REUTERS

Geneva, May 12: The United States and China reached a better-than-expected deal to temporarily slash tariffs, sending stocks and the US dollar sharply higher, as the world's two biggest economies seek to end a damaging trade war that has stoked fears of recession.

The US will cut extra tariffs it imposed on Chinese imports in April this year to 30% from 145% and Chinese duties on US imports will fall to 10% from 125% for the next 90 days, the two sides said Monday.

The accord does not include the "de minimis" exemptions for low-value e-commerce shipments from China and Hong Kong, which the Trump administration terminated May 2, according to a source familiar with the negotiations. The duties are also still higher than before US President Donald Trump announced a raft of tariffs April 2.

However, the deal went further than many analysts had expected following weeks of confrontational rhetoric on trade.

"This is better than I expected. I thought tariffs would be



- Geneva talks mark first high-level US-China meeting since Trump's return
Trade war halted \$600 billion in bilateral trade, sparking stagflation fears
New economic dialogue forum agreed by US and China post-talks

cut to somewhere around 50%," said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management in Hong Kong.

"Obviously, this is very positive news for economies in both countries and for the global economy, and makes investors much less concerned about the damage to global supply chains in the short term," Zhang added. A trade war truce agreed in Geneva will see the US cut its tariff rate from 145% to 30% and China from 125% to 10%.

Wall Street stocks jumped and the dollar rose, while gold prices fell on the news, which helped allay concerns about a downturn triggered by Trump's escalation of tariffs aimed at narrowing the US trade deficit.

ive Jamieson Greer after the weekend talks in neutral Switzerland in which both sides hailed progress on narrowing differences.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Bessent said. "And what had occurred with these very high tariffs was the equivalent of an embargo, and neither side wants that. We do want trade."

The tariff dispute had brought nearly \$600 billion in two-way trade to a standstill, disrupting supply chains, sparking fears of stagflation and triggering some layoffs.

The Geneva meetings were the first face-to-face interactions between senior US and Chinese economic officials since Trump returned to power and hit China particularly hard with his global tariff blitz.

China's Vice Premier He Lifeng, speaking to reporters at China's mission to World Trade Organization late Sunday, described the talks as "candid, in-depth and constructive" on issues of concern to both countries.

"The meeting achieved substantial progress, and reached important consensus," He said.

'No hostile design can weaken resolve of Pak's armed forces'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 12: Pakistan's armed forces were determined and "no hostile design" can weaken their resolve, Army chief General Asim Munir said Monday.

General Munir made the comments during his visit to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Rawalpindi to inquire well-being of soldiers and civilians wounded in the military confrontation with India, according to a statement by the army.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

During the visit, he individually met the injured per-

sonnel, lauded their "bravery and steadfast devotion to duty, and reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Pakistan Armed Forces to their continued care, rehabilitation, and welfare," the statement said.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the entire nation stands in resolute solidarity with every member of its Armed Forces. He underscored that "no hostile design can erode the determination of the Armed Forces of Pakistan".

He also noted that the resolute and unified response exhibited during Marka-e-Haq/Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, in concert with the steadfast support of the Pakistani people, constitutes a defining chapter in the country's military history.

SNIPPETS

Hamas set to free US-Israeli hostage

Jerusalem: Hamas will release Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander from Gaza Monday, the Palestinian militant group said, although Israel's prime minister said there would be no ceasefire and plans for an intensified military campaign would continue. Fighting will pause to allow for Alexander's safe passage, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. Three Palestinians in Gaza told Reuters early Monday afternoon that there had been calm since midday, with no sound of drones or warplanes. Israel was told Sunday of Hamas' decision to free the last surviving US hostage in Gaza as a goodwill gesture to President Donald Trump.



Russian drones attack Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in nighttime attacks, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, after the Kremlin effectively rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in the more than three-year war, but reiterated that it would take part in possible peace talks later this week without preconditions. There was no direct response from the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's challenge for Russian leader Vladimir Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace talks in Türkiye Thursday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov Monday refused to say who might travel to Istanbul from the Russian side. "Overall, we're determined to seriously look for ways to achieve a long-term peaceful settlement. That is all," Peskov said.



