

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C

L 26° C

INDIA CALLS THE NUCLEAR BLUFF

Op SINDOOR strikes deep into Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Following a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam last month, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). After four days of coordinated air, drone and artillery strikes, a ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan came into effect on the evening of May 10. The escalation and eventual ceasefire followed a high-level security meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the three service chiefs. Government sources confirmed that major decisions, including targeting sensitive locations, were taken in this meeting.

Ceasefire deal reached hours after suspected hit on nuclear site

India's Measured Retaliation and Pakistan's Panic
In response to Pakistan's continued support for terror groups, India struck multiple high-value targets. At dawn on May 10, Indian Air Force (IAF) jets launched BrahMos-A cruise missiles on key Pakistan Air Force bases, including Chaklala near Rawalpindi, Sargodha in Punjab, and later Jacobabad, Bholari, and Skardu. These bases serve as aviation and logistics hubs for the Pakistani military. Indian intelligence intercepted urgent alerts across Pakistani defence systems, fearing India might next strike their nuclear command infrastructure. Strategic installations in Rawalpindi reportedly initiated heightened security protocols.

PM Modi leads high-level security review with top military brass

Operation Sindoor is not over, we are in the new normal, the world has to accept this. Pakistan has to accept this, it cannot be business as usual: Sources

Was Pakistan's Nuclear Site Hit?

Unofficial reports indicate that India struck Kirana Hills — believed to be a nuclear storage site — with deep-penetrating missiles. Though there's no official confirmation, the presence of a US Department of Energy aircraft in Pakistan the same day has fueled speculation that the US may be inspecting for radiation or structural damage. In the wake of this, Pakistan reportedly requested urgent intervention from the United States. The US, alarmed by the proximity of the strikes to nuclear assets, stepped in. The National Nuclear Security Administration's B-350 AMS aircraft reportedly landed in Pakistan to inspect any possible nuclear damage. US pressure is believed to have forced Pakistan to initiate contact through the military hotline.

Ceasefire After Missile, Drone & Artillery Offensive

The ceasefire was agreed upon after Pakistan's DGMO Major General Kashif Abdullah directly called India's DGMO Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai at 3:35 pm IST on May 10. Just hours before, Pakistani drones were intercepted over Srinagar and parts of Gujarat, indicating continued provocation even amid peace efforts. The Indian side warned Pakistan that any further provocation would result in equal or stronger retaliation. "If they fire, we will fire. If they attack, we will attack," sources said, emphasizing that India is not initiating dialogue unless it concerns the handover of PoK or terrorists responsible for past attacks.

Air Force Confirms Successful Operations

The Indian Air Force, on May 11, officially confirmed the success of Operation Sindoor. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the IAF said, "The Indian Air Force has successfully executed its assigned tasks in Operation Sindoor, with precision and professionalism. Operations were conducted in a deliberate and discreet manner, aligned with National Objectives." The IAF also stated that operations were ongoing and

a detailed briefing would follow. It urged citizens and media to refrain from speculation.

India's Strategic Messaging

India has decided not to roll back measures like the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), taken after the Pahalgam terror attack. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declared, "Operation Sindoor was launched to dismantle terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. The roar of Indian forces reached Rawalpindi." Sources confirmed India will soon present evidence to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Pakistan's terror links. A meeting of the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee is expected next week.

A New Red Line

The armed forces' press conference is expected to mark a new era in India's security posture. Operation Sindoor has not only showcased India's military precision but also challenged global power structures by directly hitting Pakistan's strategic and foreign-backed assets. Operation Sindoor marks a shift in India's military doctrine. For the first time, India signaled it would not be deterred by Pakistan's nuclear threat. The suspected hit on a nuclear storage site, successful airspace breaches despite Chinese and US-supplied defence systems, and the precision of Indian-made missiles have stunned global observers. While some countries may express concern, the operation has redefined deter-

rence in the region. The message is clear: a single terror attack can now result in deep, destructive consequences for the perpetrators. The Indian armed forces' performance has set a new precedent. This is not just a tactical success—it is strategic recalibration. India has demonstrated its resolve. The pause in conflict is not a compromise, but a statement. As a senior source put it: "Silence is strategy. Ceasefire is strength."

"1971, 2025 Not Same": Shashi Tharoor

Counters Congress's Indira Gandhi Comparison

- Tharoor says India needs peace, not prolonged war
- Cites 1971 war as a proud but different historical moment

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
As the Congress party launched a campaign highlighting former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's leadership during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, senior party leader and MP Shashi Tharoor struck a contrasting tone, cautioning against comparing that era with the current 2025 ceasefire scenario with Pakistan. Speaking to ANI, Tharoor acknowledged the historical significance of 1971. "Indira

Gandhiji rewrote the map of the subcontinent. It was a great achievement that makes me proud as an Indian," he said. However, he quickly drew a distinction between the past and present, stating, "The circumstances of 1971 are not the circumstances of 2025. There are differences." Amid political reactions to the government's recent ceasefire agreement with Pakistan following deadly border exchanges, Tharoor emphasized the need for stra-

tegic restraint. "We had reached a stage where the escalation was needlessly getting out of control. Peace is necessary for us," he said, adding that no one should get away with killing innocent Indian civilians, but war should not be the default response. He warned that the current conflict was heading towards a prolonged and purposeless war.

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AP Students Bag Top Ranks in TG EAPCET - 2025

- Revanth Reddy releases Telangana EAPCET results
- Boys dominate top 10 engineering ranks
- AP students clinch top 3 engineering spots

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy officially released the results of the Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2025 today. During the announcement, the officials from the Higher Education Council provided a detailed breakdown of this year's performance. In a remarkable outcome, students from Andhra Pradesh have secured the top three positions in the engineering stream. Palla Bharatchandra from Komarada in Parvathipuram Manyam district bagged the first rank. He was followed by Udagandla Ramcharan Reddy from Konapuram in Nandyal district in second place, and Hemasai Suryakarthik from Vizianagaram district in third. Boys showcased a complete dominance in the engineering stream by clinching all the top ten ranks. Among the Telangana students, Mende Lakshmi Bhargav from Nacharam, Hyderabad, stood out by securing the fourth rank. Other top rankers from Telangana include Mantri Reddy Venkata Ganesh Royal (5th) from Madhapur, Sunkara Sai Rishanth Reddy



(6th), Rashmit Bhandari (7th), Banibrata Majhi from Badangpet (8th), Dhanush Reddy from Hyderabad (9th), and Komma Karthik from Medchal (10th). The Agriculture and Pharmacy categories also witnessed strong performances by Telangana students. Saket Reddy from Medchal secured the top rank in this category. He was followed by Sabbani Lalit Varennya from Karimnagar in second place and Akshit from Warangal in third. Other notable achievers in the Agriculture and Pharmacy category include Sainath from Kothakota (Wanaparthi) with the fourth rank, Brahmani from Madhapur (5th), Gummadidala Tejas from Kukatpally (6th), Akhiranandan Reddy from Nizampet (7th), Bhanuprakash Reddy from Saroornagar (8th), Samuel Satwik from Hyderguda (9th), and Addula Sasikaran Reddy from Balapur (10th). Officials noted the increasing competition and talent among students from both states and appreciated their hard work in achieving these ranks.

Telangana Bhavan Offers Shelter Amid Border Tensions

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In light of the special circumstances prevailing in some northern border states, a large number of Telangana residents — including students — are arriving at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi seeking shelter and support. The Telangana government has responded promptly, offering relief and arranging for their safe return. So far, 86 people have reached Telangana Bhavan, and arrangements have been made to send 26 of them safely to their native towns. Others are being provided with free accommodation, food, and medical facilities until further travel arrangements are made. Telangana Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal is closely monitoring the situation. He convened a review meeting with senior officials to ensure all needs — from shelter to medical support and transport — are addressed swiftly. He confirmed that the Bhavan is prepared to receive another 100 Telangana citizens and that every precaution is being taken to avoid inconvenience. In an earlier directive, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy instructed the setting up of a special control room at Telangana Bhavan. The CM also emphasized that free food, accommodation, and medical services should be made available, and that



necessary help should be extended to every citizen arriving there. Many students from universities in Jammu, Punjab, and other northern states have already sought refuge at the Bhavan. Officials stated that timely transportation is being arranged to help them safely return to Hyderabad and other regions in Telangana. The control room is aimed at offering real-time support, guidance, and resources to Telangana citizens impacted by the ongoing tensions in the border areas. Officials are urging those in need to make immediate contact through the helpline numbers provided below:
Emergency Contact Numbers:
Landline: 011-23380556
Vandana (PS to Resident Commissioner): 9871999044
Haider Ali Naqvi (PA to Resident Commissioner): 9971387500
G. Rakshit Naik (Liaison Officer): 9643723157
C. H. Chakravarthy (PRO): 9949351270

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“1971, 2025 Not Same”: Shashi Tharoor

“This is not 1971. We are not liberating a country. Just firing shells without a clear objective would have been reckless,” Tharoor argued. He noted that while Pakistan did escalate the situation, India's response was measured, and the decision to agree to a ceasefire was prudent. According to Tharoor, India must prioritize growth, development, and the well-being of its people. “The prosperity of our people is the biggest priority for

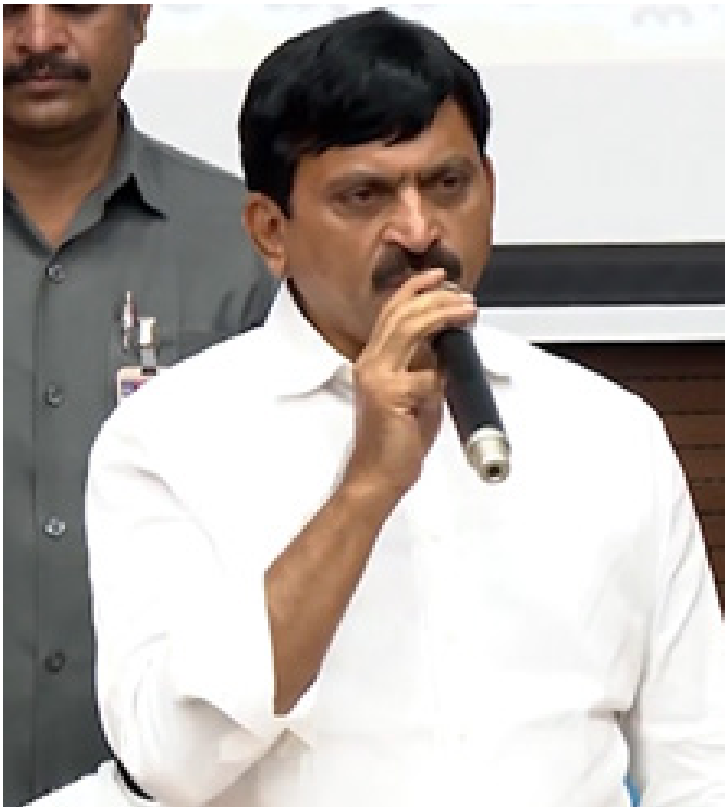
India today,” he said, while also supporting the principle that any attack on Indian lives must be met with accountability. By acknowledging Indira Gandhi's legacy but cautioning against misusing historical parallels, Tharoor offered a nuanced perspective within his party—one that supports peace and diplomacy over symbolic posturing.

Slot Booking To Expand In Sub-Registrar Offices

- 25 new offices to get slot booking from 12th
- Statewide rollout by next month end
- Extra staff for high-congestion offices

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

To ease long wait times and streamline the registration process, Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced on Sunday that the state is expanding the slot booking system across sub-registrar offices. The Minister said this move would phase out the current practice where buyers and sellers are forced to wait under trees for hours. Slot booking has already been successfully implemented in 22 sub-registrar offices since last month on a pilot basis. From May 12, this system will be extended to another 25 sub-registrar offices. By the end of next month, the government aims to implement slot booking across all 144 sub-registrar offices in Telangana. In his statement, the Minister stressed that reforms are not only being introduced but actively implemented to deliver fast and efficient services



tions of Champapet and Saroornagar in Rangareddy district have been merged, along with Shadnagar and Farooqnagar, and Siddipet and Siddipet (Rural). Sub-Registrar Offices implementing slot booking from May 12: Hyderabad R.O., Hyderabad R.O. South, Narapalli, Ghatkesar, Malkajgiri, Uppal, Capra, Bibinagar, Siddipet, Siddipet Rural, Gajwel, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Warangal R.O., Jangaon, Ghanpur, Narasampet, Kalvakurthi, Narayanpet, Maheshwaram, Rangareddy R.O., Shadnagar, Farooqnagar, Vanasthalipuram, and Serilingampalli.

to the public. He added that to meet growing demand, additional sub-registrars and staff are being appointed in highly congested offices requiring more than 48 slots per day. The Qutbullapur Sub-Registrar office in Medchal Malkajgiri district has already received two additional sub-registrars and a supporting staff member on a trial basis. Similar arrangements are planned for Uppal, Maheshwaram, and Mancherial offices. As part of the reforms, the state is also reorganizing sub-registrar jurisdictions to balance workloads. Already, the jurisdic-

Pushkaralu Works Slow, Quality Must Improve: Minister Sridhar Babu



- Minister inspects Kaleshwaram arrangements
- Orders electrification, sanitation, and safety for devotees

TPN Correspondent | Jayashankar Bhupalpally

State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Sunday conducted a thorough inspection of Kaleshwaram in preparation for the upcoming Pushkaralu, issuing sharp warnings and detailed instructions to officials over the slow pace and quality of ongoing works. The Minister visited key areas including the VIP Ghat, Saraswati Mata idol, Gnanathirtham, the river bathing zones, and the under-construction tent city. Following the inspection, he held a review meeting with officials from all departments, emphasizing that the work progress is unacceptably slow and must be expedited immediately. Sridhar Babu said the entire town should reflect a festive atmosphere with full electrification for the 12-day Pushkaralu celebrations. He ordered that the Saraswati Mata idol be adorned with

flowers and arrangements be made for smooth and safe aarti viewing by devotees. Expressing dissatisfaction, he criticized the Endowment Engineering officials for leaving the main Pinda building incomplete and questioned the logic behind laying slabs at the main ghat just before the festival.

