

Central Chronicle

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Major reforms needed in madrasa education: Yogi



Trump poised to offer Saudi Arabia over \$100 billion arms package



India makes a plan to eliminate its enemies

HM Amit Shah asks all CMs to provide information about Pakistani citizens

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked all Chief Ministers to promptly identify Pakistani nationals residing in their respective states, so that they can be sent back.

According to sources, Home Minister Shah spoke to the Chief Ministers of all states, asking them to take immediate steps towards identifying and initiating the deportation process of Pakistani citizens.

He also instructed the state authorities to report the details to the Central Government, enabling the cancellation of visas and expediting the deportation procedure.

Notably, on April 22, the day of the Pahalgam carnage, that left 26 tourists dead, the Union Home Minister had immediately left for Srinagar to personally take stock of the situation.

At the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on April 23, several big decisions against Pakistan were taken, including cancellation of visas to Pakistani nationals and immediately closing the Integrated Check Post at Attari.



Twin blasts destroy homes of LeT militants

Twin blasts destroyed the residential houses of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, suspected to be involved in the Pahalgam terror attack, in south Kashmir's Pulwama and Anantnag districts, officials said on Friday.

According to officials, the houses belonged to Asif Sheikh of Monaghama area in Tral, Pulwama, and Adil Hussain Thokar from Anantnag. The structures were razed to the ground during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday due to explosions. A senior police officer said the houses were extensively damaged, due to the presence of explosive material. "During searches by security forces at both locations, some suspicious objects were found. Sensing potential danger, the forces quickly retreated for safety. Shortly after, massive blasts occurred, resulting in significant damage to the houses," the officer said.

191 Pakistani citizens sent back, 287 Indians returned

New Delhi: The chilling aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack has triggered swift and significant diplomatic fallout. India's decision to revoke visas issued to Pakistani nationals under the SAARC framework has been reciprocated by Pakistan, leaving hundreds caught in a cross-border shuffle.

With a stark 48-hour ultimatum, 191 Pakistani citizens have so far made their way back home, while 287 Indians have returned to their homeland, painting a poignant picture of lives disrupted by escalating tensions.

The Ministry of External Affairs has underscored the urgency for remaining Pakistani citizens to depart, as the Wagah-Attari border falls silent and the Indian Embassy in Pakistan operates with a reduced capacity.

Khawaja Asif admits Islamabad's role in using terror groups for 'US' dirty work'

Islamabad (UNI)

In a direct contradiction of its own stance on terrorism, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has openly admitted Islamabad's role in "doing the US' dirty work for three decades" through its close links with terrorist organisations.

While Pakistan has been denying its culpability in the heinous Pahalgam attack which left 26 tourists dead, Asif's statement has served to only further weaken Islamabad's plea, and undo the country's already very poor reputation in international circles regarding its role in supporting terrorist entities.

In a viral clip on X (formerly Twitter) of his interview on Sky News, the Pakistani Defence Minister is asked by the interviewer: "You do admit



that Pakistan has had a long history of backing, and supporting and training, and funding these terrorist organisations?" To which Asif admits Islamabad's full support for terrorism, saying "We have been doing this dirty work for the United States and the West, including Britain, for about three decades."

India, Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint: Guterres



Amid the rising bitterness in ties between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appealed to both nations to exercise maximum restraint and ensure that the situation does not deteriorate any further. Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, answering a question at the daily press briefing on Thursday, said while the UN Secretary General has not had any direct contact with either of the two nations, "but I can confirm he is following the situation very closely and with very great concern".

MUSTREAD

Indian army retaliates to Pak firing along LoC

New Delhi: The Indian Army on Friday gave a befitting reply to firing by the Pakistan side at some places along the Line of Control (LoC). According to the Indian Army, the Pakistani Army initiated small arms firing at some places on the Line of Control. The Indian Army gave a befitting reply to this action. So far, no casualties have been reported. Further details are being ascertained. They said the firing was initiated by Pakistan which was effectively retaliated by soldiers in the Nowgam sector. "The exchange lasted for over an hour and there is no report of casualties in the firing," they said.

