

NATION | PAGE 07 Pakistan's vain bid to dent Indo-Afghan



WORLD | PAGE 09

Israel launches new military operation in Gaza

Operation Gideon Chariots aims to pressure Hamas to release hostages



SPORT | PAGE 10 Rain washes out KKR, RCB match

In a nutshell

Chinese national held at IGI Airport **NEW DELHI:** A Chinese

national, suspected to be a member of an organised global in-flight theft syndicate, has been arrested for allegedly stealing debit and credit cards from fellow passengers during a flight from Hong Kong to New Delhi, police said on Saturday. The accused, 30year-old Benlai Pan, was arrested upon arrival at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here on May 14 following complaints from multiple passengers aboard Air India flight AI-315, they said in an official statement. PTI

Pak to rebuild Muridke's JuD HQ

Lahore: The Government of Pakistan has assured to rebuild the mosques — the JuD headquarters — at Muridke destroyed in the Indian strike, the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League said on Saturday. The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) is a political wing of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and is a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that has carried out terror strikes in many parts of India, including the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attack in 2008. (REPORT PAGE 7)

PSLV-C61 launch countdown begins

Sriharikota (AP): The 22-hour countdown for the launch of an earth imaging satellite onboard a PSLV rocket commenced here on Saturday, ISRO sources said. The lift-off for the PSLV-C61 is scheduled to take place at 5.59 am pad at this space port on May 18, which is also the 101st mission for the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency. "The countdown started by 7.59 am on Saturday. Total 22 hours countdown," sources said. PT



Mental health in movies

South films encouraging people to consider therapy



Diplomatic outreach sparks political storm

Key oppn leaders join Centre's delegations on Op Sindoor

NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders Shashi Tharoor and Kanimozhi will join members of the ruling alliance, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and Sanjay Jha, in leading seven all-party delegations to key partner countries to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism fol-

lowing Operation Sindoor.
The other MPs picked by the government to present India's "national consensus" in fighting terrorism before the world, including to UN Security Council members, are NCP-SP's Supriya Sule, BJP's Baijayant 'Jay' Panda and Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde.

A statement issued by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry on Saturday said, "The all-party delegations will project India's national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

"They would carry forth to the world the country's strong message of zero tolerance against terrorism." Sources said the delegations will be travelling to four of the five permanent Security Council members and not visit China, which has long

THAROOR TO LEAD TEAM TO US: **GOVT PLAYING POLITICS: CONG**

NEW DELHI: The selection of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor to head a delegation abroad for diplomatic outreach following Operation Sindoor and his subsequent acceptance were frowned upon by his own party, which Saturday accused the government of playing politics with a "mischievous" mindset. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the confidence between the government and the principal Opposition party, which is normally there, has been shattered after the government asked the Congress to give names for all-party delegations abroad but named leaders of its own without consulting it. On Tharoor's inclusion, Ramesh said, "'Congress mein hona aur Congress ka hona mein zameen-aasmaan ka antar hai (There is a difference between being in the Congress and of the Congress)." (SEE PAGE 2)



been a Pakistan ally. While the delegation led by Congress MP Tharoor will visit the US, Panda's group, which includes AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi and BJP's Nishikant Dubey, will travel to western European countries such as the UK and France, both UNSC

The delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi will travel to Russia, another UNSC member.