He directed the construction of temporary roads, queer mats, barricades, and warning boards to ensure safe river access for devotees. At least 50 trained swimmers and boats should be on standby for emergencies. The Minister stressed that this is the first time a tent city is being created in Kaleshwaram and instructed officials to prepare a minute-to-minute program to ensure proper coordination and smooth conduct of all events. As the Chief Minister is expected to attend the inauguration, and other high-profile visits including the Governor and state ministers are likely, Sridhar Babu demanded robust security arrangements. He instructed local bodies to set up streetlights from Mahadevpur and install strip lights along road

dividers. R&B and National Highways officials were asked to fix roads and eliminate potholes. The Minister warned contractors that strict action will be taken if quality is compromised. He emphasized that local special officers should oversee all works and ensure uninterrupted power supply by sourcing electricity from Kataram and Birsagar, with six 125 KV generators as backup. Endowment officials were directed to set up generators at the temple and a 100-room inn. Daily food distribution for devotees, protection from sunburn using mats near the river, and overall town beautification with lights and colors were also ordered. Special staff from JNTU have been assigned to manage decoration works. Cabs will be arranged, and a detailed traffic plan is to be finalized soon. Senior officials including Endowment Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar, Commissioner Venkata Rao, Collector Rahul Sharma, SP Kiran Khare, and others from various departments like Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, RWS, Medical, and R&B participated in the inspection and review.

Congress Misleading People on Sitarama Project

- Sitarama project got CWC, Hydrology approval in 2021
- BRS completed 90% of work, Congress tried to block it with cases
- Project to irrigate 6.74 lakh acres, boost Khammam's fertility

TPN Correspondent | Khammam

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has strongly countered Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy's recent comments on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, accusing the Congress government of spreading falsehoods and misleading the people of Telangana about the project's approval status and progress.

BRS leaders asserted that the Congress party, which came to power "on a bed of lies", is continuing to deceive the public using the same tactics. They pointed out that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Sitarama project was submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC) by the then BRS government in October 2018 and received official hydrological approval for 113.795 TMC of water in 2021. They criticized Uttam Kumar Reddy's claim that the project lacked permissions, stating that the Central Government in 2021 approved the use of 70.4 TMC of water under the project, aimed at



irrigating 6.74 lakh acres and providing drinking and industrial water to Khammam, Bhadradri Kothagudem, and Mahabubabad districts.

BRS leaders further argued that despite completing 90% of the project, the Congress filed cases in the Green Tribunal and blocked environmental clearances, causing delays. They called it "ridiculous" for the Congress to now attempt to take credit for the achievements of the BRS government in the irrigation sector. "When truth stays silent, lies rule," the BRS said, targeting the Congress leadership for distorting facts and selling out

Telangana's water rights to Andhra Pradesh.

They also recalled how the Congress government in the undivided state initiated projects like Rajiv Sagar and Indira Sagar, allegedly to the detriment of Telangana, and locked down the Indira Sagar headworks permanently in Andhra. Highlighting improvements made under BRS, they stated that while Congress' earlier plans covered only 3.33 lakh acres with 33 TMC of water and a 77 km pipeline, the integrated Sitarama Project expanded irrigation to 6.74 lakh acres with 70.4 TMC of water and a reduced 8.56 km pipeline, avoiding inter-state and forest clearance issues.

The BRS questioned why Congress leaders, who stayed silent during water exploitation under united rule, are now targeting a transformative project that aims to make the joint Khammam district fertile. They also accused the Congress of failing to utilize Telangana's rightful Krishna river share and called Uttam Kumar Reddy's comments ignorant and politically motivated.

"This project is a lifeline for the region, not a political stunt," BRS said, demanding that the Congress stop obstructing the progress and respect the hard-won achievements of Telangana's irrigation development.

KTR Promises Help to Sircilla Man Injured in Saudi Accident

- Manda Mahesh from Mandepalli injured in Saudi road accident
- KTR assures support and repatriation to India
- 9 dead, Mahesh seriously injured while on company bus



TPN Correspondent | Sircilla

In a tragic road accident in Saudi Arabia, Manda Mahesh, a native of Mandepalli village in Sircilla constituency, was seriously injured while travelling to work in a company bus. The accident claimed nine lives, leaving Mahesh critically injured and currently undergoing treatment in a government hospital there. Reacting swiftly, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) reached out to Mahesh and his family. In a video call from Hyderabad, KTR assured the injured youth that he would be brought back to India within four to five days, and that he would personally bear all the expenses for his repatriation and further treatment. "Don't lose hope. I will take full

responsibility for your return and ensure you get better treatment here," KTR said during the video interaction, offering moral and financial support to the distressed family. Mahesh, like many others from the region, had migrated to Saudi Arabia for employment and was working in a private company. The accident, which occurred while employees were being transported in the company's bus, has caused deep grief in Mandepalli and surrounding areas of Sircilla. Local leaders and residents have appreciated KTR's immediate response, calling it a much-needed gesture of compassion and support during a critical time for the victim's family.

Etala Seems to Have Lost His Mind: Adi Srinivas

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Government Whip Adi Srinivas has come down heavily on BJP MP Etala Rajender over his controversial remarks targeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying Etala seems to have lost his mental balance. Expressing deep disappointment, Srinivas said, "We thought Etala was a decent person... but his recent behaviour proves otherwise." Responding to Etala's recent remarks where he reportedly called the CM a "sadist" and a "psycho," Adi Srinivas lashed out: "If you want the BJP state president post, go please your party leadership. But don't think you'll earn the position by insulting our Chief Minister with vulgar language. That's not political strategy — that's sheer foolishness." He reminded Etala of his long political career, questioning why someone with 30 years of experience would stoop so low. "Using words like 'my son' only shows your mental condition," Srinivas said, adding that insulting the Chief Minister for personal gain is not something that will be tolerated. Issuing a stern warning, Srinivas said, "If Etala continues to use such inappropriate language, don't expect us to remain silent. We are capable of responding in even harsher terms if needed." The remarks by Adi Srinivas mark a strong counter-attack from the ruling Congress, which has been increasingly vocal against BJP leaders targeting CM Revanth Reddy in recent weeks.



MP Etela Calls Congress rule as "Tughlaq" Rule

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BJP MP Etela Rajender has sharply criticized Congress leader Revanth Reddy and the ruling government in Telangana, calling out their leadership and governance style. In an outspoken statement, Rajender labeled Revanth Reddy a "sadist" and "psycho," accusing him of causing unnecessary suffering to people. He further alleged that Revanth, in his political actions, "makes people cry" and does not listen to reason, claiming that such behavior is characteristic of a "psycho." Rajender urged the Chief Minister to recognize the struggles of the people, stressing that such conduct



from opposition leaders should be stopped. In a direct attack on the Congress government, Rajender declared that it resembles a "Tughlaq government," suggesting it is chaotic, directionless, and will not last for much longer. He accused the leadership of having "no head or tail" and firmly asserted that this government's time is limited.

Should Modi Now Be Sent to Pakistan?

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

CPI National Secretary K. Narayana launched a sharp attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning the government's engagement in peace talks with Pakistan without reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He accused the BJP of double standards and recalled that he had earlier been targeted by the party for advocating peaceful dialogue instead of war. "In the past, when I said we should resolve issues through talks and not war, BJP leaders mocked me and said I should be sent to Pakistan," Narayana said. "Now, when Prime Minister Modi's government is holding peace talks with Pakistan without taking control of PoK, should they send Modi to Pakistan too, by their own past logic?" he asked pointedly. Narayana emphasized that terrorism is a serious threat and must be eliminated without compromise. "Terrorists pose a grave danger to humanity. There should be no leniency in dealing with them, and all



necessary measures must be taken to stamp out terrorism," he said. At the same time, he welcomed the progress in peace efforts between India and Pakistan, stating that establishing peace is a positive step forward. However, he expressed frustration over the misinterpretation of his past remarks, asserting, "We have always supported strong action against terrorists. Twisting our statements to paint a different picture is unacceptable." Narayana reiterated that while peace is essential, it must not come at the cost of national integrity or security, and criticized the BJP for political hypocrisy on such a sensitive issue.

Raja Singh Urges CM to Deport Illegal Immigrants

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BJP Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh has urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to take immediate steps to identify and deport all illegal immigrants residing in the state, citing threats to internal security, law and order, and demographic stability. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Raja Singh stated that the presence of illegal immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Rohingya community poses a "grave risk" to national integrity. He warned that such individuals could be exploited by anti-national elements, turning them into a serious security liability for the state and the country. "It is imperative for the state government to ensure that internal security is not compromised," the MLA wrote. He called upon the state to initiate a comprehensive identification and deportation process targeting all undocumented foreigners currently staying in Telan-



gana. To execute this, Raja Singh proposed the formation of a special task force that would operate in coordination with central agencies. The aim, he said, should be to verify and remove any illegal presence in a lawful and time-bound manner. The demand comes amidst growing national concerns over illegal immigration and its implications for security and resource allocation, particularly in urban and border states. So far, there has been no official response from the Chief Minister's Office regarding this request.

Jagga Reddy lashes out at Eetala over comments on CM

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Congress senior leader and Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy launched a fiery counter against BJP MLA Eetala Rajender for his recent comments targeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. In a strongly worded outburst, Jagga Reddy warned Eetala not to cross the line or face consequences. "If you make loose comments about CM Revanth Reddy or the Congress party again, I will strip you naked and take off your clothes on the road," he said, expressing intense anger at what he termed as "vulgar and baseless" political attacks. Jagga Reddy accused Eetala Rajender of indulging in "psycho-level" politics due



to being denied positions in the BJP. "You didn't meet the CM even once about the problems of your constituency. But now you're talking like someone who smoked

ganja, just because you didn't get a post," he said. Responding to the tone and frequency of Eetala's attacks, Jagga Reddy said, "CM Revanth Reddy may leave you alone out of pity, thinking you're frustrated over not getting a position. But we won't be that soft." Positioning himself as a leader of the people, he stated, "You think you're armed in the forest... But I am the one who's armed with public support. You don't have that kind of scene."

Jagga Reddy ended with a stern warning: "If you want importance, go to another party. Don't step into Congress thinking you'll get spotlight. If you come here, you'll be thrown out."

CBI Arrests Income Tax Commissioner in ₹70 Lakh Bribery Scandal

- Commissioner Jeevan Lal Lavidiya among five arrested
- ₹69 lakh cash and key documents seized in multi-city raids
- Bribes linked to favourable decisions in tax appeal cases

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major crackdown on corruption, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday, May 10, arrested Income Tax Commissioner Jeevan Lal Lavidiya and four others in connection with a ₹70 lakh bribery case. The arrests followed a well-planned trap operation in Mumbai, where middlemen were caught red-handed while accepting the bribe on behalf of the commissioner. Lavidiya, a 2004-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, was already under the scanner for allegedly demanding bribes to influence outcomes in tax appeal cases. Acting on credible inputs, the CBI registered a case against him and 14 others on May 9, 2025. The arrests span Mumbai, Hyderabad, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, and Khammam, with CBI sleuths conducting searches at 18 locations, seizing ₹69 lakh in cash, documents, and other digital evidence tied to the bribery conspiracy. The accused are believed to be part of a wider network, offering undue favours in exchange for bribes, particularly related to taxation appeals and assessments. The individuals arrested alongside Commissioner Jeevan Lal Lavidiya include Sh. Sairam Palisetty from



Srikakulam, Sh. Natta Veera Naga Sri Ram Gopal from Visakhapatnam, Sh. Viral Kantilal Mehta, Deputy General Manager (Taxation) at Shapoorji Pallonji Group in Mumbai, and Sajida Majhar Hussain Shah, a resident of Mumbai. While those arrested in Mumbai are being produced before the Special CBI Court there, others from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are being presented in respective local courts. A CBI spokesperson confirmed that the investigation is still underway, with further leads being pursued to uncover the full extent of the bribery ring. This high-profile case has once again raised serious concerns about corruption within the Indian tax administration and the influence of powerful corporate intermediaries.