Militant associate killed, 2 cops injured in Bandipora gunbattle

Srinagar: A militant associate was killed and two policemen were injured in a gunbattle in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday. They said the gunbattle broke out in the wee hours in the Ajas forest of the district. Officials said a search operation was launched in the forest area following an input by a militant associate who was arrested two days ago. They said as the security forces headed to a hideout, militants opened fire on the troops, triggering a gunbattle. "In the initial firing two policemen and a terror associate were injured," they said. The said militant associate identified as Altaf Lalli succumbed to his injuries later. Earlier the day, Army said a joint search operation was launched with the Police Kolnar Ajas, Bandipora following a specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists.

Trump says meeting with Zelenskyy in Rome 'possible'

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday did not rule out that he will be meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his visit to Rome. "It's possible," Trump told reporters when asked if he plans to meet with Zelenskyy in Rome. Trump made the remark while he and his wife, Melania, were leaving the White House for Rome, where they are anticipated to attend Pope Francis's funeral ceremony on Saturday. Earlier this week, Trump said that he plans to meet with numerous leaders in Rome to discuss trade and other matters, although he did not specify which leaders he plans to meet.

Sensex

BSE..... 79,595.59 (+187.09)
NSE..... 24,167.25 (+41.70)

Bullion

Gold..... 1,01,350 (24 carat 10gm)
Silver..... 1,01,000 (1kg)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 85.20

Weather

Sunrise | Sunset | Day | Night
5:54 | 6:44 | 41.2 | 21.5

Army Chief's Kashmir review amidst rising regional tensions

Strategic and philosophical confluence



Srinagar: General Upendra Dwivedi, the Indian Army Chief, conducted a pivotal security review in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, amidst escalating tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack. His visit, the first to the

region since the incident, involved detailed briefings from the 15 Corps Commander on the evolving security landscape. The Chief engaged with senior military personnel and security agency officials, emphasizing the strategic importance of the Union Territory.

A compelling image, now circulating widely, captures General Dwivedi in conversation with his commanders, set against a backdrop of Arjuna and Shri Krishna's chariot, a visual testament to the confluence of strategic military planning and the timeless wisdom of the Gita. This imagery underscores the depth of considerations driving the nation's security posture in the region.

Rafale and Sukhoi-30 engage in robust exercises

Highlighting Air Force's operational tempo

Central Region: Following the Prime Minister's firm resolve in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian Air Force has intensified its operational preparedness.

High-performance fighter aircraft, including the Rafale and Sukhoi-30 MKI, have been observed conducting extensive exercises across a significant area in the central region.

These maneuvers underscore India's commitment to national security and its readiness to respond effectively to any threats. The



heightened aerial activity reflects ongoing strategic deliberations and meticulous planning aimed at safeguarding the nation's interests.

"Not even single drop of water will go to Pakistan": CR Paatil

Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil on Friday said the Centre has formulated a detailed roadmap to prevent the flow of Indian river water to Pakistan, following a key meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Union Minister emphasised that immediate steps are being prioritised, including the desilting of rivers among others.

Speaking to the media, Paatil said, "A roadmap was prepared in the meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Three options were discussed in the meeting. The government is working on short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures so that not even a drop of water goes to Pakistan. Soon, desilting of rivers will be done to stop the water and divert it."

Sad to see some people are attacking Kashmiris: Rahul

Srinagar (UNI)

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have unequivocally condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and stand in full solidarity with the nation during this difficult time.

The Congress leader arrived in Srinagar earlier in the day and met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He discussed the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack that left 25 tourists and a local resident dead.

Rahul also visited the Army's 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar, where he met a tourist injured in the assault.

"I came here to get a sense of what is going on and to help," Rahul told media in Srinagar. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir condemned this terrible action and they have fully supported the nation at this time."



