

## India vows not to allow 'single drop of water' into Pakistan

### Home Minister directs CMs to ensure no Pakistani stays in India beyond deadline



People stand near the debris of the house of Adil Thoke after its demolition by authorities in Bijbehara, in Anantnag district, on Friday

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The government on Friday said it is working on a strategy to ensure not a single drop of water flows from India into Pakistan and asked chief ministers to ensure no Pakistani stays in the country beyond the stipulated deadline as security forces intensified anti-terror operations in the hunt for the

Pahalgam killers. Amid increasing Indo-Pak tensions over the carnage in Pahalgam on Tuesday that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, Indian military sources said there were incidents of small arm firing at some places on the LoC initiated by Pakistan on Thursday night.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

### 3 PAKISTANIS ORDERED OUT OF GOA AS STATE RAMPS UP SURVEILLANCE

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Three Pakistani nationals on short-term visas have been asked to leave Goa immediately while 17 Pakistani residents on long-term visas have been put under close surveillance by the State security agencies. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant revealed this to the media after convening a high-level meeting at Mantralaya on Thursday with senior officials from the Home Department, Goa Police, Indian Navy, CISF and Coast Guard to review the presence and monitoring of Pakistani nationals in the State.

Beginning Saturday, the government will launch combing operations in areas with high migrant populations. Security checks will be intensified, particularly at transport hubs

such as railway stations, bus terminals and airports. All individuals living in informal settlements will be required to produce valid identification such as an Aadhaar card or voter ID. Those failing to do so will be detained for further verification.

"Foreign nationals overstaying their visas are being identified and action will be taken in accordance with the law," Sawant said. "Our priority is the safety and security of the state, especially in light of recent national developments."

In line with directives issued by the Union government following the Pahalgam terror attack, Goa Police will increase intelligence gathering, monitor social media activity, and conduct surprise security checks, or nakabandis, across the State, including tourist hotspots.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

### FINAL JOURNEY OF POPE FRANCIS

World leaders flock to Vatican City to pay last respects to their beloved Pontiff



#### DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

- Funeral will be on April 26 at 10 am local time (1.30 pm IST) in St Peter's Square, Vatican City
- Service will be led by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re and live-streamed on the Vatican's YouTube channel

#### KEY WORLD LEADERS ATTENDING

Attendees include US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Italian President Sergio Mattarella and PM Giorgia Meloni, King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain, Irish President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Micheál Martin, UK PM Keir Starmer, Prince William (likely), Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (expected but not confirmed)

#### INDIAN DELEGATION

President Droupadi Murmu will attend, along with Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and George Kurian, and Goa Deputy Speaker Joshua Peter de Souza

#### NOTABLE ABSENTEES

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu

#### A SIMPLE CEREMONY

- Pope Francis requested a simple funeral, opting for a single wooden coffin, with only "Franciscus" inscribed
- After the service, his coffin will be taken to Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome for burial, diverging from the custom of burial beneath St. Peter's

#### SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

- Over 2,000 police and 400 traffic officers are deployed with no-fly zones, anti-drone tech, and heightened crowd controls
- The funeral begins the Novemdiales, nine days of mourning

#### WHAT'S NEXT

A conclave to elect the next pope will begin within 15-20 days, with Cardinals Matteo Zuppi, Pietro Parolin, and Luis Antonio Tagle seen as potential successors

## ED busts Rs 1,600 crore land grab scam in Goa

### Rohan Harmalkar named mastermind behind fraud in coastal belt

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches in Goa on April 24 and 25 in connection with a major land scam being investigated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). As per an official statement, the scam — allegedly orchestrated by Rohan Harmalkar — involved large-scale fraudulent land transactions using forged documents



and tampered land records. "The searches uncovered incrimi-

nating property documents, the current market value of which exceeds Rs 1,000 crore, including forged title deeds, indicating manipulation of land records and fraudulent transfers of high-value land parcels spanning several lakhs of square metres in prime tourist hotspots like Anjuna, Arpora, and Assagao in Bardez Taluka.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

### SIKKIM LANDSLIDES

#### 1,800 tourists stranded

**PTI, GANGTOK:** Around 1,100 tourists stranded in north Sikkim's Chungthang town following landslides were evacuated by the authorities on Friday, while 1,800 others are awaiting rescue from two other popular hill stations in Mangan district, officials said. The administration is bringing the evacuated travellers to the state capital Gangtok, around 100 km from Chungthang.

More on Pg 7 >>

## Interim stay will be judicial legislation: Centre in SC

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Friday defended in the Supreme Court a provision of the amended law on 'waqf by user' properties and said any interference would create a "legislative regime by a judicial order".

Waqf by user refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment

(waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn't a formal, written declaration of waqf by the owner.

#### WAQF ACT

On April 17, a bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna raised objections to certain provisions of the law including

the one related to notification of 'waqf-by-user' properties which are not registered till April 8.

The CJJ said some provisions could have 'grave ramifications', particularly those potentially undermining judicially recognised waqf properties and said they "should not be de-notified".

Cont on Pg 12 >>

## Govt under fire for handing over public properties to casinos

### Residents, activists decry loss of public spaces, oppose 300% FAR in recreational zone



The parking lot at the ferry point in Panjim

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The State government is facing strong backlash for leasing out prime public properties in Panjim to casino operators.

Residents of the city are raising their voices against a proposal allowing a multi-storey structure with a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 300% in the area formerly known as Quarterdeck, which is officially designated as a recreational zone under Panjim's Outline Development Plan (ODP). The government had reclaimed the land after the previous lessee defaulted on rent, and has now leased it out again on a long-term basis to a private party. An adjacent plot has also been handed over to a casino operator.

Vasco Dias, a local resident, criticised the government's increasing reliance on casino revenues. "Earlier it was mining; now it's casinos. Public spaces are being taken over, parking is chaotic, and the Mandovi riverfront is choked. The government is completely under the influence of the casino lobby. Soon, Panjim residents will be pushed out and the city will be handed over to casino operators, turning it into a Las Vegas," he said. He also alleged that enhanced public parking spaces, developed at great expense, are now under private control, and voiced concerns that the Panjim-Betim ferry service might be curtailed to favour casino interests.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

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GOA

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