



# GARVI GUJARAT

RNI No. GUJENG/2014/57876

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Published Daily from Ahmedabad

Volume-11

Issue-289

Dt. 23-05-2025

Friday

Page-04

Rs.00.50 paisa

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## PM Modi In Bikaner: 'When Sindoor Turns Into Barood, Enemies Are Reduced To Dust'

(Agency)  
In his speech in Deshnoke in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong point on the Indian military's prompt action during Operation Sindoor. He claimed that those who sought to eradicate India's girls' sindoor (vermilion) had been "reduced to dust."

Speaking in Hindi, PM Modi declared, "The world has witnessed what happens when sindoor turns into barood (gunpowder)," referring to the country's decisive response against terrorism.

PM Modi In Bikaner When Sindoor Turns Into Barood Enemies Are Reduced To Dust

He recalled the tragic April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where terrorists targeted women based on their religion. The prime minister said that while the

bullets were fired in the Kashmir Valley, the pain was felt by every Indian - all 140 crore citizens. In the

action, he stated, compelled Pakistan to retreat under pressure. He continued by saying



wake of the attack, the entire nation united with a shared determination to punish the perpetrators more severely than they could have imagined, he said.

PM Modi emphasized that the Indian Armed Forces were given complete operational freedom, which led to a coordinated assault by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This joint

that India carried out a lightning-fast and accurate military operation to demolish nine major terror facilities in just 22 minutes, retaliating for the April 22 attack. Recalling his 2019 speech at Churu, Rajasthan, after an earlier airstrike, Modi spoke to the crowd, saying, 'I had sworn then, 'I will not let this nation fall, I will not let it bend down.' I reiterate

today from Rajasthani soil that those who attempted to eradicate our daughters' vermilion are now nothing more than dust.

The prime minister continued his sharp rhetoric, declaring that those who once shed Indian blood have now paid for every drop. "Those who thought India would stay silent are cowering inside their homes. Those who flaunted their weapons now lie buried beneath rubble," he said.

He described Operation Sindoor not as a simple retaliation, but as a declaration of India's new strength and resolve. "This is not mere revenge, this is the fierce avatar of a capable India - a new form of justice," he said.

PM Modi's speech was met with loud cheers from the gathered crowd, highlighting national unity and pride in India's military capability.

## State SWAGAT: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Directs Prompt Resolution of Farmers' Issues and Long-Standing Concerns

Chief Minister Provides Guidance and Instructions for Redressal of 90 Representations Received in State SWAGAT at Gandhinagar

Gandhinagar, 22 May 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel directed district administrations to promptly resolve minor citizen issues, including those of farmers, at the local level. CM instructed the officials to address long-pending farmers' grievances raised during State SWAGAT program swiftly and within a set timeframe.

In the state-level SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology) program for May 2025, held on the fourth Thursday of

the month, the CM addressed 11 complaints, offering relevant suggestions for their resolution.

Most grievances were related to the Revenue Department, specifically land measurement, acquisition, exemption from acquisition, and stamp duty on building construction. Issues concerning protection walls under the Irrigation Department were also raised, along with concerns from the Police and Panchayat departments. Approximately 90 complainants presented griev-

ances in the state-level SWAGAT. Public Relations officials were instructed to coordinate with the con-



cerned authorities for their resolution.

District-level SWAGAT programs are regularly held across the state under the chairmanship of the Collector. In May 2025,

1,103 citizen representations were heard in person at the district level, with appropriate instructions issued for their resolution. At the taluka level, 3,617 grievances were addressed in person, including 2,503 at the taluka SWAGAT, with nearly 52% resolved on the spot.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Shri M.K. Das, Additional Principal Secretary Smt. Avantika Singh, Secretary, Dr Vikrant Pandey, Officers on Special Duty Shri Dhiraj Parekh and Shri Rakesh Vyas, along with senior secretaries and officials from relevant departments, remained present during this state SWAGAT program.

## Congress Slams Centre After Trump Reiterates India-Pakistan Ceasefire Claims: 'Why This Thundering Silence?'

(Agency)  
With US President Donald Trump repeating his claim that he settled the recent conflict between India and Pakistan through the promise of trade, the Congress on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not rejected such statements even once and asked why this "thundering silence".

Congress' general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that for the eight time in 11 days, President Trump has claimed full credit for the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, praised the PMs of India and Pakistan equally and put them on par in every way, and also

reiterated that trade with the US was the instrument he used to get the two counties to declare a ceasefire.



"Yet our PM -- Donald bhai's great buddy -- is completely silent on what the US President is repeatedly saying. The External

Affairs Minister also continues to maintain complete quiet on what his pal, the US Secretary of State, has said in support of the US

Why this thundering silence, he asked.