The sources said the delegation led by BJP MP Prasad is expected to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria, while Sule's team of MPs will be travelling to Oman, Kenya,

South Africa and Egypt.
The delegation led by JD(U) MP Jha is likely to visit Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim popula-

Shinde's team of parliamentarians are likely to visit some Gulf and African

Is Rahul Gandhi jealous, asks BIP

NEW DELHI: Amit Malviya incharge of BJP's National Information and Technology Department, on Saturday targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and accused him of being 'insecure' and 'jealous' for not naming 'eloquent' Shashi Tharoor for the multi-party MP delegations proposed by the Centre to expose

Calling the Congress' choices to represent India in diplomatic meetings 'intriguing', Malviya made a strong case for former diplomat Tharoor. In a post on X, Malviya wrote, "No one can deny Shashi Tharoor's eloquence, his long experience as a United Nations official, and his deep insights on matters of foreign policy." "So why has the Congress party — and Rahul Gandhi in particular chosen not to nominate him for the multi-party delegations being sent abroad to explain India's position on key issues? Is it insecurity? Jealousy? Or simply intolerance of anyone who outshines the high com-

BRS to back govt staff, pensioners

To put pressure on Cong to address issues

STATE BUREAU

In a decisive move to champion the rights of government employees and pensioners, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has announced plans to launch a coordinated campaign to pressure the Congress gov-ernment into addressing long-pending demands. As the principal opposition, BRS leaders asserted that they could not remain silent while lakhs of serving and retired government employees continued to face neglect and hardship.

A key meeting was held at the residence of senior leader T Harish Rao under the leadership of party working president KT Rama Rao, which was attended by former leaders of employees' associations, retired officials and representatives of various teachers' and employees' unions.

The meeting discussed the deteriorating situation over the last 18 months, pointing out that the State government had failed to deliver on its pre-election promises to employees. Core demands such as clearing pending Dearness Allowances (DAs), implementing the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) recommendations, and releasing



BRS URGES FORMER UNION HEADS, ESPE-CIALLY THOSE WHO PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN STATEHOOD MOVEMENT, TO TAKE PART IN THE PARTY'S CAMPAIGN

pensions and retirement benefits on time have remained unfulfilled. Several attendees expressed concern that even basic rights were being denied, with re-tired employees being forced to run from pillar to post in their old age.

Both Rama Rao and Harish Rao expressed deep concern over the State government's apathy.

"It is our duty as the principal opposition to stand by government employees. We will not stay quiet while lakhs of employees suffer at the hands of a negligent government," they said.

The leaders stressed on the need to develop a clear action plan in the coming days. The party also announced its support for serving employees' union leaders and urged former union heads, especially those who played a vital role in the Telangana statehood movement, to take part in the party's campaign.

"BRS has always stood by the aspirations and rights of employees. We are committed to working with them and bringing pressure on the government to ensure justice," the leaders said.

The party is expected to unveil a detailed action strategy soon and rally support from employees' associations across the State.

Lightning claims 10 lives in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR

As many as 10 persons, including three minors, reportedly died due to lightning strikes as the nor wester hit several dis-tricts of Odisha, officials said. As per reports, three persons, including an elderly woman and her granddaughter, died while five others sustained severe injuries after lightning struck a hut where they were taking shelter during the nor'wester at Paridiguda village of Koraput district on Friday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Brudi Madinga and her granddaughter Kasa Madinga of Paridiguda and Ambika Kasi of Kumbhariguda area of the Kora-put district. The health condition of deceased Brudi Madinga's husband, Hingu, who also sustained injuries in the thunderstorm, is said to be critical.

Similarly, a 32-year-old Dasa Jani of Semiliguda block of Koraput district died after lightning struck when he was fishing in a river near his village on Friday afternoon. One Chaityaram Majhi and his

TWO BOYS KILLED IN TG

MEDAK: Two teenaged boys, who were playing cricket in a local ground, died after light-ning struck them at Padalapally in Toopran municipality on Saturday. Prasad (15) and Yaswanth (13), along with their friends and neighbours were playing cricket in a ground close to their homes when rain coupled with thunderstorms lashed the place.

