

PAK ARMY VIOLATES CEASEFIRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Washington, May 10: India and Pakistan Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of full scale war.

Barely hours after this development first announced by US President Donald Trump who claimed that the two countries have agreed to a “full and immediate” ceasefire after US mediation, Jammu and Kashmir was shaken by a series of drone sightings in the night followed by explosions, prompting security personnel to engage air defence systems to bring them down.

Top government sources, however, clearly said that the bilateral understanding was the result of a direct engagement between the Indian and Pakistani sides and that Islamabad agreed to it with “no pre conditions, no post conditions and no links to other issues.”

India late in the night accused Pakistan of breaching the understanding.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with “seriousness and responsibility”.

“For the last few hours, there have been repeated violations of the understanding arrived at earlier this evening between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan,” he said.

“This is a breach of the understanding arrived at earlier today.” “The armed forces are giving an adequate and appropriate response to these violations and we take very very serious note of these violations,” Misri said.

The decision that India and Pakistan reached an understanding was first made public by President Trump in a surprise announcement in a post on Truth Social.

“After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE,” he said.

“Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence.

43 students return home from Jammu

Bhubaneswar: Forty-three students returned home in Odisha from Jammu following the India-Pakistan conflict, an official said. These students were studying at the Central Sanskrit University in Jammu, and they were asked to vacate their hostels, he said. The students were brought to Delhi from where they returned to Odisha on a train, he added. The state government is working to bring back students from the state studying in Jammu and Kashmir, the official said. The Commerce and Transport Department made arrangements for the students’ return journey, he said. They were welcomed by the state government at different railway stations.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



LIVING IN FEAR: People stand inside a house as seen through the damaged portion of its roof after cross border shelling by Pakistan, during the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, at Behra village of Mendhar sector, in Poonch district, J&K, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

- **India, Pak agree to halt ops on land, air, sea from 5pm, Saturday**
- **Any future terror act will be considered ‘act of war’ against India: Govt**
- **Indus Waters Treaty to remain in abeyance**
- **Every Pakistani misadventure will invite decisive response: Indian military**
- **Indian armed forces hit 8 Pak military installations, radar sites**
- **No truth in Pak claim on hitting BrahMos installation, airfields: Defence Ministry**
- **Congress seeks all-party meet, special session in Parliament**

WAR IS NOT INDIA’S CHOICE, DOVAL TELLS CHINESE FM YI

In a high-level diplomatic exchange, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval Saturday held a telephonic conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and reaffirmed that “war was not India’s choice” and emphasised India’s commitment to ceasefire and restoring peace with Pakistan. The talks between India and China were held following the deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that claimed the lives of several Indian personnel. During the call, Doval reportedly conveyed that the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam resulted in serious casualties and necessitated counter-terrorism actions by India. The conversation, disclosed by China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focused on regional stability and the imperative of maintaining peace amid escalating India-Pakistan tensions.

OMAR QUESTIONS CEASEFIRE

Srinagar: As a series of blasts rocked the city after sundown, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah questioned the “ceasefire” announcement. Blasts could be heard after an interval of 15 minutes as the flares lit up the night sky in the city. A drone was detected flying over Baramulla town in north Kashmir around 8.20pm, the officials said. They said the drone was destroyed by the anti-drone system. A drone was brought down at Anantnag high ground, near an army installation. Drone sightings were also reported from Verinag in Anantnag district and Bandipora and Safapora, the officials said, adding further details were awaited. The chief minister took to social media, saying there was no ceasefire in place. “This is no ceasefire. The air defence units in the middle of Srinagar just opened up,” he posted on X. “What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar!!” he added.

J&K govt official, 3 security officers among 8 killed in Pak shelling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 10: A senior Jammu and Kashmir government official and three security officers were among eight killed while more than 25 people were injured amid intense mortar shelling and drone strikes by Pakistan in the Jammu region Saturday, officials said.

The casualties were reported hours before India and Pakistan agreed to end hostilities, which soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) earlier this week in response to the Pahalgam attack.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the affected residential localities and announced Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of each person killed in the cross-border shelling while police issued helpline numbers and asked people to stay away from debris of fallen UAVs.

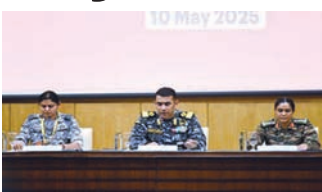
Additional District Development Commissioner (Rajouri) Raj Kumar Thapa and his two staff members were seriously injured when an artillery shell hit his official residence in Rajouri town, the officials said. They were rushed to the Government Medical College where Thapa succumbed, they said.

The others include Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, sub-inspector Mohammed Imteyaz of the BSF, two-year-old Aisha Noor, Mohd Shohib, Rashida Bi and Zakir Hussain. Meanwhile, a soldier identified as Surendra Singh Moga, a native of Rajasthan, was killed when he was hit by a fragment of a Pakistani drone, which was successfully intercepted by the Army Air Defence at an air base in Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur district Saturday, officials said. The incident took place before the announcement of a ceasefire by India and Pakistan to end their combat activities, which have intensified after the Indian armed forces carried out a missile strike on nine terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.

India destroys 8 Pakistani military installations

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

The Pakistani installations



hit included a weapons depot and control centres, India’s

military said.

Pakistan is also moving its troops into forward areas, indicating an “offensive intent”, to further escalate the situation, an Indian military spokesperson said. India, stressed Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, remains in a high state of operational readiness.

As fears of a larger military conflict loomed, Qureshi said Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is reciprocated by the Pakistani military.

She was addressing a special press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

and Foreign Secretary Misri.

Misri said India has responded to the Pakistani military’s “provocative” and “escalatory” actions in a measured manner and that Islamabad has resorted to a wanton campaign of targeting innocent people and civilian infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

Srinagar residents hope conflict gives way to lasting peace

WHILE SOME RESIDENTS SAW THE CONFLICT AS A SILVER LINING, MANY LAMENTED ITS FUTILITY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 10: Continuous artillery shelling and attempts to hit military installations from across the border by Pakistan might have affected daily life in the Kashmir valley, including Srinagar, but residents of Jammu and Kashmir’s summer capital remained unfazed. Pakistan carried out multiple attempts to strike vital installations in the city. Drone attacks on several installations, including Srinagar airport and south Kashmir’s Awantipora air base, were thwarted late Friday. The sound of explosions pierced the eerie calm as mosque loudspeakers were used to urge locals to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure.

However, instead of panicking, the residents – many of

whom were seen in the streets Saturday discussing the India-Pakistan military standoff in the wake of Operation Sindoor – expressed hope that this conflict would give way to lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have since agreed to a ceasefire, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announcing that the directors general of military operations of both countries had decided to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5pm Saturday. Before that, however, discussions on the standoff had seeped into everyday conversation – from the kerbside to the local bakery.

While bits and pieces of information – mostly unverified and shared on social media – made up the most part of the discus-



People shop at a market, seen after India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire, in Srinagar, Saturday

sion, some people were ready to offer their expert opinions on the situation.

“The tradition of discussing current affairs is endemic to Kashmiri society. I think it helps us to divert attention

from the imminent danger while remaining in touch with reality,” said Farooq Ahmad Reshi, a teacher at a private school. Kashmiris are politically aware as they have been at the centre of a conflict for

almost 80 years, he said.

Kashmir might be a valley in the mountains but it has historically been a gateway to past civilisations – from the Indus Valley to central Asia, he said, adding discussions about the military conflict had become an integral part of their lives.

Schools were shut, business was low but traders kept their stores open – if not in the hope of making some sales, then gossiping about the latest developments.

“It helps us retain our sanity. We have seen too many lockdowns in the last few years. This conflict is not as bad,” said Mudasir Ahmad, a businessman in the Lal Chowk commercial hub.

While some residents saw the conflict as a silver lining, many lamented its futility to resolve the situation.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Someone new in your life is going to make you smile; remember, however, that it doesn't always have to be fun and diamonds. Asong sung straight from the heart makes a greater impact, says Ganesha. Today's the right time to go out and do things which will make you proud later.

TAURUS
Spontaneity yet sincerity will be the ruling emotions of the day. Keep your eyes and ears open, advises Ganesha, as trouble might be headed your way. Make it a point to read the print well before you sign any legal contract today. Prevention is better than cure, reminds Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted. An auspicious and joy-filled day awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER
People will be stunned at the swift pace of your work. All your pending tasks and projects will fructify. But Ganesha counsels you not to do anything haphazardly or in any careless manner. Ganesha thinks you as an extraordinary orator.

LEO
Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may bump into you today. You will be in a happy mood as a result. Marital life will be blissful, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesha says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesha advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

LIBRA
Ganesha says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake, your vision and ability will be showcased. You will have to spend more time at your workplace.

SCORPIO
Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your ears and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice quiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

CAPRICORN
Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesha. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments. Giving free rein to your imagination will help you excel in areas of your interest, but don't go overboard or else you may lose touch with reality.

AQUARIUS
Today will not be your day. You will find it difficult to create a peaceful environment in your home and adding to the woes will your children who will be making things even more difficult for you to handle. There may be some family disputes also, and green-eyed neighbours will try to add fuel to the fire. Try to be calm and evaluate situation with mind not with heart, advises Ganesha.

PISCES
You will work hard to organize your day to day routine but due to the ill alignment of the planets you will not be able to sort things out successfully today. Ganesha advises you to be patient and let things be as they are but also to hold on to the sentiments of change. You may feel like giving up on things but ensure that you don't give up on your rights.



BRIE LARSON TO RELEASE PARTY-THEMED COOKBOOK

Captain Marvel actress Brie Larson has announced plans to release *Party People*, a party-themed cookbook, later this year. The 35-year-old actress has joined forces with best friend and chef Courtney McBroom to create the new cookbook that they'll release later this year, reports [femalefirst.co.uk](#).

MADISON SIGNS FIRST MOVIE AFTER WINNING OSCAR

Hollywood actress Mikey Madison has signed her first movie after winning an Oscar for *Anora*. The 26-year-old actress will co-star with Kirsten Dunst in upcoming thriller *Reptilia*. The film will be directed by Alejandro Landes Echavarría, reports [Female First UK](#).



Pratibha remains grounded

Mumbai: Pratibha Ranta, who gained widespread recognition for her breakout role in *Laapataa Ladies*, has quickly made a mark as one of Bollywood's most promising newcomers. Despite the praise and growing opportunities, she remains refreshingly grounded and candid about the realities of being an outsider in the film industry.

In a recent interview, Pratibha shared her thoughts on the ongoing nepotism debate in Bollywood. Rather than expressing bitterness, she acknowledged the challenges faced by outsiders. "The industry isn't always kind to outsiders," she said, but also highlighted the changing dynamics. On the subject of star kids getting roles despite past flops, she stated,

"The industry is at a turning point, with the audience having a stronger voice. Everyone is now being held accountable."

She added that if a star kid or outsider is genuinely talented, they earn the respect they deserve. For Pratibha, the focus is clear: hard work, not comparisons. "If you put in the work, opportunities will come your way," she emphasized.

With a content-driven film landscape and social media shaping careers, Pratibha's focus remains on honing her craft. With the success of *Laapataa Ladies* behind her, she's poised for an exciting future on her own terms.

AGENCIES

Sunny's fresh fashion choices

Mumbai: Sunny Leone is known for her striking fashion choices, both on and off the screen. Over the years, her style has evolved, with comfort becoming a major priority. While she still enjoys glamorous outfits, she now leans toward practical pieces that allow freedom of movement. "My taste has become more balanced," she explains. "I love bold and fun styles, but I also appreciate ease and functionality."

Sunny draws inspiration from various sources, favoring an "effortless chic" look—polished yet relaxed, as if not trying too hard. Her husband, Daniel, also plays a role in her style journey. "He has a great eye for fashion," Sunny shares, noting that he occasionally suggests outfits for her. One key piece of advice she's embraced from him is to wear confidence in whatever she chooses.

When asked about the best gift Daniel has given her, Sunny says it's not about the item itself, but the thought behind it. "Any piece given with love becomes special," she adds. She values classic, versatile accessories that can be worn frequently, always cherishing the sentiment behind the gift more than the object itself. For Sunny, it's the affection and meaning that truly elevate the piece.

AGENCIES



Rane refuses STK sequel opposite Pak actress

Mumbai: Actor Harshvardhan Rane, whose film *Sanam Teri Kasam* (STK) received a massive audience re-

during its re-release in theatres, has now decided to step down from the sequel to the film if the producers go ahead with the same cast. The actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram on Saturday, and wrote, "While I am grateful for the experience however as things stand, and after reading the direct comments made about my country, I have made a decision to respectfully decline to be a part of *Sanam Teri Kasam* part 2 if there is any possibility of the previous cast being repeated".

The actor referred to the casting of Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane in the film, and her fans being drawn to the actor's Instagram after the two nuclear armed nations launched escalations.

Earlier, the actor added a new bike to his collection. He took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he unveiled his dream bike, a custom made Royal Enfield Shotgun 650.

The bike is one of the heaviest bikes from the house of Royal Enfield standing at 240 kgs, one kilogram lighter than the heaviest RE bike - Super meteor 650. IANS



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Alaya on her literary idol

Mumbai: Alaya F, the cover star of *Cosmopolitan India's* March 2025 issue, offers a captivating look into her personal world, sharing the stories and inspirations that define her off-screen persona. In a recent interview, Alaya opened up about her current reading and deep admiration for literary icon Maya Angelou. She's currently immersed in the seventh book of Angelou's autobiography series, a connection that runs deep for Alaya, who first encountered Angelou's poem "Still I Rise" in school.

The poem left such an impact on her that she had the words tattooed on her back, with wings—a poignant reflection of how literature profoundly shapes her.

