

Central
Chronicle

Founder: Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

National security!

The response given by India through “Operation Sindoor” after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is not just a military action, but a manifesto of a new definition of national security. In this operation, India not only destroyed 9 terrorist camps by entering inside Pakistan, but also destroyed the air defense unit located in Lahore. This bold and precise strike made it clear that India is no longer a nation that only protects its borders, but also has the capability to attack decisively by going into the strategic depth of its enemies. Behind this transformative capability is the structural change that has taken place in air defense in the last decade. The results of the technical strengthening of India's air security that the Modi government had started since 2014 are now visible.

This war is not only of weapons, but also of technical skills. The concept of self-reliant India has now taken concrete shape in the defense sector as well. The use of indigenous drones and platforms based on Israeli technology for precision strikes in Karachi and Lahore, coordination with Rafale aircraft and real-time intelligence network, all these are signs of change in India's strategic strategy. Operation Sindoor is not just an act of revenge, but it is a message that India now knows how to protect not only its skies but also its strategic future. However, in the period of instability and ideological conflict that the world is going through today, India's role is gradually becoming decisive.

The restraint and balance that India has shown in its security policies under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reassuring for the global community. This readiness is not a sign of any kind of aggression, but is a proof of the self-confidence of a mature nation and its sovereignty. The stance that India

has taken in the context of the Indus Water Treaty is also a part of this strategic maturity. This stance is neither motivated by revenge nor by a mentality of persecution—rather it is a policy decision taken in favour of India's water sovereignty and environmental justice. If a treaty has lost its relevance over time, then reconsideration of it is natural and an imperative of a responsible democracy.

The confidence that is being reflected in India's military strategy is not without reason. Operations like Operation Sindoor have made it clear that the Indian Army no longer wants to be limited to only defensive fronts, but if required, it can also protect its citizens by crossing the border. But all this is being done under a solid constitutional framework, accountability and international treaties. This is what makes India unique.

It is also true that if any nation in the world has suffered the most from terrorism, it is India. Despite this, India has given priority to restraint and dialogue. Now that India and Israel's shared experiences, technical expertise and policy commitment are coming together on a common platform, it can become a new centre of hope for humanity. This axis, which has self-defence and justice at its core, does not only speak the language of war, it creates a balance of power for peace.

This policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also in harmony with the traditions of India, where 'peace' was called 'dharma' and 'weapon' was considered a follower of 'shastra'. This is the same land where the objective of war has been only “protection of dharma” and “control of adharma”. In such a situation, India's position - of moral balance with strategic strength - can become an inspiration for those who aspire for peace in the world.

Conflicts & crises intensify the need for gender equality & health equity

SHOBHA SHUKLA - CNS

Conflicts and humanitarian crises significantly exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities for women, girls and gender diverse populations, leading to increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, reproductive health complications, and mental health challenges, alongside reduced access to basic needs like healthcare and shelter and livelihoods.

Wars and conflicts, extreme climate events (like floods and famine), religious fundamentalism and other extremism, and other forms of humanitarian crises put gender diverse individuals, women and girls to heightened risks of human rights violations.

Sinister link of patriarchy with religious fundamentalism, militarisation and gender inequality

The human rights and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan threatens everyone there, but lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and other gender diverse peoples face an acute threat of violence and even death from the Taliban authorities.

The situation for Afghan women is deplorable with respect to the commitments made by governments to advance gender equality and human rights. The dominant Islamic law has no tolerance for LGBTQI+ persons. They face constant persecution and risk, said Parwen, a lesbian person from Afghanistan, while narrating her horror story in SHE & Rights (Sexual Health with Equity & Rights) session on "Impact of conflicts and other humanitarian crises on gender justice and health."

On a fateful day in March 2025, she and her longtime lover Maryam and Maeve, a transgender friend, tried to escape to Iran. But things backfired because the Taliban apprehended and detained Maryam and Maeve and they have been in captivity since then. Luckily Parwen was able to get through the security check at the airport because her brother agreed to sign off as her male chaperone to give her permission. By the time the Taliban reached the airport hunting for Parwen, her flight had taken off.

The Taliban are searching for Parwen. But she is determined to continue fighting even in her darkest and loneliest hours.

