



SHOW OF ARMS

Flight cadets during the **Combined Graduation Parade of the 215th course at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, near Hyderabad on Saturday.** *PTI*

Centre sets up panel to frame air crash response guidelines

The committee headed by Home Secretary told to lay down Standard Operating Procedures and comprehensive guidelines for preventing crashes; the panel will not substitute enquiries by various bodies into the crash of flight AI-171, says Ministry

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday announced the setting up of a high-level committee headed by the Home Secretary to suggest "comprehensive guidelines" to respond to aviation accidents against the backdrop of Thursday's Air India flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad.

The order issued by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation says the committee will "focus on formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for preventing and handling such occurrences in the future" and publish its report within three months.

The order states that it will not substitute other enquiries by relevant organisations, referring to the main accident probe conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) which reco-



Debris analysis: Forensic team checks wreckage of the aircraft in Ahmedabad on Saturday. VIJAY SONEJI

vered the black box of the aircraft on Friday.

The committee will also assess the emergency response by various stakeholders, including rescue operations and coordination among them, and suggest roles for various agencies and organisations to deal with post-crash incident

management.

The committee will have access to all records, including flight data, cockpit voice recorders, aircraft maintenance details, air traffic control logs, and witness testimonies.

It will also conduct site inspections, and interview crew, air traffic controllers,

and other relevant personnel.

The committee will also collaborate with relevant international agencies if necessary.

CONTINUED ON

» **PAGE 9**

MORE REPORTS ON

» **PAGES 10 & 11**

Identified 19 victims via DNA testing, says Minister

Abhinav Deshpande
Jagriti Chandra
AHMEDABAD

A total of 19 victims of the flight AI-171 crash have been identified through DNA testing, Gujarat Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Saturday.

One more body that had been stuck beneath the tail portion of the crashed aircraft was recovered on Saturday, said Dr. Rajnish Patel of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. But there was still no official confirmation of the deaths beyond those of the 241 aboard the aircraft.

FULL REPORT ON

» **PAGE 10**

Delhi Assembly to go paperless in July

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju laid the foundation stone of the 'e-Vidhan (Paperless Assembly)' project on Saturday, which utilises technology to enhance legislative efficiency, transparency, and ease of processing.

With this project, the Assembly is expected to become paperless by July.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rijiju said: "The e-Vidhan initiative is not merely about go-



New initiative: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, along with Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, at the foundation-laying ceremony of the e-Vidhan project at the Delhi Assembly on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

ing paperless, but about enhancing transparency, public participation, efficiency, and

digital security in the legislative processes."

Speaker Vijender Gupta

said the project, being implemented under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), is expected to digitise legislative operations, reduce paper usage, and provide lawmakers with real-time digital access to legislative business.

₹9-crore grant

"The Delhi Assembly has received grants of over ₹9 crore from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, out of which more than ₹1 crore has been released as the first instalment," Mr. Gupta said.

Three women among four Maoists killed in ongoing operation in M.P.'s Balaghat

Operatives shot dead in two separate encounters in joint operation by State police's Hawk Force and CRPF; combing efforts under way in multiple areas, operation to continue till Sunday: official

Mehul Malpani

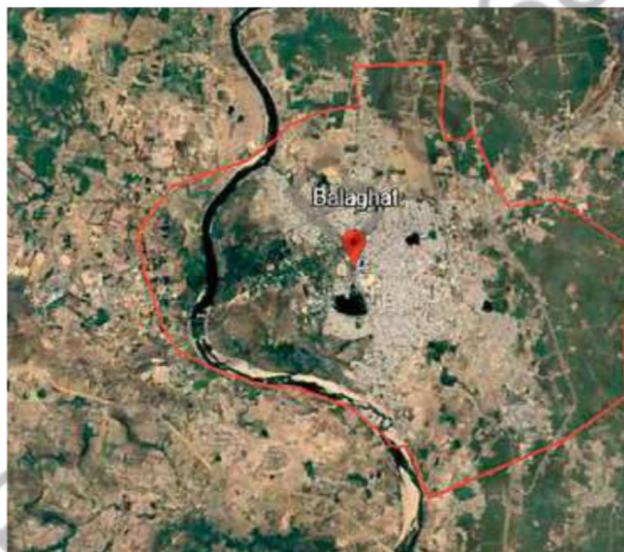
BHOPAL

At least four Maoists, including three women, were killed on Saturday in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, the police said.

The operatives belonged to the Malajkhand unit of the GRB (Gondia-Rajnandgaon-Balaghat) Division of the Maoists, Shiyaz K.M., Madhya Pradesh's anti-Naxal Hawk Force Commandant, told *The Hindu*.