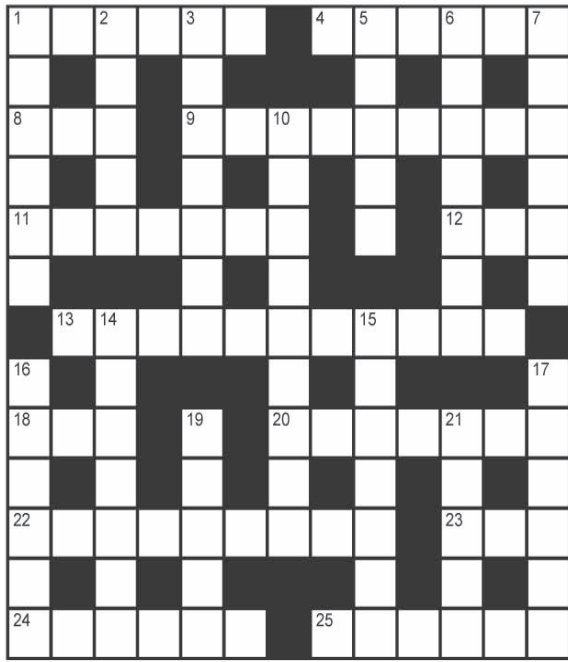
Alaya also revealed the sentimental story behind her first tattoo, a decision made with a clever twist. "I wanted a bunch of tattoos but wasn't sure my mother would approve," she shared. So, she told her mother she wanted a tattoo for her birthday, which worked like a charm. This emotional moment marked the beginning of many tattoos that Alaya now proudly displays.

On the professional front, Alaya was recently seen in *Bade Miya Chote Miyan* and *Srikanth* alongside Rajkumar Rao. Though no new projects have been announced yet, Alaya continues to captivate audiences with her charm and candid nature.

AGENCIES

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Echo
- 4 Scribble
- 8 Debate position
- 9 Swellheads
- 11 Have coming
- 12 Beast of burden
- 13 Argentina's capital (6,5)
- 18 Galley tool
- 20 God of the sea

Down

- 22 Arranges
- 23 Chinese brew
- 24 Wicker material
- 25 Oceanic bird
- 1 Whitewater
- 2 Galley slaves
- 3 Painkiller
- 5 Spiral shell
- 6 Study closely

7 Capital of

- Zambia
- 10 Game birds
- 14 Not prone
- 15 Stalemate
- 16 You may find it among thieves
- 17 Knock off the tracks
- 19 Kind of ray
- 21 Gastric woe

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

Z	L	F	D	S	P
D	E	J	A	V	U
T	U	M	I	L	N
F	A	N	G	B	E
H	L	L	N	A	
P	I	L	S	N	E
N	S	J		L	
S	T	A	L	E	
R	O	Y	R	A	
M	E	N	T	I	O
P	I	Y	E	L	I
K	I	M	O	N	O
D	N	S	S	T	Y

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

‘Legal system must evolve to govern AI tech responsibly’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: Supreme Court judge Manmohan Saturday said the country’s legal system must evolve to responsibly govern recent technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), and that cybersecurity was the foundation of a digital economy.

The SC judge was speaking at the ‘International Legal Conference 2025’ on the theme ‘India’s Legal and Regulatory Framework: Navigating International Trade Opportunities’ organised by the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Indian National Association of Legal Professionals (INALP).

Speaking about AI, data privacy and cybersecurity, Justice Manmohan said that AI could compose music, design products, or write books, but the ownership of these creations was a serious intellectual property question with no easy answers.

“Someone once compared AI to a brilliant but unpredictable teenager, full of potential, but still learning the rules. Our legal system must evolve to govern such technologies responsibly,” he said.

“Data privacy, too, is critical. In an age where data is the new oil, the Supreme Court has rightly affirmed privacy as a fundamental right and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act is a landmark effort toward establishing a rights-based data regime,” he added.

He said that cybersecurity was the foundation of any digital economy and that a secure digital environment was non-negotiable for global trade and investment.

“Our laws must impose strong penalties and, just as importantly, promote a culture of cyber resilience. International



Supreme Court judge Manmohan

al cooperation is essential, as cyber threats rarely respect borders.

“As a member of the judiciary, I reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rule of law, which is the bedrock of a fair and thriving market economy. For trade and investment to flourish, businesses need certainty, predictability, and an efficient legal system. Our courts are evolving to meet these needs,” Justice Manmohan said.

He said that in an increasingly borderless world where technology was evolving at an unprecedented pace and intellectual property disputes were rapidly increasing, the mechanisms for resolving international disputes needed a ‘significant overhaul’.

“Let me illustrate this point by referring to something as ubiquitous as the mobile phone each of us carries. Every phone today contains about 3,000 to 4,000 patents. These phones use standardised technology so they can work seamlessly across India, China, the US, anywhere. This brings us to the concept of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs),” the SC judge said.

“I realised that an infringe-

ment suit involving such patents could be filed in any jurisdiction. The dispute between a patent holder and a manufacturer is global by nature. So, should royalties be adjudicated country-by-country? Or should there be a uniform global rate? These are complex questions that underscore how much the concept of ease of doing business is under strain,” he said.

Justice Manmohan also said that the country was a global leader in the FinTech revolution and its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been widely recognised for its scale and efficiency.

“Beyond payments, FinTech is revolutionising insurance, wealth management, and financial inclusion. But rapid innovation brings new regulatory challenges. Legal frameworks must enable innovation while protecting consumers, ensuring data privacy, maintaining financial stability, and curbing illicit activity. It’s a delicate balance that regulators and the legal community must strike,” he said. He said that the country was standing at a defining moment, having vast opportunities to grow its international trade footprint.

“Yes, challenges exist, from shifting geopolitics to fast-evolving technologies, but I remain deeply optimistic. At times, international law may feel like that storm (in a sea). But with a sturdy vessel, our constitutional values, a skilled crew, all of you here, and a compass called the rule of law, we will find our way,” Justice Manmohan said.

SILF president Lalit Bhasin also spoke at the event.

The conference also applauded the Indian armed forces and offered homage to those who lost their lives in the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.



AT LORD’S SERVICE: Ojha servitors busy shaping items for construction of chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Saturday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

On the run since 2019, man held for sexual assault

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 10: A 36-year-old man, who was on the run after sexually assaulting one of his female colleagues at a hotel in Patia area of the City in 2019, has been arrested by the Mahila police, an official said Saturday.

The accused – Debabrata Mishra – has been taken into custody from Niali area of Cuttack district Saturday, Mahila police inspector in-charge (IIC) Bhagyashree



Swain told the media.

About the case details, the Mahila IIC said Mishra, a native of Kendrapara district, and the woman came closer while

working in a private firm in the Capital City in 2018.

“The duo had a visit to Puri October 10, 2018 when Mishra expressed his desires to marry her. The woman, however, declined it and started avoiding Mishra since then,” Swain said.

The duo later was in talking terms after Mishra apologised her for his act, the IIC said.

“It was March 19, 2019 when Mishra invited the lady to a hotel in Patia area where he sexually assaulted her and later fled the scene,” Swain said, adding

that since then he was on the run fearing arrest.

Soon, the victim approached the police which registered a case under Sections 376 (2), 294, 354 (a) and 506 of the IPC and launched a manhunt.

About the crackdown, the Mahila police IIC said, “Based on intelligence inputs that Mishra was in Niali area, we raided the locality and managed to nab him.”

The accused was produced before a local court here that sent him on remand.

Bribery: CBI arrests RPF head constable



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 10: The CBI arrested an RPF official on the charge of taking bribe from a person for allowing him to run a shop on railway land

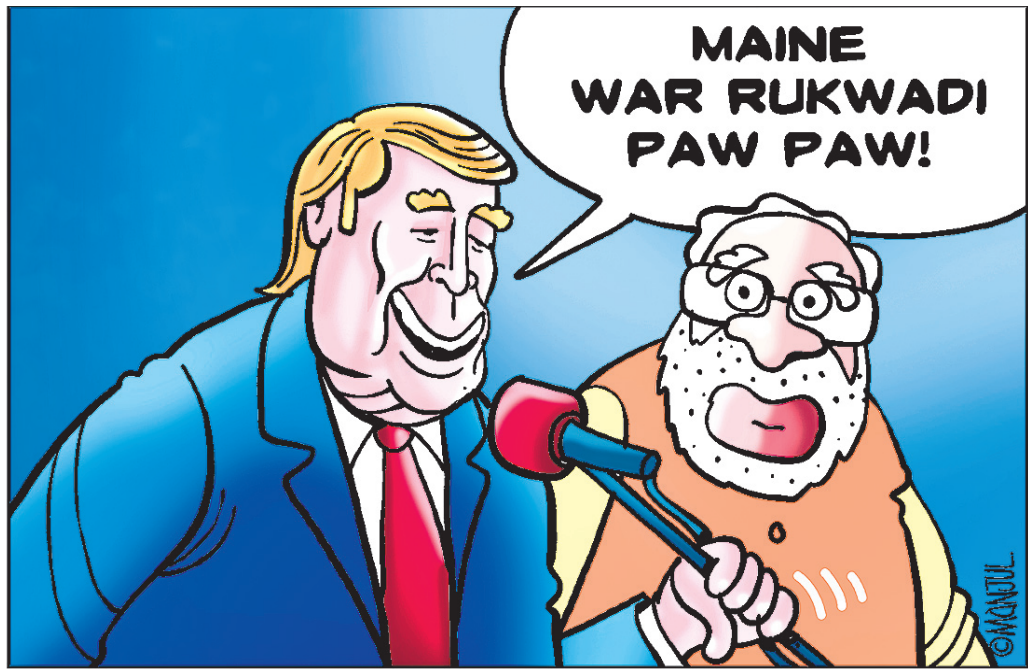
in Sundargarh district, a statement said Saturday.

RPF head constable Shambhu Prasad Singh, posted at Bimalgarh, was allegedly accepting the bribe when he was nabbed, it said. The arrest was made after a case was registered May 8, alleging that two RPF personnel demanded a bribe from the complainant for allowing him to run his dhaba-cum-barber shop on railway land at Barsuan, the CBI statement said.

The CBI laid a trap and caught one of the accused while he was allegedly taking the bribe, it said.

The accused was produced before the CBI special court in Bhubaneswar, and he was sent to judicial custody till May 15.

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



BJD's ‘Tiranga Yatra’ to honour Indian armed forces

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 10: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday took out a ‘Tiranga Yatra’ in the City to boost the morale of the country’s armed forces.

Several party leaders, including some MPs and MLAs, joined the march carrying the Tricolour from Master Canteen Square to Raj Mahal Square in the state capital.

“Indian armed forces have given a befitting reply to Pakistan. The enemy could not stand in front of the Indian jawans’ strength and willpower,” said BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra.

The BJD leaders announced that the regional party is solidly standing with the Indian armed forces.

Earlier in the evening, Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly and BJD president Naveen Patnaik welcomed the ‘ceasefire’ between India and Pakistan and congratulated



Earlier in the evening, Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly and BJD president Naveen Patnaik welcomed the ‘ceasefire’ between India and Pakistan and congratulated the Indian armed forces for their bravery

the Indian armed forces for their bravery. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and

military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5pm Saturday. The brief announcement by the foreign secretary came shortly after US President Donald Trump said India and Pakistan have agreed to a ‘full

and immediate ceasefire’ after talks mediated by the US.

The former Odisha chief minister, in a post on X, said, “While welcoming the #ceasefire announcement between India and Pakistan, applaud

India’s uncompromising stance against terrorism. #IndianArmedForces have done an excellent job in dismantling terrorist hideouts and terror supporting infrastructure in Pakistan. Congratulations to our Armed Forces. #JaiHind.” Earlier before the ceasefire announcement, the state government urged the people not to panic, asserting that the state is well-equipped to handle any situation.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari made the statement after attending a meeting, chaired by CM Mohan Charan Majhi, to review the state’s security preparedness, particularly the coast along the Bay of Bengal.

“There is no need for panic. The state is well-equipped to handle any situation. The state is in coordination with the Centre, the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and paramilitary forces to ensure the safety of our people,” Pujari told reporters.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, executive chairman of Odisha State Legal Services Authority, during the second National Lok Adalat in Cuttack, Saturday



Monsoon expected to reach Kerala May 27



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 10: The southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala May 27, earlier than the usual date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday.

If the monsoon arrives in Kerala as expected, it will be the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began May 23, according to IMD data.

The arrival of the main rain-bearing system over the Indian mainland is officially declared when it reaches Kerala, usually around June 1.

The monsoon typically covers the entire country by July 8. It starts withdrawing from northwest India around September 17 and completes by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern state May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018.

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

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

local features,” the official said.

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

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

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

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

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

Heatwave likely to persist till May 14

Capital city recorded 40.2°C — the first time temperatures crossed the 40°C mark this summer

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 10: Odisha is bracing for an extended spell of sweltering weather, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday forecast a significant rise in day temperatures across the state till May 14.

According to the IMD's regional centre here, the mercury is expected to climb by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius, intensifying the already oppressive heat.

Officials stated that there would be no major change in temperature even after this period, indicating a prolonged phase of discomfort for residents.

The IMD also issued yellow warnings for multiple districts, alerting people to hot

and humid conditions, the potential for heatwave-like scenarios, and isolated instances of thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds.

These warnings aim to prepare vulnerable populations and authorities for any adverse health or environmental effects during this extreme weather phase.

