



SC dismisses plea seeking FIR against Justice Varma in cash recovery case



Musk commits to Tesla CEO role, plans political pullback

ED alleges Sonia, Rahul gained Rs 142 cr from money laundering

Agencies, New Delhi
The Enforcement Directorate today told a Delhi court that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are prima facie involved in money laundering in the National Herald case.

During opening arguments before Special Judge Vishal Gogne, the ED said the two received about 142 crore rupees in proceeds of crime. Special counsel for ED Zoheb Hossain said the accused enjoyed the proceeds until November 2023, when properties worth 751.9 crore rupees linked to the case were attached.

The court said it will hear the National Herald money laundering case on a daily basis from the 2nd to the 8th of July.

The judge directed the ED to provide a copy of its chargesheet to BJP



leader Subramanian Swamy, whose 2014 complaint triggered the investigation. The ED began probing in 2021 after a magistrate court took cognisance of the complaint.

During today's hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju told the court that Young Indian was

"a sham entity" designed to convert public donations made to the Congress party into private assets.

The ED submitted that the attachment of assets in the case took place in November 2023. Until that point, the accused, it said, had been in possession and enjoyment of the

proceeds of crime, which included rental income amounting to Rs 142 crore.

The ED added that the Gandhis were involved in money laundering not only when they received the crime proceeds, but also when they continued to hold the proceeds.

Meanwhile, the judge asked the ED to give a copy of its report to the complainant, Subramanian Swamy, the report said. The agency recently filed its chargesheet after starting the investigation in 2021. According to Swamy's complaint, the Gandhis misappropriated funds by financing Young Indian to recover a debt of Rs 90.25 crore owed by AJL to the Congress party for just Rs 50 lakh.

The ED's investigation began in 2021 after a magistrate court took cognisance of Swamy's private complaint filed in June 2014. Swamy had alleged that the acquisition was made for merely Rs 50 lakh despite AJL's real estate assets being valued at over Rs 2,000 crore.



Sanjay Jha-led delegation leaves for 5-nation tour

New Delhi (UNI)
As part of India's global outreach, a parliamentary delegation headed by JDU's Sanjay Jha left for a five-nation tour to convey India's resolve for zero tolerance against terrorism and con-

Before leaving, the delegation was briefed by foreign secretary Vikram Misri on government's position on terrorism and commitment to eliminate not only terrorists but also their sponsors. The delegation will be visiting Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Japan and Singapore.

The members include Aparajita Sarangi, Brij Lal, Pradan Baruah, Hemang Joshi of the BJP, Abhishek Banerjee of the TMC, John Brittas of the CPI (M) and Ambassador Mohan Kumar.

Operation Sindoor

tours of Operation Sindoor in which nine terrorist camps were destroyed in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

MUSTREAD IndiGo Flight faces hailstorm en route to Srinagar, lands safely

Srinagar: An IndiGo flight en route from New Delhi to Srinagar experienced bad weather conditions, including a hailstorm, before landing safely on Wednesday evening, officials said. They said the flight carrying 227 passengers and operating with aircraft registration VT-IMD, encountered adverse weather conditions while approaching the Kashmir Valley. The pilot promptly declared an emergency to Air Traffic Control (ATC) Srinagar, citing safety concerns due to the turbulent weather.

Three Corona cases in Kolhapur district

Kolhapur: Three people, including two women, were found infected with coronavirus in Kolhapur district. They were admitted to private hospitals. According to information, an 83-year-old man belonging to the city and two women, one from Shahuwadi tehsil of the district and the other from Pune, reported positive for the virus. According to the district health department, the patients were recovering. Total active cases of corona in the country reached 257 with the highest number in Kerala (95), Tamil Nadu (66), Karnataka (13) and Maharashtra (56).

Reports of drone sightings over Kolkata under probe: Defence PRO

Kolkata: The defence authorities in Kolkata initiated a probe following reports of drone activity over the city's airspace on Wednesday. According to the Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO), "Reports of drone sightings over Kolkata have been received and are currently under investigation. Efforts are underway to ascertain the veracity of this event. Further information will be shared as facts are established."

China, Pak, Afghan agree to extend CPEC to Afghanistan

New Delhi: China, Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday agreed to expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) up to Afghanistan and strengthen cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This was decided at a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the country's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi at a meeting in Beijing, official sources here said.

Sensex

BSE.....	81,596.63 (+410.19)
NSE.....	24,813.45 (+129.55)

Bullion

Gold.....	97,420 (24 carat 10gm)
Silver.....	1,00,000 (1kg)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs).....	85.58

Weather

Sunrise	Sunset	Day	Night
5:37	6:58	39.1	26.6

Top Naxal leader Basavraj carrying Rs 1 crore bounty among 31 killed

Raipur (UNI)
In a major anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh, 31 Naxals, including their top leader Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavraj, who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore, have been killed in an encounter with the security forces in Chhattisgarh.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday applauded the security

Shah hails security forces



The operation, which began on Wednesday morning in the forested Abujhmad area, involved DRG personnel from Narayanpur, Bijapur and Dantewada districts. Naxalites opened fire when District Reserve Guard teams from four districts launched an operation in the area based on intelligence inputs about the presence of senior cadres from the Maoists' Mad division, the official said.