Parwen is now the face of lesbians and LGBTQI+ persons of Afghanistan who have no rights. "I have endured hardships my whole life. Since the current regime has come to power we have no hope, there is nothing to live for us - the gender diverse peoples. But we will keep fighting for our rights until LGBTQI+ people are free in our homeland. I am willing to sacrifice my own life in our struggle for equality and justice because I do not want any other LGBTQI+ person to suffer in future," she asserts.

Parwen has an ally in Nemat Sadat, CEO of Roshaniya (an Advocacy network dedicated to assisting LGBTQI+ Afghans). Nemat is one of the first Afghans to have openly come out as gay in 2013 and to campaign for LGBTQI+

rights, gender freedom, and sexual liberty.

"We have a list of over 1,000 LGBTQI+ people who still remain in Afghanistan. To this date we have supported the safe evacuation of 265 people to other countries and we hope that Parwen will also get to a safe place, although right now her future looks very uncertain. We will continue our fight until we are all free, and hopefully in a post-Taliban world democracy will return to Afghanistan. I am sure that day will come in our lifetime," said an optimistic Nemat.

Conflict regions are facing unprecedented crises

A collage of people with text AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The ongoing conflict in South Sudan has disempowered and traumatised the marginalised people like LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, sex workers and people with disability. There is physical violence, domestic violence, and sexual abuse, shared Rachel Adau, Executive Director of the Women's Empowerment Centre South Sudan, that works for the empowerment of socially disadvantaged and excluded groups in South Sudan.

In the words of Rachel, "Our health-care system is breaking down. Maternal and child healthcare is at its worst because the health facilities have no services to offer. There is also increased risk of communicable diseases. Right now there is a cholera outbreak in South Sudan due to contaminated river water. People who live along the river have no

access to clean water. There is food insecurity due to the conflict. Malnutrition and anemia in young women and pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five is high. There is a high dropout rate of girls from schools as they do not have dignity kits. All this is resulting in mental health issues too."

Rachel explained that South Sudan has two judicial systems - the constitution and the customary traditional laws. As per tradition, 'men are perceived as the bread winners' and South Sudanese women are considered to be the minority gender. They have no access to resources or decision making, and no voice in leadership. As per the constitution all women in South Sudan have equal rights, but they are unable to exercise them due to poor implementation of the laws. For example, even though they have a legal right to own property, most often they are denied this right because of their gender. Also perpetrators of gender-based violence go unpunished.

It is indeed unfortunate that household and care work done by girls and women is unpaid, undervalued and under-recognised. Same goes for sexual and reproductive labour. If girls and women had equitable access to education, social support services, workforce participation and rights, then it could herald some hope. But as of now, harmful narratives and gender norms fuelled by deeply entrenched patriarchy are confronting gender equality, not only in Sudan, but in many other countries of Asia and Africa.

Borders May Fight, But Souls Must Heal: Bhagavad Gita on India-Pakistan War

Kashish Gambhir

In times of conflict, especially when nations are at war, it becomes easy for human hearts to be overtaken by fear, anger, and hate. Bhagavad Gita teaches us — “Isvara? sarvabhutana? h?ddese 'rjuna ti?hati” (Bhagavad Gita 18.61) translation: "The Lord dwells in the heart of all beings, O Arjuna."

Bhagavad Gita teaches us that the Lord resides in every being. So does that mean that we should not defend ourselves - NO ! It means that we must act — but not with hatred, revenge, or the desire for destruction. We must act out of duty, with detachment, and awareness of our inner self.

In the current scenario of tension between India and Pakistan, while governments and soldiers may do what is necessary to protect borders and sovereignty, as civilians and spiritual beings, we must cultivate a deeper understanding. The people on the other side of the border are just like us — trying to feed their families, raise children, and live in peace.

Therefore, even if India retaliates, even if we support our nation's right to defend itself, we must not allow our minds to engage in hateful intentions toward ordinary people of another land.

When we hate someone with all our emotions, intentions, and thoughts, we are not just directing that hate outward; we are generating a new karma. We harm our own soul.

Human beings are carriers of three kinds of karma. First is the Sanchit Karma, which is the accumulated karma from past lives. Second is the Prarabdha Karma, which is a portion of Sanchit karma that has ripened and is being experienced in this lifetime. And the third is the Kriyaman Karma — the karma we

are actively creating in the present.