IMD scientist Sanjeev Dwivedi, addressing the media, confirmed that yellow alerts had been issued for heatwave conditions and clarified that no signs of Nor'west-er activity — a usual source of cooling pre-monsoon rains — are expected for at least the next four days. He urged people to remain cautious and limit outdoor exposure during peak afternoon hours to avoid heat-related illnesses.

The intense summer conditions were evident Saturday itself, with Sambalpur registering the state's highest tem-perature at a blistering 42.7

degrees Celsius. State capital Bhubaneswar recorded 40.2 degrees Celsius, the first time the mercury crossed the 40 de-grees mark this summer.

Other districts, too, report-ed soaring temperatures and increased humidity levels, adding to public discomfort.

In its detailed forecast, the IMD has highlighted areas like-ly to be affected on each day, warning that parts of coastal and western Odisha may face varying degrees of heat stress.

The impacted districts in-clude Balasore, Bhadrak, Ja-jpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Bo-langir, Boudh, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, and Angul.

With no immediate signs of weather relief, the public health department and local authorities are urging citizens to take preventive measures such as staying hydrated and avoiding direct sun exposure.



BEATING THE HEAT: A labourer takes a moment to quench his thirst while riding atop a cargo-laden van on a scorching summer afternoon in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

World Lupus Day observed in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 10: In a show of solidarity and aware-ness, the Odisha Arthritis and Rheumatology Foundation Trust (OARFT), in collabora-tion with the Odisha Arthri-tis and Rheumatology Centre (OARC), observed the World Lupus Day here Saturday.

The event aimed to honour the resilience and strength of Lupus survivors across the state and draw attention to the growing need for awareness and early diagnosis.

To mark the day, an awareness rally was organised from Saheed Nagar to Rupali Square, drawing participation from survivors, doctors, healthcare workers, and the general public. Among those present were OARFT founder Chaitanya Chandra Parida and several other supporters and medical professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, Jyoti Ranjan Parida, a special-ist at OARC, highlighted the

seriousness of the disease and the importance of timely inter-vention. "It is estimated that around 1,000 people in Odisha are currently living with Lupus, with nearly 90 per cent being women.

Symptoms often include fever, chest pain, hair loss, skin rashes, and joint pain. Though non-contagious, Lupus can be diagnosed through specific an-tibody tests. With the right life-style adjustments and medical care, patients can lead a stable and fulfilling life," she said.

Doctors emphasised that greater public awareness and access to early screening are key to reducing the disease bur-den. The event also served as a platform to bust myths around Lupus and empower patients with information.

It is worth noting that World Lupus Day is observed globally May 10 each year to raise awareness about this autoim-mune disease and to support those affected by it.

RJ Niel puts Odisha on radio map

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 10: In a landmark achievement for Odisha's media landscape, RED FM's Radio Jockey Niel has etched his name in history by becoming the first-ever RJ from the state to win a presti-gious national award 'Best RJ Zonal' title for his popular show Morning No. 1 at the All India Audio Summit Awards 2025.

Held April 25 at Taj Santacruz in Mumbai, the event, in its fourth year, is one of the most respected platforms in India



that celebrates excellence in the audio industry, including radio, podcasts, audiobooks, and inno-

vation in audio technology.

Speaking after receiving the award, RJ Niel dedicated the honour to his listeners. "This isn't just my win — it belongs to every person in Odisha who tunes in, participates, and in-spires us to do better every day. At RED FM, we believe that radio has the power to change lives, and this award only strengthens that belief."

This year's edition brought together top audio professionals from across the country, with Pragma Paliwal Gaur, director general at Akashwani, gracing

the occasion as chief guest.

RJ Niel's win is particularly significant, not just because he competed with some of the finest talents from both private and government radio stations, but also because he represented a region often underrepresented in the national media spotlight.

The award jury highlighted the powerful social impact of Morning No. 1, praising Niel for using his platform to spotlight urgent social issues, promote civic awareness, and initiate meaningful conversations with-in the community.

CPI holds memorial for Dibakar Nayak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 10: A state-level memorial meeting was held Saturday at Jayadev Bhawan to pay tribute to Com-rade Dibakar Nayak, former state secretary of the Com-munist Party of India (CPI). The event brought together leaders from various political parties, mass organisations, and members of the public to honour the memory of the late leader.

The meeting was pre-sided over by former MLA Narayan Reddy and high-lighted Nayak's lifelong commitment to Marxist ideology, social justice, and grassroots activism.

A commemorative sou-venir dedicated to Nayak's legacy was unveiled by for-mer Finance Minister Pra-fulla Chandra Ghadai, who remarked, "A revolutionary dedicated to social transfor-mation never truly dies — they live on through their ideals and sacrifices."

Speakers at the gathering, including CPI state secretary Ashish Kanungo, CPI(M) state secretary Suresh Chan-dra Panigrahy, and several others, remembered Nayak as a principled Marxist and tireless advocate for the la-bour and farmer movements.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	37.6°	37.8°
Min Temp	26.8°	26.0°
Humidity	75%	77%
Rainfall	NII	NII
FORECAST	Mainly clear sky	

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Samira Kumar Sahoo, S/o-Late Dhaneswar Sahoo, resident of At-Chanchapada, P.O.-Damodarpur, P.S.-Kishannagar, Dist.-Cuttack-754130, Odisha, declare by this Affidavit No. 5451, Dated-10.05.2025, That now onwards I shall be known as Samir Kumar Sahoo for all future purposes.



MOTHER'S DAY

Voices of mothers reveal how love, resilience, and quiet strength define their everyday journey

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 10: As the world celebrates Mother's Day, stories of sacrifice, strength, and unconditional love shine brightly from every corner of Odisha — from coastal towns to bustling cities — showing that mother-hood transcends profession, background, or age. Whether it's an entrepreneur balancing a crown with a cradle, a homemaker nurturing gener-ations, or a doctor trading medical conferences for bed-time stories, Odisha's mothers reflect the soul of the land — rooted in love, resilience, and quiet strength.

Entrepreneur and Mrs Grand India 2023, **Saip-rasanna Behera**, from Bhu-baneswar, describes mother-hood as her ultimate trans-formation. "The best part of being a mother is the pure hap-piness you receive in return. I was very impatient once, but watching my son crawl, take his first steps, and grow

changed me completely," she said. Recalling the little things



she gave up, like her beloved guchup, she added, "My pae-diatrician advised me to avoid spicy food while breastfeeding. I didn't see it as a sacrifice — it's just something a mother naturally does."

A homemaker from Bhu-baneswar **Mamta Das** shared her journey from being mar-ried at 16, enduring multi-ple miscarriages, to finally becoming a mother of three daughters. "The day I held my daughter for the first time will always be my most cherished memory," she said. Once a

working woman, Mamta chose to dedicate herself entirely to her children. "Many call it sacrifice, but to a mother, it's instinct. It's not a burden —



it's love in action."

Sarojini Sadangi, a retired gynaecologist and former pro-fessor at SCB Medical College, Cuttack, described mother-hood as an unparalleled joy that surpasses all other expe-riences. "Carrying a child for nine months and giving birth is an experience like no other. When you see that little face and find your reflection in it, you forget all the pain," she shared.



Despite missing out on sev-eral key professional opportu-nities, Sadangi never once re-gretted choosing her children first. "Time flies, but the joy of being a mother never fades," she added.

Assistant professor at IIMC Dhenkanal and former journalist **Chirasrota Jena** spoke of the tough choices that came with motherhood. "I was doing well in my re-porting career, but I didn't have anyone to take care of my daughter. So I shifted to academics, where I could be present in her life," she said. "Motherhood teaches

you humility, flexibility, and strength. You let go of perfec-tion, embrace guilt, and learn to grow with your child," she added further.

In today's demanding world, Odisha's mothers carry the grace of a goddess — multitasking with the poise of a Dashavatara, adapting to every role with silent deter-mination.



Their stories are not just tales of sacrifice — they are testimonies of deep-rooted love and unshakeable will, the kind that defines motherhood not just in Odisha, but across the world.

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Illegal shrimp farms threaten agri, Bhitarkanika biodiversity



Spanning over 20,000 acres, unauthorised prawn gheries have become a growing environmental and legal concern in Kendrapara district, threatening Bhitarkanika National Park's biodiversity and fuelling land disputes with local farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, May 10: Illegal shrimp enclosures, spreading across more than 20,000 acres, in this district have emerged as a major threat to the local agriculture and the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park, apart from creating law and order issues.

Reports said saline water entering through canals into these shrimp enclosures has raised concerns among local farmers.

Earlier, the Orissa High Court had taken suo motu cognisance of the matter and ordered the demolition of unauthorised farms. Advocate Mohit Agarwal was appointed amicus curiae to monitor the situation. However, administrative inac-

tion has delayed the implementation of the court order.

Social worker Jyotiranjana Patri said the district administration initially took limited action, but legal hurdles ensued as three separate counter petitions were filed by shrimp enclosure owners asserting that their operations were lawful.

In the first case, nine petitioners argued that they were farming shrimp on their own land for livelihood purposes without causing environmental damage. In the second petition, 17 applicants claimed that they were using modern techniques in line with current aquaculture practices. Likewise, the third petition, involving 17 farmers, stated that their operations complied with all the legal requirements.

With the legal status of many enclosures under question, the administration has been tasked with verifying which are legal and which are not.

Social activist Biren Kumar Das said shrimp enclosures pose a dual threat – endangering Bhitarkanika's biodiversity and salinising nearby farmland. This has led to frequent conflicts between local farmers and enclosure owners.

Law and order issues have been reported in Mahakalapada, Rajnagar and Rajkanika blocks. In Rajnagar's Kurunti pancha-

yat, a shooting incident occurred in connection with shrimp farming disputes. In Petchela revenue village of Mahakalapada tehsil, villagers clashed with enclosure owners over 39 acres of forest and pasture land converted for shrimp farming. Rajkanika has seen disputes over saltwater inflow through canals built for shrimp farms.

Environmentalist Hemanta Kumar Rout said wastewater and air pollution from the enclosures are harming the local ecosystem. He cited Jagatjora in Bhitarkanika as a clear example where toxic wastewater from shrimp farms is damaging marine life and nearby mangrove forests.

Rout attributed the presence of these farms to non-listing of Bhitarkanika as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A UNESCO team had visited the park in 2016 and raised concerns about the shrimp enclosures. The team urged the district administration to immediately remove enclosures built on forest land.

However, shrimp farm owner Satyendra Das countered that the district lacks effective employment schemes. He noted that many migrant workers returned home jobless after the Covid-19 pandemic and turned to shrimp farming, which has received support from both the Union and state governments.

Das argued that since the farming is conducted under Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, the administration should identify appropriate zones to support livelihoods in the coastal belt.

Additional District Magistrate Rabindra Mallik confirmed that demolition work is under way in line with the court's order. He said some owners have approached the court, and investigations are ongoing to determine the legality of their farms. Local officials have been directed to remove illegal enclosures.



REMEMBERING GURUDEV: Girls perform a dance at a programme held on the occasion of the 164th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at Kali Mandir premises in Jharsuguda

OP PHOTO

NHRC for ATR on poor living condition in Bagapatia colony

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, May 10: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the district administration here over the alarming lack of basic amenities at Bagapatia resettlement colony in Rajnagar block.

The directive follows a complaint filed by human rights advocate Radhakanta Tripathy who raised concerns over the 'deplorable' living conditions faced by families relocated from the coastal village of Satabhaya, which has been steadily eroded by the sea over the past several decades.

The NHRC held a hearing May 5. Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, the rights body directed the district authorities to submit an ATR within four weeks.

According to Tripathy, the phased relocation of displaced Satabhaya residents began in 2008. By 2020, a total of 571



families had been shifted to Bagapatia. However, despite the passage of years, the relocated population continues to suffer from an acute lack of basic infrastructure and services.

He alleged that roads in the area become impassable to use with even moderate rainfall, there is no reliable source of drinking water, educational facilities are either absent or inadequate, and health services remain largely inaccessible. Moreover, the surrounding environment is reportedly neglected, com-

pounding the challenges faced by the resettled families.

Tripathy's petition urged the NHRC to take urgent steps to address what he described as 'prolonged administrative apathy' and to ensure that the displaced people are provided with the minimum standards required for a dignified life.

It is believed that the NHRC's intervention will help address the long-pending issues in Bagapatia and provide some relief to the families who have waited years for stable and humane living conditions.

Brown sugar worth ₹22 lakh seized; woman, son held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore May 10: Police Saturday arrested a woman and her son from Arad Bazar area under Sahadevkhunta police limits in the district after brown sugar of over 228 gram, worth ₹22.8 lakh, was seized from their possession.

The accused were identified as Meena Biwi, 50, and her son Sheikh Shakir, 25, in the area. A case was registered in this connection and they were produced in the court Saturday, said SP Raj Prasad at a presser held at the Sahadevkhunta police station Saturday.



Humma dry fish market brought under Fisheries dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, May 10: The long-standing dispute between local panchayat representatives and the Panchudola Yatra Committee regarding the Humma dry fish market has been resolved. The market, one of the largest of its kind in Asia, has officially come under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries department following a formal government notification and land allotment, which had earlier triggered the conflict.

To oversee the market's development, a new committee will be formed with the Ganjam district collector serving as chairperson. The committee's vice chairperson will be the deputy director of fisheries for the Ganjam Zone, while members will include the district fisheries officer, block development officer, tehsildar, SDPO of Chhatrapur, Humma sarpanch,



additional fisheries officer, two fish traders, and three local residents, according to officials from the Fisheries department.