Airstrike in central Myanmar kills up to 22

Bangkok: An airstrike by Myanmar's military on a village in the country's central Sagaing region hit a school Monday, killing as many as 20 students and two teachers, according to a member of a resistance group, an aid worker and media reports. The morning attack on Ohe Htein Twin village in the region's Tabayin township, also known as Depayin, also wounded dozens of students, they said. Neither the military government nor state-controlled media have released information about the reported airstrike. The military has increasingly used airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 6,600 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces since then, according to figures compiled by nongovernmental organisations.



Kurdish PKK disbands, ends 40-year Turkey insurgency

REUTERS

Istanbul, May 12: The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, which has been locked in bloody conflict with Turkey for more than four decades, decided to disband and end its armed struggle, group members and Turkish leaders said Monday.

Since the PKK launched its insurgency in 1984 - originally with the aim of creating an independent Kurdish state - the conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, exerted a huge economic burden and fuelled social tensions.

The PKK's decision could boost NATO member Turkey's political and economic stability



and encourage moves to ease tensions in neighbouring Iraq and also in Syria, where Kurdish forces are allied with US forces.

While Ankara welcomed the decision to dissolve, it does not guarantee peace. Rather it paves the way for agreeing a tricky legal framework for securely disarming the PKK, which is designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies. "The PKK 12th Con-

China denies reports of sending cargo plane with military supplies to Pak

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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 12: The Chinese military Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours.

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

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

The PLAF also posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word "rumour".

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

The denial by the PLA, which shares close ties with its Pakistan counterpart, was regarded as significant, coming two days after an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions and Islamabad's requirement for immediate replenishments.

According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has emerged as

The PLAF posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word 'rumour'

the largest weapons supplier to Pakistan, accounting for 81 per cent of arms procurement of China's all-weather ally from 2020 to 2024. The procurement included the latest jet fighters, radars, naval ships, submarines and missiles.

Both countries jointly manufacture J-17 aircraft, the mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Considering the large-scale use of Chinese weapons supplies by Pakistan and the all-weather relationship between the two countries, the Chinese official media showed considerable interest during the last few days in the India-Pakistan military confrontation, regurgitating some of Pakistan's claims, including the downing of planes.

The Chinese official media here intimately played up reports of Pakistan's claims of shooting down planes, the scale of attacks by the Indian Air Force on nine terror sites deep inside Pakistan followed by strikes on radar systems and air bases came as a surprise here.

RUNNING DRY, THEN UNDERWATER

Greece's path to building resilience against climate threats

The EU's recent legal action against Athens for lagging flood preparedness reveals a hurdle: political inertia hindering the shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, resilient planning crucial for safeguarding the nation against escalating climate risks



AGENCIES

Athens, May 12: Greece is caught in a climate trap: longer droughts are now precursors to more intense floods, a dangerous cycle driven by parched landscapes and overwhelmed waterways.

Scientists possess the technical know-how to break this chain with strategies such as early warning systems and nature-based solutions, but there is a problem. The EU's recent legal action

against Athens for lagging flood preparedness reveals a hurdle: political inertia hindering the shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, resilient planning crucial for safeguarding the nation against escalating climate risks.

Climate change is having widespread effects, including on the water cycle, which in turn directly impacts events like droughts and floods. Scientists often refer to this interconnectedness as the "climate change-drought-flood" chain,

or as a set of compound risks.

Future climate projections, based on mathematical models known as Global and Regional Circulation Models (GCMs and RCMs), generally predict rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, often with fewer but more intense rain events. In many areas, this leads to

drought conditions that can last for months.

RAINFALL AND DROUGHT INTERPLAY

Ironically, prolonged droughts can worsen flood risk. Dry, compacted soil absorbs less water, and in extreme cases becomes hydrophobic, increasing surface run-off.

Droughts also kill vegeta-

tion that normally slows water flow and stabilises soil, while reduced river flow allows sediment build-up, clogging channels. When intense rain returns—often in short, violent bursts due to warmer air holding more moisture—it overwhelms drainage systems. The result is sudden, destructive flooding, especially in drought-altered landscapes.

This pattern has been seen in California, Australia, Central Europe, and Greece. For scientists, these events are expected and well-documented in studies forecasting climate-related extremes.

STRATEGIES FOR RISK REDUCTION

The key challenge now is how to build resilience and protection based on what we already know. Here are some

basic strategies to help manage and reduce flood risks.

