



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami with spiritual leader Morari Bapu during 'Ram Katha' programme, in Uttarakhand



Canadian film director and writer Richie Mehta speaks during the WAVES 2025, in Mumbai



Security personnel keep vigil near the Line of Control (LoC), in Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir



Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora during the launch of 'Medical Legal Evidence and Patient Reporting', at the state Secretariat, in New Delhi

alloverindia



A police personnel checks an aspirant who arrived to appear for the NEET UG exam, in Meerut, on Sunday

NEET-UG held at over 5,400 centres under strict security; sporadic incidents of protest

NEW DELHI: More than 20.8 lakh students appeared for medical entrance exam NEET-UG on Sunday at more than 5,400 centres under strict security measures amid sporadic incidents of protest and arrest. More than 22.7 lakh candidates had registered for the exam, which was also conducted in 14 cities abroad. National Testing Agency (NTA) officials said more than 20.8 lakh candidates appeared for the exam. Mock drills were held at all National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) centres on Saturday to ensure smooth conduct of the nationwide exam. Most of the centres were located in government and government-aided schools, colleges, universities and institutions.

Senior citizen held for double murder in Delhi's Adarsh Nagar

NEW DELHI: A 65-year-old man wanted in a double murder case has been arrested, police said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Nand Kishore alias Thuria, a native of Rajasthan, is a history-sheeter whose criminal history spans over four decades. There is one more accused in the case; however, he remains large. According to police, the incident occurred in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area on April 21 when the victims, Kamal (40), Amzad (42) and Abid (26), were attacked by Thuria and the other assailant with a knife over a parking issue. While Abid sustained a few injuries but survived the attack, Kamal and Amzad succumbed to theirs, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh in a statement said.

Murshidabad riots: Guv files report to MHA, says 'radicalisation' posing challenge to Bengal

KOLKATA: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has submitted a report on the recent riots in Murshidabad district to the Ministry of Home Affairs, stating that the "twin spectre of radicalisation and militancy" poses a serious challenge to the state. In the report, he suggested a few measures, including setting up an inquiry commission and outposts of central forces or the BSF in districts bordering Bangladesh, besides writing, "needless to add, the provisions under Article 356 of the Constitution also remain". The imposition of Art 356 refers to President's rule in a state. Asked about this, an official told PTI: "The governor has not proposed implementation of Art 356. He meant that the provisions of Art 356 are open to the Centre if the situation in the state further deteriorates."

businessday

Warren Buffett shocks shareholders by announcing his plan to retire at end of year

OMAHA: Billionaire Warren Buffett shocked an arena full of shareholders Saturday by announcing that he will retire at the end of the year, bringing the curtain down on a six-decade run leading Berkshire Hathaway that made him the most influential investor in the world. Buffett said he will recommend to Berkshire Hathaway's board on Sunday that Vice Chairman Greg Abel should replace him. "I think the time has arrived where Greg should become the chief executive officer of the company at year end," Buffett said. Abel has been Buffett's designated successor for years, and he already manages all of Berkshire's noninsurance businesses. But it was always assumed that he would not take over until after Buffett's death. Previously the 94-year-old Buffett always said he had no plans to retire. Buffett announced the news at the end of a five-hour question and answer period without taking any questions about it. He said the only board members who knew this was coming were his two children, Howard and Susie Buffett. Abel, who was sitting next to Buffett on stage, had no warning. Abel returned an hour later without Buffett to conduct the company's formal business meeting, and he responded to the news.

currency		bullion	
US Dollar	84.54	Silver (Rs/Kg)	93,151
British Pound	112.26	Gold (Rs/10gm)	92,700
Euro	95.51	markets	
Russian Ruble	1.02	Sensex	80501.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	275.16	Nifty	24346.70
Bahraini Dinar	224.84		
Qatari Riyal	23.22		
Emirati Dirham	23.02		
Omani Rial	219.56		

PAHALGAM AFTERMATH

My responsibility to give befitting reply: Def Min

PTI, NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said it is his responsibility to work with the armed forces and give a 'befitting reply' to those who cast an evil eye on India, his remarks coming in the backdrop of the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Addressing an event here, Singh said people know Prime Minister Narendra Modi very well and are quite familiar with his working style, his determination and the way he has learned to "take risks" in his life.

"I want to assure you that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, what you desire will certainly happen," the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said, without elaborating.

His assertion, however, came as India is mulling retaliatory measures against Pakistan in view of the cross-border linkages to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that has killed 26 people, mostly tourists.



Security personnel stand guard in Srinagar, on Sunday

"As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to work with my soldiers and ensure the protection of the country's borders. And it is my responsibility to give a befitting reply, by working with the armed forces, to those who cast an evil eye on our country," Singh said. "Tensions between India and Pakistan are on the rise following the Pahalgam attack."