The conflict came to an end during a high-level administrative meeting held Wednesday morning at the market site. The meeting was attended by Sub-Collector Debasish Baral, Deputy Director of Fisheries Suresh Chandra Behera, BDO Achyutananda Jani, Tehsildar Sukanta Chandra Mishra, District Fisheries Officer Bibhuti Bhushan Sah, Additional Fish-

eries Officer Subrata Kumar Pattnaik, AFO Bibhu Prasad Swain, Humma outpost officer Subhrajit Samantray, Humma Society member Dhruva Charan Palai, Panchudola Yatra Committee president Santosh Kumar Sahu, cultural secretary Jogesh Chandra Sahu, general secretary Rama Rao Reddy, local residents from eight villages, and traders.

During the meeting, the sub-collector dismissed allegations regarding irregularities in the market's land allotment, clarifying that the process began nearly a decade ago and that the Fisheries department had taken up the responsibility for its improvement.

One major decision taken during the discussion was to award the market's management contract through a sealed tender box method for the first time, rather than the traditional open bidding process. It was also decided that 50 per cent of the market's revenue will be allocated toward panchayat development.

Expenditure related to sanitation, maintenance, and electricity bills of the market complex will be made according to decisions taken by the society committee, as confirmed by the sub-collector.

Despite the market being transferred to the Fisheries department, the traditional Panchudola Yatra will remain unaffected, the sub-collector assured.

Mom's kidney gives boy a second life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 10: A mother's love is often described as boundless, and for a family in Berhampur, it has become the reason for a boy's survival.

On the Mother's Day, today, the story of S Sarada of Jaydurga Nagar, near Engineering School Road in the Silk City, is one of extraordinary sacrifice. She donated her kidney to her 17-year-old son, S Sai Biswanath, giving him a second chance at life after he was diagnosed with severe kidney failure.

Biswanath, whose father S Sai Gopal is a local businessman, showed no signs of illness in early childhood. However, after turning 15, his health began to decline. He lost his appetite, ate less, and suffered from frequent fevers. He also experienced mental stress during this period.

Concerned by their son's deteriorating condition, his

parents sought treatment at a private hospital in the City. After a diagnostic evaluation, doctors November 22, 2023 revealed that 95 per cent of Sai's kidneys were damaged. This news left both parents devastated.

Doctors advised the family to consider a kidney transplant and referred them to a private hospital in Visakhapatnam. There, they were told to seek out a suitable donor. Without hesitation, Sarada offered one of her kidneys to save her son's life.

Her selfless act is a poignant reminder of the strength and unconditional love mothers embody, making the impossible possible for their children.

Due to the family's financial struggles, Gopal initially volunteered to donate a kidney to save his son. However, doctors prioritised the mother, Sarada, and conducted a thorough health and kidney evaluation. "As my health was suitable, I



agreed to donate one of my kidneys to my son," Sarada said.

Bishwanath, underwent dialysis for three months. "Later, my left kidney was successfully transplanted into the right lower abdomen of my son February

14, 2024," Sarada added. The surgery was successful, and both mother and son are now living healthy lives.

Meanwhile, Gopal had appealed for government assistance to continue his son's medical expenses. "I wrote to the Prime Minister, the President of India, the Chief Minister, the local legislator, and the district Collector for help," Gopal said. Following his appeal, the family received ₹30,000 in aid from the Red Cross through the district administration.

However, despite the help, the ongoing monthly medical expenses remain a burden due to Gopal's limited financial means. Doctors have informed that both mother and son will require lifelong medical care.

The father continues to request financial assistance from the government, urging the authorities at the state government to provide a monthly allowance of ₹10,000 for kidney patients similar to what some other state governments offer.

Drone found in fishing net triggers panic in coastal village

AGENCIES

Mahakalapada, May 10: The discovery of a drone entangled in the fishing net of a villager sparked panic in the sleepy coastal Sumiti village in the district early Saturday morning.

According to sources, the drone was found in a net placed as a barricade by Srimant Gochhait, a villager, of Ward No. 6 in the village, a little past Friday midnight.

Following the receipt of the information, the Tantiapala Marine Police rushed to the spot and seized the device. Authorities said it could be a drone used for taking aerial photographs and videos. An investigation is currently underway.

Official sources said that stringent security measures have been in place to safeguard key establishments along the Kendrapara coastline in view of the tensions between India and Pakistan. The Ministry of Shipping has closed all lighthouses for visitors, including the False Point Lighthouse at Batighar Gram Panchayat in Kendrapara, for administrative reasons.

The closure came into effect May 8 and will continue till



May 17, according to Jayanta Kumar Chattarjee, in-charge of the False Point Lighthouse.

The lighthouse is one of the oldest in the Indian subcontinent. It is situated on a large island formed by the Mahanadi river delta. Historically, ships of the British East India Company approaching the Kolkata port often mistook the Mahanadi for the Hooghly river, leading to the naming of the location as 'False Point.'

To aid maritime navigation, the lighthouse was planned in the early 1830s. The Maharaja of Burdwan donated the land for its construction to the British East India Company. Building materials like boulders and lime were transported via sea routes, and construction officially began December 6, 1836. The 38-meter-tall circular tower, tapering at the top and leading into the lantern room, was completed October 16, 1837.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
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TOOL TO AID OR HURT?



To shape the future responsibly, journalists must learn how AI works, understand both its risks and rewards, and continuously update the frameworks—legal, ethical, and professional

lawmakers and experts called for deeper research and clearer AI legislation. Globally, this conversation is intensifying, particularly around copyright issues and fair use of journalistic content.

In the US, The New York Times has filed a lawsuit against OpenAI over alleged copyright infringement, and similar concerns are growing in South Korea. The Korean Newspaper Association (KNA) initially determined that Naver, dominant web portal and search engine, often referred to as “Google of Korea” had incorporated news content from media outlets into its AI services without proper authorization. It plans to file formal complaints against both domestic and international tech companies, including Google and OpenAI, for using news content in AI training without proper authorization.

The KNA argues this unauthorized use violates copyright laws and constitutes an abuse of market dominance under the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act. Without clear legal frameworks, the unchecked use of news content by AI could severely impact journalism’s sustainability by eroding its economic foundations and remain a persistent challenge.

In Poland, in July 2024

and outline prohibited uses. However, ambiguity remains around what qualifies as ‘creative input’ when AI helps write an article. The EU law won’t be fully applied until 2026, and AI’s capabilities may evolve dramatically by then.

Additionally, as traditional media loses influence in the advertising market, distribution models are shifting in ways that weaken competition and diversity in the media landscape. To address these concerns, the EU adopted the Digital Single Market Directive in 2019, requiring platforms like Google to sign agreements with publishers for content usage.

Under current EU copyright laws, training AI on content is allowed unless explicitly forbidden by rights holders. Yet publishers argue that if tech giants use their work, they should compensate accordingly. Google, for example, benefits from journalistic content while trying to position itself as a publisher—without paying for the work it leverages. This places publishers in a difficult spot: they face the dominance of tech giants while also needing to fund quality journalism.

Fortunately, they are doing so, using AI as an ally and not a replacement. For example,

in October 2024, in an investigation titled “Inside the Movement Behind Trump’s Election Lies,” The New York Times used AI to analyse over 500 hours of video from the Election Integrity Network. AI translated and indexed 5 million words from the recordings, allowing journalists to find recurring themes and identify key figures. But the final product was carefully verified by human reporters, and the AI usage was explained to readers.

This blend of AI efficiency and human judgment is key. The tools are here. It’s up to the media to use them wisely.

INFA

Imagine having a super-smart assistant that can gather information, write drafts, generate videos, clone voices, et al. Incredible possibilities that artificial intelligence (AI) offers in the media. Yes, it’s transforming journalism by handling routine tasks, analysing vast data sets, and enhancing content delivery. And like any powerful tool, AI comes with its own set of ethical and legal dilemmas.

The power and peril of AI has sparked a heated discussion in the media, often referred to as the Fourth Estate-wielding influence, shaping public opinion and a watchdog of democracy. Will it help safeguard or play mischief? At the same time, AI’s rapid development has sparked fears among journalists whether they would become obsolete!

AI won’t replace journalists—it will replace journalists who don’t use AI. Good journalism relies on human traits that AI lacks: empathy, curiosity, and the ability to ask hard questions in real time. AI won’t meet informants, uncover hidden documents, or attend a press conference and challenge a prime minister. When disaster strikes, it’s human journalists who head to the scene to speak with witnesses and capture the raw, emotional truth.

While AI offers substantial benefits, it also poses serious threats to privacy, identity, and intellectual property. There’s a need to strike a balance between embracing innovation and safeguarding citizens’ rights. AI use should never infringe on reputation, privacy, or image rights. It’s not just about creating regulations—education, awareness, and continuous research are vital to establishing ethical boundaries.

In early March in China’s ‘Two sessions’, most significant political meetings many



Sabina Inderjit

GOOD JOURNALISM RELIES ON HUMAN TRAITS THAT AI LACKS: EMPATHY, CURIOSITY, AND THE ABILITY TO ASK HARD QUESTIONS IN REAL TIME



Aakar Patel

YOU THROW HUNDRED STONES AT ME, I STOP NINETY BUT TEN STILL HURT ME. I CAN NEVER WIN. EITHER I LOSE OR THERE IS A STALEMATE, SAID AJIT DOVAL DURING HIS SPEECH AT A VARSITY IN 2014, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE HE WAS APPOINTED NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR



You must abstain from thinking about someone when you cannot think well of him.

THE MOTHER

Doval Doctrine

India’s Defence Planning Committee was set up on 19 April 2018. It was chaired by national security advisor Ajit Doval and included the foreign secretary, defence secretary, chief of defence staff, the three service chiefs and secretaries of the Ministry of Finance.

It set itself the enormous tasks of looking after ‘national defence and security priorities, foreign policy imperatives, operational directives and associated requirements, relevant strategic and security-related doctrines, defence acquisition and infrastructure development plans, national security strategy, strategic defence review and doctrines, international defence engagement strategy’, and so on. It met once, on 3 May 2018, and does not appear to have met after that.

In the absence of a national security doctrine India has presumably relied upon what is informally referred to as the Doval Doctrine. This doctrine may not be out yet in print but it is available on video. In February 2014, a few weeks before he was appointed national security advisor, Doval spoke at the Sastra University in Thanjavur. During his speech, he made the following points:

Terrorism was a strategic threat to India because it was an international phenomenon; because Pakistan fed and promoted it; and because India has a large Muslim population.

However, terrorism could not be fought because it was an idea, a word. Only terrorists could be fought (or ‘degraded’ in capacity), because only a tangible enemy could be defeated, not a word.

India thus had to name its threat, in this case, Pakistan. Having identified the enemy, Doval asked the question, ‘How do you tackle Pakistan?’ and then proceeded to explain.

The problem of India’s national security strategy was Pakistan’s ability for sub-conventional warfare (cross-border terrorism and militancy) and India’s inability to escalate militarily in response because of the nuclear threat.

Doval said: ‘I talked about their having the nuclear threshold, having the strategic weapons systems, missiles, strategic partnership with China. How do we tackle this?’

It was simple. He said: ‘You know we engage an enemy in three modes. One is a defence mode. Chowkidars and chap-rasis. That if somebody comes here we will prevent him (from entering). One is defensive-offence. To defend ourselves we will go to the place from where the offence is coming. (The) third is the offensive mode where you go outright. Nuclear threshold is a difficulty in the offensive mode, but not in the defensive-offence.’

At the moment, he said, meaning under Manmohan Singh’s government, ‘we work only in the defensive mode’.

What he was recommending was that India attack Pakistan in various ways short of conventional war. In his words: ‘... working on the vulnerability of Pakistan. It can be economy, internal security, it can be political. International isolation. I am not going into details. But ... you change the engagement from defensive mode.’

He implied that there was no option but to do this since the offensive mode was closed because there was no control of escalation leading up to the nuclear threshold. Similarly, for him, the defensive mode was useless.

‘You throw hundred stones on me, I stop ninety but ten still hurt me. I can never win. Either I lose or there is a stalemate. You start war at your time, throw the stone with what you want, you talk when you want, you have peace when you want.

‘If you have defensive-offence we will see where the balance of the equilibrium is. Pakistan’s vulnerability is many, many times higher than that of India. Once they know that India has shifted its gear from defensive to defensive-offence they will find that it is unaffordable for them. You can do one Mumbai, you may lose Balochistan. There is no nuclear war involved. There is no engagement of troops. If you know the tricks we know the tricks better than you.’

He continued: ‘Our only difficulty has been we have been in the defensive mode. If we had been in defensive-offence mode we could have reduced the casualties we have suffered.’

This was the Doval Doctrine. It posited India’s strategic threat as terrorism from Pakistan, and its response was to do unto the enemy what was being done to you.

It is unclear whether this unwritten doctrine was adopted by the government, but Doval’s decade as NSA means that it must have had a strong influence.

In 2020 India was faced with a challenge on the other front. In assessing this situation former general Prakash Menon noted that, for several decades, India’s political guidance to the military had been oriented towards Pakistan as the immediate threat. But now that the Chinese threat was at the doorstep, this would have to change. The political objectives expected to be achieved by the military resided in a document called the ‘Raksha Mantri’s Directive’ (which dealt with how much ammunition and spares the armed forces must keep in stock in anticipation of conflict) drawn up under the UPA. That directive, Gen Menon said, ‘continues to lack parentage for the lack of a coherent National Security Strategy. The Defence Planning Committee, headed by the NSA, was assigned this task two years ago. Nothing has emerged so far.’ That was in 2020.

After Pahalgam the situation has again shifted to the western front. It has now been five years since the clash with China and seven years since the Defence Planning Committee was formed. Perhaps recent events will encourage the government to put in place a national security doctrine on the basis of which we can proceed to act when we are attacked whether conventionally or through acts of terrorism.

WISDOM CORNER

Always think of what is useful and not what is beautiful. Beauty will come of its own accord.