Early Warning Systems allow timely responses. Mapping intermittent rivers is vital, especially in dry regions. Smarter land use—like restoring floodplains, reforestation, and avoiding construction in flood-prone areas—can reduce risk.

Upgrading drainage, dikes, and irrigation systems is essential. Instead of rebuilding outdated infrastructure, Greece must design for today's extreme rainfall. Nature-Based Solutions like riverbank restoration, wetland creation, and urban sustainable drainage systems offer cost-effective, sustainable protection with added ecological benefits. These actions combined can significantly reduce flood impacts and improve long-term resilience.



“The 26 per cent growth in female participation in hardware engineering roles isn't just a number; it's a testament to the changing landscape of India's tech industry. As women break into core tech fields once dominated by men, we're seeing a shift that will define the future of engineering. This is a pivotal moment for diversity and innovation”
NILESH DUGARWAL | CEO, WORKINDIA

EXPECT PV WHOLESALE GROWTH OVER 1% IN FY26: MARUTI SUZUKI

Japanese small car major Suzuki Motor Corporation Monday said overall passenger vehicle wholesale in the Indian market is expected to grow around 1-2 per cent in 2025-26, with the company's arm Maruti Suzuki looking to outpace industry growth. The company which has earmarked total capital expenditures of 380 billion yen for 2025-26 said investments in India



of the day quote

Diversification is central to our growth strategy. Last year, we commissioned a 30 KTPA zinc alloy plant, significantly expanding our value-added products (VAP) portfolio. Including alloys, VAP now contributes 22 per cent to our total business. We are also entering the fertilizer segment with a (diammonium phosphate/nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium) plant expected to become operational by FY27



PRIYA AGARWAL HEBBUR | CHAIRPERSON, HZPFL

A significant portion of the debt allocation was directed toward liquid and liquid-plus strategies, suggesting a preference for short-term parking of funds, possibly in anticipation of better deployment opportunities ahead



ANKUR PUNJ | MD, EQUIRUS WEALTH

It is likely to trigger a global price recalibration, with pharmaceutical giants intensifying pressure on lower-cost markets like India to raise their prices by tightening patent laws through trade negotiations



AJAY SRIVASTAVA | GTRI FOUNDER

Stock market: Monday blues turn green

Sensex, Nifty hit the biggest day jump, investors richer by ₹16L crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 12: India-Pakistan ceasefire announcement clubbed with US-China tariff deal recorded a skyrocketing jump of nearly 4 per cent in stock market Monday. The 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points or 3.82 per cent to a high of 82,495.97.

The 50-issue Nifty of NSE jumped 916.70 points or 3.82 per cent to close at 24,924.70. In intra-day trade, the barometer zoomed 936.8 points or 3.90 per cent to 24,944.80.

This is the biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on across the board buying led by IT, metal, realty and tech shares. The last single day jump recorded gain of 2,507.45 points and Nifty by 733.20 points June 3, 2024.

Dalal Street investors became richer by ₹16.15 lakh crore Monday as markets capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped by ₹16,15,275.19 crore to ₹4,32,56,125.65 crore (\$5.05 trillion) in a single day. "Confluence of positive geopolitical and economic developments—the ceasefire between India and Pakistan,



Sustained FII inflows, along with a resurgence in retail participation fuelled by expectations of a swift improvement in business sentiment, propelled today's upside

VINOD NAIR | RESEARCH HEAD, GEOJIT INVESTMENTS LTD

coupled with a breakthrough trade agreement between the US and China – sparked the strongest daily market rally in recent times," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

"Adding to the positive sentiment were encouraging updates on US-China trade deal, which further boosted investor confidence as the session progressed. The ease of geopolitical concerns and progress on global trade talks brought significant relief to the markets, reflected in a sharp drop in the India VIX volatility index, Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

US and China Sunday announced suspension of high tariffs for 90 days. US agreed to cut tariffs on Chinese goods to 30 per cent from 145 per cent, whereas China announced to lower its tariffs on US goods to 10 per cent from 125 per cent.

From the Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 7.91 per cent. HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance were the other major gainers.

Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank were the only laggards from the pack. The broader markets also mirrored this strength, with Midcap and Small cap advancing close to 4

per cent. The BSE small cap gauge surged 4.18 per cent and mid-cap index jumped 3.85 per cent.