He also expressed concern over reports of Kashmiri students and

workers being harassed in other parts of the country following the attack.

Ex-ISRO chief Kasturirangan dies

Bengaluru (UNI)

India bids farewell to a giant, a true pioneer who not only shaped the destiny of India's space programme but also left an indelible mark on the country's educational and environmental landscapes. Dr K Kasturirangan, the distinguished former Chairman of ISRO, died on Friday at the age of 84, at his residence in Bengaluru, leaving behind a legacy that transcends time.

He died at 10:43 am on Friday is a moment of profound sorrow for the nation, yet the warmth of his monumental contributions to India's scientific, technological, and academic advancement will continue to inspire generations.

Dr Kasturirangan's body will be kept at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) for public viewing on Sunday, April 27, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, offering an opportunity for all to pay



their last respects to a man whose life was dedicated to the service of the nation.

Dr Kasturirangan was the architect of India's space achievements during his tenure as ISRO Chairman from 1994 to 2003. Under his leadership, ISRO soared to unprecedented heights.

President Murmu departs for Vatican City

New Delhi (UNI)

President Droupadi Murmu today left for Vatican City to attend the State Funeral of Pope Francis.

She is accompanied by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju; Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian; and Deputy Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly, Joshua De

Souza, the President's House said. On her arrival at the Vatican today, President Murmu will pay homage to Pope Francis by laying a wreath at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City.

On April 26, President Murmu will attend the funeral Mass of Pope Francis at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City, which will be attended by dignitaries from around the world, a statement said.

Centre defends Waqf law, says it regulates secular aspects only

New Delhi (UNI)

In a significant development in the ongoing challenge to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, the Union government has filed its preliminary affidavit before the Supreme Court, strongly defending the constitutional validity of the legislation.

Filed through the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Centre rejected arguments that the amendments violate fundamental rights under the Constitution, particularly those un-

der Articles 25 and 26.

The affidavit, submitted by Joint Secretary Shersha C. Saidik Mohiddin, emphasizes that the amendments are aimed solely at regulating the secular aspects of waqf property management, and do not interfere with religious freedoms or Islamic rituals.

"The Act pertains only to procedural and administrative dimensions such as record-keeping and governance of waqf properties. It

avoids interference with any essential religious practices, rituals, or obligations," the affidavit clarifies.

The Centre termed the concerns over the omission of "waqf-by-user" as misleading and unfounded. It clarified that all existing waqf lands already registered as of April 8, 2025, remain fully protected.

The concept of mandatory registration has existed since 1923, under successive waqf legislations, it said.

Delhi Court defers notice to Sonia, Rahul in National Herald case

Agencies, New Delhi

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Friday refused for the time being, to issue notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others in the National Herald money laundering case. The court has scheduled the next hearing for May 2.

The Enforcement Directorate, through Additional Solicitor General and Senior Advocate SV Raju, submitted that under the new legal provisions, cognisance of the complaint (chargesheet) cannot be taken without first hearing the accused.



Enforcement Directorate urged the court, stating, "We don't want this order to be prolonged. Let no-

tice be issued." However, the Special Judge Vishal Gogne stated that the court

must first be convinced of the necessity of issuing such a notice, remarking, "I cannot pass such an order until satisfied."

The judge further highlighted the missing documents in the chargesheet, as pointed out by the Ahlmad (court record keeper), the judge directed the ED to submit the required documents. Only then will the court decide on issuance of notices.

The ED maintained its stance of transparency, stating, "We are not hiding anything. We are giving them the opportunity to present their side before cognisance is taken."

NIA raids 18 places

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has seized various electronic devices and other incriminating materials during raids conducted at 18 locations in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka in a case linked to Pakistan-backed cross-border smuggling of arms and narcotics by Khalistani operatives, the agency said on Friday.

NIA teams are examining the seized items to unravel the entire conspiracy behind the smuggling and the radicalization of individuals in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and other parts of India.

The searches were conducted on Thursday.