NIKOLAI GOGOL

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.

CHARLES DICKENS

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

MARK TWAIN

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Deplorable rise of MAGA catholicism



Ian Buruma

THE SURPRISING ELECTION OF POPE LEO XIV IS PROBABLY A SIGN THAT HIS PREDECESSOR'S SPIRIT WILL PREVAIL

Some popes fit their times to perfection. Pope John XXIII was a progressive pope whose Vatican II reforms occurred just as The Beatles were setting the world alight. John Paul II was exactly the right man to nudge the crumbling Soviet Empire to its demise. The big question when the Conclave to choose Pope Francis’s successor began was whether the next pope would be a reactionary figure to match the right-wing populist mood of our Trumpian era?

We now know that this is unlikely. The surprising election of Pope Leo XIV is probably a sign that his predecessor’s spirit will prevail. But some active right-wing Catholic lobbyists have done their best to push back against the most progressive stances of the last pope; his tolerance of homosexuality, his care for the poor, his concerns about climate change, and not least, his opposition to some of Donald Trump’s policies. Many of these lobbyists are Americans, and most support Trump.

These so-called MAGA Catholics are well-connected and well-financed.

What happened to American Catholics, who were once regarded as a relatively liberal Christian community? In 1960, nearly 80% of Catholics voted for John F. Kennedy not just because he would be the first Catholic president of the United States, but also because they liked his politics. Some evangelical Protestants, on the other hand, regarded him as the Antichrist. In 2020, only 49% of Catholics voted for Joe Biden, a far more devout Catholic than JFK was.

Of course, there is no such thing as a “Catholic vote,” any more than there is a “Jewish vote.” Any religion’s adherents tend to divide into conservative and liberal camps. But there has been a remarkable shift toward more radical right-wing politics among many American Catholics.

This trend is partly a response to a decades-long decline in organized religion in the US.

But there are other reasons, too, mainly related to race and class. The Democrats used to rely on the votes of less-educated white Christians, especially in the southern states. Despite being culturally conservative, they supported socially progressive economic policies that were in their interests.

Then came the 1960s, with Vatican II, sex, drugs, and – perhaps most importantly – civil rights for Black Americans. Again, these divisions are not absolute. There are still progressive American Catholics, including prominent cardinals and bishops. The Christian counter-revolution is partly driven by theology. Catholics care deeply about abortion because of their belief that human life begins at conception. Evangelicals used to care less about this. Equally important, evangelicals and Catholic conservatives have increasingly found common ground in the culture wars that have raged since Nixon’s 1969 appeal to the silent ma-

jority. This division is largely a matter of class, as Barack Obama suggested during his 2008 presidential campaign, when he disparaged working-class voters in former industrial areas as people who ‘cling to their guns or religion.’ Hillary Clinton made things worse in 2016 when she categorized half of Trump’s supporters as a “basket of deplorables.”

The connections made between different causes in the culture wars are not always logical, but that does not make them less powerful. In 2020, Trump – who is far from a devout Christian – claimed that Biden was ‘against God’ and ‘against guns.’ To an ultra-conservative culture warrior, the connection is clear: we love guns, so God must, too. That such warriors now include many Catholics is, well, deplorable.

The writer is the author, most recently, of Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah

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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

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Diplomatic concerns

Sir, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, while talking to his counterparts from some nations, has hinted at India’s measured actions against all Pakistani misadventures. I hardly find any justification on our part to speak to Foreign Secretaries of different countries individually with an apparent intent to secure explicit approval of our military actions. They are all watching how India is moderately responding to Pakistan’s growing aggression. Are the Foreign Secretaries asking Pakistan to explain its conduct? Have they been able to stop Pakistan from indulging in cross-border terrorism?

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Hard truth


Sir, Apropos, "A Rattled China," **Orissa POST**, May 10. As India and Pakistan inch dangerously close to a flashpoint, another player watches nervously from the shadows—China. With over \$52 billion pumped into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Beijing is now realizing it may have bet heavily on a sinking ship. While India flexes its military and diplomatic muscle, Pakistan continues to wobble—politically unstable, economically bankrupt, and strategically exposed. China, once confident of using Pakistan as a regional pawn, now finds itself strapped to a liability, not a partner. The return on investment? Fragile infrastructure, mounting Pakistani debt, and global scrutiny. China’s greatest fear isn’t India’s aggression—it’s instability in Pakistan, the hub of its Belt and Road dream. A war, or even prolonged tension, jeopardizes roads, ports, and pipelines that Beijing sees as vital to its global ambitions. Worse, international pressure is mounting on China for backing a nation often accused of sheltering terror proxies. Now, as India asserts itself with strategic strikes and economic leverage, China must face the hard truth: its billions can’t buy stability, and its silence can’t protect its investments. In trying to counter India, China may have overplayed its hand—and underpriced the cost of choosing Pakistan. The dragon is rattled, and it should be.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

of the day


QUOTE

Given the prevailing situation, the state cabinet has decided on several austerity measures, which include not holding any seminars, conferences, workshops, and commemorative events




HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

Time has changed. When Congress was in power, the enemy used to behead our soldiers. Our Army repeatedly requested orders (from the government before taking action). (The Army used to say) 'You give us orders, we will deal with everything. Those days are gone



MOHAN YADAV | CM, MADHYA PRADESH

All security precautions have been taken in the state in the wake of the current situation. Security information is provided to the district units, and resources are being made available



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

SHORT TAKES

3 held for ₹400cr cyber fraud

Jaipur: Bharatpur Police Friday said it has arrested three persons associated with a fintech company for allegedly committing cyber fraud to the tune of Rs 400 crore. Bharatpur Range Inspector General of Police Rahul Prakash said the arrested accused were identified as Ravindra Singh (54), Dinesh Singh (49) and his wife Kumkum. The matter came to light when a complaint was lodged against Fino Payments Bank by Hari Singh at Dholpur Cyber Police Station.

2 held for clicking Jabalpur base

Jabalpur: Two men were detained for allegedly clicking photographs of a military area in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, police said Saturday. Notably, military areas and vital establishments across the country are on high alert in view of the growing military confrontation between India and Pakistan. "Mohammad Zuber (32) and Mohammad Ifran (22) were detained by the Military Police Friday while they were taking photographs of the military area in the cantonment," Police Station House Officer (SHO) Udaybhan Bagri told PTI. The duo told the police that they were clicking photographs in a normal course without any ulterior motive, he said.

Security tightened for Pak inmates in jails

Kolkata: Security for Pakistani prisoners lodged in different correctional homes in West Bengal has been further tightened, an official said Saturday. Time and again, the security of these prisoners at the correctional homes is reviewed, and in the wake of the India-Pakistan military conflict, the administration has upped the ante, he said. "Security around these prisoners (Pakistanis) is always something extra compared to what we have for other prisoners. This is to avoid any kind of untoward incident. The security is reviewed from time to time under the constant watch of senior officers," Minister-in-Charge told PTI.

India should embrace its leadership role in the subcontinent and take the first step to de-escalate. The world is watching us. This is the moment for India to stand tall and demonstrate that its true strength lies in its soft power and commitment to peace, not in nukes



MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

DIBRUGARH AIRPORT TO BE RENAMED AFTER BHUPEN HAZARIKA

The Assam Cabinet Saturday approved the renaming of the Dibrugarh airport after Bhupen Hazarika to mark his birth centenary this year, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. A special one-day Assembly session will be organised to pass a resolution in this regard and forward it to the Union government



INDIA-PAK CEASEFIRE

Cong seeks all-party meet chaired by PM

Leaders recall Indira's leadership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: The Congress Saturday demanded an all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to brief political parties on recent developments, while invoking the legacy of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's leadership during the 1971 war. The party also called for a special session of Parliament to discuss the past 18 days, including the Pahalgam terror attack and the recent ceasefire agreement, which they claimed was announced via a tweet by US President Donald Trump.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh stated on X that in light of "unprecedented announcements" from Washington DC, the prime minister must take all political parties into confidence. He emphasized the need for Parliament to debate the developments and reaffirm national unity.

Highlighting India's current diplomatic posture, the Congress questioned the role of the United States in brokering the ceasefire, with Ramesh referencing a historic letter from Indira Gandhi to then-US President Richard Nixon. In the 1971 letter, Gand-



hi rejected foreign interference, asserting that India would not accept orders from distant powers. "She ensured there was no 'neutral site'—which has now been agreed to," Ramesh added, drawing a contrast with the present situation.

Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal also quoted Gandhi's firm words to Nixon: "Being a developing country, we have our backbone straight, enough will and resources to fight all atrocities." He added, "India terribly misses Indira Gandhi ji today."

Congress media head Pawan Kherra shared photos of Gandhi with the armed forces, echoing the sentiment: "India misses Indira." Speaking to reporters, Kherra criticized the Modi government for a lack of transparency and repeated calls for a special parliamentary session to assess the impact of recent events and honor victims of the

Pahalgam attack. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor welcomed peace but stressed the need for more clarity. "India never wanted a long-term war but wanted to teach terrorists a lesson. I believe that lesson has been taught," he said.

Senior leader Manish Tewari, sharing a statement by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, noted the ceasefire's linkage with future talks at a neutral venue, suggesting this constituted third-party mediation. "Call it what you want—this is third-party mediation," he asserted.

Across its social media platforms, the Congress party and its state units paid tribute to Indira Gandhi, celebrating her courage, conviction, and strength. "Remember the name—Indira Gandhi," posted the Kerala Congress unit. Spokesperson Shama Mohamed recalled, "Under her leadership, Pakistan was split into two despite a US threat. The nation truly misses her decisive leadership today."

The Congress' collective messaging underscored a contrast between past assertiveness and present ambiguity, calling for greater transparency and unity in the face of external and internal challenges.

Patanjali donates automated soil testing machine to ICAR-CSSRI

AGENCIES

Haridwar, May 10: Under the guidance of Acharya Balkrishna, automated soil testing machine will facilitate farmers' assessment of the soil quality of their agricultural land while also providing fertilizer recommendations tailored for both organic and inorganic farming practices. Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director of Bharuwa Agri Science, told that the 'Doctor Ka Doctor' machine has received certification from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute.

The machine evaluates 12 critical soil parameters, including primary nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium and secondary nutrients such as boron, iron, zinc,



copper, and manganese. Patented by the Government of India, this machine has also obtained a CE certificate. He elaborated that the development of this machine is the result of extensive research conducted by Patanjali's scientists and represents a significant advancement for the agricultural community.

Furthermore, he noted that it provides simple methodologies for generating fertilizer recommendations suitable for chemical, organic, or mixed farming approaches based on specific crops. Dr. Rajendra Kumar Yadav, Director of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, stated that 'Doctor Ka Doctor' will be an invaluable asset for farmers across the nation and will support the Government of India's soil health initiatives.

BRAHMOS UNIT SET TO OPEN IN LUCKNOW

UP expedites defence projects amid flare-up with Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 10: Amid escalating military conflict with Pakistan, the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos production unit is set to be inaugurated at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow Sunday.

Built at a cost of Rs 300 crore, the facility will manufacture one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missiles, with a range of 290 to 400 km and a top speed of Mach 2.8. The missile, a product of BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia, can be launched from land, sea, or air and uses a "fire and forget" system.

Besides the manufacturing unit, the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility will also be launched. This facility will play a key role in testing and assembling missiles, according to an official statement.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who will join virtually from Delhi, will inaugurate the facilities.

During the event, the Titanium and Super Alloys Materials Plant (Strategic Materials Technology Complex) will also be opened, producing high-quality materials for the aerospace and defence sectors.

At the complex, the Defence Testing Infrastructure System (DTIS) is also going to be developed, and it's foundation stone will be laid during the event. DTIS will help test and certify defence products.

Congress slams BJP for criticising UPA's approach

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor slammed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party for putting out a social media post criticising the previous UPA government and said the 'petty attempt to divide us politically is deplorable'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: The Congress slammed the BJP Saturday for accusing the previous UPA government of acting with "passivity" in responding to terror attacks and said the ruling party and the government must clarify whether it is time to play politics instead of giving a message of unity. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor slammed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for putting out a social media post criticising the previous UPA government and said the "petty attempt to divide us politically is deplorable".

The Opposition party's criticism came after the BJP hit out at the UPA government's approach in dealing with Pakistan.

"The message to the enemies is loud and clear. Don't mess with us! Unlike the UPA regime's passivity, New India has no patience for futile peace talks," the BJP said in a post on X and shared a video montage to claim that while talks followed terror attacks during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule,



this has changed under the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress leader Pawan Kherra said, "So do we have to do politics now? Is it time to do politics? Doesn't the government need the support of the Opposition?" "Do we not have to give a message of unity now? The government and BJP should clarify," Kherra said in his post in Hindi.

Tagging the BJP's post on X, Tharoor said, "At a time when the nation stands united as Indians, this petty attempt to divide us politically is deplorable. Our government has learned the futility of past approaches the hard way -- after inviting Pakistan to participate in the investigation of the Pathankot blasts in 2016. It is only then that it took to the path of military action, carefully calibrated and maturely conducted. This advertisement is neither appropriate nor mature. Delete it, please, @BJP4India. Jai Hind."

Prez nominates SC judge Surya Kant as executive chairman of NALSA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: President Droupadi Murmu has nominated Supreme Court judge Surya Kant as the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

"As executive chairman, Justice Surya Kant will lead NALSA's mission to provide accessible and free legal aid to all citizens, particularly those from marginalized and economically weaker sections of society pan-India," NALSA said in a press release.

It said the nomination was made by the President and a notification was published by the Ministry of Law and Justice May 9. The nomination will come into effect from May 14.