All sectors indices ended higher. IT zoomed 6.75 per cent, BSE Focused IT (6.74 per cent), realty (5.87 per cent), metal (5.24 per cent), teck (5.21 per cent), utilities (5.07 per cent), power (4.82 per cent) and industrial (4.24 per cent).

The announcement made a positive global impact as stock markets in Pakistan rallied following the understanding between the countries. Benchmark KSE-100 index jumped more than 9 per cent Monday. Meanwhile, Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled higher.

"Markets were on a roll and turned buoyant after the news of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan... Investors turned risk-on with safe-haven gold taking a beating while equities turned out to be clear winners on the back of broad-based buying support. With talks on global tariff seen on a smooth path, equities could gain traction going ahead," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.88 per cent to USD 65.75 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) off-loaded equities worth ₹3,798.71 crore on Friday, after remaining net buyers for many days, according to exchange data.

Gold slides 3% as US, China end tariff war

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 12: Gold dropped 3% to a more than one-week low Monday after US-China agreed to cut reciprocal tariffs. The announcement immediately hit markets as spot gold was down 3.3% at \$3,215.07 an ounce, as of 1022 GMT, its lowest since May. US gold futures also slipped 3.7% to \$3,218.70.

"The de-escalation of tensions between China and the U.S., with tariffs being reduced for 90 days, is reducing the demand for safe haven assets like gold," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

"Near-term prices are likely to stay volatile. But higher tariffs are still weighing on economic growth and (will) likely force central banks to cut... interest rates later this year. Also central banks might use this price setback to add exposure."

In a substantial de-escalation, both the nation said they have agreed on a deal to slash reciprocal tariffs as they seek to end a trade war that has disrupted the global economy.

Speaking after talks with Chinese officials in Geneva, US treasury secretary Scott Bessent told that the two sides had reached a deal for a 90-day pause on the levies and that reciprocal tariffs would come down by 115%.

US and China imposed tariff



- \$ rises over 1%
- US - China deal to slash tariffs
- Silver down nearly 2%

counterattack until last month, triggered a trade war that fueled fears of global recession. Meanwhile, the dollar index jumped more than 1% against its rivals, making gold more expensive for other currency holders.

Gold is expected to decline as the dollar appreciates. Decreased geopolitical risk could "hurt the haven demand... the yellow metal may decline to \$3,200/oz in the near term," said Jigar Trivedi, senior commodity analyst at Reliance Securities.

Traders are also eyeing the US consumer price index data Tuesday for fresh signals on Fed monetary policy trajectory.

Spot silver slid 1.8% to \$32.11 an ounce, platinum fell 1.7% to \$978.45 and palladium dipped 1.2% to \$963.79.

C-DOT, Synergy Quantum partner to boost drone tech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

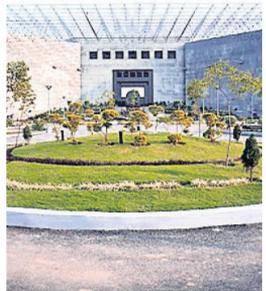
New Delhi, May 12: The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), a premier telecom R&D institution under the telecom department has inked a pact with Synergy Quantum India, a deep-tech company focused on quantum technologies, to jointly develop quantum communications technologies optimised for drone-based deployment, as per Monday release.

The partnership aligns with the national vision of strengthening indigenous research and innovation under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and enhancing India's edge in emerging and secure telecom technologies.

"As part of the collaboration, C-DOT and Synergy Quantum will jointly pursue the development of quantum communications technologies optimised for drone-based deployment," the release said.

The pact will also include co-creation of research proposals for national and international grant applications and dissemination of outcomes through scholarly publications, white papers, and other platforms.

"The convergence of public R&D and private innovation is essential to shaping a secure and self-reliant digital future for India. Quantum technol-



ogies hold immense promise for next-generation secure communications, and this collaboration with Synergy Quantum reflects our shared vision of accelerating indigenous capabilities in this critical domain," C-DOT CEO Rajkumar Upadhyay said.

Jay Oberoi, Founder and CEO of Synergy Quantum India, said the partnership has the potential to position India as a global leader in drone-based quantum secure communications.

"This partnership is expected to lay the foundation for next-generation quantum-safe telecom infrastructure, revolutionising secure data transmission for applications in defence, emergency response, critical infrastructure, and secure government communication," the release added.