"Combing efforts are going on in multiple areas and the encounter will continue at least till Sunday," Mr. Shiyaz said, adding that heavy rains in the area had made the operation more challenging.

"We had received input of their movement a couple of days ago after which multiple parties were de-



A Google Earth image of the location of Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.

ployed for a search operation. During one such search, firing started from their side and our personnel responded," the officer said.

Ammunition recovered
Special Director-General (Anti-Naxal Operations) Pankaj Shrivastav told *The*

Hindu that the four cadre were killed in two separate encounters.

A self-loading rifle, two .315 rifles, a grenade launcher, and other ammunition were recovered from them, Mr. Shrivastav added.

The encounter is part of a joint operation by the

Madhya Pradesh police's Hawk Force and the Central Reserve Police Force, he said.

CM lauds operation

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated the security forces on Saturday and termed the encounter a major success for the campaign to end Maoism by March 2026, a deadline set by the Union government.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shahji, the State has achieved major success in the campaign to eradicate Maoism by March 2026," he said on X.

"The search is still on, in which a large number of police officers and personnel are engaged. Hearty congratulations to our indomitable soldiers and senior police officers of the State for this success," Mr. Yadav said.

PM begins Cyprus, Canada, Croatia tour today, 1st foreign trip after Op Sindoor

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

BEFORE ARRIVING in Canada on Monday for the G7 Summit, PM Narendra Modi will visit Cyprus, the first by an Indian PM in over two decades, and will also travel to Croatia, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister.

PM Modi will pay an official visit to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia from June 15-19, the MEA said Saturday. PM Modi will visit Cyprus on June 15-16, on his way to Canada to participate in the G7 Summit in Kananaskis on June 16-17, and conclude the five-day visit with an official visit to Croatia on June 18. This will be PM Modi's first foreign tour after Operation Sindoor.

"At the invitation of the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, PM Modi will pay an official visit to Cyprus June 15-16. This will be the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in over two decades," the MEA said. In

Nicosia, Modi will hold talks with Christodoulides and address business leaders in Limassol.

The visit will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union, as per the MEA. Cyprus had condemned the Pahalagam terror attack and indicated that it would raise the issue of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan at the EU-level discussions. The visit will be timely as **Cyprus is set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2026.**

In the second leg of his visit, **PM Modi will travel to Kananaskis to participate in the G7 Summit, his sixth time in a row.** On June 6, PM Modi received a call from Canadian PM Carney inviting him for the summit.

At the summit, PM Modi will exchange views with G7 heads of states, other invited outreach countries and heads of interna-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

tional organisations on global issues, "including energy security, technology and innovation, particularly the AI-energy nexus and Quantum-related issues", the MEA said. The Modi-Carney meeting on the sidelines summit next week will be an opportunity to explore ways to reset ties, the MEA said Thursday.

The development comes after more than a year-and-a-half of strained diplomatic ties between the two countries, triggered by ex-Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's allegations about the "potential" involvement of India in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in 2023. India rejected the charges as "absurd" and "motivated", and consequently, both nations expelled high commissioners and other

EXPLAINED

E

Israel-Iran conflict may be in focus

THOUGH THE G7 Summit agenda this year was focused on building supply chains for critical minerals, energy security, and countering foreign interference and transnational crime, the focus is likely to be on the Israel-Iran conflict and containing any escalation. PM Narendra Modi is likely to hold discussions with various stakeholders on the issue and express India's stance on dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward.

worked out. The G7 Summit will be held from June 15-17.

In the final leg of his tour, PM Modi will officially visit Croatia and hold bilateral meets with his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic and meet the President of Croatia, Zoran Milanovic. The visit to Croatia will also underscore India's commitment to further strengthen its engagement with partners in the EU.

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, the PM had cancelled his nation-nation tour to Europe, which included Croatia, Norway and the Netherlands.

Though the G7 Summit agenda this year was focussed on building supply chains for critical minerals, energy security, and countering foreign interference and transnational crime, the focus is likely to be on the Israel-Iran conflict. PM Narendra Modi is likely to hold discussions with various stakeholders on the issue and express India's stance on dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward.

senior diplomats.

PM will hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines, officials say, even as modalities are being

Jaishankar urges Iran, Israel to avoid any escalatory steps

External Affairs Minister speaks to his counterparts seeking return to diplomacy after attacks; both the countries are strategic partners of India, and in close contact with Indian officials

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of intensification of Israel-Iran conflict on Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of conversations with his Iranian and Israeli counterparts – Abbas Araghchi and Gideon Sa'ar. Israel and Iran are both strategic partners of India and the Foreign Ministers of both the conflicting sides have been in close contact with Indian officials over the recent past.