Chhattisgarh encounter

ty forces for successfully neutralising 31 dreaded Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao, the general secretary of CPI-Maoist topmost leader and the backbone of the Naxal movement in an operation in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur.

The operation, conducted by the DRG (District Reserve Guard), took place in the Narayanpur, Bijapur, and Sukma border areas. One security personnel lost their life, while another was injured.

India rejects Pak's allegations on terror attack in Balochistan

New Delhi: India on Wednesday rejected allegations of the terror attack on a school bus in Balochistan and said blaming India for its notoriety as the global epicentre of terrorism has become a "second trend" in Pakistan.

"India rejects the baseless allegations made by Pakistan regarding its involvement in the incident in Khuzdar earlier today," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to media queries on Pakistan's allegations.

India mourns the loss of lives in all such incidents.

However, in order to divert attention from its reputation as the global hub of terrorism and hide its abject failures, it has become a second nature for Pakistan to blame India for all its internal issues.

Jaiswal said that this attempt to deceive the world is doomed to fail.

In Pakistan, at least five children were killed in an attack on a school bus in Balochistan today.

Pakistan has blamed India for this.

SC justifies inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf boards

New Delhi (UNI)
The Supreme Court on Wednesday continued hearing a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, with Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta defending the Central government's stance before a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih.

Waqf law hearing Day 2

Mehta asserted that waqf, though rooted in Islamic tradition, is not an essential religious practice under Islam, and that waqf boards perform secular administrative functions.

Therefore, he argued, the inclusion of non-Muslims in such boards is permissible and constitutional.

"Waqf is an Islamic concept. But it is not an essential part of Islam. Charity exists in every religion, including Hinduism and Christianity, but the Supreme Court has ruled that charity is not an essential religious practice.



Similarly, managing waqf properties, ensuring proper accounts and audits, all are secular in nature," Mehta submitted.

He further clarified that having a maximum of two non-Muslim members on waqf boards does not affect the religious character of waqf, since these boards do not interfere with religious activities.

The petitions, including those filed by Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, challenge the amendment on the grounds that it violates the Muslim community's right under Article 26 to manage its religious affairs.

SC grants anticipatory bail to ex-IAS officer Puja Khedkar

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who is facing serious allegations of submitting forged OBC and PwBD (Persons with Benchmark Disabilities) certificates to clear the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination. A Bench comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma allowed the criminal appeal filed by Khedkar challenging the Delhi High Court's earlier denial of anticipatory bail. The Court made permanent the interim protection from arrest that had been granted to Khedkar in January.

SC grants interim bail to Ashoka University Prof Ali Khan

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Ali Khan Mahmudabad, an Associate Professor at Ashoka University, in a case related to his Facebook post on Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the Pahalgalam terror attack. A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh passed the order while hearing Mahmudabad's plea challenging his arrest and custody. Although the Court refused to stay the ongoing investigations or the two FIRs filed by Haryana Police, it directed his release on interim bail.

Donald Trump proposes 175 billion Dollar missile shield against incoming missiles

Washington (UNI)
Citing missile attack as the "most catastrophic threat" US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced a 175 billion Dollar multi-layered missile shield to protect United States from advanced missile attacks. The missile shield called the 'Golden Dome' will be operational from January 2029. It will detect missile launches through satellites, and command systems powered by Artificial Intelligence.

The decision seemingly prompted by the recent success of S-400 air defence missile system used by India against Pakistani drones and missiles in Operation Sindoor, will target incoming drones and hypersonic missiles.



It will detect, track and intercept missiles from launch to hitting the target. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the system will defend against both conventional and nuclear threats. The project represents

a substantial evolution from what was initially announced as the "Iron Dome for America" in the administration's first week, before being renamed "Golden Dome" by the Pentagon in February, possibly due to trademark concerns with Israel's existing Iron Dome system.

Guetlein previously served as the vice chief of space operations with the US Space Force and has extensive experience in missile defense and space-based capabilities.

In March, Guetlein described the project's scope, calling it "on the order of magnitude of the Manhattan Project" and saying it would "take concerted effort from the very top of our government" and "national will to bring all this together."

PM Modi to inaugurate 103 redeveloped railway stations today

Agencies, Guwahati
As part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), Prime Minister Narendra Modi would virtually inaugurate 103 redeveloped railway stations across the country on May 22, officials said here on Tuesday.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), Kapinjal Kishore Sharma, has said that of the 103 redeveloped railway stations, Haibargaon Railway station under the NFR also will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

Situated in Assam's Nagaon district, Haibargaon holds historical importance, once serving as a key node during the British rule due to Nagaon's prominence in tea cultivation and modern education.



Sharma said that originally built in 1887, the station has now been transformed into a world-class facility, drawing admiration for its beautiful architecture and modern amenities.

The public response was overwhelmingly positive, the CPRO added.