Boycott Chinese, Turkish goods: CTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) Monday appealed to over 700 business organisations in the national capital to halt all forms of trade with China and Turkey as they had supported Pakistan amid Indo-Pak conflict.

China benefits significantly from Indian markets, with its products widely used in businesses across the country. Despite this, it continues to take an unfriendly stance. It is time to reconsider our economic dependence on such nations, CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said.

Goyal, further emphasised the importance of gradually reducing commercial ties, particularly with Turkey, earns considerable revenue from Indian tourism.

According to CTI, in 2024, about 2.75 million Indian tourists visited Turkey, contributing to a bilateral trade volume of USD 12.5 billion between the two nations. CTI General Secretary Gurmeet Arora urged the government to consider an immediate ban on Chinese imports and raised concerns over the lack of proper labeling on imported goods.

On the other hand, Indian travel companies Cox & Kings, Travomint, suspended all travel packages to nations like Turkey and Azerbaijan

ITD announces all ITR forms for AY 2025-26



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The income tax department (ITD) has notified all seven income tax return forms for assessment year 2025-26. While ITR forms 1 and 4, which are filed by small and medium taxpayers, were notified on April 29; ITR-7, filed by trusts and charitable institutions, was notified on May 11.

However, there is one important change has been introduced in ITR-1 and 4 related to reporting of capital gain income from listed equities notified April 29

Now, salaried individuals and those under the presumptive taxation scheme, having long-term capital gains (LTCG) of up to ₹1.25 lakh in a financial year, will now be able to file

ITR-1 and ITR-4, respectively.

Under the I-T law, LTCG of up to ₹1.25 lakh from sale of listed shares and mutual funds is exempt from tax. Gains exceeding ₹1.25 lakh annum are subject to 12.5 per cent tax. The last date for filing ITR for individuals is July 31.

One more change has been introduced in ITR forms 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 pertains to rationalisation of capital gains tax. In schedule Capital Gains, capital gains must now be split based on before or after July 23, 2024.

In the Budget presented on July 24, 2024, the government had proposed to lower long-term capital gains tax on real estate to 12.5 per cent without indexation benefit, from 20 per cent with indexation. (Indexation benefit allows taxpayers

to arrive at the cost price of the property after adjusting for inflation).

With this, individuals or HUFs who purchased houses before July 23, 2024, can opt to pay Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG) tax under the new scheme at the rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation or claim the indexation benefit and pay 20 per cent tax.

Also, in ITR-3, which is filed by individuals and HUFs having income from profits and gains of business or profession, the threshold for reporting assets and liabilities under 'Schedule AL' has been raised from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore, thus reducing the disclosure burden on middle-income taxpayers.

ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj is for resident individual having annual income of up to ₹50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest) and agricultural income up to ₹5,000 a year.

Whereas, Sugam is for individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms (other than Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)) having a total annual income of up to ₹50 lakh and income from business and profession.

US, China high tariff deal creates opportunities in India: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: Recent announcement of US, China to suspend their tariff hikes for 90 days presents both challenges and opportunities for India, according to exporters.

The two countries have reached an agreement to significantly reduce most of their recent tariffs or import duties for 90 days, as they are in talks to resolve their trade disputes. US Trade representative Jamieson Greer has said the US agreed to reduce its 145 per cent tariff on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed to cut the rates to 10 per cent.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President SC Ralhan said the announce-

ment reflects a soft side of the two largest economies.

"While such developments are broadly positive for global trade stability, they present both challenges and opportunities for India," Ralhan said, adding that the reduction in tariffs will likely result in a surge of US-China bilateral trade in high-value segments like electronics, machinery, and chemicals.

This may intensify competition for Indian exporters in markets like Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where India has recently made inroads, capitalising on US-China trade disruptions, he noted.

However, Ralhan said, India can leverage this shift to strengthen exports in sectors that remain relatively insulat-



ed from US-China trade, such as pharmaceutical APIs, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, organic chemicals and IT-enabled services.

"India must proactively engage with the US to secure and expand its preferential trade access, emphasising its role as a reliable alternate sourcing

destination," he added.

The temporary nature of the tariff cuts may lead companies to hedge against future volatility by expanding manufacturing in India under the Make in India and PLI schemes, especially in electronics, auto components, and textiles, Ralhan noted.

Another exporter said the Indian government should keep a close watch on imports from China into India.

