

European carriers start avoiding Pak airspace

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New Delhi: Pakistan may have shut its airspace for India airlines, but now European and British carriers have also started avoiding overflying that country. Lufthansa Group, which includes SWISS, confirmed doing so.

Flight tracking site Flight-radar24 Thursday posted on X: "Air France, British Airways & Swiss flights adjusting routing since (April 30) to avoid crossing through Pakistan. Some airways in northern Pakistan are NOTAM'd unavailable through May, leading to adjusted routings with Pakistan as well." On Friday, it said, "Lufthansa, ITA Airways, and LOT joining the list of airlines routing around Pakistan (May 2)." NOTAM is a notice to alert pi-



IAF showcases its might on Ganga Expressway in UP's Shahjahanpur by conducting a two-hour flypast and landing drill on Friday. IAF aircraft including Rafale, SU-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, C-130J Super Hercules, AN-32 and Mi-17 V5 helicopter, performed 'touch and go' manoeuvres on the 3.5km stretch despite stormy weather

lots of potential hazards along a flight route.

Some flights that avoided overflying Pakistan in the last two days without a NOTAM requiring them to do so include Lufthansa's Munich-Delhi,

Frankfurt-Mumbai, Frankfurt-Hyderabad and Bangkok-Munich; LOT's Warsaw-Delhi and Alitalia successor ITA's Rome-Delhi. This added up to an hour to their flying time.

All countries do their own

risk assessment for overflying any region, and if they deem a place unsafe even if there is no NOTAM barring overflying, they reroute. "We are constantly monitoring the situation. The moment India-Pakistan conflict escalates, all flights will steer clear of the conflict zones. Airlines have done their last-minute rerouting as many planes will be en-route when and if the conflict escalates," said an official of a leading western airline.

"In conducting its operations, KLM always prioritises safety of passengers and staff. Selecting safe and optimal routes is a standard part of our daily practice, and we continuously assess the safety situation... Based on current safety information, KLM and other airlines are currently flying over Pakistan," KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said.

India's 1st transshipment hub inaugurated by PM in Kerala

Will Reduce Reliance On Colombo & Singapore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the capacity of the Vizhinjam deepwater port will triple in three years, allowing some of the world's largest cargo ships to dock here smoothly.

PM said the port will reduce India's reliance on foreign transshipment hubs where 75% of its transshipments currently happen, in what was an obvious reference to Colombo and Singapore. He added that this shift could boost revenue retention and create new opportunities in Kerala.

The Rs 8,800 crore Vizhinjam project is India's first dedicated transshipment hub with its natural depth of nearly 20 metres allowing large ships to berth, something that is not possible at the smaller ports in the country.

Modi linked the project to India's broader maritime strategy, referring to Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor announced at the G20 summit. While the port itself was under development for years, much of the construction and equipment involved private sector collaboration, particularly Adani Ports, which is operating the terminal.

In a lighter vein, PM also commented on the role of private investment in the project. "When the people of Gujarat learn that Adani built such a great port in Kerala, after working on a port in Gujarat for 30 years without building anything



Modi with Pinarayi Vijayan, Gautam Adani and others at the port Friday

Pinarayi's son-in-law takes a dig at BJP neta for being given a seat on dais

Kerala minister and CM Pinarayi Vijayan's son-in-law P A Mohammed Riyas on Friday took a swipe at BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar for being given a seat on the dais at the Vizhinjam Port inauguration ceremony. Riyas, along with other state ministers and CPM state secretary M V Govindan, was seated in the audience, while Chandrasekhar shared the stage with dignitaries PM Narendra Modi and CM Pinarayi Vijayan and others.

Sharing a selfie on social media with finance minister K N Balagopal, Govindan, and the CM's wife Kamala, Riyas wrote: "We are in the audience. Rajeev Chandrasekhar is on the stage."

Hinting at the 'closeness' between the LDF and BJP, Congress MLA Rahul Mankootathil responded: "Isn't it only natural that the convener of your alliance is on stage for your government's fourth anniversary celebrations?" Chandrasekhar has not responded to the allegations. PTI

like this, they'll be upset with him," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Highlighting govt's focus on maritime development in past 10 years, Modi mentioned about the 30% reduction in turnaround time of ships at India's major ports. He also said the reformed regulations concerning Indian seafarers, was yielding significant results. While in 2014, the number of Indian seafarers was little over 1.2 lakh, today this has surged beyond 3.2 lakh.

The event, held on the birth anniversary of Adi Shankaracharya — a figure Modi often mentioned — highlighted Kerala's growing importance in India's economic and mari-

time plans. Modi linked the port's opening to the spiritual legacy of the Kerala-born philosopher, saying his teachings laid the foundation for unity and that Kerala is now being positioned as a key part of India's economic future.

The port was inaugurated at a time when Kerala's economy faces rising debt and limited fiscal space, with the state govt seeking more central assistance. The PM highlighted several infrastructure projects the Centre has supported in the state, including the long-delayed Kollam and Alappuzha bypasses, as well as new investments like the Kochi shipbuilding and repair cluster.

