

## PAHALGAM FALLOUT: PAKISTAN PUTS SIMLA ACCORD ON HOLD

Even as PM Modi vows to pursue the killers of Pahalgam "to the ends of the earth", Pakistan shuts airspace for Indian flights, closes Wagah border

**PTI, ISLAMABAD:** Alarmed by India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty after the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Thursday put the Simla Agreement and other bilateral accords with India on hold, suspended all trade, closed its airspace for Indian airlines and said any attempt to divert the water meant for it under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an Act of War. Apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to "track and punish" every terrorist behind the killings, India has not responded diplomatically to Pakistan's manoeuvres yet.

Islamabad also closed the

Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave -- mirroring steps taken the previous evening by India over the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Pakistani announcements followed a meeting here of its National Security Committee chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in response to the Indian decision on Wednesday to suspend the Indus Water Treaty and downgrade diplomatic ties with Islamabad.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

### WE WILL IDENTIFY, TRACK, PUNISH EVERY TERRORIST & THEIR BACKERS: PM

**PTI, MADHUBANI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday declared that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued "to the ends of the earth" and promised to "identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers".

In his first speech after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, the prime minister vowed to pun-

ish terrorists behind the strike and said India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism.

Modi said, "Friends, today from the soil of Bihar, I say to the whole world India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth."

Cont on Pg 11 >>

### INDUS WATERS TREATY: A LIFELINE ON PAUSE

After the Pahalgam terrorist attack, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan - the first time ever. Pakistan has called this an "act of war". What makes the Indus Waters Treaty so important to both the countries?

#### ORIGINS & STRUCTURE

■ Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan after a decade of negotiations, with the World Bank acting as mediator. Then Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru and Pak President Ayub Khan were the signatories

■ The treaty divides river access by granting India full rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) and Pakistan rights over the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), with limited use allowed for India



■ The treaty has survived wars and terror attacks, including 2019 Pulwama bombing

**RISING TENSIONS** 2023, when India issued notices seeking treaty modification due to Pakistan's objections to its dam projects

■ Matters began escalating in

#### IMPLICATIONS OF SUSPENDING THE TREATY

■ Suspending the treaty gives India greater control, allowing it to stop sharing water data, undertake dam maintenance, and block Pakistani inspections

■ India's move part of a broader strategic response, which included closing Attari border, cancelling visas, and expelling Pakistani personnel

■ Impact on Pakistan could be severe, with potential disruption to agriculture, power, exports, and food supply due to reduced river flow

## HC petition challenges transfer of parking space to casino

Captain of Ports and North Goa DM named in PIL that seeks to restore public facility

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** A public interest litigation (PIL) filed in the High Court of Bombay at Goa has raised serious objections to the de-notification and transfer of a public pay parking area near the Panjim Ferry Wharf to a private casino company, alleging that the move was unlawful, lacked transparency, and was executed without following due procedure.

The petitioner, Jack Sukhija, has accused the Captain of Ports (CoP) and the North Goa District Magistrate of colluding to hand over the public space to M/s Golden Peace Infrastructure Pvt Ltd — the operator of a floating casino — for the exclusive use of its guests. He contends that this decision, which facilitates the casino's reception and passenger movement, is detrimental to public interest and violates established norms for managing public infrastructure and sought restoration of the public parking facility.

The High Court has admitted the petition and issued notices to several authorities, including

### PLETHORA OF ALLEGATIONS

■ Petitioner, Jack Sukhija claims CoP & North Goa DM colluded to grant M/s Golden Peace Infrastructure Pvt Ltd exclusive use of public space for casino guests

■ Argues the decision harms public interest & violates public infra management norms

■ Accuses PWD of upgrading the area as part of a beautification project following a 2015 request from the CoP. A DM notification on May 24, 2017, designated a 627 sqms section as a public pay parking zone. CoP allegedly leased this section

to a casino without public bidding

■ Alleges orders from Dec 13, 2023, & March 22, 2024, are said to have revoked the parking designation without public notice

■ Seeks to nullify the de-notification orders & NOC granted to the casino, and to restore the public parking facility.

■ Demands a judicial probe into the conduct of the CoP and DM

■ Requests a stay on the de-notification orders & halt all business activities in the disputed area

the State government, the District Collector, Public Works Department (PWD), Captain of Ports, and the casino company, directing them to file their responses by June 16.

According to the petition, the area in question had been upgraded by the PWD as part of a project to beautify the Panjim Ferry Wharf and its surrounding prem-

ises at a cost of approximately Rs 20-22 crore. This initiative was undertaken following a communication from the CoP to the District Magistrate in 2015, seeking improvements for the twin purposes of boosting state revenue and improving traffic regulation in the capital city.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Many Goans cancel their Kashmir bookings

Travel agents say airlines allowing ticket rescheduling till May 15

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In the wake of the Pahalgam massacre on Tuesday, there have been a flurry of cancellations of flight bookings by tourists all over the country and Goa is no exception. Travel agents report that Goans who had made plans to

“Thirteen Goans who had booked their holidays to Kashmir have cancelled over security concerns and we have refunded their money. The airline refunded the money without hassles or cancellation charges

— Nilesch Shah of P B A Holidays, Panjim

visit the Valley have either cancelled or postponed their plans.

Nilesch Shah of P B A Holidays, Panjim, said: "Thirteen Goans who had booked

their holidays to Kashmir have cancelled over security concerns and we have refunded their money. The airline refunded the money without hassles or cancellation charges."