It is evident that these two countries are the largest trading partners of India. China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 to 2017-18, and also in 2020-21. On the other side, US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports and 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in

bilateral trade. On the other hand, China's share is just about 4 per cent in exports and a staggering 15 per cent in imports.

In the last fiscal, India's exports to the US rose by 11.6 per cent to \$86.51 billion against \$77.52 billion in 2023-24. The imports increased by 7.44 per cent in 2024-25 to USD 45.33 billion compared to \$42.2 billion in 2023-24. The trade surplus with US touched \$41.18 billion in the last fiscal from \$35.32 billion in 2023-24. In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5 per cent yearly to \$14.25 billion. Imports, however, rose by 11.52 per cent in 2024-25 to USD 113.45 billion from \$101.73 billion in 2023-24. The trade deficit has widened to \$99.2 billion in 2024-25.

WHITES OFF, CROWN INTACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: India's most successful Test captain and the fulcrum of its batting for over a decade, Virat Kohli announced his retirement from the format Monday, ending his passionate love affair with the five-day game which celebrated him as its saviour during a global T20 surge.

The 36-year old, often referred to as 'King' Kohli, admitted that it wasn't an easy call to make after turning up in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9230 runs with 30 hundreds and 31 half centuries at an average of 46.85.

He will now only be seen in ODIs, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year after having a significant role in India's T20 World Cup win in the Caribbean.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," Kohli announced on his Instagram page, putting an end to incessant speculation about his future in the format that peaked after the tour of Australia earlier this year.

Since making his debut in 2011 as the nation's Test cap number 269, Kohli captained India to the world number one position in the format and fetched a historic series triumph in Australia in 2018-19.

Under his leadership, India won 40 of 68 Tests, making him the most successful for his country and fourth most successful overall, behind South African Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh. He also logged 20 hundreds as captain, making it the highest by

I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way

VIRAT KOHLI

an Indian in that position.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," Kohli added.

The megastar's last Test assignment was a largely underwhelming tour of Australia in which he managed just one hundred. He ends his career well short of the 10,000 run mark, which was, at one stage, considered a formality.

The right-hander nonetheless signs off as a giant of the format with seven double hundreds, the highest for an Indian and well ahead of the legendary quartet of Sunil Gavaskar (4), Sachin Tendulkar (6), Virender Sehwag (6) and Rahul Dravid (5).

At a time when T20 leagues became the most sought after and watched showpiece in international cricket, Kohli's aura played a significant role in keeping fans hooked to Test cricket.

This was acknowledged by no less than Sir Viv Richards, with whom he was often compared for his style and aggression, that he dialled down considerably in the last few years.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever," Kohli wrote in his farewell note for

the format.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile," he added.

His retirement continues the exodus of Indian bigwigs from the Test arena. Ravichandran Ashwin (in December) and Rohit Sharma (last week) are the others to have called it quits in the format.

In ODIs, Kohli is not expected to wind up before 2027 but his Test departure will leave a huge void in the team that is on the hunt for a new captain in the format after Rohit's sudden retirement.

The BCCI lauded its biggest star of the past decade by declaring that his "legacy will continue forever." "His contributions to #TeamIndia will forever be cherished!" the Board posted on 'X'.

VIRAT KOHLI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM TEST CRICKET, MARKING AN END TO HIS ILLUSTRIOUS 14-YEAR CAREER WHICH SAW HIM DOMINATE A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS, REGIONS, AND OPPONENTS IN WHITES, BOTH AS A BATTER AND A CAPTAIN

KING'S FINEST

RELISHING SA ATTACK

In his first tour to South Africa, Kohli announced his arrival in tough overseas conditions with scores of 119 and 96 at the Wanderers, Johannesburg in 2013.

MAKING ENGLAND PAY

Kohli silenced critics and rewrote his narrative in England with a stunning 149 in the first Test at Edgbaston in 2018 - his very first century in England. 119 and 96 at the Wanderers, Johannesburg in 2013.

CENTURY ON CAPTAINCY DEBUT

Taking over as India's stand-in Test captain for the first time in Adelaide after MS Dhoni's injury, Kohli led from the front with twin centuries - 115 in the first innings and 141 in the second.

LONE WARRIOR ACT

At Centurion in 2018, Kohli played one of his grittiest knocks under difficult overseas conditions. On a pitch with variable bounce and against a quality South African pace attack led by Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander, Kohli compiled a superb 153 out of India's total of 307.