Inmates As Responsible Citizens

Minister Sridhar Babu praises Telangana Prisons Department's reform efforts

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, affirmed the government's commitment to reforming inmates into responsible citizens before the end of their sentences. He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the Annual Prisoners' Sports & Cultural Meet – 2025, held at Charlapalli Central Jail on Sunday. Addressing the gathering, Minister Sridhar Babu lauded the Telangana Prisons Department for implementing progressive reforms that are now serving as a benchmark for other states. He emphasized that many inmates, whether knowingly or unknowingly involved in crimes, deserve an opportunity for rehabilitation. "Imprisonment is not something anyone wishes for. Our goal is to ensure that those serving sentences leave prison equipped to live dignified lives," he said. The minister highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the department, including vocational training and skill development across various trades, aimed at instilling confidence among inmates. Professional counseling services are



also being extended to address mental health challenges. Sridhar Babu further noted that products manufactured by inmates are receiving strong demand in the market. He assured continued government support for such constructive efforts and pledged to back well-behaved inmates in rebuilding their lives after release. He urged the inmates not to lose hope during incarceration and to use their time to learn skills that align with their interests. The government, he said, is also committed to helping those who wish to pursue higher education, with support from the Prisons Department under applicable guidelines. The event was also graced by MLC Mahender Reddy, Director General of Prisons Soumya Mishra, and other senior officials.

Non-Duty Liquor Worth ₹4 Lakh Seized at Moinabad



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a major crackdown on illegal liquor distribution, Telangana Excise Department officials on Sunday, May 11, raided a private event at a farmhouse in Moinabad and seized non-duty paid liquor worth ₹4 lakh. According to the department, the organisers of the private gathering had neither sought permission to serve alcohol nor used liquor approved by the Telangana Excise Department. The raid led to the seizure of 52 liquor bottles, which were reportedly being served at the event without legal clearance. Investigations revealed that the organisers had procured foreign liquor from Delhi and Goa, bypassing local regulations. Among the seized stock were 50 bottles of Black Label, four bottles of liquor from Goa-based distilleries, and several other brands — some duty-paid from outside Telangana and some without any legal documentation. "The organisers did not follow any of the required legal procedures. The liquor was not duty-paid under Telangana rules, and no special permission was obtained to serve it at the event," said a senior excise official. Following the seizure, the department has registered a case against the organisers under relevant excise laws. Authorities are now investigating the source of procurement and whether a larger supply chain is involved. This incident comes amid increasing efforts by the Telangana Excise Department to clamp down on the illegal supply and use of non-duty liquor during private parties and events across the state.

Omega Hospital Clarifies Doctor's Arrest Not Linked to Institution

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Following the arrest of Dr Namrata for alleged drug possession and purchase in Hyderabad, Omega Hospitals issued an official clarification on Sunday, May 11, distancing itself from the incident and stating that the doctor in question has no association with the hospital. In a formal statement, Dr Ch Mohana Vamsy, Chairman and Managing Director of Omega Hospitals, emphasized that the episode was an "isolated incident involving personal actions" and does not involve or reflect the hospital's standards or operations. "Omega Hospitals remains committed to its core mission of providing exceptional oncology and multi-speciality care," the hospital stated, urging the media and public to verify facts before



linking individual actions to reputed medical institutions. Omega Hospitals, which runs over 14 oncology centres across India, reiterated that the name of the hospital must not be misused or dragged into controversies unrelated to its services. The clarification comes after the Rayadurgam

police arrested Dr Namrata on May 9 for allegedly ordering 53 grams of cocaine by transferring ₹5 lakh online to a known supplier, Vansh Dhakkar. The drugs were reportedly delivered to her in Hyderabad by a delivery agent, Balakrishna alias Rampyar Ram, both of whom were caught during the handover. Authorities seized the narcotics, ₹10,000 in cash, and two mobile phones. During interrogation, Dr Namrata allegedly confessed to having spent ₹70 lakh on drugs over time. She has since been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Omega Hospitals reaffirmed its stance against any illegal or unethical conduct and reiterated its focus on maintaining the highest standards of care and professionalism.

Harvard Showcases Hyderabad Metro as Global PPP Model

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a prestigious global recognition, Harvard University has published a detailed case study on the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMRL), highlighting it as one of the world's largest and most successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) metro rail projects. The study, published by Harvard Business Review, focuses on how the project overcame immense challenges and became a benchmark in urban infrastructure. The case study extensively explores the leadership and strategic approach of HMRL Managing Director NVS Reddy, crediting him with navigating complex political, financial, and administrative landscapes to make the Hyderabad Metro Rail a reality. According to the study, the Hyderabad Metro's journey from concept to completion was riddled with serious challenges, including land acquisition delays, political instability and pressures, financial constraints, public protests and stakeholder resistance, as well as concerns related to religious and heritage sites. Despite these hurdles, the project has emerged as a globally admired metro system, thanks to bold decisions, innovative financial models, diplomatic stakeholder management, and cutting-edge engineering solutions. The Harvard research concludes that strong leadership was the cornerstone of the project's success. The study poses a critical question: "How did Hyderabad Metro accomplish this? What lessons can be learned from



handling the complexities of large-scale, multi-dimensional projects?" Through this lens, the case aims to provide actionable insights for future global infrastructure undertakings. The research notes that Hyderabad Metro's implementation is unique due to its distinctive planning and execution methods, use of advanced technology, effective public-private financial strategies, and overall administrative efficiency. The case also sheds light on the project's early vision, dating back to 2006, when NVS Reddy proposed the Metro Rail project to resolve Hyderabad's urban transportation issues. Despite initial setbacks such as the Maytas Infra collapse, the project was revived under the PPP model and ultimately became a success story in Indian infrastructure. Previously, institutions like Indian School of Business (ISB) and Stanford University had also conducted studies on HMRL. Now, Harvard's inclusion of the Hyderabad Metro in its journal marks a significant global endorsement, establishing the project as an international model of PPP excellence in public transport.

BJP Workers Demand Karachi Bakery Name Change



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Tensions flared in Hyderabad as BJP workers staged a protest outside the Karachi Bakery outlet on Shamshabad Road on Sunday, demanding that the establishment remove or change its name, citing its association with Pakistan amid recent cross-border violence. The protest was triggered by outrage over the Pahalgam massacre and ongoing attacks by Pakistan, with BJP workers arriving at the bakery waving Indian flags and chanting slogans condemning Pakistan and supporting the Indian armed forces. As the demonstration escalated, some protestors began damaging the bakery's name board with sticks, prompting the police to intervene and

disperse the crowd. This is not the first time Karachi Bakery has faced backlash due to its name. Similar protests were also reported at Karachi Bakery outlets in Visakhapatnam, where BJP activists voiced the same demands. The bakery, founded decades ago in India by a Sindhi migrant from Karachi post-Partition, has long been a symbol of culinary heritage in Hyderabad, especially known for its iconic fruit biscuits. However, its name continues to attract controversy whenever Indo-Pak tensions rise. Despite repeated clarifications that Karachi Bakery has no present-day links with Pakistan, it continues to draw attention from political groups during periods of heightened nationalist sentiment.

Indira Souragiri Scheme Set For Launch



- **Borewells And Solar Pumps To Aid Farmers**
- **Pilot Project Begins At Macharam Village On May 18**
- **District Officials Oversee Rapid Preparation**

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool
Arrangements are in top gear for the inauguration of the Indira Souragiri Water Development Scheme, a pilot initiative that promises to transform irrigation prospects for tribal and small-holder farmers in Macharam village, Amrabad mandal. On Sunday, District Collector Badawat Santosh led a multi-department team—including District Forest Officer Rohit Gopidi, Additional Collectors Amarender and Dev Saawan—on an extensive inspection of ongoing works to ensure everything is ready before Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy launches the scheme on 18 May. Under this pilot, the district administration is drilling a network of borewells on farmers' own land at scientifically identified spots marked by groundwater experts. Each borewell will be paired with a solar-powered pump set, eliminating the need for costly and unreliable grid connections while cutting recurring power bills to zero. Collector Santosh told reporters that officers from horticulture, groundwater, tribal welfare and revenue wings are “working in perfect coordination” so that all infrastructure—bore casings, submersible pumps, solar panels, storage tanks and feeder lines—is in place well before the launch. Fruit-orchard saplings suited to local soil and

climate—mango, sweet lime, guava and custard apple—are already being readied in government nurseries. Once the pumps are commissioned, each beneficiary farmer will receive a tailored package of saplings, fertiliser kits and agronomy support. Officials expect the orchards to provide both year-round employment and a stable cash income after three years, reducing seasonal migration that plagues remote hamlets of the Nallamala region. The Collector emphasised that the scheme's integrated approach—water, green energy and crop diversification—reflects the state government's commitment to climate-resilient farming. “Borewells alone are not enough; we want sustainable power and perennial income for every tribal family,” he said, adding that groundwater recharge pits and contour trenches will be dug around fields to arrest run-off and replenish aquifers. Senior officers Acchampet RDO Madhavi, Ground Water AD Divya Jyoti, DTDO Firangi, DPO Mohan Rao, horticulture officials Venkatesham and Jagan, ITDA officer Jafar, Acchampet DSP Srinivasulu, R&B DE Jalandhar, Amrabad Tahsildar Shailendra, MPDO staff and several elected representatives accompanied the inspection team. With civil, electrical and horticulture crews working round the clock, the district administration is confident that the Indira Souragiri Water Development Scheme will be ready for its ceremonial rollout next week, heralding a new era of water security and livelihood diversification for Macharam's farmers.



Telangana Eyes Full Control Over Nagarjuna Sagar

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Telangana government is poised to seek full control of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project's security and surveillance as the withdrawal of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel from the dam is reportedly under active consideration. The move comes in the backdrop of a strategic redeployment of forces due to escalating border tensions and evolving operational needs elsewhere in the country. According to officials, the withdrawal could be either partial or complete and is based on the necessity to redirect forces, especially after over 5,000 CRPF personnel, including CoBRA commandos, were recently shifted to strengthen India's northern border with Pakistan. This redeployment has impacted operations like ‘Operation Kagar’ near the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border, and some CRPF forces from the Telangana side of the dam have already been withdrawn. The CRPF has been overseeing security at the dam since November 2023, following a tense standoff between the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana police forces. Security was split between the 234th CRPF Battalion from Visakhapatnam (managing gates 14 to 26 on the AP side) and a battalion from Mulugu (han-

dling gates 1 to 13 on the Telangana side). Recently, however, the Visakhapatnam battalion took over responsibility for the entire stretch after the Mulugu personnel were withdrawn, dividing their forces to cover both ends. The need for CRPF deployment arose after the flashpoint on November 29, 2023, when around 500 armed AP police personnel entered the dam premises, reportedly damaged CCTV cameras, and unilaterally released water, drawing sharp criticism from Telangana. This incident occurred during the Telangana Assembly elections, further heightening security concerns. Following the clash, the Union Home Secretary intervened, and in a video conference on December 1, directed CRPF to take over dam security to restore status quo as of November 28 and ensure water sharing as per existing agreements. Telangana has repeatedly asserted that the Nagarjuna Sagar Project falls within its territorial jurisdiction under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. With Andhra Pradesh accused of unapproved water diversions in the past, Telangana is now expected to push harder for exclusive operational control of the dam once CRPF presence is scaled down or withdrawn.

Kaleshwaram Saraswati Pushkaras from May 15 to 26

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The grand Kaleshwaram Triveni Saraswati Pushkaras are set to take place from May 15 to May 26, 2025, at the sacred Triveni Sangam, where the rivers Godavari, Pranahita, and Saraswati are believed to converge. This Maha Pushkara Mahotsav, which comes once every 12 years, is being organized by the Telangana Government with spiritual fervor and devotion. Minister for Devadaya Department Konda Surekha said extensive preparations have been made to accommodate the lakhs of pilgrims expected to take part in the holy dip and spiritual rituals during the 12-day event. The Devadaya Department has made large-scale arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, transportation, accommodation, and crowd management. In her statement, Konda Surekha appealed to the public stated that “I wish everyone to participate in this historical Mahotsav, which will be held every day in the presence of prominent Peethadhipathis — Saraswati Homam, Rudra Homam and special pujas.” The Telangana government has ensured that daily rituals including Saraswati Homam, Rudra Homam, and other special pujas will be conducted with Vedic precision under the guidance of esteemed spiritual leaders. Special stages and ghats have been set up for devotees to perform holy dips and participate in religious ceremonies safely. The Maha Pushkaras are not only a sacred spiritual event but also a culturally significant moment for devotees from across the country. The government has called upon citizens to make use of the facilities and experience the spiritual magnificence of the occasion.