"Justice BR Gavai, judge, Supreme Court of India, was the previous executive chairman of NALSA. As per convention, the post is occupied by the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India," it said.

Justice Gavai is set to be sworn in as the 52nd CJI May 14.

Justice Surya Kant is currently the chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.



DRDO scientists develop humanoid robot for military missions

The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers), a key lab under the DRDO, is developing a machine that can carry out complex tasks under direct human command, aiming to reduce troop exposure in high-risk environments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 10: Scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are working on a humanoid robot that can be part of frontline military mission, an official said Saturday.

The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers), a key lab under the DRDO, is developing a machine that can carry out complex tasks under direct human command, aiming to reduce troop exposure in high-risk environments, the official said.

Talking to PTI, SE Talole, group director at the Centre for Systems and Technologies for Advanced Robotics within the R&DE (Engineers), said the team has been engaged in the project for four years.

"We've developed separate prototypes for the upper and lower body and have successfully achieved certain functions during internal trials," he said, adding that the humanoid will be able to function on tough terrains like jungles.

The robot was recently showcased at the National Workshop on Advanced Legged Robotics

held in Pune.

Currently in its advanced development phase, the team is focusing on refining the robot's ability to understand and execute operator commands.

The system relies on three key components: actuators that generate movement like human muscles, sensors that collect real-time data from the surround-

ings, and control systems that interpret this information to guide actions.

Talole said, "One of the biggest challenges is ensuring the robot can carry out desired tasks smoothly, which requires mastering balance, rapid data processing, and ground-level execution."

Researchers are concentrat-

ing on these aspects as they move towards completing the project by 2027, said Kiran Akella, a scientist leading the design team.

DRDO officials said legged robots, both bipedal and quadrupedal, offer immense potential in defence and security and sectors like healthcare, domestic assistance, space exploration, and manufacturing.

However, creating autonomous, efficient-legged robots comes with significant technological hurdles, they said.

Scientists explained that the humanoid's upper body would feature lightweight arms with a spherical revolute joint configuration, offering 24 degrees of freedom — 7 in each arm, 4 in the gripper, and 2 in the head.

The robot will be able to perform complex autonomous tasks with closed-loop gripping and manipulate objects

Arms trade: Profiting from conflict

TOP GLOBAL ARMS PRODUCERS MINTING MONEY ON THE BACK OF WARS, REGIONAL TENSIONS

AGENCIES

Stockholm, May 10: Revenues from sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached \$632 billion in 2023, a real-terms increase of 4.2 per cent compared with 2022, according to new data released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Arms revenue increases were seen in all regions, with particularly sharp rises among companies based in Russia and the Middle East. Overall, smaller producers were more efficient at responding to new demand linked to the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, growing tensions in East Asia and rearmament programmes elsewhere.

US companies' arms revenues rise, but production challenges remain

The 41 companies in the top 100 based in the United States recorded arms revenues of \$317 billion, half the total arms revenues of the Top 100 and 2.5 per cent more than in 2022. Since 2018, the top five companies in the top 100 have all been based in the USA.

Of the 41 US companies, 30 increased their arms revenues in 2023. However,

European arms industry trails rest of world in revenue growth

The combined arms revenues of the 27 Top 100 companies based in Europe (excluding Russia) totalled \$133 billion in 2023. This was only 0.2 per cent more than in 2022, the smallest increase in any world region.

However, behind the low growth figure the picture is more nuanced. European arms companies producing complex weapon systems were mostly working on older contracts during 2023 and their revenues for the year con-



sequently do not reflect the influx of orders.

"Complex weapon systems have longer lead times," said Lorenzo Scarazzato. "Companies that produce them are thus inherently slower in reacting to changes in demand. That explains why their arms revenues were relatively low in 2023, despite a surge in new orders."

At the same time, a number of other European producers saw their arms revenues grow substantially, driven by demand linked to the war

in Ukraine, particularly for ammunition, artillery and air defence and land systems. Notably, companies in Germany, Sweden, Ukraine, Poland, Norway and Czechia were able to tap into this demand. For instance, Germany's Rheinmetall increased production capacity of 155-mm ammunition and its revenues were boosted by deliveries of its Leopard tanks and new orders, including through war-related 'ring-exchange' programmes (under which countries supply military goods to Ukraine and

receive replacements from allies).

Middle East arms producers see revenue growth linked to Gaza, Ukraine conflicts

Six of the top 100 arms companies were based in the Middle East. Their combined arms revenues grew by 18 per cent to \$19.6 billion. With the outbreak of war in Gaza, the arms revenues of the three companies based in Israel in the top 100 reached \$13.6 billion. This was the highest figure ever recorded by Israeli companies in the SIPRI top 100.

The three companies based in Türkiye saw their arms revenues grow by 24 per cent to \$6.0 billion, benefiting from exports prompted by the war in Ukraine and from the Turkish government's continued push towards self-reliance in arms production.

"The biggest Middle Eastern arms producers in the Top 100 saw their arms revenues reach unprecedented heights in 2023 and the growth looks set to continue," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. "In particular, as well as taking in record arms revenues in 2023, Israeli arms producers are booking many more orders as the war in Gaza rages on and spreads."

In 2023, many arms producers ramped up their production in response to surging demand. The total arms revenues of the top 100 bounced back after a dip in 2022. Almost three quarters of companies increased their arms revenues year-on-year. Notably, most of the companies that increased their revenues were in the lower half of the top 100.

OTHER NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

■ The combined arms revenues of the three Indian companies in the top 100 increased to \$6.7 billion.



■ Türkiye's Baykar produces armed uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) that have been widely used in the war in Ukraine. Exports accounted for around 90 per cent of its arms revenues in 2023, which increased by 25 per cent over the year to \$1.9 billion.

er, Lockheed Martin and RTX, the world's two largest arms producers, were among those registering a drop.

"Larger companies like Lockheed Martin and RTX manufacturing a wide range of arms products often depend on complex, multi-tiered supply chains, which made them vulnerable to lingering supply chain challenges in 2023," said Dr Nan Tian, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. "This was particularly the case in the aeronautics and missile sectors."

LEADING DEFENCE COMPANIES			
	COMPANY	COUNTRY	DEFENSE REVENUE
	Lockheed Martin	United States	\$65 billion
	RTX Corporation (formerly Raytheon)	United States	\$39.6 billion
	Northrop Grumman	United States	\$32.4 billion
	Aviation Industry Corporation of China	China	\$31 billion
	Boeing	United States	\$30.8 billion
	General Dynamics	United States	\$30.4 billion
	BAE Systems	United Kingdom	\$25.2 billion
	China North Industries Group (Norinco)	China	\$22.06 billion
	L3Harris Technologies	United States	\$13.9 billion
	China South Industries Group	China	\$13.5 billion

Top 10 powerful countries in 2025

RANK & NATION	POWER INDEX	TOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL (EST)	TOTAL AIRCRAFT	TOTAL TANKS
United States	0.0744	2,127,500	13,043	4,640
Russia	0.0788	3,570,000	4,292	5,750
China	0.0788	3,170,000	3,309	6,800
India	0.1184	5,137,550	2,229	4,201
South Korea	0.1656	3,820,000	1,592	2,236
United Kingdom	0.1785	1,108,860	631	227
France	0.1878	376,000	976	215
Japan	0.1839	328,150	1,443	521
Türkiye	0.1902	883,900	1,083	2,238
Italy	0.2164	289,000	729	200

* Data from Global Firepower's Military Strength Rankings 2025

Global military expenditure touches new peaks

AGENCIES

In 2024, global military expenditure reached a record \$2.443 trillion, a significant increase from the previous year. This surge was driven by increased spending in Europe and the Middle East, with countries like the United States, France, and the UK leading in defense spending.

The United States remained the largest arms exporter, while Ukraine emerged as the largest importer, largely due to the conflict in Ukraine.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Global Military Expenditure:

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that global military spending in 2024 reached \$2.443 trillion, the highest ever recorded by SIPRI. This was a significant increase from the previous year and the steepest year-on-year rise since 2009.

Leading Exporters:

The United States was the largest exporter of major arms between 2020 and 2024, accounting for 43% of global exports. France and Russia followed, with 9.6% and 7.8% of global exports, respectively.

Leading Importers:

Ukraine became the world's largest importer of major arms in 2020-2024, receiving 8.8% of global imports. India

was the second-largest arms importer during the same period.

Regional Trends:

Europe: Military expenditure increased significantly in European NATO states after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Asia and Oceania: Countries like India, Pakistan, Japan, and Australia remained among the top arms importers, with India also experi-

encing a shift in its arms supply relations towards Western suppliers.

Middle East: Saudi Arabia was the largest military spender in the Middle East, with a modest increase in spending.

Specific Countries:

United States: Increased its share of global arms exports to 43%.

Russia: Its arms exports decreased by 64% between 2015-19 and 2020-24.

India: Saw a decrease in import volumes but remained a major arms importer, with its imports reflecting perceived threats from China and Pakistan.

Ukraine: Became the largest arms importer due to the ongoing conflict, with the USA being the largest supplier.



IMF UNDER FIRE FOR \$1BN LOAN TO PAK

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is facing sharp criticism for approving a \$1 billion disbursement to Pakistan just days after a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam and amid escalating hostilities between India and Pakistan.

The disbursement, approved Friday under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), raises total payouts under the programme to \$2.1 billion. Additionally, the IMF cleared \$1.4 billion under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), ostensibly aimed at helping Pakistan tackle climate-related vulnerabilities.

But the timing of the announcement has provoked a fierce backlash, not just from Indian officials and strategic experts, but also from voices in the region and beyond who say the move could undermine efforts at de-escalation.

India abstained from voting at the IMF Executive Board meeting, reflecting its opposition within the limitations of IMF protocol. Unlike the United Nations, where countries can cast a 'no' vote, IMF board members can only vote in favour or abstain — there is no mechanism for a formal rejection.

It is pertinent to note that, the voting is based on economic size, and as the largest financial contributor to the IMF, the US receives the largest share of voting power amongst all participating countries at 16.49 percent of the total fund.

By choosing to abstain, India signalled strong dissent and used the opportunity to issue a formal objection. In a statement following

the vote, the Finance Ministry said the Fund's processes "lacked moral safeguards," warning that fungible inflows from multilateral institutions like the IMF could be diverted to fund military or terrorist activities.

The ministry further stated that these concerns were "shared by several member countries," suggesting broader discomfort within the global community.

Indian diplomats and foreign policy voices argue that the loan approval sends the wrong signal at a critical moment. Former foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal called the decision "terrible optics," adding that the IMF's governance is skewed in favour of Western powers and lacks accountability.

Yashwant Deshmukh, a well-known psephologist, went further, saying the IMF "has blood on its hands."

Similarly, Sushant Sareen of the Observer Research Foundation said the fund was "emboldening" Pakistan's military establishment, rather than curbing its influence or encouraging reform.

India has long argued that IMF support to Pakistan is routinely misused. Over the past 35 years, Pakistan has entered 28 IMF programmes, including four in just the last five years, with little to show by way of structural reform or lasting economic stability.

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also questioned the global community's logic, asking how de-escalation can be expected when the IMF is "essentially reimbursing Pakistan" for attacks on Indian cities.



How the India-Pakistan conflict boosts arms sales

The India-Pakistan conflict, by its very nature, guarantees steady, long-term demand for a wide array of defense systems — from fighter jets and submarines to surveillance drones and electronic warfare suites. This regional rivalry continues to act as a strategic engine for the global arms industry.

Persistent security threat perception

Both India and Pakistan consider each other existential threats. This leads to:

- Regular military modernisation programmes to maintain parity or superiority.
- Massive defense budgets — India was the 3rd largest military spender in 2023 (\$83.6 billion), while Pakistan also allocates significant GDP share to defence.

Arms race dynamics

When one nation procures advanced systems (e.g., India's S-400 missile defense from Russia), the other follows:

- Pakistan boosts purchases of Chinese drones, tanks, and missile systems.
- India diversifies its imports, buying from the US, Russia, France, and Israel.

This "tit-for-tat" strategy creates a stable and recurring demand cycle for arms producers.

Indigenous defense industry acceleration

Both nations are ramping up local defense production:

- India promotes "Atmanirbhar Bharat"



(self-reliance), boosting DRDO, HAL, and Bharat Electronics.

- Pakistan strengthens Pakistan Ordnance Factories and collaborates with China (e.g., JF-17 fighter).

Yet, to achieve rapid modernisation, foreign technology imports remain essential, benefitting global suppliers.

Proxy and border skirmishes

Frequent incidents (like Pulwama 2019 or Balakot airstrikes) trigger emergency procurements:

- India fast-tracked Rafale jets and Spike missiles post-crisis.
- Pakistan acquired Chinese anti-aircraft systems and upgraded air force assets.

These flashpoint escalations are often followed by multi-billion dollar purchases.

International supplier interest

Major arms-exporting nations actively court India and Pakistan:

- France, the US, and Israel aggressively market to India.
- China and Turkey build defense partnerships with Pakistan.

This competitive courting increases arms lobbying and deals, enhancing global defense industry profits.



HIMACHAL CM
CONDOLES DEATH
OF SUBEDAR MAJOR
PAWAN KUMAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, May 10: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Saturday condoled the death of Subedar Major Pawan Kumar of 25 Punjab Regiment, who lost his life in cross-border shelling by Pakistani military in Jammu and Kashmir earlier in the day.



Kumar, from Ward Number 4 of Shahpur in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, died following shelling by Pakistani military in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Army officials, the shelling took place around 7.30 am Saturday following which the news of his death was relayed to his family.