Addressing an event here on April 23, a day after the

terror strike, Singh had said, "The government will take every step that is necessary and appropriate."

"We will not only trace those who perpetrated this incident, we will also reach out to those who, sitting behind the scene, have conspired to carry out the nefarious act on Indian soil," he had said.

Those involved in the attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam will get a strong response in the

"near future" and India cannot be "intimidated" by such terrorist activities, the defence minister had asserted.

The terror strike has drawn condemnation from several countries and world leaders.

Citing the "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in it.

New Delhi has already asserted that the "perpetrators, backers and planners" of the Pahalgam attack must be brought to justice.

At a high-level meeting with the top defence brass on Tuesday, the prime minister said the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror strike, according to government sources.

Punjab: Two held in Amritsar on charge of spying

PTI, CHANDIGARH: In a counter-espionage operation, the Punjab Police has arrested two men for their alleged role in leaking sensitive information and photographs of Army cantonment areas and air bases in Amritsar.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said on Sunday that the Amritsar Rural Police has arrested Falaksher Masih and Suraj Masih, both residents of Ajnala.

They were allegedly transmitting sensitive information to Pakistan's intelligence agency, the DGP said.

Police have also seized two mobile phones from their possession. A preliminary investigation has revealed their links to Pakistani intelligence operatives, established through Harpreet Singh alias Pittu alias Happy, currently lodged in the Amritsar Central Jail.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar Rural, Maninder Singh said the accused were allegedly in contact with Pakistan's intelligence agency.



Police personnel take two people arrested for their alleged role in leaking sensitive information in Amritsar, on Saturday

They were involved in collecting and transmitting crucial information, such as Army movements, locations of Border Security Force (BSF) camps as well as airports, photographs and other sensitive data, to their handlers in Pakistan, he said.

A case has been registered against the duo at the Ajnala police station under the relevant provisions of the Official Secrets Act, Information Technology Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has lauded the Punjab Police for arresting the duo.

Will PM commit to a time-line on caste census: Congress

Asks if Modi will acknowledge his govt made sudden, desperate U-turn on policy

PTI, NEW DELHI: Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a "desperate U-turn" on the caste census, the Congress on Sunday asked whether he will have the honesty to acknowledge that his government has officially changed its policy on the subject and commit to a time-line for such a survey.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said evidence abounds on Prime Minister Modi's "sudden, complete, and desperate U-turn" on the caste census.

Citing examples, Ramesh said that in a TV interview on April 28, 2024, Modi branded all those demanding a caste census as "urban naxals."

"On July 20, 2021, the

Modi Government told Parliament that it had "decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise population other than SCs and STs in the Census," the Congress leader said on X.

In its affidavit to the Supreme Court dated September 21, 2021, the Modi government clearly stated that "the exclusion of information regarding any other caste (outside of SCs and STs) from the purview of census (2021) is a conscious policy decision taken by the Central Government as explained in the preceding paragraphs," he said.

"In fact, the Modi Government explicitly urged the Supreme Court not to order a caste census for the

OBCs - In such a situation, any direction from this Hon'ble Court to Census Department to include the enumeration of Socio-Economic data to the extent relating to BCCs of Rural India in the upcoming Census, 2021, as prayed, would tantamount to interfering with a policy decision as framed under Section 8 of the Act," Ramesh said.

Posing three questions to the prime minister, Ramesh asked whether he will have the honesty to acknowledge that his government has officially changed its policy on the caste census over the last 11 years.

Will he explain to the people and Parliament the reasons for the change in the government's policy, Ramesh further asked.

India looking for partners, not preachers: Jaishankar to Europe

PTI, NEW DELHI: India is looking for "partners" and not "preachers" and Europe must display "sensitivity" and "mutuality of interest" for deeper ties with New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday in a veiled dig at some European nations' approach towards major geo-political upheavals including the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In an interactive session, Jaishankar said Europe has "entered a certain zone of reality check", while explaining nuances of India's "Russia realism" and why the relationship between the two nations is an "important fit".

India always advocated "Russia realism" and there is an "important fit" and "complementarity" between India and Russia as a resource provider and consumer, he said in remarks that



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks at the Arctic Circle India Forum 2025, on Sunday

came amid persistent efforts by the Trump administration to strike a ceasefire deal between Moscow and Kyiv.

In the course of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, New Delhi remained engaged with Moscow and enhanced its procurement of Russian crude oil which triggered criticism from the West.

Responding to a question on India's expectations from Europe, Jaishankar said it has to get beyond preaching and start acting based on a framework of

mutuality.

"When we look out at the world, we look for partners; we do not look for preachers, particularly preachers who do not practice at home and preach abroad," he said.

"I think some of Europe is still struggling with that problem. Some of it has changed," Jaishankar said at the Arctic Circle India Forum while interacting with former Iceland President OG Grimsson and Observer Research Foundation's Samir Saran.

voice of business

Monitor top advance tax payers, check fake claims: CBDT to I-T dept

PTI, NEW DELHI: The CBDT has directed income-tax officials to 'closely' monitor top advance tax payers and identify bogus claims of exemptions and deductions as part of the strategy to improve direct tax collections during the current financial year.

Official sources told PTI that the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the policy-making body for the department, had recently issued the central action plan (CAP) for 2025-26 that acts as the guiding light to steer 'key performance areas' for the department vis-à-vis revenue collection work.

The Union government has set a target of Rs 25.20 lakh crore for the I-T department under the direct taxes head for the current fiscal, as per the Budget estimates presented in February.

The sum consists of Rs 10,82,000 crore under the corporate tax head, Rs 13,60,000 crore under non-corporate taxes that includes personal income tax and others, and Rs 78,000 crore from securities transaction tax (STT).

The net direct tax collection for the 2024-25 FY narrowly missed the target, growing 13.57% to

The Union government has set a target of Rs 25.20 lakh crore for the I-T department under the direct taxes head for the current fiscal

over Rs 22.26 lakh crore, owing to issuance of the highest-ever amount of refunds issued, official data revealed.

The government had set a target of Rs 22,07,000 crore for the direct tax administration as per the budget receipt of July 2024 and revised it to Rs 22,37,000 crore during the budget presented in February.

The CAP has suggested the I-T department undertake a "sectoral analysis" for better tax collection by addressing "negative" trends of tax payments, a source said.

The plan has also sought "close" monitoring of top advance tax payers, including individuals and companies, and "encourage" them to reassess their advance tax liabilities if required, the person said.

Advance tax is the tax amount paid in advance through instalments in a financial year. It facilitates smooth tax collection for the government while preventing taxpayers from a lump sum tax burden at the year-end.

The department has also been asked to "identify" incorrect claims of exemptions and deductions that lead to loss of genuine revenue, the source said.

The CAP also recommended "profiling" of certain districts or regions for net positive or negative revenues and in cases where the revenue is not up to the mark, to take "suitable action."

The department has been asked to place "special emphasis" on collecting arrears and current demand and take action in case of "non-compliant" tax payers.

It has also been asked to focus on collection of tax demand confirmed by the office of Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), the first appellate mechanism in the direct tax system available to taxpayers followed by various courts, high courts and the Supreme Court.

According to the official data, the CIT (Appeals) confirmed demands worth Rs 1.95 lakh crore in the 2024-25 fiscal and the assessing officers

have been asked to make "all possible" efforts to collect this revenue within the current financial year.

The CAP has also asked the tax department to conduct "outreach" programmes and enhance awareness among the taxpayers about correct claims for deductions and exemptions, and also educate them on filing updated Income Tax Returns — a provision that allows a certain period of time to those who missed reporting correct income, the source said.

These efforts stand to "potentially" result in significant increase in taxpayers opting for the new tax regime, where no deductions or exemptions are allowed against a flat rate of tax, thus reducing the misuse of deductions, the source said.

The tax department has also been asked to issue "prompt" refunds so that interest payments and "negative impact" on the overall Budget can be "avoided."

The department, as per data, issued the highest-ever refunds, Rs 4,76,743 crore, during the 2024-25 fiscal — an increase of 26.04% as compared to the Rs 3,78,255 crore issued in refunds during the 2023-24 fiscal.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SERGIO D'COSTA Resident of H No 360, Durgawadi Taleigao, Tiswadi Goa has change my name from SERGIO GODWIN DA COSTA to SERGIO D'COSTA. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by new name of as SERGIO D'COSTA.

CHANGE IN NAME

I, EDNA DOMNIC COELHO R/o, H. no-19, Igrez Wado Marna, Siolim, Bardez Goa, would like to change my name from EDNA SAMUEL THOMPSON TO EDNA DOMNIC COELHO. Hereafter all my documents and dealing will be known by the name EDNA DOMNIC COELHO.

CHANGE IN NAME

I, LYNWEN ANNETTE SEQUEIRA R/O H NO 121/A, GRANDE, CARMONA, BARDEZ, GOA, like to change my name from LYNWEN ANNETTE D SOUZA to LYNWEN ANNETTE SEQUEIRA. Hereafter in all my dealing and documents I will be known by the name LYNWEN ANNETTE SEQUEIRA.