Indiramma Houses Must Be Allotted in Gram Sabha: Vemula

TPN Correspondent | Nizamabad

Former minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy strongly criticized the Congress government for its alleged irregularities in the distribution of Indiramma houses and the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme. Speaking at a press conference held at the BRS district party office in Nizamabad on Sunday evening, Prashanth Reddy accused the Congress of hijacking public welfare schemes for party benefits. He reminded that according to G.O. No. 7 issued by the Congress government, the selection of Indiramma housing beneficiaries should be conducted in open Gram Sabhas. However, he alleged that not a single Gram Sabha has been held so far in the district, and selections are being made directly from the homes of Congress leaders. “It has been 17 months since the Congress came to power, and not a single Indiramma house has been constructed. Out of 1.8 lakh applicants, 70,000 names were selected



unofficially by Congress leaders from their homes, not through public processes,” he said. Prashanth Reddy also accused the ruling party of demanding ₹50,000 from each beneficiary for the house allotments. He said that if beneficiaries are not selected as per the G.O. through Gram Sabhas, officials involved will be taken to court. He alleged similar malpractice in the implementation of the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme. “Funds

worth ₹6,500 crore meant for youth development are being funneled to Congress leaders and workers. Mineral Development Chairman Eravatri Anil is openly declaring that these benefits are for Congress workers only,” he said. Prashanth Reddy said Congress is misusing ₹12,000 crore under Indiramma housing and ₹6,500 crore under Rajiv Yuva Vikasam to fill their own pockets. “Public money should go to the deserving poor,

not to political activists,” he added. He urged BRS activists to support eligible applicants in every village and protest if they are denied houses or scheme benefits. He called on the poor to stage demonstrations in front of Tahsildar offices and Gram Panchayats. On the issue of paddy procurement, he criticized the government's inaction. “Out of the targeted 10 lakh metric tons, only 7.5 lakh metric tons have been procured. Thin paddy is not being accepted, and 1.2 lakh metric tons are stuck in lorries,” he said. He demanded the CM announce a bonus of ₹500 per quintal for all varieties of paddy and expedite the procurement process. “Revanth Reddy has time to review beauty pageants but not paddy procurement,” he said. The press meet was attended by former ZP Chairman Vitthal Rao, ex-NUD Chairman Prabhakar Reddy, leaders Satya Prakash, Sudam Ravichander, Naveed Iqbal, Rajagoud, and Praveen Reddy.

Milder Summer, Thunderstorms To Continue In Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana is set to witness a continuation of its unseasonably mild summer, with frequent thunderstorms and cooler-than-usual temperatures expected to persist for the coming days. The Hyderabad Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for heavy thunderstorms and gusty winds across many parts of the State from Wednesday to Friday. According to the Hyderabad MET Department, the current weather trend — marked by fewer heatwave days and increased thunderstorm activity — is expected to continue till May 20, with maximum temperatures ranging between 36°C and 40°C across Telangana till May 18. Meteorologists have attributed the unseasonal weather to specific climate conditions, which

have also led to light to moderate rainfall or thunder showers across the region. However, this change, while providing relief from heat, has posed challenges for farmers due to unexpected rain and strong winds during a critical period of crop development. The Indian Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD-H) in its 7-day forecast and farmers' weather bulletin indicated widespread thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds for almost the entire state. Heavy thunderstorms warning has been issued for: Adilabad, Kumram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna-Sircilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri,

Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal. Districts expected to witness gusty winds of 50–60 kmph with thunderstorms include: Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal. Other districts will experience thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds at 30–40 kmph. The maximum daytime temperatures are expected to remain below normal by 2°C to 3°C, the IMD forecast added. With only about 10 days of typical summer left, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to arrive in the first week of June.

How the Indian Air Force Taught Pakistan That the Mythical 'Godzilla' Isn't Extinct After All

The recent conflict between India and Pakistan has proven to be a pivotal moment in modern air warfare, escalating quickly into one of the most significant aerial engagements between the nuclear-armed neighbors since the 1971 war. The Indian Air Force (IAF) emerged as the central force in this battle, playing a pivotal role in shaping the conflict's outcome, demonstrating both military sophistication and operational precision.

The IAF's strategic actions began with precision strikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan, executed despite the absence of the element of surprise. The operations were carried out in high-risk conditions, with a deliberate avoidance of military targets to prevent escalation, which would otherwise have led to civilian casualties. This careful approach allowed the IAF to demonstrate an exemplary escalation management strategy while meeting 100% of the national leadership's intent.

The course of the conflict unfolded with methodical precision, starting with targeted strikes on terrorist nodes, followed by engagements with Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (LR-SAMs), and eventually neutralizing advanced air defence systems like the HQ-9. As the battle intensified, Pakistan responded with desperate strikes against IAF bases, but these were ineffective as Pakistan's air defences had been systematically dismantled. The IAF, maintaining relentless offensive operations, engaged Pakistan's remaining defences, while carefully navigating below nuclear



thresholds to avoid further escalation.

One of the most unprecedented challenges in this conflict was the IAF's ability to ward off waves of drones, missiles, and enemy aircraft over a stretch of more than 1,000 kilometers. This level of sustained defence is unprecedented in modern warfare, particularly given the terrain and the near-peer threat posed by Pakistan. Despite early losses, the IAF successfully neutralized advanced air defence systems, such as the HQ-9, and maintained control of the air. Throughout the conflict, the IAF not

only excelled in offensive operations but also exhibited remarkable defensive capability. While global military powers like the United States and Israel have maintained air supremacy in their respective conflicts, the IAF managed to confront a sustained multi-vector threat across such an extended frontier. This coordinated defence effort between IAF and Army air defence units further showcased India's military coordination and preparedness.

Strategically, the IAF's control of the air was the determining factor in

the outcome of the conflict. Pakistan, while possessing nuclear deterrence capabilities, was forced to initiate a ceasefire after being unable to maintain control of the skies. The PAF, the arrowhead of Pakistan's military might, was effectively neutralized by India's air superiority. This shift led to Pakistan's diplomatic overtures through the DGMO hotline, signaling their willingness to de-escalate as a direct result of losing the air battle.

The strategic success of the IAF in this conflict will likely become a case study in modern air power, particularly in

how middle powers can achieve limited strategic objectives while managing escalation in the face of nuclear adversaries. The IAF's ability to combine offensive and defensive operations effectively, while maintaining control of the air and minimizing escalation, highlights the future of warfare, where air power is central to achieving decisive results.

However, despite this impressive performance, introspection is crucial for the IAF to maintain its advantage. The IAF must identify any gaps exposed during operations and accelerate efforts in capability development, indigenous production, and acquisition timelines. A rigorous after-action review process is needed to ensure that India's military can keep pace with evolving threats.

In the aftermath of this conflict, Pakistan's dismissive remarks about India's Rafale fleet—specifically, the comment by a PAF Air Vice Marshal that "Godzilla is extinct"—seems to betray a fundamental misunderstanding. The Rafale, long ridiculed by Pakistan as a "mythical" force, proved its destructive power and capability in the skies. For Pakistan, the "Godzilla" is far from extinct, and its devastating impact on Pakistan's air defence infrastructure is now etched in history.

Ultimately, the IAF's performance in this conflict will be remembered as a defining moment for Indian air power, solidifying its status as a formidable force capable of shaping the outcomes of modern warfare.

Why Generative AI Won't Replace Human Creativity



Despite the hype, generative AI is far from replacing human creativity or making thinking redundant. With every semester, as more students submit bland, AI-generated emails and essays, the limitations of tools like ChatGPT become more obvious. At best, they churn out polite emails, generic responses, filler content, and basic presentations. Even then, their usefulness depends heavily on the quality of the prompt they're given.

This doesn't mean AI lacks value. Its real strength lies in data analysis — processing vast datasets quickly and efficiently. AI has proven indispensable in fields like astronomy, medicine, and climate science. From identifying cancer cells to detecting new exoplanets or gravitational waves, AI supports scientific innovation by handling data at a scale and speed beyond human capacity.

However, large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT function differently. They are not truly thinking or creating; rather, they statistically predict word sequences based on massive text datasets. As tools of pattern recognition, they imitate language without understanding it — a point highlighted by researchers like Timnit Gebru and Margaret Mitchell,

who call LLMs “stochastic parrots.” Noam Chomsky similarly describes them as statistical engines lacking the intuitive grammar-building capability of a child.

While AI may help a policymaker choose a podcast or summarize a report, it cannot draft original policy or investigate complex societal issues. For example, when a UK minister used ChatGPT to explore AI adoption among businesses, it took a journalist's intuition — not AI — to uncover this via the Freedom of Information Act. That kind of insight remains uniquely human.

Likewise, AI-generated art, like the popular Studio Ghibli-style renderings, is visually appealing but devoid of depth. It imitates form without understanding meaning. Compare that to the symbolic power of S.H. Raza's 'bindu,' which evolved over decades of introspection and philosophical engagement. That distinction — between imitation and creation — is what defines the human role in art, science, and innovation.

AI is a powerful tool, much like the internet once was. But it remains just that: a tool, not a replacement for human thought.

India-Pakistan: Are We Stuck in an 'Escalation Cycle' Now?

The recent terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, marked a significant moment in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan. This attack, attributed to The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba, exemplifies the continuing cycle of violence and retaliation between the two nations. India's response, including multiple airstrikes on Pakistani targets, raises the question: Are India and Pakistan now trapped in a dangerous "escalation cycle"?

This cycle is not new. The last time India faced a massive suicide attack was in February 2019, when 40 paramilitary soldiers were killed in a similar incident. India's retaliatory response then, which included an airstrike on the Jaish-e-Mohammad camp in Balakot, was aimed at both exacting revenge and sending a message. The airstrike in Pahalgam, dubbed 'Operation Sindoor,' follows this pattern but represents a significant shift in the choice and range of targets. By hitting at least nine terror sites in Pakistan, including those directly linked to the Pakistani army, India signaled that it would not tolerate continued support for terrorism from its neighbor.

This response could be seen as the "rationality of irrationality" — an emotional reaction driven by the desire to ensure deterrence against future terror attacks, especially those that cause mass casualties. In theory, such retaliations would typically be irrational, as they risk triggering greater losses in a prolonged conflict. However, India's actions have been calculated to prevent future acts of terrorism while maintaining a careful balance between retaliation and escalation management.

In response to India's strikes, Pakistan has escalated tensions by increasing cross-LoC artillery shelling



and launching drone strikes targeting Indian cities such as those in Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir. This retaliation highlights Pakistan's reluctance to back down, as it seeks to reassert its deterrence against India's growing conventional strength. Pakistan's defence minister has even warned of an "existential threat," suggesting that the risk of escalation — potentially even reaching a nuclear threshold — remains very real.

Yet, while Pakistan's rhetoric may seem exaggerated, the threat cannot be dismissed entirely. On the one hand, India has retaliated against Pakistan's drone and missile strikes by partially neutralising Pakistani air defences in Lahore, a move intended to both target military assets and manage escalation. On the other hand, Pakistan's continued targeting of Indian civilians and expanding its attacks across the border makes it increasingly difficult to find a way out of this escalating cycle.

Despite India's successful airstrikes and its claims of achieving its objectives, the situation remains tense. The Indian government's statement following the airstrikes that it would prefer to de-escalate and end hostilities has been contradicted by further retaliatory actions. Both countries are committing more resources and

effort to escalation, signaling a commitment to the cycle of retaliation.

The fragility of deterrence between the two nations is evident. While kinetic actions, such as airstrikes, may offer temporary satisfaction, they are not a long-term solution. In the long run, strategic measures such as suspending the Indus Water Treaty or placing Pakistan back on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist may exert pressure on Pakistan to reconsider its support for terrorism. However, the central issue remains the domestic political calculus of Pakistan's military leadership, which continues to influence the broader conflict. With Pakistan's current military leadership and civilian government being among the weakest in recent history, it is uncertain how far deterrence will be effective. The escalation between India and Pakistan raises an important question: Can both nations break out of this cycle of retaliatory violence, or are they doomed to repeat history? As both countries inch forward, the global community must watch closely, for this delicate situation has the potential to spiral into an uncontrollable conflict, with far-reaching consequences beyond their borders. The path ahead is unclear, but the escalation cycle, once set in motion, may prove difficult to halt.