His mortal remains are being transported from Poonch to Rajouri for post-mortem and necessary formalities, after which the body will be brought to Shahpur by road for the last rites, officials said. He was serving in the 25 Punjab Regiment and was set to retire August 31, 2025 with his last official posting in Ambala. However, he had voluntarily opted for a posting on the border, they said.

Kumar is survived by his parents, wife, son and a daughter. His father, Garaj Singh is a retired Havildar of the Indian Army. In his condolence message, the Chief Minister said that Subedar Major Pawan Kumar has made his supreme sacrifice for upholding the unity and sovereignty of the country and will be remembered by the people for ever.

In his condolence message, Sukhu said that Kumar made the supreme sacrifice to uphold the unity and sovereignty of the country, and people will remember him forever.

Future terror acts will be 'act of war': India

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The government decided Saturday that India will treat any future act of terror on its soil as an "act of war" and respond accordingly, top official sources said in a warning to Pakistan that came ahead of the announcement of an understanding between the two countries to end the military action which started after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

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

The government's decision formalises India's firm response to any future act of terror.



A top government source said, "Any future act of terror in India will be considered an act of war against the country and will be responded to accordingly."

An "act of war" under international law refers to a country's hostile action against another, giving the aggrieved nation a legitimate ground to target the aggressor.

Soon after the assertion, India announced that the directors general of military operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect

from 5 pm Saturday.

The DGMO of Pakistan called the DGMO of India at 3.35 pm earlier this afternoon, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said.

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

Modi has chaired a number of high-level meetings, including with the security establishment, since the hostilities broke out between the two countries.

Every Pakistani misadventure will invite decisive response: Indian military

New Delhi: Every misadventure and future escalation by Pakistan will be responded to with strength and decisive action, Indian military said Saturday. The remarks came shortly after the two neighbours reached an understanding to stop military actions. "While we will be adhering to the understanding reached today, we remain fully prepared to defend India's sovereignty," Commodore Raghu Nair said. We remain fully operationally ready to launch whatever operations may be required in defence of the nation, he said at a media briefing. Every misadventure by Pakistan will be met with strength and every future escalation will invite a decisive response, he said. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said Pakistan's claim of destroying India's S-400 missile base is completely false. Several attempts were made by Pakistan to spreading mis-information, she added. Pakistan has suffered heavy losses in both land and air domains, Singh said. The military officer also said that Pakistan's claim of destroying a BrahMos installation was false.



Top terrorists, including IC-814 planner, killed in Operation Sindoor

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: The Indian strikes on terror nerve centres of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir under Operation Sindoor May

7 have neutralised five most wanted terrorists of these organisations, including the mastermind of IC-814 hijacking in 1999, officials said Saturday.

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

Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, listed at number 21 in the most wanted list of terrorists prepared by the Union Home Ministry, is the brother-in-law of Maulana Masood Azhar, the dreaded chief of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

He was the mastermind of the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in which Masood Azhar was released



Mohammad Yusuf Azhar

with two other dreaded terrorists in exchange of passengers and crew members of the Indian Airlines flight that was taken to Kandhar in southern Afghanistan by the terrorists.

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



Abu Akasha

reducing it to rubble.

Another brother-in-law of Masood Azhar, Hafiz Muhammad Jameel, who was in-charge of Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, a massive training centre for JeM terrorists, was also eliminated in the strike, they said.

Jameel was actively involved in the radical indoctrination of youth and fundraising for the JeM.



Abu Jundal

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Mudassar Khadian Khas, who went by the alias Mudassar and Abu Jundal and was in-charge of Markaz Taiba, Muridke, was killed in the strike on the proscribed organisation's nerve centre by Indian forces.

His funeral exposed the active collusion between the Pakistan State and terror after videos of him getting a guard

of honour from the Pakistan Army were circulated on social media.

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

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

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



A man stands inside a house damaged after cross border shelling by Pakistan, during the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, at Behra village of Mendhar sector, in Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday

PTI PHOTO



People near the debris of an unidentified projectile which was found amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

PTI PHOTO



Police personnel and others stand near a crater formed in an agricultural field following an explosion at village Rajubela Chhichhran, amid security forces thwarting attacks by Pakistani drones, in Gurdaspur district, Punjab, Saturday

PTI PHOTO



Security personnel take part in a drill as part of the nationwide civil defence drill, in Navi Mumbai, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Ukraine, allies push for 30-day truce

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, May 10: Ukraine and its allies are ready for a “full, unconditional ceasefire” with Russia for at least 30 days starting Monday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Saturday.

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

They followed what Sybiha said was a “constructive” phone call between them, US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

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

In March, the United States proposed an immediate, limited 30-day truce, which Ukraine accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

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

The visit marked the first time the leaders of the four countries had travelled together to Ukraine, with Friedrich

Merz making his first visit to Ukraine as Germany's new chancellor.

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

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

“Alongside the US, we call on Russia to agree to a full and



unconditional 30-day ceasefire to create the space for talks on a just and lasting peace.”

Retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, said Saturday that a “comprehensive” 30-day ceasefire, covering attacks from the air, land, sea and on infrastructure, “will start the

process for ending the largest and longest war in Europe since World War II.”

Trump has pressed both sides to quickly come to an agreement to end the war, but while Zelenskyy agreed to the American plan for an initial 30-day halt to hostilities, Russia has not signed on.

Wounded Ukrainian soldiers ask: What ceasefire?

Zaporizhzhia Region: Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared a three-day pause in fighting against Ukraine, but for bloodied Ukrainian soldiers limping into a field hospital, their wounds testified that the ceasefire was not being respected. One soldier, who gave his name as Stanislav, sat in the field hospital Friday night cradling his left arm. It was wrapped in gauze bandage, and blood was soaking through. “There hasn't been any ceasefire,” said Stanislav, who did not give his full name in line with Ukrainian military protocol. “Shelling has continued just as before, drones are flying just like before, the same with explosives being dropped. Nothing has changed at all.” “Look, we were driving today, there were mortars all the way. Ad-



vance parties moved forward, they tried to attack.” Putin announced the three-day ceasefire to coincide with a May 9 military parade on Moscow's Red Square where he hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders in commemoration of the end of World War Two. The ceasefire is due to end at midnight (2100 GMT) Saturday. Ukraine did not sign up for the ceasefire, calling it a ruse by Putin. Each side has accused the other of carrying on fighting regardless, though there has been a pause in long-

range attacks on each other's capitals. Reuters was given access to the field hospital, in the Zaporizhzhia region of southern Ukraine that is partially controlled by Russian forces, on condition the news agency did not disclose the exact location. Medics examined soldiers as they came in and replaced the dressings that had been hurriedly put on their wounds out in the field. The more serious cases were placed on a gurney while medics bandaged them, checked their vital signs, and cleaned dried blood and mud off their skin. One of the medics, who gave his name as Oleh, said it was a regular night's work, even with the Russian-declared ceasefire. “The same as usual, we got used to it. They will never change,” he said of the Russian forces.

EASING TRADE WAR

US, Chinese officials pursue Geneva talks

REUTERS

Geneva, May 10: Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng resumed talks with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Saturday afternoon in Geneva in a tentative first step towards defusing a trade war that is disrupting the global economy.

Bessent and He were meeting in Geneva after weeks of growing tensions in which duties on goods imports between the world's two largest economies have soared far beyond 100%.

The trade dispute, combined with US President Donald Trump's decision last month to impose duties on dozens of other countries, has disrupted supply chains, unsettled financial markets and stoked fears of a sharp global downturn.



The location of the talks in the Swiss diplomatic hub was not made public. However, witnesses saw both delegations returning to the residence of the Swiss ambassador to the UN in the leafy suburb of Cologny after a lunch break.

They had met for around two hours in the morning. Earlier, US officials including Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer smiled as they left their hotel on the way to the talks, wearing red ties and American flags on their lapels. Bessent declined to speak to reporters.

At the same time, Mercedes vans with tinted windows were seen leaving a hotel where the Chinese delegation was staying on the banks of Lake Geneva as runners preparing for a marathon warmed up in the sunshine.

SK conservative party moves to switch presidential candidates

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, May 10: South Korea's embattled conservative party has taken the unprecedented step of nullifying its primary and replacing presidential candidate Kim Moon Soo with former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo just one week after Kim's selection, deepening internal turmoil ahead of the June 3 presidential by-election.

Saturday's move by the People Power Party's leadership, which Kim denounced as an “overnight political coup,” underscores the desperation and disarray within the party following the ouster of former President Yoon Suk Yeol over his ill-fated attempt to impose martial law in December.

Kim, a staunch conservative and former labour minister under Yoon, was named the PPP's presidential candidate on May 3 after winning 56.3 percent of the primary vote, defeating a reformist rival who had criti-

cised Yoon's martial law. But the PPP's leadership, dominated by Yoon loyalists, has spent the past week pressuring Kim to step aside and back Han, whom they believe stands a stronger chance against liberal Democratic Party frontrunner Lee Jae-myung.

Han served as acting president after Yoon was impeached by the legislature in December and officially removed by the Constitutional Court in April. He resigned from office May 2 to pursue a presidential bid, arguing his long public service career qualifies him to lead the country amid growing geopolitical uncertainty and trade challenges intensified by the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

After failed talks between Han and Kim to unify their candidacies, the PPP's emergency committee canceled Kim's nomination in the early hours of Saturday and officially registered Han as a party member and its new presidential candidate.

Pope Leo XIV outlines papal vision, cites AI as key challenge

Leo, the first American pope, told the cardinals who elected him that he was fully committed to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernised the church

REUTERS

Vatican City, May 10: Pope Leo XIV laid out the vision of his papacy Saturday, identifying artificial intelligence as one of the most critical matters facing humanity and vowing to continue in some of the core priorities of Pope Francis.

In his first formal audience, Leo repeatedly cited Francis and the Argentine pope's own 2013 mission statement, making clear a commitment to making the Catholic Church more inclusive, attentive to the faithful and a church that looks out for the “least and rejected.”

Leo, the first American pope,

told the cardinals who elected him that he was fully committed to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernised the church. He identified AI as one of the main issues facing humanity, saying it poses challenges to defending human dignity, justice and labour.

In another hint to his priorities, the Vatican revealed that Leo, a member of the Augustinian religious order, would retain the motto and coat of arms that he had as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru. The motto, “In Illo uno unum,” was pronounced by St Augustine in a sermon to explain that “although we



Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.”

Identifying with Pope Francis

Leo referred to AI in explaining the choice of his name: His namesake, Pope Leo XIII, was

pope from 1878 to 1903 and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought.

He did so most famously with his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed workers' rights and

We strongly urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, exercise calm and restraint, return to the track of political settlement through peaceful means, and refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions

GUO JIAKUN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

QUAKE OF 4.1 MAGNITUDE REPORTED IN TENNESSEE

An earthquake of 4.1 preliminary magnitude was reported Saturday morning in Tennessee and was felt in Atlanta, western North Carolina and elsewhere, according to the US Geological Survey and local news reports



B'desh bans deposed PM Hasina's Awami League



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka/New Delhi, May 10: Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus Saturday evening banned deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League under an anti-terrorism law.

The announcement to ban Hasina's Awami League came after the student-led newly-floated National Citizen Party (NCP) activists rallied since Thursday and carried out blockades across Dhaka demanding the ban.

“The official gazette notification will be issued in this regard on the next working day,” Yunus's office said, describing it as a “statement of the Council of Advisers” or the Cabinet.

The statement said the Council decided that the ban would remain effective until the completion of the “trial of the Awami League and its leaders in Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal in the interest of protecting the country's security and sovereignty”.

It said the decision was also taken for the security of the leaders and activists of the July 2024 uprising that eventually led to the ousting of the Awami League regime alongside the complainants and witnesses of the trial in the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

The meeting chaired by Yunus simultaneously amended the ICT law allowing the tribunal to try any political party, its front organisations and affiliated bodies.

Hasina's 16-year-long Awami League regime was toppled on August 5 last year in a student-led violent mass uprising prompting the 77-year-old former prime minister to flee to India.

Three days after her ouster, Yunus took charge as the chief adviser of the interim government. Hasina and many of her party leaders have been facing 100s of cases, including that of mass murder and corruption, since then. Most of her party leaders and ministers in her government are either arrested or fled abroad. A large part of Students against Discrimination (SAD), which led the last year's movement that ousted Hasina, crystallised as the National Citizen Party (NCP) earlier this year.

Formed in 1949, the Awami League led the movement for the autonomy of Bengalis in the then East Pakistan for decades and eventually led the Liberation War in 1971.

The announcement to ban Awami League came as Bangladesh Saturday witnessed an escalating tension as NCP supporters marched towards Yunus's official residence to mount pressure for the ban.



Palestinians struggle to obtain donated food at a community kitchen in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip

PTI PHOTO

New Delhi: India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has achieved its highest-ever profit after tax (PAT) of ₹2,165 crore in the financial year 2024-25, marking a strong 39 per cent increase from ₹1,552 crore in the previous fiscal. PAT rising nearly 42 times compared to its performance in FY 2019-20 (FY20). IIFCL's profit before tax also hit a new high of ₹2,776 crore, up by about 37 per cent from ₹2,029 crore last financial year. In FY25, IIFCL sanctioned a record ₹51,124 crore and disbursed ₹28,501 crore, marking yearly growth of nearly 21 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

New Delhi, May 10: India should take cues from the US-UK trade pact and exercise caution while negotiating an agreement with US to ensure that the deal is reciprocal, balanced, and not driven solely by political considerations, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said Saturday.

The limited trade deal announced between the US and UK on May 8 offers clues about the kind of trade arrangements Washington may pursue with other major partners, most notably India. A closer look reveals that UK has made sweeping tariff concessions to US, whereas, US offered less in return.