THE MARATHON KNOCK

Kohli's career-best Test score of 254 not out came in the second Test of the 2019 series against South Africa at Pune. His innings, studded with 33 fours and 2 sixes, dismantled a quality South African bowling attack featuring Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander, and debutant Anrich Nortje.

GLORIOUS CAREER

9,230 The number of test runs made by Kohli, which ranks him fourth on the all-time list of India players behind fellow greats Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar

254 Kohli's highest test score, made against South Africa in Pune, in October 2019. He finished the innings not out and it was the last of his double centuries

30 The number of test centuries made by Kohli — only 14 players have more. He also had 31 half-centuries

692 Kohli scored 692 runs in the India tour of Australia in 2014-15. It is the 40th most in Test history

4 Second-most hundreds in a series (India in Australia in 2014-15)

123 The number of test appearances made by Kohli. He was captain in 68 tests, winning 40 of them — the most for an Indian captain and fourth overall in test cricket

7 The number of double-hundreds made by Kohli in tests, the most by an India player and the fourth most in test history. Six of them came in an extraordinary 18-month, 33-innings spell from July 2016 to December 2017 — a period in which he was the No 1 batter in the format

1,322 Kohli produced 1322 runs during the 2018 calendar year. The most were scored by Mohammed Yousof (1788 in 2006)

Anushka's emotional note for hubby

Hours after Indian cricket star Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket, his wife and actor Anushka Sharma Monday said it was a privilege to watch him evolve after every series in the format and come back a "little wiser and humbler". Sharma, 37, shared a heartfelt post on Instagram praising her husband. "They'll talk about the records and the milestones - but I'll remember the tears you never showed, the battles no one saw, and the unwavering love you gave this format of the game. "I know how much all this took from you. After every Test series, you came back a little wiser, a little humbler and watching you evolve through it all has been a privilege," she captioned her picture with Kohli. "Somehow, I always imagined you'd retire from international cricket in whites. But you've always followed your heart, and so I just want to say my love, you've earned every bit of this goodbye," the actor added in the post. Kohli and Sharma tied the knot in 2017 and share two children - daughter Vamika (four) and 15-month-old son Akaay.



GREATS HAIL KOHLI

You offered to gift me a thread from your late father. It was something too personal for me to accept, but the gesture was heartwarming and has stayed with me ever since. While I may not have a thread to offer in return, please know that you carry my deepest admiration and very best wishes. Your true legacy, Virat, lies in inspiring countless young cricketers to pick up the sport



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Can't believe you are done. You are a modern-day GIANT and were a fantastic ambassador for Test match cricket in every way you played and captained. Thank you for the lasting memories you've given to everyone, and to me in particular. It's something I will cherish for life. Go well



RAVI SHASTRI

Test cricket brought out the fighter in you and you gave it everything! You played the way greats do, with hunger in your heart, fire in your belly and pride in every stride. Proud of what you've done in whites. Go well King Kohli!



YUVRAJ SINGH

Virat Kohli is the most Australian cricketer we've ever seen



GREG CHAPPELL

THE ONE WHO LOVED TO GIVE IT BACK!

The middle-finger incident



During India's tour of Australia in 2011-12, Kohli was still new to Test cricket. In the Sydney Test, he was fielding near the boundary and some Aussie fans kept abusing him. Kohli got angry and showed his middle finger to the crowd. The moment went viral and he was fined by the ICC.

Accusing SA broadcasters of foul play

In the third Test of the 2021-22 series in South Africa, Kohli lost his cool again. When a DRS decision went against India, Kohli and other Indian players were heard speaking into the stump mic, accusing the South African broadcaster Supersport of tampering with the technology. Kohli said, "Focus on your team as well, not just the opposition," and called out what he felt was unfair.



Famous pep talk at Lord's



One of Kohli's most inspiring moments as captain came during the Lord's Test in 2021. After a solid fightback from the lower order, India gave England a tricky target on the final day. Before going out to bowl, Kohli gathered his players in a huddle and said: "Agar koi mujhe hasta hua dikha na to samajh lena. For 60 overs, they should feel hell out there." His words fired up the team and India bowled England out to win the Test by 151 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the series.