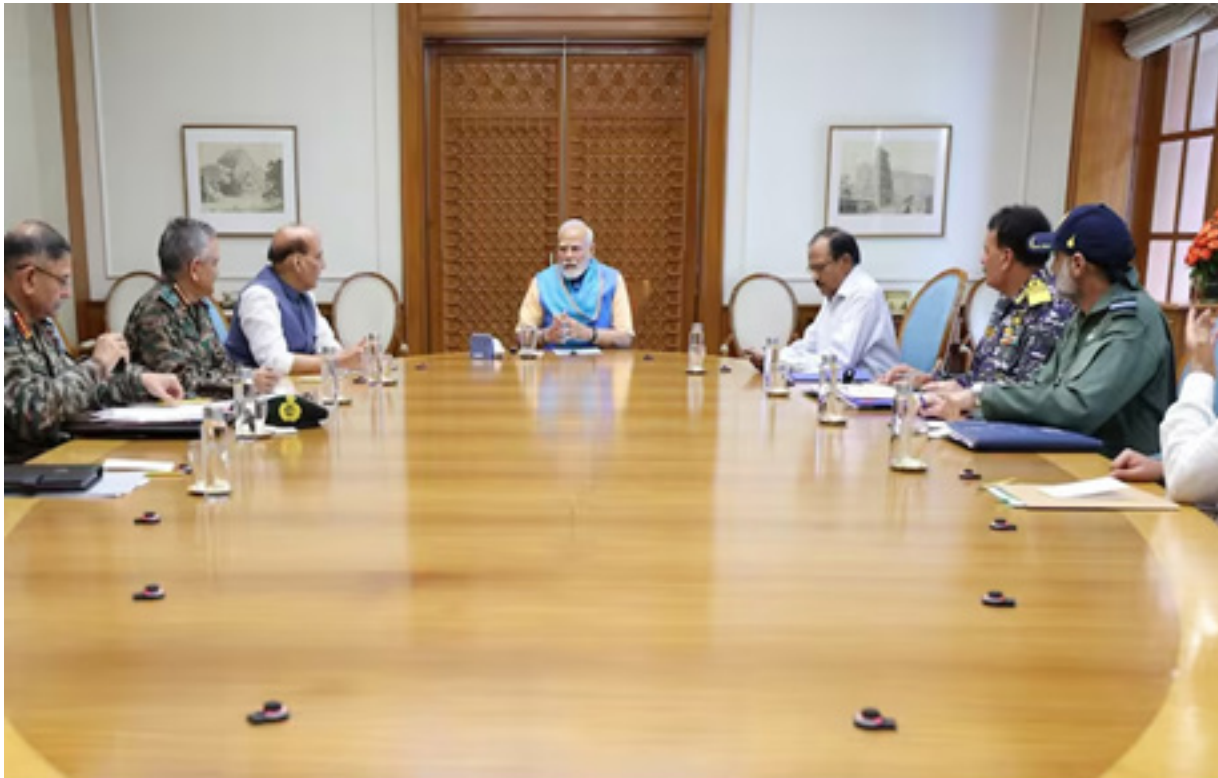
PM Modi Chairs High-Level Defence Meeting After Ceasefire Agreement Violations

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a crucial high-level meeting on Sunday with top defence officials following the recent ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The meeting, held at Modi's residence, was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, and the chiefs of the three armed services.

The meeting came amid a tense yet calm situation on the borders with Pakistan. While no new ceasefire violations were reported, India accused Pakistan of breaching the truce just hours after the agreement. The ceasefire, which was announced by US President Donald Trump on Saturday, was initially seen as a positive step toward de-escalation, with both India and Pakistan agreeing to halt military actions.

However, India quickly reported that Pakistani drones were spotted in various regions, including Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, and parts



of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The violations led to the re-imposition of blackouts in border areas. Despite the commitment from Pakistan to adhere to the ceasefire, the situation escalated when Pakistan resumed drone and missile activities in Indian territory, prompting an immediate retaliation by India. Pakistan later claimed it remained committed to the ceasefire and expressed hope that the agreement could pave

the way for a peaceful resolution to long-standing regional issues.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in a late-night briefing, made it clear that India had taken serious note of the violations. He called on Pakistan to handle the situation responsibly and emphasized that India's armed forces were on high alert and had been instructed to respond firmly to

any further violations along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC).

This meeting follows India's consistent stance on combating terrorism, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reaffirming India's unwavering commitment to tackling terrorism in all its forms. The situation remains fluid, with both sides closely monitoring the border.

Rahul, Kharge demand special Parliament session to discuss Pahalgam attack, Op Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Leaders of the Opposition in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding an immediate special session of Parliament. The session is sought to discuss critical issues, including the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the latest developments regarding cross-border firing.

In their letters, both Gandhi and Kharge emphasized the importance of convening the session to demonstrate a united national stance against terrorism. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, underscored the urgency of addressing the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 people, primarily tourists, were killed on



April 22. He reiterated the Opposition's call for Parliament to deliberate on the ongoing military operations, especially Operation Sindoor, which was launched as a retaliatory strike after the attack.

"We must seize this opportunity to display our collective resolve in the face of these challenges," Gandhi stated,

highlighting the need for a unified approach to national security. He further urged the Prime Minister to give serious and swift consideration to the request for a special session. Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, echoed Gandhi's concerns and referenced previous requests made by both leaders on April 28, seeking a session to

discuss the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Kharge also pointed out the significance of the ceasefire agreement brokered by US President Donald Trump, which was subsequently adopted by both India and Pakistan.

In a separate remark, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal suggested that an all-party meeting should be called but insisted that the meeting should only proceed if Prime Minister Modi personally participated.

The Opposition's calls reflect growing concerns over national security and the government's response to cross-border tensions. The proposed special session is expected to provide a platform for a comprehensive discussion on the evolving situation.

Indian Navy Was Ready To Strike Karachi, Kept Pak Ships Confined To Harbour

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Navy's strategic deployment in the Arabian Sea during Operation Sindoor played a critical role in compelling the Pakistan Navy to remain largely in harbor or close to the coast. This was revealed for the first time by Vice Admiral AN Pramod, who outlined the Navy's role in the counterstrike following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The attack, which occurred on April 22, 2025, had claimed 26 lives, primarily tourists, and prompted a swift and coordinated response from India. Vice Admiral Pramod explained that the Navy had quickly mobilized its assets, including carrier battle groups, surface forces, submarines, and aviation units, all of which were put on full combat readiness within hours of the attack. In a display of military might, the Navy conducted



multiple weapon firings in the Arabian Sea to refine tactics and ensure readiness for potential offensive actions.

"The aim was to revalidate our crew, armaments, equipment, and platforms to deliver precise ordnance on selected targets," said Vice Admiral Pramod. He further revealed that the Indian Navy maintained a "deterrent posture," ready to strike select

targets both at sea and on land, including Karachi, should the situation demand. This forward deployment, according to the senior officer, forced Pakistan's naval and air units into a defensive posture, largely confined to harbors or the coastal regions, a situation that was continuously monitored by India. The Navy's approach, while ready for offensive action, was carefully calibrated to avoid escalation.

"Our response was measured, proportionate, non-escalatory, and responsible from Day 1," Vice Admiral Pramod affirmed. He highlighted that the Indian Navy's operational dominance at sea played a significant role in Pakistan's eventual request for a ceasefire, which came after a series of military actions from the Indian Army and Air Force.

In a broader context, the Indian Armed Forces' response was a coordinated effort. Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Director General of Military Operations, noted that any future violations would be met with a fierce response. Air Marshal AK Bharti, representing the Indian Air Force, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the precision and limited scope of India's airstrikes, which were focused solely on Pakistani military installations to avoid civilian casualties.



Army Chief Grants Full Authority to Army Commanders to retaliate to Pak's violations

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In response to Pakistan's violation of the ceasefire arrangement on May 10, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi has granted full authority to Indian Army commanders to take counter-action in the event of any further violations of the understanding reached between India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan had agreed on Saturday to cease all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect. However, despite this understanding, reports emerged that Pakistan violated the ceasefire during the night of May 10-11, prompting a review of the security situation by the Indian Army leadership.

Following the violation, General Dwivedi convened a meeting with the Army Commanders responsible for the western borders to assess the situation. The Army emphasized that the Chief of Army Staff had given commanders the autonomy to take necessary countermeasures if there were further breaches of the understanding that was agreed upon during the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) talks held earlier on May 10.

The Army's statement reiterated India's commitment to upholding the ceasefire arrangement but made it clear that any further violations would be met with a decisive military response. "The Army Chief has granted full authority to the Army Commanders for counteraction in the kinetic domain to any violation of the understanding reached," the Army said.

This move underscores India's readiness to protect its borders and respond to any provocations with military precision. While both nations had previously committed to de-escalating tensions, the Indian Army's clear stance signals that any future violations will not go unanswered, reinforcing the government's resolve to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

Operation Sindoor: Over 100 terrorists including high-value targets killed in May 7 strikes: says DGMO



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a special briefing on Sunday, India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai revealed that the Pakistan Army lost approximately 35-40 personnel between May 7 and May 10 during retaliatory strikes along the Line of Control (LoC). The counterattacks were launched in response to aggressive actions by Pakistan, including drone and aircraft incursions into Indian airspace.

Lt Gen Ghai detailed that on the night of May 8-9, Pakistan made multiple unsuccessful attempts to target Indian military infrastructure using drones and aircraft. These attempts were followed by renewed violations of the LoC, which escalated into intense firefights. The Indian Army, in retaliation, conducted swift and precise counterstrikes, aided by the Indian Air Force, targeting key military facilities.

Operation Sindoor, which was launched as a response to the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that resulted in the loss of 26 Indian lives, was designed with a clear military objective: to punish the perpetrators and dismantle terror infrastructure. Lt Gen Ghai emphasized that the operation's focus was not on civilian or military casualties but on destroying terror networks that posed a threat to India's security.

Air Marshal AK Bharti, also present at the briefing, elaborated on the extensive strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force, which targeted Pakistani airbases, command centers, and air defense systems. Indian strikes were reportedly carried out on bases including Chaklala, Rafiqui, Rahim Yar Khan, Sargodha, Bhulari, and Jacobabad, sending a strong message of deterrence against further aggression.

Pakistan Welcomes Trump's Offer to Mediate Kashmir Issue

While Indian Opposition Criticizes the Proposal

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

Pakistan has expressed support for US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and Pakistan on the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Trump's comments, made on Sunday, come after the recent India-Pakistan ceasefire. On his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump took credit for the ceasefire and vowed to work with both nations to address the "thousand years" of issues related to Kashmir.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a 'thousand years,' a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump wrote.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry promptly welcomed the offer, emphasizing the importance of resolving the Kashmir issue for regional peace and security. A statement on X (formerly Twitter) said, "We also appreciate President Trump's expressed willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute—a longstanding issue that has serious implications for peace and security in South Asia and beyond."

While Pakistan welcomed the proposal, leaders of India's opposition parties voiced their strong objections. Congress



MP Manish Tewari criticized Trump's framing of the Kashmir issue as a "thousand-year-old conflict," pointing out that the dispute began in 1947, when Pakistan invaded Jammu and Kashmir shortly after India's independence. Tewari also stated that Kashmir was legally ceded to India by Maharaja Hari Singh in October 1947, highlighting Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of the region.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha further expressed discontent, calling Trump a "new 'sarpanch'" and questioning his right to comment on the Kashmir

issue. Jha contended that Trump's involvement undermines the Shimla Agreement, which emphasizes bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. He added that India's national sentiment was akin to the mood during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, suggesting that such matters should be addressed only by India and Pakistan.

Trump's proposal has sparked a divide, with Pakistan showing optimism for international mediation, while India's opposition parties strongly reject foreign involvement in the issue.



Trump Signs Executive Order for "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation Program

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order launching "Project Homecoming," a self-deportation program designed to offer undocumented migrants free flights and cash incentives to voluntarily leave the United States. The move, which Trump claims will save taxpayers "billions and billions" of dollars, aims to make it easier for illegal migrants to depart without facing legal consequences.

In a video posted alongside the announcement, Trump outlined the details of the program. "Today, I signed an Executive Order to launch the first-ever self-deportation program. Illegal aliens who stay in America face punishments, including sudden deportation, in a place and manner solely at our discretion," he said. He further emphasized that any undocumented migrant could show up at an airport, book a free flight via a newly launched app called CBP Home, and leave the country without repercussions.

The program also includes a "very important exit bonus" to encourage migrants to participate in the self-deportation initiative. Earlier this week, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a \$1,000 stipend for migrants who voluntarily leave. The department asserts that this approach is "70 percent cheaper" than the current cost of detaining and deporting a migrant, which amounts to over \$17,000 per person.

Trump argued that the "deportation bonus" would save American taxpayers billions of dollars, with long-term savings amounting to trillions once all undocumented migrants leave. However, he warned that those who do not comply with the program will face "severe consequences," including jail time, financial penalties, property confiscation, and sudden deportation.

While the program is part of Trump's broader crackdown on immigration, including efforts to end various legal immigration pathways, it reflects his ongoing commitment to strict immigration enforcement since taking office. Trump concluded his announcement by stating that while illegal migrants who comply may face consequences, they could eventually have the opportunity to return to the US under specific conditions.

Pope Leo XIV Urges Global Peace in First Message to Crowds, Calling for an End to War

Pope Leo XIV has appealed to the world's major powers to end conflict, urging "no more war" in his first Sunday message to the crowds in St. Peter's Square since his election as the new pontiff. Elected on May 8, Pope Leo used his address to emphasize the need for a global shift toward peace, particularly in conflict-ridden regions such as Ukraine and Gaza.