Prasad and Yaswanth and two other friends rushed for cover under a tree. After a few minutes, lightning struck them while the other friends standing under other trees were watching them helplessly. They did not realise what had happened for a moment. They then alerted others, who rushed the four children to the govern ment hospital in Toopran where doctors declared Prasad and Yaswanth dead. The other two are undergoing treatment. The police have reg-

nephew Lalita Maihi sustained serious injuries when lightning struck at Benora village under Umerkote block of Nabarangpur district on Friday afternoon. The locals immediately rushed them to a nearby hospital but Lalita succumbed midway. PTI

Man pulls down Israeli flag in Hyd, arrested

CITY BUREAU

The Saifabad police arrested a man who had allegedly removed the national flag of Israel put up at Tank Bund as part of the Miss World 2025 pageant in the city.

The incident happened early this week and the video of the man pulling down the flag from the post was shared on social media platforms and it soon went viral. It drew criticism from several quarters with people demanding action against the persons who disrespected the flag of Israel. The video was also tagged to the Hyderabad City Police 'X' handle asking the police to take action against persons who were involved in the incident.



A car goes airborne after hitting the wall in the first turn during a qualification attempt for the Indianapolis 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the US on Saturday. — Photo: AP

India imposes port curbs on Bangladeshi goods

In a trade policy shift, India on Saturday restricted the import of ready-made garments, processed food and other items from Bangladesh to India via land ports, effective immediately. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, issued a notification imposing land port restrictions on the import of certain goods from Bangladesh. (REPORT PAGE 8)

BSF jawan posted in J&K claims land grab back home

STATE BUREAU

A Border Security Force (BSF) soldier from the district, who has been discharging duties in Jammu and Kashmir, has released a video alleging that some villagers had illegally transferred his family's land on their name at Chowdarpally village in Al Bhumpally mandal. Akberpet-

The soldier Boora Rama Swamy, who has been working with BSF since 2013, has appealed to the public to circulate the video until the issue reaches Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He also urged the Chief Minister to resolve the issue. With the video going viral, several people have responded on social media platforms, urg-



ing the government to resolve the issue immediately and seeking stern action

against the culprits. Collector M Manu Chowdary has ordered Akberpet-Bhumpally Tahsildar to carry out an inquiry. The MRO found that the soldier's statement was true. Since the Collector sought an immediate report, the MRO was preparing a 'panchnama' report.

Speaking to 'Telangana Today', Rama Swamy's younger brother Chandu said his father Boora Venkataiah had bought 24 guntas from Karinakonda Sattavva and 32 guntas in survey number 406 from Kadaru Lakshmaiah in 1992. However, VRA Chukka Ramesh, whose family owns land in the same survey number, managed to transfer 1.16 guntas of land of Venkataiah on to Ramesh's mother Chukka Narsavva's name in 2006-07.

YouTuber arrested for espionage linked to Pak

The Haryana Police have arrested six people, including a Hisar-based YouTuber and travel blogger Jyoti Malhotra, on charges of spying and passing sensitive information to Pakistani operatives, officials said on Satur-These are the prominent arrests Haryana in less than a week,

after Punjab Police arrested two for espionage linked to the Pakistan High Commission arrest, after India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire. Jyoti, who visited Pakistan twice in 2023, was sent to a five-day police remand. She was linked to a spy network in Haryana and Pun-Vikas Kumar, a spokesperson for the police, said officials are questioning her to gather details about the crime.

According to the first information report (FIR), the travel blogger visited the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi in 2023, where she came into contact with Ehsan-ur-Rahim, alias Danish, a staffer. She has been accused of sharing sensitive information regarding Indian locations and was used

to project Pakistan on social media in a positive light. Danish, who has since

been declared persona non grata by India, introduced her to intelligence operatives in Pakistan. She also entered into an intimate relationship with an intelligence operative and travelled to Bali in Indonesia with him. During Danish's stay in Delhi, she was allegedly in regular touch with him. During her trips to Pakistan, she reportedly met with Pakistani intelligence officers and began supplying them with sensitive information on Indian military installations and movements. She allegedly used WhatsApp, Telegram, and Snapchat to communicate and saved contacts of Pakistan's ISI. IANS