But here's the catch: we cannot differentiate between the Prarabdha and the Kriyaman Karma. We don't know when we're just going through the results of the past karmic fruits, and when we're choosing a new action to create a new karma for ourselves.

That is why conscious action becomes essential. Every thought, every emotion, every intention becomes part of the cycle — so we must choose to create a positive karmic cycle.

We must ask ourselves — Do we want to return to this world again and again? Or do we seek moksha — liberation?

Sri Krishna teaches Arjuna on the battlefield: “Karmanye vadhikaraste ma phaleshu kadachana” (Bhagavad Gita 2.47) translation: "You have the right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions."

Let us not wish blood upon any soul, for that wish will stain our own karma and atma (soul).

Our goal as spiritual aspirants is moksha — liberation from this cycle of birth and death — That cannot be achieved by creating new karmic chains of hatred and violence. “Uddhared atmanatmana? natmanam avasadayet” (Bhagavad Gita 6.5) translation: "Let a man lift himself by his own self; let him not degrade himself."

In these moments of fear and division, let us lift ourselves. Let us keep the war — if it must exist — confined to the political and military realm only. As individuals, let us cultivate peace in our hearts, perform our duties with compassion, and desire goodwill for all of humanity.

Because only then will we stop returning here. Only then will we really know liberation.

Satire

Panic due to minister’s disappearance



Friend said to us, 'If a Union minister suddenly disappears, then it is natural to get panicked. Various kinds of apprehensions arise whether the minister has been kidnapped or he has met with an accident. Something happened with the central government's tribal affairs minister Jual Oraon that left everyone shocked. A minister's sudden disappearance is a rarest of rare case.' We said, 'What is surprising in this! Leaders who make tempting promises to the public at the time of elections later disappear like a donkey's horn. The voters are well aware of his hide and seek.' The friend said, 'Understand the seriousness of the problem and crisis. If the minister wanted, he could have travelled by plane or AC car but he left for Jabalpur from Delhi by Gondwana Express. Railway and security staff saw that the berth was empty and the minister was missing. A massive search was started for him. There was a lot of sensation for 3 hours. Finally the minister was found at Sihora Road station, 142 km away from

Damoh. There were scratches on his body and injuries on his hands and legs. He got down at Damoh station at 3:45 in the morning.

We said: When the train started moving, his foot slipped while trying to board it. Later he somehow got a seat in Sampark Kranti Express which had arrived on the other platform. He was given first aid at Sihora and brought to Jabalpur.'

Friend said, 'What was the need to narrate such a long story? The minister should be accompanied not only by his PA but also by a bodyguard. He should not be allowed to get off anywhere in the middle of the journey. The minister's misadventure of getting off proved costly.

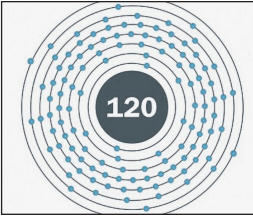
We said: When there were trains with steam engines, they used to leave slowly. Now electric trains pick up speed immediately. The minister should understand that he is a VIP and a VIP should not behave like a normal passenger. He should remain a prisoner of security. The minister's life is a trust of democracy.

Science Fact

A new element on the periodic table might be within reach

To expand the periodic table, it might be time to go titanium. A new study lays the groundwork to expand the periodic table with a search for element 120, to be made by slamming electrically charged titanium atoms, or ions, into a californium target. If produced, the new element would have an atomic nucleus brimming with 120 protons and would occupy a new row of the periodic table. In a proof-of-principle experiment, scientists created the known element livermorium, element 116, using titanium for the first time. The experiment focused a beam of titanium ions onto a target of plutonium.

After 22 days of searching, the effort yielded two atoms of livermorium, researchers reported July 23 at the Nuclear Structure 2024 meeting in Lemont, Ill. A similar experiment, aimed at creating element 120, is feasible and would take about 10 times as long, the researchers predict. The periodic table currently has 118 chemical elements. The five heaviest elements were all produced using a beam of calcium-48. That's a variety, or isotope, of calcium with 28 neutrons in its nucleus. To produce those different heavy elements, scientists swapped out the target element. The more protons in the nucleus of the target element, the further along the periodic table the product would be. But that tactic has become untenable: The next possible targets are radioactive and short-lived, says nuclear scientist Jacklyn Gates of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, who presented the result at the meeting. Hence the switch to beams of titanium-50, which will allow scientists to search for new elements with more practical targets.