The pope expressed deep concern over the ongoing war in Ukraine, stating that he carries in his heart the "suffering of the beloved people of Ukraine." He called for "authentic and lasting peace" and emphasized the importance of a ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate release of all Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Pope Leo also welcomed the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan, describing



it as a hopeful step toward lasting peace. He expressed his prayers for a world where the "miracle of peace" could be achieved, stressing that there is still much work to be done to end global conflict. Reflecting on the 80th anniversary of the end of World

War II, he reminded the world of the devastation caused by past wars, which claimed around 60 million lives.

He echoed a phrase often used by the late Pope Francis, warning that the world is living through "the dramatic scenario of a Third World War being fought piecemeal." While celebrating recent ceasefire agreements, Pope Leo acknowledged the many ongoing global conflicts, urging world leaders to negotiate for peace and to work toward a just, lasting resolution.

With a strong call for diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and global solidarity, Pope Leo's message was a powerful reminder of the church's role in advocating for peace. "No more war!" he exclaimed, emphasizing that the need for peace is more pressing than ever in today's turbulent world.

"Positive Sign": Ukraine's Zelensky Welcomes Putin's Call For Peace Talks

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has expressed cautious optimism about Russia's recent openness to engage in peace talks, acknowledging it as a "positive sign." He highlighted that the world has long awaited this development, signaling a potential path to ending the ongoing war. However, Zelensky emphasized that before any meaningful peace talks can take place, a ceasefire must be established to create the conditions for dialogue.

In his statement, Zelensky made it clear that a ceasefire is the critical first step in ending the conflict. "The entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time," he said, underscoring the importance of de-escalating the situation before entering into serious negotiations. He stressed that without a ceasefire, any discussions on peace would be premature, as the ongoing hostilities continue to affect civilians and military personnel alike.

On the other hand, Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his recent remarks, rejected the idea of a ceasefire at this stage and instead proposed that direct talks with Ukraine should resume in Istanbul



on May 15. Putin's stance seems to reflect Russia's desire to maintain pressure on Ukraine while pushing for renewed negotiations, albeit without an immediate halt to military actions.

The contrasting positions of the two leaders highlight the challenges in finding common ground for peace. While Zelensky advocates for a ceasefire as a prerequisite for talks, Putin's rejection of this condition suggests that the path to peace remains fraught with difficulties. As the war continues, the international community watches closely, hoping that diplomatic efforts can eventually bring about an end to the devastating conflict.

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

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

In a significant political move, Bangladesh's interim government has announced the ban of the Awami League, the political party led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, amid an ongoing trial related to the violent crackdown on mass protests that led to her ouster in 2024.

The decision was confirmed by Asif Nazrul, a government advisor on law and justice, who stated that the ban would cover all activities of the Awami League, including those conducted in cyberspace, under the Anti-Terrorism Act. This action will remain in place until the trial of the party and its leaders reaches a conclusion.

The decision comes in the wake of a brutal government crackdown on protests in July 2024, during which up to 1,400 demonstrators lost their lives, according to the United Nations. The crackdown, ordered by Hasina's administration, was aimed at silencing opposition protests. Hasina herself has been in self-imposed exile in India since being ousted and has defied an arrest warrant issued by



Bangladesh for charges of crimes against humanity.

The interim government, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, who assumed office following Hasina's removal, justified the ban by emphasizing the need to ensure national sovereignty, security, and the protection of protesters, plaintiffs, and tribunal witnesses. Alongside this move, Yunus's administration has also amended the country's International Crimes Tribunal Act, granting authorities the power to prosecute political parties and their affiliated organizations. In response to the ban, the Awami

League rejected the decision, calling it "illegitimate." The timing of the ban follows significant public pressure, with thousands of people rallying outside Yunus's residence, demanding the party's dissolution. Meanwhile, the political climate remains tense, as former Awami League leader Abdul Hamid successfully fled the country, triggering the dismissal of several police officers involved in airport security.

This ban marks a new chapter in Bangladesh's political crisis, and the fate of the Awami League and its leaders will continue to unfold as the trial progresses.

Markets on Edge Amid India-Pak Tensions: Defensive Plays Gain Favor, Selective Buying Advised.

In the wake of India-Pak tensions, the stock markets are likely to experience severe turbulence this week. Investors should remain vigilant. Quality shares can be bought if they are available at attractive prices. There may be a huge demand for defense shares this week. Courier, shipbuilding, refinery, and textile sectors appear bullish. Telecom infrastructure, railway wagons, metals, paper, and hospitality shares are bearish.

Stock Recommendations

Apollo Microsystems:

Momentum and relative strength have increased in these shares, which have been undergoing correction for three months. Support has been found once again at the crucial Rs. 110 level. Investors should take positions in this counter, which closed at Rs. 130 with a gain of 11.8% last Friday, with a target price of Rs. 155. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.119.

Data Patterns:

Demand for these shares has increased in the wake of India-Pakistan tensions. These shares, which have been in a down-trend for a few months, have rebounded since the beginning of March. Moreover, momentum and delivery are increasing significantly. In this counter, which closed at Rs.2295 with a gain of 4.2% last Friday, investors should enter at Rs.2250 with a target price of Rs.2550/2900. Stop loss at Rs.2200 is mandatory.

Astra Micro:

These shares have undergone a correction after reaching a lifetime high in July last year. They have rebounded again since the beginning of March. They have gained 28% in the



last month. Momentum and relative strength have not returned. Investors should take a position at Rs.850 with a target price of Rs.1050 on Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.825.

Bharat Dynamics Limited:

These shares, which reached a lifetime high of Rs.1794 in July last year, have fallen till March. They have rebounded strongly after forming a double bottom at Rs.1000. They have risen by 28% in the last three months. Investors should enter the Rs.1500 range with a target price of Rs.1850 on Friday in these shares. Stop loss is mandatory at Rs.1430.



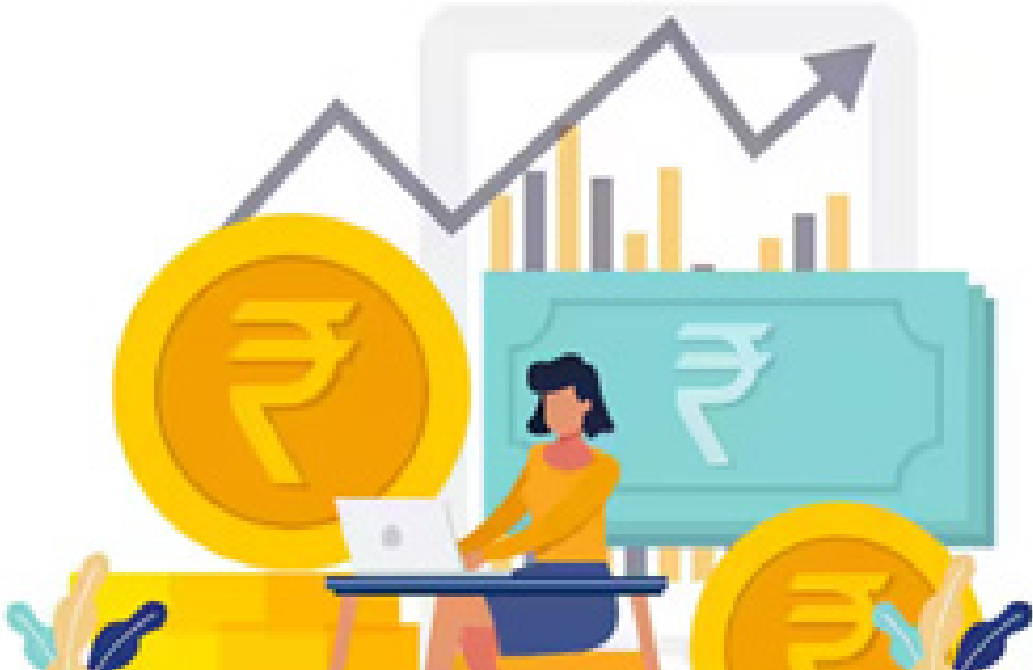
Paras Defense:

This counter, which has been consolidating for a long time, has suddenly increased its momentum and relative strength since February. They are rebounding at a rocket speed. It is preparing to reach the lifetime high of Rs. 1600. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 1400 range with a target price of Rs. 1650 in these shares, which closed at Rs. 1458 with a gain of 7.3% last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 1340.



Indian Economy Expected to Grow by 6.5% in FY26, Driven by Private Sector Investments: CII

India's economy is poised to grow by 6.5% in the current financial year, bolstered by strong domestic fundamentals and a revival in private sector investments, according to Sanjiv Puri, the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Speaking to PTI, Puri expressed confidence in the nation's growth prospects, citing a solid economic foundation that will help the country navigate global uncertainties.



"We are looking at 6.5% growth, which is achievable due to India's robust economic foundation," Puri said, pointing out key factors that will contribute to this growth, including softening interest rates, declining inflation, new personal income tax relief, and a surge in both public and private sector investments during the latter half of the previous year.

Puri also emphasized the importance of expanding trade partnerships to ensure India's economic growth amidst increasing protectionism globally. He noted that many countries, including the US, have introduced high tariffs and new trade barriers, creating challenges for global trade. To counter this, he advocated for India to strengthen bilateral trade deals with strategic partners, including the United States and the European Union.

"We must focus on bilateral trade agreements that benefit India's long-term interests," Puri stressed.

He further proposed the creation of a three-tier tariff framework for specific sectors to help India stay competitive in the global market and counter evolving trade dynamics.

In terms of domestic priorities, Puri highlighted the need for investments in agriculture, climate adaptation, and sustainability to drive long-term economic resilience. He also noted that while rural demand is picking up, urban consumption remains subdued but is expected to recover in the coming months.

Private sector investment is increasing in key sectors such as energy, transportation, hospitality, metals, and chemicals, although geopolitical uncertainties continue to create some hesitation among investors. However, Puri remains optimistic that with the right policies and strategies in place, India will continue to experience strong growth in the near future.

Equity Mutual Fund Inflows Drop 3.2% in April, SIPs Hit Record High

Equity mutual funds saw a slight dip in inflows in April, with a 3.2% month-on-month decline, according to the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Inflows for the month stood at Rs 24,269.26 crore, down from Rs 25,082.01 crore in March.

The drop was seen across various segments, including small-cap funds, which experienced a 2.25% decrease in net inflows, totaling Rs 3,999.95 crore in April, compared to Rs 4,092.12 crore in March. Despite the overall decline in equity inflows, the total amount through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) reached a record high of Rs 26,631.88 crore, highlighting the resilience of long-term investment strategies.

The decline in equity inflows could be attributed to several market dynamics, including shifting investor sentiment and the overall market conditions in April. However, the record SIP inflows signal continued investor confidence in the Indian equity market, particularly among retail investors who have increasingly turned to SIPs as a way to invest in a disciplined and long-term manner.



The rise in SIP investments is particularly notable, reflecting a growing trend of financial inclusion and investor education in India. SIPs allow investors to participate in the market with smaller, regular investments, making it accessible to a broader population.

Despite the drop in overall equity mutual fund inflows, the consistency in SIP contributions demonstrates the strength of India's mutual fund industry. The trend towards SIPs suggests that investors are looking beyond short-term market fluctuations and focusing on the long-term growth potential of the equity markets.

As investor confidence continues to shift towards more structured and long-term investment avenues, equity mutual funds and SIPs will remain a significant part of the Indian investment landscape.

Adani Power to Supply 1500 MW to Uttar Pradesh from Upcoming Greenfield Power Plant

Adani Power announced on Saturday that it has won a competitive bid to supply 1500 MW (net) of thermal power to Uttar Pradesh, a move that will play a crucial role in meeting the state's growing energy demands. The power will be supplied at a competitive rate of Rs 5.383 per unit from an upcoming greenfield 2x800 MW Ultra-supercritical power plant, set to be built in Uttar Pradesh under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DB-FOO) model.



The project received approval from the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet earlier this month, paving the way for a long-term Power Supply Agreement (PSA) between Adani Power and Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL), following the receipt of the Letter of Award (LoA). The new plant is expected to be operational by FY30, and the company aims to supply reliable, high-quality power to the state.

SB Khyalia, the CEO of Adani Power, expressed enthusiasm about the win, stating, "We are excited to be part of meeting Uttar Pradesh's rapidly growing power demand. We aim to establish a modern and low-emission Ultra-supercritical plant in the state and start supplying power by FY30."

Adani Power plans to invest approximately USD 2 billion in the development of the plant and its associated infrastructure. During

the construction phase, the project is expected to generate between 8,000 and 9,000 direct and indirect jobs, with 2,000 permanent jobs created once the plant becomes operational.

The increasing demand for thermal power in Uttar Pradesh, which is expected to rise by 11,000 MW by 2033-34 due to factors such as industrialization, urbanization, and modernization, underscores the importance of this project. This 1500 MW supply is a significant step toward meeting the state's future energy requirements.