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said this is the eighth time President Trump has made this claim that he got Operation Sindoor stopped.

"He claims to have used trade to get India to end Operation Sindoor. Prime Minister Modi has not rejected this claim even once. What does this silence mean?" Khera said in a post on X.

In his remarks in the Oval Office during a meeting with visiting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Trump said, "If you take a look at what we just did with Pakistan and India.

## Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates "Sagar Bhavan" and "Polar Bhavan", two first-of its-kind facilities in India

(Agency)  
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday inaugurated "Sagar Bhavan" and "Polar Bhavan", two first-of its-kind facilities in India and among the very few in the world at Goa's "National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research" (NCPOR).

At a time when nations across the world are delib-

erating over the nuances of the ocean geopolitics or

enable India to play a global role in ocean geopolitics.



geopolitics of oceans, the Minister expressed confidence that in the times to come, the institute will facilitate India's increased role in geopolitics and even

In addition, the new facilities will also enable the institute to gain supremacy in the study of weather patterns as also to address the climate concerns, he said.

The newly inaugurated facility marks a significant step in India's growing focus on polar and ocean studies.

Dr Jitendra Singh also unveiled a documentary highlighting NCPOR's 25-year journey and took a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming museum, which is expected to offer immersive, science-based public engagement experiences. He also launched the "Science On Sphere (SOS)" initiative, a 3D visualization platform for displaying earth systems and climate-related data.

## Punjab unveils land pooling policy to revolutionize urban development, empower landowners

(Agency)  
Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday announced a landmark initiative by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab government: the implementation of an innovative land pooling policy aimed at fostering transparent and planned urban development across the state.

This policy marks a significant departure from past practices, prioritizing voluntary participation and empowering landowners to become active stakeholders in Punjab's progress. Addressing a press con-

ference at Punjab Bhawan here on Thursday, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema emphasized the policy's core principle of 100 per cent voluntary participation. "Under this

visionary policy, there will be no forcible land acquisition. We have developed a model that respects the rights and aspirations of our farmers and landowners," he said.

The finance minister also highlighted the substantial economic benefits for participating landowners. "This policy directly

addresses the growing demand for affordable housing in our urban centres, driven by Punjab's rapid urbanization. Market estimates indicate that farmers who participate in this Land Pooling Policy stand to gain up to a 400 percent return on their land investment," he stated.

Cheema further explained that the development agencies of the Punjab government would be responsible for developing the pooled land, ensuring the provision of modern infrastructure, including

roads, water supply, sewerage, drainage, and electricity. "Once developed, the land will be returned to the original landowners in proportion to their contribution. It will appreciate significantly in value, and landowners will have the autonomy to use their developed plots as they see fit—whether for personal use or for sale," he added.

Positioning this policy as a decisive blow against land mafias and illegal colonies, Cheema remarked, "For the past three decades, the Congress and Akali-BJP governments operated in

## India-Pakistan Directly Negotiated Ceasefire: S Jaishankar Dismisses Trump's Mediation Claims

(Agency)  
Despite US President Donald Trump taking credit for easing tensions between India and Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that New Delhi and Islamabad "directly negotiated" the ceasefire.

Speaking to Dutch public broadcaster NOS, S Jaishankar said that several countries were in touch with India after launching Operation Sindoor and the United States was not alone. He stated that India told every country to talk to India directly if Islamabad wants a ceasefire.

India-Pakistan Directly Negotiated Ceasefire S Jaishankar Dismisses Trump's Mediation Claims  
"When two countries are engaged in a conflict, it is natural that countries in the world call up and...try to sort of indicate their concern...but the cessation of firing and military action was something which was negotiated directly between India and Pakistan,"

Hindustan Times quoted him as saying in the interview.



Ever since India and Pakistan agreed for ceasefire, the US President has been claiming that he brokered peace between India and Pakistan. At least, eight times, he has claimed that he stopped the Operation Sindoor and used trade for Islamabad-New Delhi to reduce the tensions.

Trump's Big Claims  
During his interaction with South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday, he said, "If you take a look at what we

just did with Pakistan and India, we settled that whole thing, and I think I settled it

through trade. We're doing a big deal with India. We're doing a big deal with Pakistan... You know somebody had to be the last one to shoot, but the shooting was getting worse and worse, bigger and bigger, deeper and deeper into the country. We spoke to them and...we got it settled, and then two days later something happened, and they said it was Trump's fault, but Pakistan has some excellent people and some really good leaders and India is my friend.

If Pak Wanted To Stop, They Have To Call Us

Responding to a question on the US's role in the ceasefire, S Jaishankar said, "We made one thing very clear to everybody who spoke to us, not just the US but to everybody, saying if the Pakistanis want to stop fighting, they need to tell us. We need to hear it from them. Their general has to call up our general and say this. And that is what happened," he added.