Spiritual

Meditation Could Be An Antidote To Drugs

If a person is addicted to drugs, the problem is not the drugs; the problem is why he is addicted to drugs because life gives no joy, life is so empty, so meaningless. Drugs make at least a few hours colourful and psychedelic; there is great joy. One forgets this whole mad-house, this world.

You cannot tell them, “We will teach you meditation only if you drop all these things first.” They cannot drop them. You have to be more compassionate to them... You teach them meditation.

Meditation will help them to drop drugs, not vice versa. Meditation can give them better experiences, far superior, and real. Drugs are only giving them hallucinations. And when somebody has to choose between a dream and a reality – and a reality which is far more golden and far more beautiful than the dream – I don't think anybody is going to choose the dream. But first let him have something else to choose, to fall upon.

He was empty; he was disgusted with his whole life. Drugs have supported him; they are killing him, they are destroying him, but they have at least shown him beautiful dreams. Life cannot give any beautiful dreams: the politicians, the priests, the pedagogues altogether have made life so ugly, so difficult to live, so worthless, that any intelligent person is bound to find something or other. And meditation is not for sale – there are no meditation dealers from whom you can get an injection. You will have to learn it, that is the difficulty. You will have to go through a certain discipline. So tell them, “Whatever you are doing is absolutely accepted. You are doing it not without reason, so continue it. We will give you a better drug which is not chemical.



Letter to the Editor

SC makes its judges' assets public

Sir, The Supreme Court (SC) of India has made it mandatory for judges to publicly declare their assets (including information on real estate, movable property, gold, Fixed Deposits, PPF, shares, and investments held by the judges, their spouses, and joint family members), and these declarations are available on the court's official website. As of May 6, 2025, 21 out of 33 sitting judges have uploaded their asset declarations, and the remaining 12 judges' asset details will be uploaded soon . The disclosure also includes the assets of all five judges currently in the Collegium. This move towards transparency comes on the heels of the discovery of wads of currency notes at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma last month and aims to increase public trust in the judiciary. But one question, if we are serious about cleansing the judiciary, then why we must not start at the bottom, instead the top? Mandate asset declarations for every judge, from the district level up, and extend it to their immediate family. Investigate the unexplained wealth of relatives with the ferocity of a monsoon storm. Strip away the veil of secrecy that protects this corruption, and punish those— judges and kin alike—who treat justice as a commodity. Anything less is a mockery. Though, no doubt SC judges to publicly declare their assets is a wonderful step, requesting all the government servants, and public representatives to follow the suit. Also request SC to create a special bench on corruption, irrespective of their position, to facilitate very fast trial of the cases. One hopes that when there is so much corruption at the state and the central level, then why not SC would push central/state governments and also Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly to upload their assets and also push for a tribunal?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Tech

AI-generated faces can be spotted by studying eyeballs, researchers find

Present-day AI image generators have made it nearly impossible for the naked eye to distinguish between real human faces and fake ones. Hence, the detection of realistic, AI-generated faces has emerged as a top priority in order to prevent deception.

So far, AI detection tools and techniques have only been partially successful. But researchers at the University of Hull in the UK may have come up with a unique solution to detecting AI-generated deepfake images.

Their proposed method involves analysing light reflections on eyeballs using tools that were originally developed to help astronomers study galaxies.

How does it work? These days, AI tools are not just capable of creating a human face but are also advanced enough to capture intricate facial features such as dimples, refined nose, skin tone, etc. However, the eyes of an AI-generated face could be a giveaway since there are often inconsistencies in the light reflections cast on the eyeballs. As a result, scrutinising eyeball reflections in images of human faces is the crux of the AI detection technique developed by the researchers.

Specifically, it involves running the eyeball reflections' morphological features through indices to see if the light reflection in the left eyeball matches with the light reflection in the right. “If the reflections match, the image is likely to be that of a real human. If they don't, they're probably deepfakes,” read a blog post by the Royal Astronomical Society. Researchers are able to automatically measure and quantify eye reflections by applying astronomy tools. These same tools have been used by astronomers in the past to determine the shapes of galaxies.



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