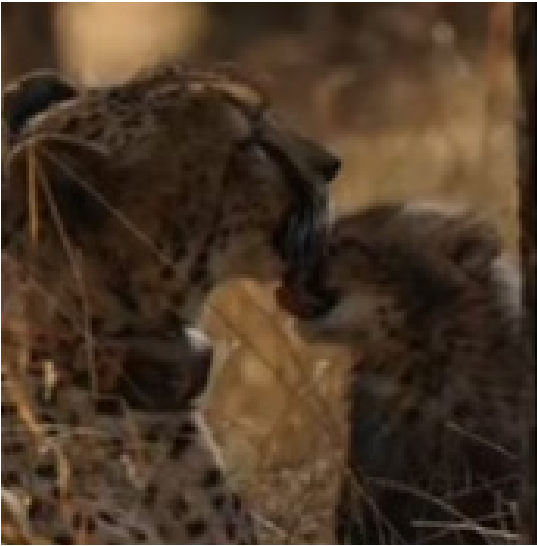
This marks the second major power sale agreement Adani Power has secured in the last year, following a 6,600 MW PSA with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL) in September 2024. Adani Power, a key player in India's private thermal power sector, currently operates 17,510 MW of installed thermal power capacity across various states.

Kuno National Park Celebrates Mother’s Day With Adorable Tribute to Cheetah Moms

Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh marked Mother's Day 2025 with a touching video tribute to its cheetah mothers and their cubs, delighting wildlife lovers across the country. The heartfelt video features South African cheetahs Nirva and Veera, who have played pivotal roles in the growing success of India's ambitious Project Cheetah — the effort to reintroduce the species after its extinction in the country.

The video, shared on the park's official social media platforms, offers a glimpse into the tender moments between cheetah mothers and their young. Veera, seen calmly resting under a tree, is closely accompanied by her two three-month-old cubs. While she appears serene, her alert eyes remain vigilant, a testament to her strong maternal instinct. Nirva is seen tending to her five newborn cubs, born on April 28. These births have pushed India's total cheetah population, including cubs, to 31.

The visual also features Jwala and Asha, two other cheetah mothers who continue to nurture and train their young. Jwala, a protective mother, is seen with her four 15-month-old cubs,



guiding them as they learn to hunt and navigate the wild. Asha, meanwhile, is seen coaching her three 16-month-old cubs, teaching them vital wilderness skills to survive on their own.

“For the mom who gives without asking, always keeps us safe, and loves us no matter what—Happy Mother's Day! Tag the mom who gives you strength every day,” read the caption alongside the video, celebrating the spirit of motherhood in both the animal kingdom and human world.



Nirva and Veera, both reintroduced from South Africa, symbolize the ongoing success of Project Cheetah. Despite challenges such as cub mortality in the early stages of the program, the births of these new cubs are a hopeful sign for the project's future.

With these recent additions, Kuno National Park is fast becoming a symbol of wildlife resurgence in India. The Mother's Day tribute not only celebrated the cheetah moms but also reinforced the growing importance of conservation efforts in restoring ecological balance.

TikTok’s Dangerous ‘#ChromebookChallenge’ Sparks Fires in US Schools, Raising Safety Alarms

A new and alarming TikTok trend dubbed the “#ChromebookChallenge” is causing serious safety concerns in the United States, as students attempt to damage their school-issued laptops in a bid to gain social media attention. The challenge involves inserting metal objects like paper clips or pencils into the USB ports of Chromebooks, leading to electrical short circuits that can result in smoking devices, small fires, or even explosions.



The challenge has gained momentum on TikTok, and several school districts have already reported incidents linked to the trend. According to NBC News, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in Maryland has reported up to 10 such cases, with students damaging Chromebooks and in some instances triggering evacuations due to smoke or fire.

“In addition to posing serious safety hazards, these actions can lead to costly repairs and disciplinary consequences,” said a PGCPS spokesperson. The district has sent out alerts to parents and staff warning them of the risks and urging vigilance.

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) in Virginia

also noted a sharp increase in Chromebook damage and repairs, suggesting students in the area may be participating in the challenge. “Kids might see this as a joke or a harmless prank,” said Dan Adams of LCPS. “But this can turn into a really dangerous situation. Our priority is keeping students safe.”

Experts warn that the lithi-

um-ion batteries in Chromebooks are highly sensitive and can become volatile when tampered with. A short circuit or internal damage could lead to the battery overheating, releasing toxic fumes, or in worst-case scenarios, exploding. Fire officials are urging schools and families to educate students about the risks involved.

Parents are also being cautioned that they may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacements, as the Chromebooks are typically school property.

The trend has reignited the conversation around the dangers of viral social media challenges and the role platforms like TikTok play in influencing youth behavior. Authorities and educators are working to contain the spread of this trend and prevent further incidents.

YouTuber Takes on “No Sitting” Challenge for a Week, Quits on Day 5 Due to Physical Strain

YouTuber Lucas Ball, known to his followers as Pigmie, recently took on an extreme wellness challenge by attempting to stay on his feet for an entire week without sitting down. Inspired by health experts who recommend standing for two to four hours a day to combat sedentary lifestyles, Ball aimed to remain upright for 16 hours each day. However, by Day 5, he was forced to quit due to physical strain.

To kick off his experiment, Ball invested in a bamboo standing desk, which he hoped would improve his productivity while working from home. “It really helped me stay focused and avoid distractions,” he said. However, the physical toll of standing for long periods soon began to take its toll. By Day 3, Ball was experiencing soreness in his legs and feet, with his posture starting to slump. He also found himself snacking more frequently through-



out the day. “Maybe I was hungry from burning extra calories... I constantly ate throughout the day,” he admitted.

By the fifth day, the challenge had become too much. With aching legs, disrupted sleep, and noticeable posture issues, Ball decided to end the experiment early. “It looks like I’m starting to

form this slouched-over position, especially in the upper back,” he observed. While he did notice some positive changes, such as improved digestion and a 30% boost in productivity, the physical discomfort was too much to bear.

Despite quitting early, Ball reflected on the challenge's benefits. He had gained a slight improvement in his lower spine's curve but also noticed some unintended weight gain—likely due to the extra snacking. Ball stated that while he would continue standing for a few hours daily, he planned to incorporate more balance into his routine, allowing himself breaks when he started to feel fatigued.

In the end, the “No Sitting” challenge provided a reminder of the importance of moderation, even when experimenting with wellness trends.

Star Wars-Inspired Hoverbike ‘Airbike’ Unveiled With 200 Kmph Speed, Internet Amazed

In a technological leap straight out of science fiction, Polish inventor Tomasz Patan has unveiled the Airbike — a futuristic, jet-powered hoverbike capable of reaching speeds of up to 200 km/h. Developed by Patan's startup, Volonaut, the Airbike was revealed on May 4, popularly celebrated as Star Wars Day, adding to the sci-fi flair of the launch.



The Airbike is designed as a compact, single-passenger flying vehicle that promises an exhilarating ride with an unobstructed 360-degree view. Volonaut describes the Airbike as a “superbike for the skies,” powered by jet propulsion rather than traditional rotors or propellers, giving it a sleek, gravity-defying appearance.

According to the company, the Airbike is seven times lighter than an average motorcycle thanks to cutting-edge carbon fiber construction, 3D printing, and a minimalist design approach. This lightweight build, combined with its powerful propulsion system, enables the bike to achieve high speeds while maintaining agility and control.

“The unique riding position helps the pilot to quickly become one with the flying machine, delivering a sensation of complete freedom,” said the company in a statement.

While specific technical specifications remain under wraps, Volonaut revealed that the Air-

bike has just emerged from its “stealth mode” development phase. The reveal video, shared online, shows the Airbike hovering and maneuvering through test flights, leaving viewers both impressed and puzzled.

On social media, the Airbike quickly became a viral sensation. Reactions ranged from awe to disbelief. “My brain can't process what's happening—where's the rotor blade? Is it a jet engine?” one user wrote. Another commented, “The miniaturisation here is wild. This seems like magic. Way to go, Stark!”

Some, however, expressed skepticism, citing the low-resolution quality of the promotional video. “Why post such low-quality footage for something this revolutionary?” one viewer asked.

Regardless of the mixed reactions, the Airbike has ignited excitement around the potential future of personal aerial transport, with many likening it to the speeder bikes seen in the Star Wars universe.

“Pretty Crazy To Be Here”: American YouTuber Drew Binsky Stranded in Pakistan Amid Tensions

Amid escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan, American travel vlogger Drew Binsky has revealed that he is stranded in northern Pakistan near the sensitive Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) region. Sharing his current status with his followers on Instagram, Binsky assured that he is safe but described the situation as “pretty crazy.”



The well-known YouTuber, who was scheduled to fly back to the United States from Islamabad, said his plans were disrupted after Pakistan closed its airspace for all commercial flights. This came in the wake of intensifying conflict between the two countries, sparked by a series of cross-border strikes and drone attacks.

“I’m stuck in Pakistan right now due to the conflict with India, and all airports are closed,” Binsky wrote in his post. “Thanks for all your thoughts and messages – I’m doing okay! I love this country and am excited to continue exploring the Northern regions until I can get out. Make peace, not war.”

In the video, Binsky captured visuals of local protests and day-to-day life in the region, noting how surprisingly calm the locals appear despite the tension. “Shops are open... just another day in the life here,” he said, adding that people around him seemed largely unbothered.

Binsky explained that he is currently exploring the northern

areas close to Kashmir and is considering traveling overland to Kabul, Afghanistan, to catch a flight home from there, given the ongoing closure of Pakistani airports.

His situation unfolds as India carried out ‘Operation Sindoor’—a retaliatory strike on terror camps in Pakistan and PoK—after a deadly attack in Pahalgam killed 26 people. In response, Pakistan launched a wave of drone and munitions attacks along the western border, which the Indian Army said were effectively repelled.

Due to the rising hostilities, both nations have imposed heavy restrictions on air travel. India has closed 32 airports to civilian flights until at least May 15, while Pakistan has shut down its airspace entirely.

Binsky's experience offers a firsthand perspective on the ground realities in conflict zones, blending travel storytelling with the unpredictability of geopolitics.

Smriti Mandhana Slams 11th ODI Century, Climbs to Third in Women’s ODI Century-Makers List

India’s star opener Smriti Mandhana etched her name deeper into cricketing history with a sensational knock during the ODI tri-series final against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The stylish left-hander scored a blistering 116 runs off just 101 balls, an innings decorated with 15 boundaries and two sixes. This marked her 11th century in One Day Internationals, propelling her past England’s Tammy Beaumont to become the third-highest century scorer in women’s ODI cricket.

Only Australia’s former captain Meg Lanning (15 centuries) and New Zealand’s Suzie Bates (13 centuries) now stand ahead of Mandhana in the elite list.

Mandhana’s



was a commanding display of stroke play and composure. She reached her 32nd ODI fifty in 55 balls, building momentum as the innings progressed. A standout moment came in the 31st over when Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu was taken apart by Mandhana, conceding four consecutive

boundaries as India’s total surged forward. Mandhana brought up her century in 92 balls with 12 fours and two sixes.

She shared a crucial 120-run partnership with Pratika, who contributed 30 runs. Their stand laid a strong foundation for India, taking the team

past 190 before Mandhana was dismissed in the 33rd over.

India maintained their aggressive approach, with contributions from Harleen Deol (47), Jemimah Rodrigues (44 off 29), and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (41 off 30) powering the side to a mammoth total. India ended their innings at 342/7 in 50 overs, with Deepti Sharma finishing unbeaten on 20.

This performance not only highlighted India’s batting depth but also underlined Mandhana’s consistency and growing stature in international cricket. At 28, she continues to be a pivotal figure for the Women in Blue and now holds a spot among the top three ODI century-makers in women’s cricket history.

India Clinch Tri-Nation ODI Series with Commanding 97-Run Win Over Sri Lanka

India Women capped off a dominant campaign in the Women’s Tri-Nation ODI Series with a convincing 97-run victory over hosts Sri Lanka in the final, held at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday. The star of the show was vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who hammered her 11th ODI century to power India to a massive total, while bowlers Amanjot Kaur and Sneha Rana led the charge with the ball to seal the win.



Opting to bat first, India put on a batting masterclass. Mandhana was in sublime form, crafting a brilliant 116 off 101 deliveries, an innings decorated with 15 fours and two sixes. Her knock laid the platform for a dominant Indian innings. Supporting roles came from Harleen Deol (47), Harmanpreet Kaur (41 off 30), and Jemimah Rodrigues (44 off 29), as India piled on an imposing 342/7 in their 50 overs.

Sri Lanka’s bowlers found it tough to contain India’s aggressive batting. Sugandika Kumari, Dewmi Vihanga, and Malki Madara managed two wickets each but were expensive, leaking runs at crucial stages.

In reply, Sri Lanka made a spirited start but failed to keep up with the asking rate. Cap-

tain Chamari Athapaththu top-scored with 51 runs, while Nilakshika Silva contributed 48. Vishmi Gunaratne also chipped in with 36. However, the Indian bowling unit kept chipping away at the wickets.

Sneha Rana emerged as the pick of the bowlers with a superb spell, claiming 4 wickets for 38 runs. Amanjot Kaur also played a key role with the ball, finishing with 3 for 54. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 245 in 48.2 overs, falling well short of the target.