SNIPPETS

India's strong contingent

New Delhi: India Monday named a 24-member team for the European leg of the women's Pro League hockey in June with midfielder Salima Tete as the captain. India will play twice each against Australia, Argentina, Belgium and China in London, Antwerp and Berlin from June 14 to 29. India will begin their campaign against Australia June 14. Experienced forward Navneet Kaur will be Salima's deputy during the assignment. The team includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam. Veteran Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary, and Jyoti Chhatri will be in charge of the defensive line. The midfield will be under the watchful eyes of Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sujata Kujur, Manisha Chauhan, Neha, Salima, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, Sunelita Toppo, and Mahima Tete. The likes of Deepika Navneet, Deepika Soreng, Baljeet Kaur, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Dzungdung, and Sakshi Rana will be in charge of the forwardline. The standby list includes goalkeeper Bansari Solanki and defender Ajmina Kujur.

Odisha to fight for title

Patna: Odisha displayed a dominating performance and defeated Mizoram by a convincing margin of 5-1 in semi-final football match in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Monday. With this emphatic win, Odisha has stormed into the finals of the tournament and will face Jharkhand for the championship title Tuesday. The goal scorers for Odisha were Ronik Majhi (27'), Abinash Kisan (33'), Sanko Sekhar Hembram (43') and Benkateswar Oram (59', 82'). The office bearers and members of the Odisha Football Association extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the team for the final.

FAZZA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL

Shuttlers bag 19 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, May 12: Indian shuttlers finished with a haul of 19 medals, including a gold, four silver and 14 bronze, at the 6th Fazza Para Badminton International tournament here.

Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy claimed the only gold medal at the championships, as the pair got a walk-over from their top seed opponents Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Wong Chun Yim in the men's doubles SH6 finals Sunday.

Experienced shuttler Umesh Vikram Kumar settled for silver in two of his Standing Lower SL3 singles and men's doubles finals, while the pair of Hardik Makkar and Ruthick Ragupathi went down fighting to the top seeded Malaysian Cheah Like Hou and Muhammad Fareez Anuar in men's double Standing Upper SU5 finals.

IPL to resume from May 17, final June 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 12: The BCCI Monday decided to resume the IPL season across six venues from May 17 with the final slated for June 3 as per the revised schedule.

The IPL was halted May 8 after the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off after Pakistan tried to invade Indian air space near Chandigarh, forcing a blackout in the stadium.

However the board officials decided for a quick resumption of the league, following India and Pakistan agreeing a ceasefire in their border conflict.

"BCCI is pleased to announce the resumption of the TATA IPL 2025. After extensive consultations with government and security agencies, and with all the key stakeholders, the Board has decided to proceed with the remainder of the season," the board said in a statement.

The first match upon the resumption of the league will be between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders in Bangalore May 17.

The six venues for league



The first match upon the resumption of the league will be between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders in Bangalore

matches as per the revised schedule will be: Bangalore, Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The venues for the playoff matches will be announced at a later date. However, the dates of the playoff matches have been announced and as per the schedule, Qualifier 1 will be held May 29 followed by the Eliminator May 30.

The Qualifier 2 will be played May June 1, to be followed by the title match two days later.

A total of 17 matches will be played across six venues and

the revised schedule includes two double-headers, which will be played on two Sundays. **Foreign players availability** Several foreign players contracted with the IPL franchises left for their respective home countries and some were in transit, after the league was suspended.

Now, the teams will have to reassemble them, at least as many as possible, before May 17. However, some players might stay back, particularly those with some niggles.

The comeback plans of Aus-

tralia's pacer Josh Hazlewood, who plays for RCB, might get affected by a shoulder niggle that forced him to sit out of the home game against Chennai Super Kings.

However, it remains to be seen how many Aussie and South African Test regulars return to the league considering the probability of them featuring in the World Test Championship final at Lord's, starting from June 11.

Pat Cummins (SRH), Kagiso Rabada (GT) etc are some of the names who are frontline Test players of Australia and South Africa respectively.

Clash with India A tour to Eng The revised IPL dates also clash with the scheduled India A tour to England where they will face the Lions in two four-day matches from May 30 and June 6. Some of the first-choice Test players and contenders are expected to get picked in the India A squad ahead of the senior team's tour to England, beginning June 20.

It remains to be seen how the BCCI will address this disparity as the India A squad will be announced in a day or two.