Timoteo Colaco, chairman of the Goa chapter of Travel Agents Association of India, said that the air-

lines have agreed to refund bookings by waiving cancellation charges and are also allowing ticket rescheduling till May 15.

A national-level survey was conducted by Local Circles, a social media group that analyses trends.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## SC to UGC: Notify draft regulations on discrimination and ragging

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to notify the draft regulations 2025 which deal with ragging, sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, disability, among other biases in institutions of higher learning.



A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh took note of a March 24 verdict, which considered the cases of suicides among students in such institutions and constituted a national task force (NTF) to address the mental health concerns of students to prevent such incidents.

"In light of this, we deem it appropriate to clarify that UGC may proceed with the finalisation of the draft regulations 2025 and may notify the same," the bench said.

The regulations, the court said, as held by this court in the case of Amit Kumar (March 24 verdict) operate in addition to the NTF's recommendations.

The bench was hearing a PIL which said pending the NTF's recommendations and consideration

“In light of this, we deem it appropriate to clarify that UGC may proceed with the finalisation of the draft regulations 2025 and may notify the same. The regulations, as held by this court in the case of Amit Kumar (March 24 verdict) operate in addition to the NTF's recommendations

— Supreme Court

by the top court, the petitioners or any other public spirited person should be at liberty to move an appropriate plea in the pending proceedings to suggest the suitable addition or deletion in the regulations to be notified by the UGC.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

### THE COOLEST ONE



A man bathes his horse in the Krishna river during a summer day, in Karad, Maharashtra, on Thursday

## Noise from Baga shacks rattles residents of retreat

As Xavier Retreat House waits for respite, confusion over jurisdiction between Anjuna and Calangute police stations prolongs residents' agony

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**BAGA, CALANGUTE:** Noise pollution from beach shacks along the Baga creek has been making life difficult for the residents of Xavier Retreat House in Baga, but there has been no respite despite repeated complaints. While the establishment falls within the jurisdiction of the Anjuna Police Station, the noise-making shacks are in the Calangute police station area - and the problem of which police station addresses the issue has left

the elderly in a fair bit of distress.

During a meeting of the North Goa Noise Monitoring Committee (NMC) held on April 4 at the North Goa Collectorate conference hall, the committee directed the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to instruct beach shacks and other commercial establishments to install electronic signboards to monitor sound decibel levels.

On April 1, Fr Joseph Fernandes, Administrator of the Xavier Retreat House, ad-

“There is a serious and ongoing issue of noise pollution that is disrupting the peaceful environment of Xavier Retreat House, Baga which qualifies as a religious Institution. The excessive loud music from the shacks near the Baga creek has been severely disturbing our spiritual and social activities

— Fr Joseph Fernandes, Administrator of the Xavier Retreat House, in a letter to the North Goa SP

dressed a letter to the North Goa SP, stating: "There is a serious and ongoing issue of noise pollution that is disrupting the peaceful environment of Xavier Retreat House, Baga which qualifies as a religious Institution.

and can continue into the early morning hours, violating permissible ambient noise levels. Fr Fernandes also referenced a High Court ruling in case WP/PIL 7 of 2021, dated December 15, 2024, under which repeated complaints to the police via the ERSS No. 112 emergency helpline remain unresolved due to the ongoing jurisdictional dispute between the Anjuna and Calangute police stations.

Attached to the letter were 35 call logs documenting complaints from January 30 to March 31, 2025. Fr Fernandes urged the SP to authorise officers from either police station to register a Zero FIR, regardless of jurisdiction, to ensure prompt action.

Fr Shannon Pereira, Director of the Retreat House, said, "We've had to find secluded places within the retreat just to be able to reflect or pray. The noise is relentless from 6 pm to 10 pm, and even afterward, we can hear bass sounds from unidentified sources."

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Prohibitory orders imposed in Manipur

**PTI, IMPHAL:** The Manipur government on Thursday imposed prohibitory orders in parts of Imphal East district ahead of a 24-hour State-wide bandh called to protest the alleged custodial death of a 27-year-old man earlier this month.

A Joint Action Committee (JAC) formed in connection with the "custodial death" called for the shutdown from midnight of Thursday.

Khoisnam Sanajaoba was arrested in Imphal East district on March 31 along with four others for their alleged association with the proscribed outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (Nongdrenkhomba).

In a statement, the JAC said it had submitted a memorandum to the governor listing a charter of demands, including an impartial investigation into the "custodial death" of Sanajaoba, on April 17 but received no response from the government side.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Archbishop Ferrao leaves for Rome



A devotee kisses the portrait of Pope Francis installed in the Se Cathedral, Old Goa on Wednesday

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Archbishop of Goa and Daman Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao left Goa for Rome on Thursday night.

The Archbishop is among Indian cardinals—Cleemis, Koovakkad and Poola—who are eligible to vote in the conclave to elect the next pope.

Meanwhile, in a solemn atmosphere of prayer and gratitude, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman along with Archbishop Ferrao, Bishop Emeritus

of Port Blair, Bishop Alex Dias, the priests and religious, gathered at the Se Cathedral, Old Goa, to pray for the eternal repose of Beloved Pope Francis, on Wednesday.

In his homily, Cardinal Ferrao emphasised specially on some qualities and writings of Pope Francis, firstly that he was man of God deeply rooted in Jesus, his constant request to everyone was "Please pray for Me".

Cont on Pg 11 >>