The External Affairs Minister made it clear that India will only have discussions with Pakistan on ending terrorism and on the issue of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

He also said that India will respond in a similar way if there is another terror attack like the Pahalgam incident that killed 26 civilians. New Delhi has redefined its policy against terrorism which now says that any attack on Indian soil will be considered as an act of war.

## VP calls for evidence-based validation, digitisation, translations, and cross-disciplinary studies of ancient texts

(Agency)  
The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today called for focussing on alternative medicine and for evidence based validation of our ancient texts to make them accessible and applicable to contemporary challenges. Speaking at an event in Rajbhavan, Goa he said, "We are a nation with a difference....We are rediscovering our roots,

and we will get rooted in our roots. I strongly focus on alternative medicine because India is the home of alternative medicine. It is being practiced now very extensively....Let us not confine our ancient texts to libraries. They are not meant for shelf of library. They are meant to be widely disseminated. Let us bring timeless ideas to life through research, innova-

tion, and reinterpretation using modern scientific tools. Let us pursue evidence-based validation, digitisation, translations, and cross-disciplinary studies to make these treasures accessible and applicable to contemporary challenges.... am extremely happy that World Health Organisation has recognised it by establishing a global centre for traditional

medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat. What a powerful recognition of universal relevance of our systems like Ayurveda."

"Time for us to look back in our Vedas, in our Upanishads, in our Puranas, in our history and time to tell our children from birth about our civilizational depth of knowledge", he added.

	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (SAC), CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (CMG), JODHPUR TEKRA, AMBAWADI VISTAR P.O., AHMEDABAD -380015 Ph. No: (079) 26914960 / 4926/ 4901						
E-Tender Notice (NIT) No : SAC/CMG/CPHD/CW/C/01/2025-2026 dated 20.05.2025							
BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER							
1. On Behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work.							
Sl. No.	Title of work	Estimated cost put to tender (₹)	Period of completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Due date and time of opening of tenders	Earnest money deposit (EMD) (₹)
1.	Construction of Community Hall at Vastrapur DOS Housing Colony, Ahmedabad – Civil & PH works.	440.31 Lakhs	21 Months	From 23.05.2025 at 10.00 Hrs. to 04.06.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs.	11.06.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs.	15:00 hrs. on 12.06.2025 (Techno-commercial bid)	Rs. 8,80,620/-
2. The tender document may be downloaded from e-tendering website <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO">www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</a> during stipulated period by registering with tenderwizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed on this website. Tender processing fee is payable to M/s. ITI Ltd. through E-gateway.							
3. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on websites <a href="http://www.isro.gov.in">www.isro.gov.in</a> or <a href="http://www.sac.gov.in">www.sac.gov.in</a> as well as from <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO">www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</a> at tender free view. Tenderers may contact Mr. Sunil Patel (representative from M/s. ITI Ltd) at Mob. No. 9714881992 / 9624981992 in case of difficulty.							
Group Head, CMG/SAC							



# Editorial

## Overseas control

India’s proposed move to tighten foreign investment norms by formally recognising “Foreign-Owned and Controlled Entities” (FOCE) is not just a bureaucratic tweak ~ it is a decisive step toward aligning FDI oversight with economic reality. The global investment landscape has evolved rapidly, and it is only prudent that our regulatory frameworks catch up. For years, indirect foreign investments ~ often routed through complex off-shore structures ~ have operated in a grey zone. These investments allowed foreign actors to effectively control Indian businesses while sidestepping FDI rules that were designed to protect national interests. Whether in e-commerce, fin-tech, pharmaceuticals, or media, the use of layered corporate entities and overseas funds has enabled backdoor entry into restricted sectors. With the FOCE category, the government is rightly attempting to draw a clear line: if control lies abroad, the obligations under FDI policy must apply.

This clarity is especially timely. India has emerged as a pivotal destination for global capital, but this openness must be matched with strategic oversight. Since 2020, when prior approval was mandated for investments from countries sharing land borders with India, particularly China, the intent to shield critical sectors from opaque foreign control has been evident. However, without accounting for indirect control structures, enforcement remained porous. The new FOCE rules aim to plug this gap. This move also signals India’s growing confidence in shaping global investment norms, not just reacting to them. As one of the world’s largest economies, India has every right to set terms that prioritise transparency, reciprocity, and long-term national interest. Critics may argue that tighter regulations could deter foreign investment. But this view misses the point. India is not shutting its doors ~ it is simply demanding transparency and compliance with the rules that domestic businesses are already bound by. In fact, clarity and predictability in regulation are strong incentives for serious investors. Those who wish to operate within India’s framework, in good faith, will find no undue hindrance. Furthermore, insisting that indirect ownership be treated on par with direct investment upholds both the spirit and the letter of India’s FDI policy.

If an offshore fund controls an Indian entity, then its actions ~ whether restructuring or transferring shares ~ should be scrutinised for their impact on national policy goals and sectoral limits. This is especially important in sectors where control translates into access to sensitive data, consumer influence, or strategic infrastructure. By ensuring that valuation norms, disclosure requirements, and ownership thresholds apply uniformly, the FOCE framework also levels the playing field. Indian entrepreneurs and companies have long contended with asymmetries in compliance. Rectifying this imbalance enhances fairness and builds trust in the regulatory system. In essence, India is not retreating from global capital ~ it is maturing in how it engages with it. The FOCE classification, if implemented with precision and fairness, can reinforce India’s reputation as a stable, rules-based economy that values both investment and sovereignty

This clarity is especially timely. India has emerged as a pivotal destination for global capital, but this openness must be matched with strategic oversight. Since 2020, when prior approval was mandated for investments from countries sharing land borders with India, particularly China, the intent to shield critical sectors from opaque foreign control has been evident. However, without accounting for indirect control structures, enforcement remained porous. The new FOCE rules aim to plug this gap. This move also signals India’s growing confidence in shaping global investment norms, not just reacting to them. As one of the world’s largest economies, India has every right to set terms that prioritise transparency, reciprocity, and long-term national interest. Critics may argue that tighter regulations could deter foreign investment. But this view misses the point. India is not shutting its doors ~ it is simply demanding transparency and compliance with the rules that domestic businesses are already bound by. In fact, clarity and predictability in regulation are strong incentives for serious investors. Those who wish to operate within India’s framework, in good faith, will find no undue hindrance. Furthermore, insisting that indirect ownership be treated on par with direct investment upholds both the spirit and the letter of India’s FDI policy.

If an offshore fund controls an Indian entity, then its actions ~ whether restructuring or transferring shares ~ should be scrutinised for their impact on national policy goals and sectoral limits. This is especially important in sectors where control translates into access to sensitive data, consumer influence, or strategic infrastructure. By ensuring that valuation norms, disclosure requirements, and ownership thresholds apply uniformly, the FOCE framework also levels the playing field. Indian entrepreneurs and companies have long contended with asymmetries in compliance. Rectifying this imbalance enhances fairness and builds trust in the regulatory system. In essence, India is not retreating from global capital ~ it is maturing in how it engages with it. The FOCE classification, if implemented with precision and fairness, can reinforce India’s reputation as a stable, rules-based economy that values both investment and sovereignty

# Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates RE-NETWORK 2025

**Gujarat is the Only State in the Country Equipped with a Gas Grid, Water Grid, and Electricity Grid: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel**

**Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel**

**- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised the importance of new-age renewable energy**

**- By establishing Asia’s largest solar power plant at Charanka, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi demonstrated his strong commitment to renewable energy sources**

**- Initiatives like RE-NETWORK 2025 exemplify the spirit of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas” in the renewable energy sector**

**Forest and Environment Minister Shri Mulubhai Bera Graces the Occasion**

**Two-Day Expo Will Host 120+ Exhibitors, 15+ Eminent Speakers, and 25,000+ Attendees**

**Gujarat Federation of Solar Industries (GFSI) Organises Expo to Promote Innovation, Business Growth, and Collaboration in Renewable Energy Sector**

Gandhinagar, 22 May 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated RE-NETWORK 2025 in Ahmedabad, in the presence of Forest and

Environment Minister Shri Mulubhai Bera. During the launch of RE-NETWORK 2025, CM congratulated the Indian Army on the success of 'Operation Sindoor'. He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new India is being built through development-oriented politics alongside internal and border security.

CM further mentioned that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasised new-age renewable energy. He added that when the country and the world were discussing renewable and green clean energy, the then Chief Minister and current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi demonstrated his commitment to renewable energy sources by starting Asia's largest solar plant in Charanka. While addressing the RE-NETWORK 2025 Expo, themed The Future Together, the CM stated that the event reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to renewable energy. Such initiatives truly embody the vision of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas” within the RE sector. The CM praised the Gujarat Federation of Solar Industries (GFSI) for its innovative approach in promoting technological advancement across solar, wind, biomass, green

hydrogen, and energy storage sectors. Speaking on the state's progress under the leadership of Shri

Gram Jyoti Yojana .

The CM further noted that Gujarat's power gen-

2009, which has since evolved into the Renewable Energy Policy 2023 through timely



Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said that after becoming Chief Minister in 2001, Shri Narendra Modi led Gujarat's development by overcoming several challenges with visionary leadership. To make the power sector self-reliant, he introduced Jyotigram Yojana. Its success in providing 24-hour electricity to citizens later inspired the nationwide implementation of Deendayal Upadhyaya

eration capacity has risen from 8,750 megawatts in 2001 to 53,000 megawatts today, with renewable sources accounting for 55% of the total. Modhera has emerged as the country's first solar-powered village. Gujarat remains the only state with integrated gas, water, and electricity grids. Guided by Shri Narendra Modi's vision, the state launched India's first Solar Energy Policy in

updates. Highlighting initiatives in the RE sector under the Prime Minister's guidance, the Chief Minister said that Shri Narendra Modi drew global attention by establishing the Climate Change Department. His goal is to make India a net-zero carbon emission country by 2070, and Gujarat is committed to becoming a Net Zero Carbon Emission State even before that. He

added that under PM Surya Ghar Yojana, 3.36 lakh homes in Gujarat now have solar rooftops, ranking first in the country. The CM also mentioned 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and 'Catch the Rain' campaigns launched under the Prime Minister's guidance on International Biodiversity Day.

Shri Kishorsinh Jhala, President of the Gujarat Federation of Solar Industries (GFSI), said the event will strengthen the renewable energy ecosystem by bringing together key stakeholders. He mentioned growing public engagement with renewable energy through schemes like PM Surya Ghar Yojana. It is worth mentioning that the two-day expo will feature over 120 exhibitors, 15+ speakers, and more than 25,000 attendees.

On the occasion of RE-NETWORK 2025, MLA of Dhangadhra Shri Prakash Varmora, Additional Chief Secretary of the Energy and Petrochemicals Department Shri S.J. Haider, Executive Member of the Gujarat Federation of Solar Industries (GFSI) Shri Divyesh Savaliya, along with other dignitaries, committee members, sponsors, exhibitors, and entrepreneurs, were present.

# Timeless story of Goopy Gyne and Kanu Kyne

(Agency)

According to the Bengali calendar, 8 May 1969, was the 25th day of Baishakh. It was the 108th birthday of Tagore. However, it is recognised as the day that Satyajit Ray's iconic fantasy film, Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne, which was based on the story by his grandfather Upendrakishore Roy Chowdhury, was released.

It's "one of India's most original films," according to director Raja Sen, where "Ray conjured up two musician heroes and a world of ghosts." In the story, two young, aspiring musicians named Goopy and Bagha were exiled from their respective villages – Amloki and Hortoki – because their music tortured their neighbours. Subsequently, the king of ghosts, was pleased by their off-key singing and drumming in the forest and gave the singer-drummer duo Goopy and Bagha three boons: enchanted shoes that let them travel anywhere by clapping their hands together, the power to summon food and clothing at will, and – most remarkably – the capacity to captivate and spellbind an audience. Both Goopy and Bagha eventually rose to prominence as court musicians in the Shundi kingdom, and each of them married a princess.

The film explores universal themes of brotherhood, compassion, love, and selflessness in addition to its blend of fantasy, comedy, and adventure. It also

persuasively argues for peace in a humane world. For fifty years and more, Ray's Goopy Gyen Bagha Byen has induced Bengalis, and it will undoubtedly continue to mesmerise for many more years. The film's depiction of class differences and anti-war sentiment, among many other socio-political themes, are timeless. Let's talk about one such significant social viewpoint and how it has changed over the past hundred years. In the narrative of Goopy Gyen and Bagha Byen, Goopy's father, Kanu Kyen, was a grocer in Amloki, his village. It was perceived by many that Goopy might have made a deliberate decision to refuse to acknowledge his village upbringing and the existence of his father in his later years. Goopy's desire for achieving power, wealth, happiness, and success might have had a major role in his disregard for his family and his past.

Regarding Goopy's mother, Ray made no mention. Therefore, it is unknown to us if she was still alive when Goopy left Amloki village. However, Upendrakishore made explicit reference to her. How about Bagha? He revealed to Goopy in the movie that his parents had passed away. But given how Bagha was portrayed in the movie, it's probable that he had parents or some close relatives, at

least, in his village as well. His declaration that he had no loved ones may therefore have been a conscious decision; like Goopy, he may have wished to break



all past ties. In the story, Goopy was driven out of Amloki village on a donkey since his singing had awakened the king.

Goopy eventually forgot about his parents and enjoyed a happy life after marrying a princess. But this Goopy, Bagha, and Kanu are all products of Satyajit's reimagination. Upendrakishore's portrayal of the original characters differs slightly. In the original story, the rhythms of Bagha's drum also annoyed his parents severely. There is also a reference to Bagha's father, Panchu Pyne, therein. In the movie, Kanu Kyne wipes his eyes against a tree as Goopy is being driven out of Amloki village. Kanu came home by him-

self, crying. And suddenly he becomes a tragic character who'd become a forgotten character shortly. But in Upendrakishore's original story, Goopy's

content with their prestige after he and Bagha married two princesses, lived in the palace of Shundi's monarch, and spent their time playing music.

Well, were Goopy's parents happy remaining in Amloki, their village? Possibly so. Or did Goopy really bring them to his new residence? Upendrakishore, certainly, forgot to clarify that. Determining whether or not that absence of clarity was intentional is quite challenging. Nevertheless, it is a crucial aspect of the narrative. In a way, the tale of Goopy and Bagha also depicts enduring socio-economic class distinctions. It depicts the pursuit of money, prosperity, upliftment, peace, and success from hamlet to city and one country to another more prosperous country perceived to have greater scope.

Remember that long before they were able to realise their dreams of a king's palace and princesses in real life, Goopy and Bagha dreamed of them. Of course, there is no denying that there may also be a desire to succeed in one's own creative field, in this case music. More than a century ago, in 1915, Upendrakishore published GoopyBagha's story in six instalments of the wildly popular children's magazine Sandesh. It was comparable to a village boy migrating to a city at the time. Even though his father had expelled him, he always goes back to his

native village to find his roots and to see his parents whenever he has the chance. The story's film adaptation was made by Upendrakishore's grandson over fifty years later. In the film, when his son was compelled to leave the village, the father sobs. But the son never goes back to his native village and eventually becomes the son-in-law of a king. Another half-century plus has gone by. The realm of Halla and Shundi, where Goopy and Bagha travelled in the narrative, is now also international. What do the Goopys and Baghas of today do?

After relocating to a king's palace and marrying a princess in a distant country, do they forget about the Kanu Kynes? Or, as in Upendrakishore's century-old tale, do they occasionally travel home for holidays to spend time with their parents and experience their affection and caress? And do they still vow to bring their parents along the next time they go back? What actually happens the next time? And is it without their own interest if they do occasionally take them to the Shundi's palace for a short while? Do the Kanu Kynes of today, during the remainder of their lives, truly believe the promises of Goopys and take pride in their children's accomplishments? The tragic figure Kanu Kyne and the social element of the Goopy and Bagha narrative are ageless in this regard as well.

# Caste and Census

(Agency)

The Union Government has finally yielded to the demands of various pressure groups for conducting a caste census side by side with the next normal census operation (2021) as and when it is held. The latest announcement about the next census (The Statesman, May 1) is the outcome of these demands. Announcing the government decision and Cabinet nod on conducting the next census, the Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that this shall be the first caste census in independent India.

Two notable unusual

aspects regarding the time of this announcement are a) there is hardly one month left for the Bihar Assembly elections ~ and incidentally, Bihar happens to be the first state to conduct a caste-based survey in the country, and b) it took the government more than seven years' time to finalise what it announced in 2018. Earlier, in 2021, the government categorically reported to the Supreme Court that conducting a caste census is an administratively difficult process as it is prone to errors. Depending on this plea of the Union government, the Apex Court dismissed a petition filed by

the Maharashtra Government on giving direction to the government to conduct a caste census. Conducting a census at every ten-year interval is a constitutional obligation of the Government of India, which helps not only in updating the country's baseline data system in almost all spheres but also helps the government in taking appropriate policy decisions. The 17th Census, which was supposed to be conducted in the year 2021 initially, was kept in abeyance due to the precarious situation prevailing in the country generated by the spread of

Covid-19. But even thereafter, the government did not appear keen to conduct Census 2021. In this context, we may note that there were as many as 233 countries that were supposed to go for a census immediately after 2020, of which 143 countries have completed the census operation, including the People's Republic of China.

Those which could not yet resume the process have their own internal problems, such as Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, etc. However, India, despite having no such problems, delayed the census, and

even in the present declaration, the government has not spelled out any definite time frame for commencing the next census operation. In the absence of census data, people are today using the projected population data published by the technical committee of the health and family welfare department. But the projected data cannot be equivalent to the census data, and it has only limited use. In fact, the country today is using data which are based on the 15-year-old data ~ i.e., data from the 2011 census. The issue of conducting a caste census gained

momentum after Bihar came up with the res ~ ults of their caste-based survey in 2024.

Although the central government submitted an affidavit before the apex court stating that administratively a caste census is not possible to conduct, during the assembly elections in five states last year, whenever the issue came up, the BJP toned down its voice, saying that they are not averse to it. However, all along the course of the elections, it remained non-committal. Meanwhile, the Congress has made it a poll promise in those five states that had gone to

elections in the last round. The issue was hot at that time, as Bihar had shown the way as to how to go about it. On Gandhi Jayanti last year, the government of Bihar declared the results of the caste census in the form of certain tables showing population data, which, however, were not authenticated by any government functionaries. The government neither published it under an official notification nor was it published under an Office Memorandum.

To date, Bihar has not disclosed the methodology adopted for capturing the caste data for their caste-

based survey. We cannot refer to what Bihar has conducted as a census. Bihar named it a "caste-ba ~ sed survey." The census as a subject is included in Serial No. 69 of the Central List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. As such, it is the exclusive domain of the Central government to conduct any type of census in India. For this purpose, a Census Office is there under the name and style of the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI), which is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the census in the country.



## WESTERN RAILWAY INTRODUCES SUPERFAST EXPRESS BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS AND BIKANER

Mumbai, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of this train is as under:

Train No. 21903/21904      Bandra Terminus – Bikaner Superfast Weekly Express

Train No. 21903 Bandra Terminus - Bikaner Superfast Express will depart from Bandra Terminus every Monday at 23.25 hrs and reach Bikaner at 20.40 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 26th May, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 21904 Bikaner – Bandra Terminus Express will depart from Bikaner every Wednesday at 08.50 hrs and arrive

## WR EXTENDS TRIPS OF WEEKLY SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN MUMBAI CENTRAL AND KATIHAR

For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has extended the trips of Train No. 09189/09190 Mumbai Central – Katihar Weekly Special on the same composition, timings, halts and path.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, details of the trains are as under:

1. Train No. 09189 Mumbai Central – Katihar Special has been extended up to 27th September, 2025

2. Train No. 09190 Katihar – Mumbai Central Special has been extended up to 30th September, 2025

The booking for extended trips of Train No. 09189 will open on 23.05.2025 at PRS counters and IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

## US: Multiple Fatalities Reported After Private Jet Crashes In California's San Diego

Several passengers aboard a private aircraft that crashed into a residential area in San Diego early on Thursday have been confirmed dead, reported AP.

Assistant Fire Department Chief Dan Eddy, speaking at a press briefing, noted that investigators would look into whether the aircraft had struck a power line.

He confirmed, however, that "no one on the ground was injured".

Officials from the San Diego police and fire departments said the aircraft had the capacity to carry between eight and ten people, though the one was injured on the ground".

Describing the devastation, Eddy said, "When it hit the street, as the jet fuel



## Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad Walks Out Of Sonapat Jail After SC Grants Him Bail

(Agency) Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been released from Sonapat district jail following the Supreme Court's decision to grant him interim bail on Wednesday.

Professor Mahmudabad, who leads the Political Science department at Ashoka University, was arrested on 18 May over a social media post related to "Operation Sindoor," India's military retaliation to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack.

Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad being escorted by police personnel after his arrest in Sonapat Haryana Sunday May 18 2025 The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Mahmudabad, arrested for his alleged offensive social media posts on Operation Sindoor, but refused to stay the investigation against him.

The post resulted in two FIRs being lodged against him by BJP youth leader Yogesh Jathari and the Chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia.



## Cartoonist booked in Indore for cartoons targeting Lord Shiva, Modi and RSS

(Agency) Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Indore-based cartoonist Hemant Malviya following a complaint by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activist, who alleged that Malviya made inappropriate cartoons and comments about Lord Shiva, PM Narendra Modi, and the RSS.

The FIR was lodged at Lasudiya Police Station in Indore on Wednesday night.

According to police station in-charge Tareesh Soni, the FIR has been registered on the complaint of lawyer and RSS activist Vinay Joshi.

The police official said



that the cartoonist has been booked under several sections, including 196 (acts detrimental to communal harmony), 299 (deliberate act intended to hurt religious sentiments), and 352 (intentional insult with the intent to breach peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Malviya has also been charged under Section 67A of the Information Technology Act (publication

account, including allegedly inappropriate comments about Lord Shiva, along with cartoons, videos, photos, and commentary related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS volunteers, and others, according to the official.

Malviya's Facebook account includes a disclaimer stating that all characters in his cartoons are "fictional," and any resemblance to real persons is "coincidental" and based on "viewers' imagination."

The police station in-charge said that investigations are underway, and Malviya has not yet been arrested.

acts in electronic form), he said.

The FIR refers to offensive content posted on Malviya's Facebook

## J&K: One Soldier Martyred in Fierce Gunfight During Operation Trashi In Kishtwar

(Agency) A soldier of the Indian Army was martyred during an ongoing encounter with terrorists in the Chhattru region of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday. The anti-terror operation, codenamed Operation Trashi, is being conducted jointly by the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

According to official sources, the soldier sustained critical injuries in a fierce exchange of gunfire and, despite intensive medical efforts, succumbed to his wounds.

J amp amp K One Soldier Martyred in Fierce Gunfight During Operation Trashi in Kishtwar

The gunbattle erupted after the security forces made contact with terrorists hiding in the dense forest area. Additional reinforcements have been deployed, and the entire region has been cordoned off to ensure the successful continuation of the operation

Security forces remain on high alert, and further updates are expected as the encounter develops.

Terrorists Trapped by Security Personnel

An exchange of gunfire occurred between security forces and terrorists in the Singhpora area of Chatroo, located in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, the J&K Police reported on Wednesday. According to reports, at least three terrorists are trapped in the ongoing encounter.



## Karnataka Govt Approves Renaming Of Ramanagara District As Bengaluru South

(Agency) The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the renaming of neighbouring Ramanagara district as 'Bengaluru South'.

Ramanagara, about 50 kms from here, will remain as the headquarters of the renamed district, which will also consist of Magadi, Kanakapura, Channapatna and Harohalli taluks.

"We have checked the rules, regulations and acts and amendments. Ramanagara was originally a Bengaluru district, today in the cabinet it was decided to name it as the Bengaluru South district.

Order regarding this will be issued. This is happy news for the Bengaluru South district," Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters, he said, there will be no change in Ramanagara functioning as the headquarters of the district, and it will continue.

"Notification will be issued and the necessary process will follow. There will be no financial implication from this decision... all land records and everything will be changed. I'm also here-on from the Bengaluru South district" he added.

Doddaballapura, Channapatna, Ramanagara, Magadi, and Kanakapura taluks.

"We (current Ramanagara district people) are trying to save our Bengaluru identity. This region is developing," he said, adding that the cabinet decided on the Bengaluru South district name within the framework of law.

To a question whether the Centre had opposed the cabinet's earlier decision in this regard, Shivakumar said, nothing, the central government has no powers on this issue.

"Informing the Centre was mandatory, that's all.



## Shots Fired Outside CIA Headquarters Hours After Israeli Embassy Staff Killings

(Agency) An person was shot outside the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in Langley, Virginia, on Thursday, Reuters reported, citing other media sources.

While the CIA did not confirm a shooting, a spokesperson stated there was a "security incident" outside the premises.

The spokesperson said security personnel had "engaged a person" outside the gates, and that the individual had been taken into custody.

The spokesperson declined to confirm whether the person had been struck by gunfire, according to Reuters.

In a post on X, the CIA noted that the main entrance to its Langley facility had been closed and advised employees to use alternative routes.

NBC News, citing a source familiar with the matter, reported that the shooting had not been fatal.

The event reportedly occurred around 4 am local time (0800 GMT), according to a Fairfax police spokesperson speaking to ABC News.

This security incident came just a day after two staff members from the Israeli Embassy were fatally shot by a lone gunman in Washington D.C. on Wednesday evening. At present, there is no indication the two events are connected.

Israeli Embassy Staff Fatally Shot

Two members of staff at the Israeli Embassy in Washington were shot dead as they left an event at a Jewish museum.

The suspect, identified as Elias Rodriguez, 31, from Chicago, shouted, "Free, free Palestine" upon being apprehended, police said.

The victims, named as Yaron Lischinsky, an Israeli national, and Sarah Milgrim, an American citizen, were described as a young couple who were soon to become engaged, according to Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter.

Reacting to the incident, former U.S. President Donald Trump posted on social media, "These horrible D.C. killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end, NOW! Hatred and Radicalism have no place in the USA."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also expressed his dismay: "We are witnessing the terrible price of antisemitism and wild incitement against Israel," he said in a statement.



## TRAI responds to the DoT's back-reference in respect of the TRAI's recommendations dated 20.02.2023

(Agency) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued its response to the back-reference dated 19.03.2025 received from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in respect of the TRAI's recommendations dated 20.02.2023 on "Recommendations on Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity".

Digital connectivity is vital to the way we live and work. The exponential growth in digitalization during the last two decades has revolutionized the world impacting everything, from economy, innovation, science, and education, to health, sustainability, governance, and lifestyle.

In the past, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Government have taken various policy initiatives to fulfil the demands of telecom connectivity. Key recommendations already made by TRAI in this regard are given in Annexure II of the Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity' dated 25th March 2022. These policy interventions have helped in improving connectivity. However, the Authority

noted that all these efforts have fallen short in achieving the desired level of digital connectivity specifically inside the buildings or areas.

The Authority noted that confluence of the Internet of Things (IoT) with building operations and the future of the workplace is creating a significant opportunity for building owners, operators, and occupants to create smart, digitally connected



# Grand Inauguration of Gujarat's First-Ever Dharoi Adventure Fest

Inauguration by

**Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel**

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

📅 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 ⌚ 9:00 AM onwards

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