The Minister-level phone conversation was held shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a phone call from his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Modi had called for “early restoration of peace”, and called for stability in the Gulf region that is vital for



Dialling down: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. FILE PHOTO

India's economy and security architecture.

In the phone call with Mr. Araghchi, Mr. Jaishankar expressed “deep concern of the international community at the turn of events”. “He urged avoidance of any escalatory steps and an early return to diplomacy,” said the Indian Embassy in Tehran in the statement. In response, the Iranian Foreign

Minister “shared Iran’s perspective on the situation”, said the Embassy of India.

The conversation came hours after Israel hit targets, including nuclear energy research centres, inside Iran. Soon thereafter, Iran unleashed three waves of missiles and drones.

Mr. Araghchi had visited India on May 7 and 8 to co-chair the 20th India-Iran

Helplines for Indian nationals

NEW DELHI

The Indian Embassy in Israel has said that Indian nationals can contact its helpline at +972 54-7520711 or +972 54-3278392 or cons1.telaviv@mea.gov.in in case of emergency. The helplines for the Indian Embassy in Iran are +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109.

Joint Commission Meeting. It was his first visit to New Delhi since assuming the office as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran in August 2024.

Israel hosts around 30,000 Indian nationals in various industries and academic institutions and Iran is a regional power in the Gulf region which hosts around 10 million Indian expat workers.

Over 600 evacuated as Myanmar military sees heavy combat with anti-coup forces

Agence France-Presse

PEKON

Hundreds of Myanmar families were being uprooted from their homes on Saturday, a community organiser said, piling their belongings onto evacuation convoys to escape fighting between the military and anti-coup guerrillas.

Myanmar has been consumed by a many-sided civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, leaving more than 3.5 million people displaced according to United Nations figures.

Heavy combat has been raging since Monday around the village of Saung Nang Khae in the eastern state of Shan, according to local residents and evacuation organisers.

Temporary shelter

Ramshackle convoys of tractors were piled with livestock, wheelchairs and suitcases on Friday as they hauled local families to temporary shelter in the village of BC Kone some 60 kilometres southwest.

On Saturday, Khun Pyae Linn, the spokesperson of the youth wing of the Kayan New Land Party

Myanmar has been consumed by civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup

which controls the enclave and which organised evacuation efforts, said “rescue operations are still ongoing”.

“We evacuated more than 600 people but there were other organisations that helped villagers too. So it could be over 1,500 villagers that were moved to safe shelters,” he added.

The military and some

of its adversaries had pledged a truce this month as the country recovers from March’s devastating magnitude-7.7 earthquake which killed more than 3,700 people.

After four years of war, Myanmar’s military has turned to conscription to bolster its ranks after suffering stinging territorial losses against the myriad of anti-coup fighters and ethnic armed organisations opposing its rule.

But analysts say it is still far from defeat, with a superior array of military hardware supplied by its backers China and Russia.

Nuclear talks with the U.S. are now unjustifiable: Iran Foreign Minister

Iran's Supreme Leader vowed continued retaliatory attacks on Israel, with Tehran launching missile strikes that caused casualties and damage in Israel; U.S. has deployed ground-based air defence systems to help intercept Iranian missiles

Associated Press

DUBAI

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that nuclear talks with the United States were "unjustifiable" after the Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites. The U.S. and Iran were scheduled to be in Oman on Sunday for their sixth round of indirect talks over Iran's nuclear programme.

The comments by Mr. Araghchi came during a call with Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat.

The Israeli air strikes were the "result of the direct support by Washing-



Contested progress: The Israeli air strikes were the 'result of the direct support by Washington', says Abbas Araghchi. AFP

ton," Mr. Araghchi said in a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency. The U.S. has said it is not part of the strikes.

Oman's Foreign Minister

Badr al-Busaidi later said the planned talks "will not now take place".

"The Iran-U.S. talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not

now take place. But diplomacy and dialogue remain the only pathway to lasting peace," Mr. Al-Busaidi wrote on a social media post.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei signalled in a recorded message on Friday that Iran was prepared to keep up its retaliatory attacks on Israel: "We will not allow them to escape safely from this great crime they committed."

Iran launched waves of missiles at Israel late Friday and early Saturday, and Iranians awoke to state television airing repeated clips of strikes on Israel.

The Iranian attacks killed at least three people

and wounded 76, mostly in and around Tel Aviv, according to two local hospitals. One missile severely damaged at least four homes in the nearby city of Rishon LeZion, according to first responders.

The Israeli military said seven soldiers were lightly wounded when a missile hit central Israel, without specifying where. It was the first report of Israeli military casualties since the initial Israeli strikes.

U.S. ground-based air defence systems in the region were helping to shoot down Iranian missiles, said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures.