

# NEWS LETTER

Vol 125

## Aftermath of Pahalgam Attack: Rising Tensions and the Urgent Call for Peace

*"We salute the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces for their unwavering service and sacrifice. Our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack. May their souls rest in peace and their courage never be forgotten."*

# OPERATION SINDOOR



In a major escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan, a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, in April 2025 left 26 civilians dead, most of them Hindu tourists. The Resistance Front, affiliated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. In response, India launched "Operation Sindoor" on May 7, targeting nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, marking a bold shift in India's counter-terror strategy. Pakistan retaliated with "Operation Bunyanun Marsoos," triggering four days of intense drone and missile exchanges. The conflict resulted in at least 31 casualties and widespread damage to military infrastructure. A ceasefire brokered by international mediators came into effect on May 10, though the situation remains tense with both countries engaged in diplomatic offensives. The violence has severely impacted Kashmir's tourism economy, and despite the ceasefire, fear lingers across the region. The international community continues to call for restraint and long-term peace, urging India and Pakistan to prioritize diplomacy over confrontation. The episode has reignited public debate on national security, cross-border terrorism, and the importance of preserving humanity amid conflict.

## Trump Launches \$542 Billion 'Golden Dome' Missile Defense to Counter Hypersonic Threats



In a bold national security move, U.S. President Donald Trump has unveiled the "Golden Dome," a massive missile defense initiative designed to protect the United States from hypersonic and space-launched threats. Modeled after Israel's Iron Dome, the project is an ambitious expansion of U.S. defense capabilities, integrating land, sea, and space-based technologies. With an initial investment of \$25 billion and long-term projections exceeding \$542 billion, the Golden Dome aims to deploy advanced space sensors and interceptors, making it one of the most complex defense systems ever proposed. Trump stated the system is crucial to maintaining U.S. dominance in an era of rapidly evolving global threats. The initiative is expected to be operational by January 2029 and will be led by U.S. Space Force General Michael Guetlein. However, defense analysts have raised concerns about the feasibility of such a large-scale space-based system within a single presidential term. Additionally, the proposal has stirred global debate over the potential militarization of space. While allies like Canada have shown interest in collaborating, others warn of geopolitical tensions. As the Golden Dome moves forward, it signals a new era of defense strategy that could reshape the global balance of power.

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# EDUCATION

## ISRO's S Somanath Urges IIM-A Graduates to Read, Stay Grounded, and Embrace Collaboration



Former ISRO chairman S Somanath delivered an inspiring con- vocation address at IIM Ahmedabad, urging graduates to become voracious readers, seek mentors, and stay grounded. Sharing his journey from a village boy to leading India's space program, he emphasized the power of reading, teamwork, hu- mility, and detachment. Somanath highlighted that brilliance alone is not enough—collaboration, mentorship, and timely risk-taking are key to meaningful success. He warned about the overwhelming pace of technological change and stressed the importance of preparing for opportunities. Advocating stronger links between academia, research, and industry, he said such collaboration is crucial for India's future. Citing In- dia's rich intellectual legacy, he reminded students that great leadership begins with being a good follower, grounded in values and purpose.

## Trump's Drug Price Reform May Boost India's Pharma Exports, Says Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw



Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw believes US President Donald Trump's plan to cut prescription drug prices by referencing rates in countries like the UK and Germany won't harm India's generic drug industry. Instead, it targets high-cost innovator drugs and could create new opportunities for India in contract research. Despite concerns over potential US tariffs on Indian pharmaceuticals, she argues the sector can absorb such costs due to economies of scale. With FY24 exports up 9.67% to \$27.9 billion, and projections for \$31 billion in FY25, India's pharma industry remains strong. She also downplayed the likelihood of US manufacturing shifts, citing India's cost ad- vantage. Additionally, reforms targeting middlemen could fur- ther reduce drug prices for American consumers.

## LPU Cuts Ties with Turkey, Azerbaijan Over National Security, Cites Pro-Pakistan Stance



Lovely Professional University (LPU) has become the first pri- vate university in India to cancel all Memoranda of Unders- tanding (MoUs) with institutions in Turkey and Azerbaijan, citing national security as its top concern. The move comes after the two nations expressed pro-Pakistan sentiments during India's Operation Sindoor. LPU terminated six MoUs that included student exchange programs, joint research, and dual degree collaborations. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, LPU's Founder Chancellor and a Rajya Sabha MP, emphasized the university's commitment to national integrity, stating that when India's armed forces are defending the nation, educational institutions must also act responsibly. The deci- sion reflects a growing trend of academic disengagement by Indian institutions in response to international positions per- ceived as undermining India's sovereignty and security.

### BLOG



**Deepak Sindhu**  
Vice President (Goboundry)

## PANIPAT

### How Industrial Growth Changed Panipat's Future

Panipat, once known primarily for its historic battles, has undergone a major transformation due to industrial growth. Today, it stands as one of India's leading textile hubs, often called the "Textile City." The boom in hand-loom, recycling, and export-oriented industries has boosted employment, attracted investment, and im- proved infrastructure. With better roads, warehousing, and connectivity to Delhi NCR, Panipat has evolved into a thriving economic zone. Industrialization has not only reshaped the city's economy but also elevated its status on the national and global manufacturing map.

# SPORTS

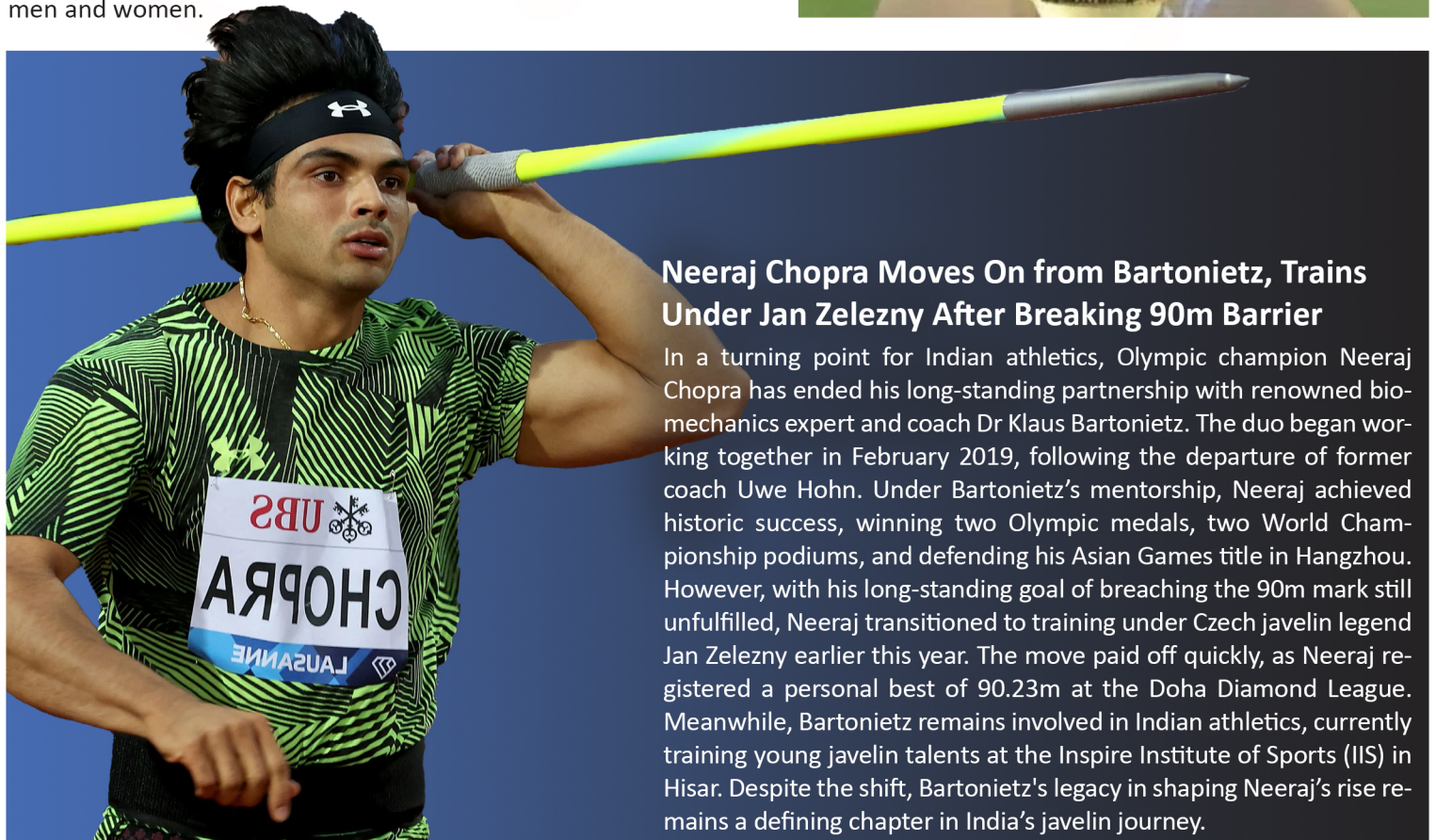
## Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket, Jadeja Clarifies He's Still Playing

In a major development for Indian cricket, Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test cricket, ending a remarkable 14-year career in the longest format. Debuting in 2011, Kohli played 123 Test matches, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries. As captain, he led India to 40 wins in 68 Tests, making him the country's most successful Test skipper. Kohli's retirement comes shortly after Rohit Sharma also stepped away from the format, marking a significant generational shift. However, Kohli is expected to continue playing ODIs. Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja dismissed rumors about his own retirement from Test cricket, posting on social media, "No unnecessary rumours, thanks." While he had retired from T20Is after India's 2024 World Cup win, Jadeja remains an active part of India's Test and ODI teams. As one chapter ends, another continues, with Indian cricket evolving through a blend of legacy and new leadership.



## BCCI Denies Reports of India's Withdrawal from Asia Cup Tournaments

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has firmly denied media reports claiming India's withdrawal from the upcoming Men's Asia Cup and the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup. Labeling the claims as "completely false," BCCI Secretary Devajit Saika clarified that no such discussions or decisions have been made within the board. "There has been no communication to the Asian Cricket Council regarding any withdrawal," he told PTI. The Men's Asia Cup is scheduled to be hosted by India in September, while the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup will take place in Sri Lanka next month. Saika added that the BCCI remains focused on the Indian Premier League and the upcoming bilateral series against England for both men and women.



## Neeraj Chopra Moves On from Bartonietz, Trains Under Jan Zelezny After Breaking 90m Barrier

In a turning point for Indian athletics, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has ended his long-standing partnership with renowned biomechanics expert and coach Dr Klaus Bartonietz. The duo began working together in February 2019, following the departure of former coach Uwe Hohn. Under Bartonietz's mentorship, Neeraj achieved historic success, winning two Olympic medals, two World Championship podiums, and defending his Asian Games title in Hangzhou. However, with his long-standing goal of breaching the 90m mark still unfulfilled, Neeraj transitioned to training under Czech javelin legend Jan Zelezny earlier this year. The move paid off quickly, as Neeraj registered a personal best of 90.23m at the Doha Diamond League. Meanwhile, Bartonietz remains involved in Indian athletics, currently training young javelin talents at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) in Hisar. Despite the shift, Bartonietz's legacy in shaping Neeraj's rise remains a defining chapter in India's javelin journey.

# TECHNOLOGY

## Tesla CFO Vaibhav Taneja Earns Record \$139 Million in 2024, Surpasses Nadella and Pichai



Tesla's Chief Financial Officer, Vaibhav Taneja, has made history with a staggering \$139 million (₹1,157 crore) compensation in 2024—one of the largest ever for a CFO. While his base salary was \$400,000, the bulk came from performance-linked equity tied to Tesla's rising stock, which jumped from \$250 to \$342 per share. Taneja's payout surpassed Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's \$79.1 million and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai's \$10.73 million for the same period. His package also broke the CFO record previously held by Nikola's finance chief. A Chartered Accountant and Delhi University graduate, Taneja began at PwC and joined Tesla in 2017 after SolarCity's acquisition. His rapid rise reflects the growing prominence of CFOs in high-stakes tech leadership.

## From Robotics at Boeing and Google to Climate-Tech Leadership at GreenGood Labs



Shubo Biswas, CEO and founder of GreenGood Labs, is leading a Silicon Valley climate-tech startup that delivers geospatial insights and decision support tools for water, agriculture, soil, energy, and climate resilience. With a deep-tech focus, the company empowers stakeholders to make data-informed environmental decisions. Biswas began his career in the US automotive sector, later becoming a key figure in automation and robotics at global giants. At Google, he led robotics operations in their Data Center division, and at Boeing, he was the chief architect for factory automation, playing a critical role in developing the 787 Dreamliner. His transition to climate-focused innovation reflects a growing trend among top engineers aligning advanced technology with sustainability goals for global impact.

## Firefly's Blue Ghost Lunar Lander Completes Successful 2-Week Mission



Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lunar lander has fallen silent after completing a successful two-week mission for NASA on the Moon. The mission ended as the sun set on the lunar surface, cutting off power to the lander's solar panels. During its operational period, Blue Ghost conducted multiple science experiments under NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program, marking a major milestone for private space exploration. Firefly CEO Jason Kim confirmed the mission's conclusion, calling it a proud achievement. While the lander's shutdown was expected, it underscores the limitations of solar-powered systems on the Moon.

## Data Has Evolved from Spreadsheets to Strategic AI: Qlik CTO Sharad Kumar



Sharad Kumar, CTO of Qlik, highlighted the remarkable evolution of data during an interaction at Qlik Connect 2025 in Orlando. Speaking to indianexpress.com, he traced data's journey from basic spreadsheets to becoming a dynamic, strategic force powering decision-making across organizations. Kumar identified three key transformations in data analytics, beginning with the centralisation era marked by data warehousing platforms like Teradata. This phase introduced descriptive analytics, offering a backward-looking view of business data. He emphasized that modern data practices now integrate AI to enhance real-time insights, operational efficiency, and predictive decision-making.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Urvashi Rautela Stuns in Black Couture at Cannes 2025 Minor Wardrobe Mishap Grabs Eyeballs

At her second red carpet appearance at Cannes 2025, Urvashi Rautela captivated onlookers in a stunning black taffeta couture gown by designer Naja Saade. The elegant dress featured a voluminous ruffled skirt, a corseted bodice with a plunging sweetheart neckline, and sheer mesh sleeves, showcasing her signature bold and stylish fashion sense. The look was a contrast to her earlier vibrant ensemble, reflecting a more refined glamour. However, amid the widespread praise and fanfare, a minor wardrobe malfunction caught public attention, briefly stealing the spotlight from her otherwise flawless appearance at the prestigious international film festival.



## Ravi Kishan Slams Pakistan Over Terrorism, Lauds Indian Forces Amid Operation Sindoor

Actor and BJP MP Ravi Kishan strongly condemned Pakistan for sponsoring cross-border terrorism and praised the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive action. Speaking to ANI, he affirmed India's peace-loving nature but warned that any provocation would be met with a strong response. His remarks came in support of India's Operation Sindoor, a military strike on May 7 that targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK, eliminating over 100 terrorists. Kishan applauded the armed forces' bravery, contrasting their action with the silence of many Bollywood stars like Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, who have not publicly supported the operation.



## Ryan Gosling to Star in New Standalone 'Star Wars' Film Set for 2027 Release



Ryan Gosling is set to lead a new "Star Wars" adventure titled *Star Wars: Starfighter*, directed by Shawn Levy and slated for release in May 2027. Announced at the Star Wars Celebration event in Japan, the film will be a standalone story set five years after *Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker* but outside the Skywalker saga. According to Lucasfilm, the movie will introduce an entirely new cast of characters and explore an uncharted era in the Star Wars universe. Gosling shared his lifelong connection to the franchise, recalling his childhood obsession and saying it shaped his perception of cinema. Production is scheduled to begin this fall, marking a fresh creative direction for the iconic sci-fi franchise.

## Nancy Tyagi Wows at Cannes Again with Self-Made Silver Gown



Fashion influencer Nancy Tyagi returned to the Cannes Film Festival in style, stunning audiences with another self-designed outfit—this time a shimmering silver gown. After debuting at Cannes last year in a dress she created herself, Nancy's second appearance solidified her status as a rising fashion icon. Fashion blogger Sufi Motiwala shared a video of her red carpet moment, calling it "Nancy Tyagi's second majestic Cannes slay" and dubbing her "the doll of the Cannes Film Festival." The custom gown was made from fabric sourced from Seelampur in northeast Delhi.

# REALESTATE

## India's Billionaires Are Building Capital Compounds, Not Just Buying Flats

India's ultra-rich are shifting from buying luxury flats to engineering strategic "capital compounds" designed for long-term wealth and legacy. Luxury real estate advisor Aishwaraya Shri Kapoor shared a ₹20 crore portfolio blueprint on LinkedIn, revealing how billionaires deploy capital for impact, not indulgence. Her plan includes ₹7 crore in under-construction branded residences (aiming for 2X returns), ₹6 crore in high-yield commercial units (targeting 7–9% rental yield), and ₹7 crore in appreciating land parcels in locations like Gurgaon, Goa, or Sohna. Kapoor calls this "capital stacking," with each asset serving a distinct purpose—lifestyle, cashflow, and legacy. She urges investors to focus on scarcity-driven real estate strategies over speculative trends like crypto or stocks.



## India Well-Shielded from Global Trade Shocks, Thanks to Strong Domestic Drivers

India is better equipped than many emerging markets to withstand global trade disruptions and potential US tariffs, according to Moody's Ratings. In a recent note, the agency cited India's strong domestic growth drivers, low reliance on exports, and robust internal consumption as key buffers. Government policies aimed at boosting private spending, manufacturing expansion, and infrastructure development are expected to offset the impact of slowing global demand. Additionally, easing inflation could pave the way for interest rate cuts, while the banking sector's healthy liquidity supports continued lending.



### Director's Desk

#### SUMIT BHRIYA

Founder & CEO (Goboundry)

### *"In Times of Conflict, Let Us Uphold Humanity"*

Over the past few weeks, we've all witnessed the deeply disturbing developments along our borders. The recent terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam is a heartbreaking reminder of the challenges our nation continues to face. Such acts are not just attacks on a country—they are attacks on humanity itself. India's response, through a swift and focused strike on terrorist hideouts, reflects the resilience and strength of our armed forces. We salute their bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to protecting our people.

Yet, in the face of such conflict, we must also remind ourselves of something even more powerful—our shared humanity. Terrorism seeks to divide, instill fear, and erode compassion. But as responsible citizens and professionals, we must stand firmly against this. Not just with words, but with actions—by showing empathy, fostering unity, and ensuring that in our daily work, we uphold values of integrity, respect, and understanding.

Let us not allow hatred or violence to define us. Let us channel our outrage into resilience, our sorrow into solidarity. As we move forward, let's keep reminding ourselves that progress isn't just measured by profit or performance, but by how we treat each other, especially in moments of crisis.

In the spirit of unity and peace, let's continue to do our part to build a stronger, kinder, and more inclusive society.