With this victory, India not only lifted the Tri-Nation ODI Series trophy but also demonstrated their growing depth and consistency in the format. Smriti Mandhana’s century and the all-round team effort capped a memorable day for the Women in Blue.

Sabalenka Fights Back to Reach Italian Open Last 16 Amid Swiatek Exit

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka showed resilience and grit as she battled back from a set down to defeat Sofia Kenin 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday, securing her place in the last 16 of the Italian Open. The Belarusian, who has already claimed WTA 1000 titles in Miami and Madrid this season, remains in strong contention for her first crown in Rome following the shock exit of three-time champion Iga Swiatek.

Sabalenka will now face Ukraine’s Marta Kostyuk in the next round, after Kostyuk eased past Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-2. Despite a sluggish start, Sabalenka’s championship pedigree shone through as she overcame an erratic opening set and frequent backhand errors to turn the match around.

Kenin, a former Australian Open champion, capitalized on Sabalenka’s early struggles to claim the first set. Frustrated with her performance and appearing unhappy with the court conditions, Sabalenka nevertheless regained her rhythm. She broke Kenin early in the second set and held firm to level the match.

The decisive third set saw more drama as Sa-



balenka broke Kenin at the seventh attempt, only to be immediately broken back. But from there, the top seed found her composure and took control of the match, showcasing the fierce determination that has made her one of the most consistent players this season.

Elsewhere in Rome, the men’s draw continued to heat up. Carlos Alcaraz was scheduled to face Laslo Djere in the day’s final match as he chases a maiden title at the Foro Italico. The possibility of an Alcaraz vs. Sinner final remains alive, with Italian star Jannik Sinner returning in dominant fashion against Mariano Navone after serving a three-month doping suspension.

In other men’s matches, Frenchman Arthur Fils produced an impressive comeback to defeat former Rome finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Fils may next face defending champion Alexander Zverev, who was set to take on Lithuanian qualifier Vilius Gaubas.

Daniil Medvedev also advanced comfortably, beating Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-1, and could face Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti, who was scheduled to play Brandon Nakashima next.

Deepika, Salunkhe Win Bronze as India Bags 7 Medals at Archery WC

India wrapped up a successful campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai with a total of seven medals, capped off by bronze medal finishes from seasoned archer Deepika Kumari and rising star Parth Salunkhe in the recurve category on Sunday.



Veteran archer Deepika Kumari, a four-time Olympian, bounced back from a tough semifinal loss to claim bronze in the women’s recurve individual event. Facing Korean world No. 1 Lim Sihyeon in the semifinal, Deepika was outmatched 1-7 in a largely one-sided contest, repeating her exit at the same stage against the same opponent in Yecheon exactly a year ago.

However, the 30-year-old Indian displayed exceptional composure and tactical sharpness in the bronze medal playoff against another Korean, Kang Chae Young. After a tied first set (27-27), Deepika pulled ahead with a 28 in the second. Though Kang hit a perfect 30 to level the score at 3-3 in the third, Deepika answered back with her own flawless 30 in the fourth and closed the match with a 29 to seal a 7-3 victory.

In the men’s recurve, 21-year-old Parth Salunkhe secured his first World Cup podium finish, clinching bronze after a gritty performance. Despite a 1-7 semifinal defeat to Korean legend and top seed Kim

Woojin, Salunkhe regrouped impressively in the bronze medal match against French archer Baptiste Addis. Starting with a perfect 30, Salunkhe set the tone, though he faltered slightly in the second set with an 8 that led to a tie. The third set was evenly matched at 25-25, but Addis surged with a perfect 30 in the fourth to make it 4-4. In the final set, Salunkhe held his nerve under pressure, shooting two 10s (including an X) and a 9 to edge out Addis 6-4.

These two medals added to India’s five-medal haul from the compound archers on Saturday, including a standout triple-medal effort from Madhura Dharmangankar, taking the nation’s final tally to seven and marking a strong outing at the Shanghai leg of the World Cup series.

IPL Set to Resume on May 16 or 17; Final Likely to Be Shifted from Rain-Hit Kolkata

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 is expected to resume on May 16 or 17 following a week-long suspension due to the India-Pakistan military conflict. With the ceasefire now in place, the BCCI and IPL Governing Council have initiated discussions with franchises, broadcasters, and host associations to finalize the remaining schedule of the tournament.

According to a reliable IPL source, the league will likely restart with the previously scheduled match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow. The final, originally slated for June 1 in Kolkata, may be relocated due to a concerning rain forecast for the day. Ahmedabad has emerged as a strong alternative venue if weather concerns



persist.

“There will be no change in venues for Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator, which are set to take place in Hyderabad,” the source confirmed. However, Delhi and Dharamsala are unlikely to host any more matches, with all equipment already removed from these locations.

The BCCI is also considering hosting the remaining 16 matches at just four venues to simplify logistics. The potential hosts include Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Lucknow. This move would mean home fixtures for Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals, and Mumbai Indians could be scrapped.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla

stated that efforts are being made to resume the IPL at the earliest, with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirming that consultation with the Government of India will be a crucial step before the final decision.

The suspended match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals, abandoned midway due to security concerns, may see both teams awarded a point each. Punjab had reached 122/1 in 10.1 overs when the game was halted.

With three teams—CSK, RR, and SRH—already out of contention, the playoff race intensifies among seven teams. Gujarat Titans currently top the table with 16 points and a superior net run rate (NRR), followed by RCB, PBKS, MI, DC, KKR, and LSG.



Sudheer Babu’s Beast Mode On! Upcoming Survival Thriller Announced

Sudheer Babu is gearing up for a high-octane thriller with the popular production house People Media Factory. The actor is set to join forces with director RS Naidu for a survival thriller that promises to be packed with action, intensity, and drama. The film, titled #PMFxB, was officially announced on May 11, 2025, marking a special occasion—Sudheer Babu’s birthday.

Known for his versatility and bold choices in roles, Sudheer Babu is taking on yet another transformative character in this dark and gripping film. The announcement poster, which was unveiled to much fanfare, features a bloodied yet resolute Sudheer Babu climbing a stairway surrounded by carnage. His fierce expression and gritty demeanor suggest that this will be a film unlike anything he has done before, adding another dimension to his impressive acting career.

Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad, this survival thriller promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Sudheer Babu’s character seems to be entangled in a fight for survival, navigating through chaos and danger. The poster alone hints at a deep, intense storyline that will explore themes of strength, resilience, and the human spirit in the face of overwhelming odds.

Fans of Sudheer Babu are already buzzing with excitement for the film, as it marks a departure from his previous work, venturing into darker, more complex territory. The actor’s knack for embracing unconventional roles has earned him a dedicated fanbase, and this new project is expected to further solidify his status as one of the most dynamic performers in the industry.



As the production gears up, anticipation for #PMFxB is building, and Sudheer Babu’s ‘Beast Mode’ seems to be in full swing for this thrilling new chapter in his career. Keep an eye out for updates, as this survival thriller is sure to be one of the most talked-about releases in the coming months.

Vishwaksen’s Bold New Venture: #CULT – The Goat Man

Vishwaksen is back with a fresh and ambitious project, stepping into new territory with his upcoming film, #CULT. Known for his directorial prowess in films like Falaknuma Das and Das Ka Dhamki, Vishwaksen is now gearing up to push boundaries even further. This new project sees him not only taking the helm as director but also writing the story, marking an exciting new phase in his career.

Backed by Karate Raju and Sandeep Kakarala under the banners of Tarak Cinemas and Vanmaye Creations, #CULT is described as a party thriller based on real-life incidents. The film promises to be an unconventional exploration of narrative, aiming to disrupt traditional genre norms. The intriguing first look poster has already caught attention: it features a protagonist wearing a goat mask amidst a backdrop of chaotic celebrations, hinting at a story that will be eccentric, unpredictable, and full of surprises.

The film boasts a strong technical team to support Vishwaksen’s vision. #CULT features dialogues penned by Tharun Bhascker, music composed by Ravi Basrur, and cinematography by Arvind Vishwanathan. With such seasoned professionals on board, the film is expected to be a visual and auditory treat, adding depth to the thrilling storyline.

The film was officially launched at Ramanaidu Studios today, and regular shooting for the film has begun. #CULT will be



released in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish, and English, reflecting Vishwaksen’s ambition for cross-cultural storytelling and a global audience reach.

With this project, Vishwaksen is pushing the envelope once again, blending boldness, creativity, and a global outlook into a thriller that promises to captivate audiences across the world. #CULT is undoubtedly one to watch out for in the coming months.

Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju’s Stunning New Poster from Dude

The upcoming Pan India youthful entertainer Dude is generating excitement as Dragon Guy Pradeep Ranganathan and Premalu Beauty Mamitha Baiju team up for the first time. Directed by debutant filmmaker Keerthiswaran, the film is produced under the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers banner, promising a fresh and engaging cinematic experience.

Following the earlier release of Pradeep Ranganathan’s first look, the makers have now unveiled a dynamic new poster featuring the lead pair. The image captures the essence of youthful energy and carefree fun, with Pradeep striking a shirtless, rocking pose that radiates charm and confidence. Meanwhile, Mamitha Baiju stuns in a modern outfit and stylish sunglasses, adding a chic flair to the vibrant vibe of the poster. The duo’s chemistry is palpable, and the poster hints at an exciting on-screen pairing that fans can’t wait to see.

In addition to the lead duo, veteran actor Sarath Kumar plays a crucial role in the film, adding star power to the ensemble cast. The movie also boasts impressive technical expertise, with cinematography by Niketh Bommi,

ensuring a visually captivating experience, and music composed by Sai Abhyankkar, which is expected to elevate the film’s energetic mood.

Dude is slated for a grand Diwali release across all South Indian languages as well as Hindi, expanding its reach to a broader audience. The film’s lively vibe, fresh pairing, and promising storyline are generating buzz, and it’s set to be a treat for audiences looking for a high-energy entertainer this festive season. Fans are eagerly awaiting what Dude has to offer when it hits theaters later this year.



Pakistani Actress Mawra Hocane Dropped From Sanam Teri Kasam 2. Makers Say, “Nation First”

In a surprising turn of events, Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane has been dropped from the upcoming sequel of Sanam Teri Kasam. The decision comes after recent tensions between India and Pakistan, and reflects the broader climate of growing sensitivity in the entertainment industry.

The filmmakers, director duo Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, released a statement explaining their decision, citing the silence of some Pakistani actors in the wake of the terror attack in Pahalgam. The statement highlighted their disappointment with certain actors who, despite having received immense love and opportunities in India, had either remained silent or even criticized India’s legitimate steps to combat terrorism. The directors emphasized that their stance was driven by a deep commitment to supporting the Indian government and national security, with



the statement ending in the words, “Nation first and always. Jai Hind.”

The news follows earlier statements made by actor Harshvardhan Rane, who also expressed that he would not be a part of the sequel if the original cast,

including Mawra Hocane, returned. Rane, in a candid note shared on his Instagram Stories, expressed his gratitude for his past experiences but made it clear that due to the recent political climate and comments made about India, he could not participate in the project if the same cast were involved. He wrote, “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 filmmakers’ decision has sparked widespread attention and debate, with many fans and critics weighing in on the controversy. The shift in casting marks a significant moment in the ongoing discourse surrounding cross-border collaborations in Indian cinema amidst geopolitical tensions.

Kamal Haasan Reveals Exciting Glimpse of KH237 on Anbariv’s Birthday

In a special tribute to renowned action choreographer duo Anbariv, Kamal Haasan unveiled a thrilling glimpse from his much-anticipated film KH237 on Sunday, which coincided with the birthday of the talented twins. The sneak peek, shared by the legendary Kollywood actor-filmmaker on X, offers fans an exciting preview into the high-octane, action-packed world of KH237.

Directed by Anbariv, the duo famous for their impressive stunt choreography, the glimpse showcases the film’s intense, stylized action sequences, giving viewers a taste of the adrenaline rush that KH237 promises. The action is set to be a major highlight of the movie, backed by



a pulsating soundtrack that further amplifies the excitement. While the film’s composer remains a mystery, the music perfectly complements the action-packed visuals, adding to the anticipation surrounding the project.

Anbariv, who received the prestigious National Award

for Best Stunt Choreography for their work on KGF: Chapter 1, has previously collaborated with Kamal Haasan on high-profile projects such as Vikram, Indian 2, and the upcoming Thug Life. Their collaboration on KH237 has raised expectations, as their choreography skills are widely admired for their in-

novation and intensity.

Kamal Haasan, who is also producing the film under his Raaj Kamal International Films banner, has kept fans eagerly waiting for more details. The glimpse shared today has only heightened excitement for the film, as it offers just enough to spark curiosity without revealing too much. Fans are now eagerly awaiting more updates on KH237, which is expected to be one of the most electrifying releases in the near future.

With Kamal Haasan at the helm, Anbariv directing the action, and a mystery soundtrack, KH237 is set to be an unforgettable cinematic experience.