"If the UK-US deal sets the template, India can expect growing US pressure to finalise a mini-deal of its own - focused on tariff cuts and key strategic commitments rather than a full free trade agreement (FTA) that may come much later," the

Built with breathable fabrics, ergonomic fits, and a spirit of boldness, this range is made for people who love comfort over anything. It's a celebration of how far you have come, the company said in a press release.

"India must not walk into a similar trap. Any trade deal with the US must be reciprocal and equitable, not one-sided or politically driven. India must

To give impetus to the talks, India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, special secretary in the Department of Commerce, and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch had last month held three-day talks in Washington. To give impetus to the talks, India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, special secretary in the Department of Commerce, and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch had last month held three-day talks in Washington.

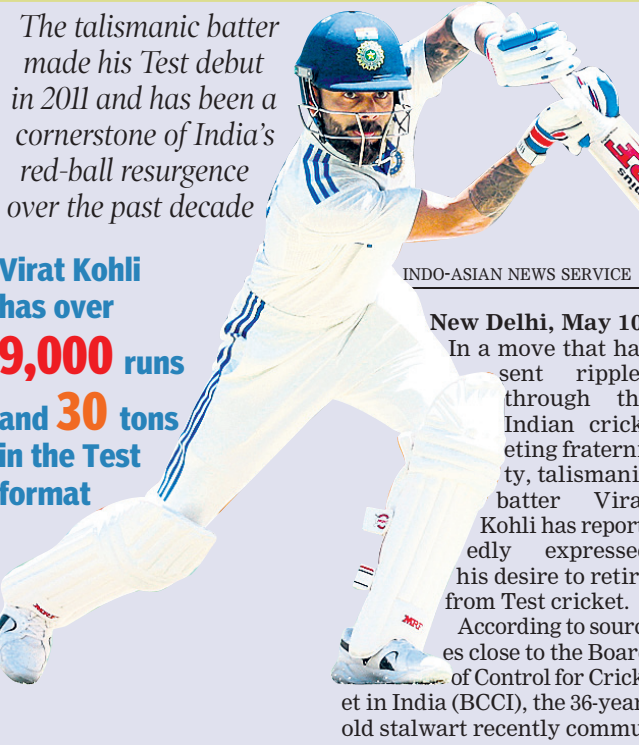
Virat Kohli

has over

9,000 runs

and 30 tons

in the Test format



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 10: In a move that has sent ripples through the Indian cricketing fraternity, talismanic batter Virat Kohli has reportedly expressed his desire to retire from Test cricket. According to sources close to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the 36-year-old stalwart recently commu-

Kohli mulls Test retirement, BCCI urges reconsideration

nicated his intention to step away from the longest format of game.

Kohli, who made his Test debut in 2011, has been a cornerstone of India's red-ball resurgence over the past decade. His aggressive captaincy, prolific batting and unmatched intensity have helped transform India into a formidable Test side both at home and abroad. With over 9,000 runs and 30 centuries in the format, Kohli's presence at the crease has been nothing short of iconic.

However, the BCCI is not ready to let go of the veteran batter just yet. Sources indicate that top officials have reached out to Kohli, urging him to reconsider his decision, especially with significant tours on the horizon. India are set to embark on a challenging overseas calendar, including tours to England and Australia - series where Kohli's experience could prove invaluable.

"He's still incredibly fit and hungry. His presence in the dressing room lifts the entire team," said a senior BCCI official on condition of anonymity. "We've requested him to take some time before making a final call."

While Kohli has not made any public statement on the matter, fans and former cricketers alike have flooded social media with messages of support, hoping the modern-day legend gives the format another stint. For now, Indian cricket waits - with bated breath.

Earlier, India captain Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket Wednesday. Kohli also thinking along the same lines will leave India's red-ball batting order largely on the shoulders of youngsters in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, beginning with the five-match Test series against England in Leeds June 20.

Archers hit bullseye

India bag five medals in compound section; Madhura shines with maiden World Cup gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shanghai, May 10: Capping a dream comeback, Madhura Dhamangaonkar clinched her maiden individual World Cup gold to headline India's glittering medal collection in the compound section -- two gold, one silver and two bronze at the Archery Stage 2 showpiece here Saturday.

Unranked for being in the sidelines for three years, Madhura produced a sensational upturn in the final, edging out USA's Carson Krahe 139-138 to seal the top podium.

The 24-year-old from Amravati, Maharashtra, had earlier bagged a team silver and a mixed team bronze, completing a fine three-medal haul. However, Madhura's individual final was a roller-coaster affair.

She opened with a perfect 30, including two Xs, but faltered with two 8s in the second end and a costly 7 in the third, trailing 81-85.

Krahe, ranked 52nd and a World Cup team bronze medalist last year, capitalised with a perfect 30 in the third end.

Undeterred, Madhura showed nerves of steel, shooting a near-flawless 29 in the fourth to level the match at 110-all. In the decisive final end, she fired two Xs and a 9, while Krahe managed only 28, sealing Madhura's dramatic one-point win.

Earlier, India's medal tally began with a gold in the men's team event, where the trio of

multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale, and Rishabh Yadav defeated Mexico 232-228 in a tense final.

The top-seeded Indian team started strong with a 59 to Mexico's 57, but saw the match level at 115-115 by the halfway mark.

India regained control with a 58 in the third end and sealed the victory with a brilliant 59 in the final end, as Mexico managed only 56.

The 22-year-old Yadav went on to claim his maiden individual World Cup medal, defeating South Korea's Kim Jongho 145-145 (10*-10) in a dramatic shoot-off for bronze.

Having led after the first end, Yadav lost the next two but bounced back with a perfect 30 to level scores at 115-115.

Both archers shot flawless 30s in the final end, but Yadav's arrow was closer to the centre in the shoot-off. Yadav earlier lost to world No. 1 and multiple world champion Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands 144-147.

Madhura, who topped Indian qualifiers to earn the third seedling, began her individual campaign by knocking out Turkey's world No. 13 Hazal Burun -- a double World Cup team medalist -- with a composed 143-141 win built on two flawless opening ends. In the women's team final, Madhura partnered with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Chikitha Taniparthi to take silver after a 221-234 loss to a strong Mexican outfit.

SHORT TAKES

Anahat, Abhay make winning starts

Chicago: Making a stupendous start to her World Championship campaign, young Indian squash player Anahat Singh knocked out world No 28 American Marina Stefanoni here. The 17-year-old Anahat, ranked 62 in the world, overcame loss in the first game to eke out a 10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6 win in the opening round of the high-profile tournament Friday. Anahat has a tough task ahead as she faces world No 15 Fayrouz Aboelkheir next, who beat fellow Egyptian Hana Moataz 3-1 in her first round contest of the \$656,500 tournament. Also making a winning start was India's Abhay Singh, who sent the world No 25 Nicolas Mueller packing. The 38th ranked Singh beat his Swiss rival 11-7, 2-11, 11-7, 11-6 in his opening round match of men's singles event.

AFI set to take action against "erring athletes"

New Delhi: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Saturday announced that it will take disciplinary action against "erring athletes" who train and compete abroad without its written permission. AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo said the performance of such athletes will also be considered invalid for record books. He said AFI will start taking action from this month onwards. "Disciplinary action will be taken against individual athletes who don't take prior permission to compete and train on foreign soil from the national governing body of track and field in the country," Sagoo said. "The performance of the athletes will be invalid for record books if they don't take mandatory approval of the AFI for an international exposure. To safeguard the interest of the athletes AFI has set a specific time period to grant permission to train and compete abroad."

Leander Paes-Samanta Sports Academy to open at KIIT-KISS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 10: The Leander Paes-Samanta Sports Academy is set to be established at KIIT and KISS. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed Friday between KIIT-KISS and tennis legend Leander Paes in this regard. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta signed the MoU on behalf of the institutions, while Leander Paes, signed on his behalf. As per the agreement, the academy will promote 16 different sports, including tennis.

Olympian, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee, and Padma Bhushan Leander Paes is a former Indian tennis player and the first Asian man to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. He has won eight men's doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in Indian sports. KIIT and KISS will provide the necessary infrastructure, while Leander will contribute his technical expertise and vast experience in the field, inviting talents from across the globe.

Leander expressed his delight following the signing of the MoU, stating that KIIT and KISS have world-class sports facilities. He pledged to make

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

Harsabardhan, Asmita set records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 10: Harsabardhan Sahu and Asmita Dhone stole the show with record-breaking performances as weightlifting got underway at the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025 Bihar Saturday.

Sahu, a Khelo India Athlete from Ganjam district, set two National Youth Records in the boys 49kg class competition.

Sahu, who will turn 16 May 22, rewrote the National Youth Marks for Clean and Jerk and Total with lifts of 115kg and 203kg respectively after an 88kg lift in Snatch.

The previous records were set by Jharkhand's Babulal Hembrom last year.

His teammate, the 16-year-old Jyoshna Sabar, who has a hat-trick of medals in the IWF World Youth Championships and is the reigning Asian Champion in the girls 40kg class, also won gold for Odisha with a dominant performance.

Later in the day, Maharashtra's Asmita Dhone and Uttar Pradesh's Manasi Chamunda rewrote National Youth Records in Snatch, Clean and Jerk and Total in the girls 49kg class competition.

Asmita conceded the Snatch record to Manasi Chamunda who cleared the barbell loaded at 75kg but brooked no challenge in Clean and Jerk.

By the time, Asmita entered the fray with the load at 91kg, Manasi had claimed the National Youth record for total with 163kg. But that was shortlived as Asmita bossed the Clean and Jerk with lifts of 91kg, 95kg and 97kg.

Each lift helped her raise the National Youth mark for total, while the last two lifts were re-

cords for Clean and Jerk.

Maharashtra, buoyed by Dhone's gold and earlier wins from Akanksha Kishore Vyavahare in weightlifting and Kavya Bhatt in girls' singles table tennis, remained firmly atop the medal tally with 27 gold, 21 silver, and 24 bronze (72 medals in total).

Maharashtra has won nearly twice as many gold medals as its nearest rival, Karnataka.

Punjab claimed to fifth place behind Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, thanks to gold medals from its skeet shooters Haraz-ez Singh Atwal and Risham Kaur Guron.

Punjab has six gold, the same as Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and

Manipur but has more silver medals than them.

Delhi and Assam were also delighted to add a gold medal each Saturday.

Delhi's 25m Pistol shooter Naamya Kapoor emerged on top, winning a tough competition with Anjali Bhagwat (Madhya Pradesh) by one point, while Assam's gold came through Priyanuj Bhat-tacharyya in the boys singles final.

Hosts Bihar, meanwhile, lost two sepak takraw finals.

In girls' doubles final, Bihar squandered an 11-4 lead in the decider to lose the contest 15-7, 11-15, 13-15.

In the boys' doubles final, As-

sam prevailed 15-9, 17-15, saving two match points before sealing the win on the third.

With 19 medals (three gold, eight silver and eight bronze), Bihar climbed into the top half of the medals charts.

With only 13 gold medals up for grabs Saturday and its strongest discipline, swimming, already concluded, Karnataka was pleased to open its account in another sport.

Naraen Pranav Vanitha Suresh rose to the occasion with a composed performance to edge out Maharashtra's Parth Mane by a solitary point and clinch the boys' 10m air rifle gold medal after a closely contested final.

Foreign players fly out of India after IPL suspension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 10: Most of the foreign recruits in IPL franchises departed for their respective countries Saturday following the suspension high-profile T20 League which was halted for a week due to India-Pakistan border tension.

The Indian Premier League (IPL) was suspended Friday, a day after the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala was abandoned mid-

way following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot.

With the tournament suspended, the players and support staff from various franchises have begun returning to their home-towns, while several foreign players are home-bound.

"Our players and extended staff have safely returned to Bengaluru and are now home-bound to their respective cities and countries," RCB said in a statement. RCB's foreign con-

tingent includes Tim David, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Philip Salt, Josh Hazlewood, Lungi Ngidi, and Nuwan Thushara.

For other franchises like Mumbai Indians (MI) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), both domestic and international players have also departed for their respective locations. KKR players left from Hyderabad, where they were scheduled to face Sunrisers Hyderabad Saturday.

Barca host Real Madrid in potential La Liga decider

Barca have dominated Madrid this season, beating them 4-0 at the Bernabeu earlier in the league, 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup Final in Riyadh, and 3-2 at La Cartuja in the Copa del Rey Final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 10: Real Madrid travel to the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys Sunday in what could prove to be the La Liga title decider. FC Barcelona currently sit four points clear of Los Blancos in the table and a win would take them within touching distance of the trophy with just four games remaining including the highly awaited El Clasico.

Barca have dominated Madrid this season, beating them 4-0 at the Bernabeu earlier in the league, 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup Final in Riyadh, and 3-2 at La Cartuja in the Co-

pa del Rey Final. Hansi Flick is looking to make it four out of four against the all-whites. Only one manager has got off to a better start than that as Pep Guardiola won five from 2008 to 2010.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamora-

EL CLASICO

no scored a remarkable 37 goals for Real Madrid in the 1992/93 season, the most by a player in his debut season at the club. In his first season at the club, Kylian Mbappe would be looking to match that number with just one more goal needed.

Real Madrid have won their last four league games, and are hoping to string together a fifth for the first time this season. Barca on the other hand have also won four on the trot in La Liga and are unbeaten in 15 outings in the league. Their last defeat in the competition came against Atletico Madrid in December 2024.

This game will also usher in a new era for La Liga fans in India after broadcaster FanCode, announced on Saturday, has secured a five-year exclusive deal to broadcast Spanish top-tier football league (La Liga) and second-tier (La Liga Hypermotion) in India for the next five years.

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