Pinarayi mum on Chandy role, gives LDF govt credit for port

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan hailed the Vizhinjam International Seaport as a "gateway to India's maritime future" and a shining symbol of the state's development vision. While PM Narendra Modi formally dedicated the port to the nation, Vijayan, who delivered the presidential address at the inaugural event, chose to spotlight LDF govt's central role in conceptualising and executing the project, and avoided any mention of former CM Oommen Chandy, under whose leadership the crucial contract with the Adani Group was signed.

In what many view as a calculated omission, the CM refrained from acknowledging Chandy's controversial, yet decisive 2015 move to sign the agreement with Adani Ports — a move then fiercely opposed by LDF, which even instituted a judicial probe into the deal after coming to power. Instead, Vijayan highlighted the legacy of the 1996 LDF govt for originally envisioning the port, and credited the current administration for executing it against all odds.

Vijayan stressed that Vizhinjam is the first large port in India to be developed under the leadership of a state govt, with Kerala bearing over 60% of the Rs 8,886cr project cost.

He said that although the agreement originally scheduled the project completion by 2045, LDF govt ensured that commercial operations began in 2024. "We did not wait for deadlines — we advanced them," he said.

India plans drive to starve Pak of funds from global agencies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pak breaches truce along LoC in 5 J&K dists

New Delhi: India is looking to mount a global offensive against Pakistan, which it has accused of backing terrorists. New Delhi is set to ask multilateral agencies, including International Monetary Fund, to have a relook at funds and loans provided to Pakistan, while also urging the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-money laundering agency, to put Islamabad on the grey list.

A govt source said India would seek a review of the facilities extended by IMF to Pakistan in recent months to help it avoid bankruptcy, and is also in contact with agencies such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank that are financing projects.

Choking of funding to Pakistan will deal a major blow to the fragile economy. Pakistan managed to secure a \$7 billion bailout programme from IMF last year and was

Jammu: Pakistan violated the ceasefire for the eighth consecutive night on Thursday and initiated unprovoked firing of small arms along the LoC in five districts of J&K, reports **Sanjay Khajuria**. The breaches of truce occurred in Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri (Naushera) and Jammu (Akhnoor) districts, a defence spokesperson said on Friday, adding that the Indian Army retaliated effectively.

Since April 24 night, Pakistan has been repeatedly violating the ceasefire agreement, resorting to unprovoked firing on Indian Army posts and forward villages along LoC and international border.

granted a new \$1.3 billion climate resilience loan in March. The 2024 programme was Pakistan's 24th.

The IMF executive board is scheduled to meet Pakistani officials on May 9 for the first review of the extended funding facility, and request for an arrangement under the resilience and sustainability facility.

"IMF must reassess its engagement with Pakistan in light of the April 22 Pahalgam attack... For IMF, continued financial assistance without stringent condition-

alities addressing Pakistan's support for terrorism risks undermining the very objectives of economic stability and reform. Integrating counter-terrorism measures and accountability mechanisms into IMF programmes is imperative to ensure that financial aid does not inadvertently subsidise activities that threaten regional and global security," a paper by ORF's Soumya Bhowmick said.

In Jan, World Bank had approved a \$20 billion lending package to Pakistan to overcome its challenges.

US Urges Delhi To Temper Its Response To Avoid Wider Conflict

Vance: Pak should cooperate with India on Pahalgam probe

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Essentially putting Pakistan on notice, US Vice-President JD Vance, in nuanced comments on Fox

News, said, "Our hope here is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict." He added, "And we hope, frankly, that Pakistan, to the extent that they're responsible, cooperates with India to make sure that the terrorists are hunted down and dealt with."



Asked if Pakistan bears responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, Vance said, "We

INFILTRATORS FLEE

► Intel reports say Pak terrorists holed up in launch pads in POK across IB or LOC have retreated anticipating Indian action | **FLAP OPP**

► PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says Pak has a past with extremist groups and suffered because of this

► India will ask IMF, ADB & WB to relook funds and loans given to Pak | **FLAP OPP**

know that there are terrorist elements that sometimes operate out of Pakistan", but to what extent the Pakistani govt is directly responsible, "is still under investigation".

► Continued on P 16

SC stops family of 6 from J&K from being deported to Pak

New Delhi: A man hailing from Mirpur in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir moved to Srinagar on a Pakistani passport in 1997 and brought along his family of five three years later. On Friday, Supreme Court, acting on a petition moved by the man's eldest son who works in Bengaluru, saved them from getting depor-

► Pak opens Wagah gate, over 20 cross, **FLAP OPP**

ted to Pakistan, albeit with the rider that the restraint ordered in this case would not be used as a precedent by courts.

The bench asked the peti-

HC order brings back CRPF trooper's wife

Following J&K HC's order, Pakistan national Meenal Ahmed Khan was escorted back to Jammu from the Attari-Wagah border checkpoint in Punjab moments before she was to be deported, and reunited with CRPF trooper husband Munir Khan. **FLAP OPP**

tioner to move the authorities concerned for verification of their identity documents

► Continued on P 16

2nd highest May day rain in 125 yrs leaves 5 dead in Delhi

80kmph Winds, Heavy Showers Wreak Havoc

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New Delhi: An unusually strong early-morning thunderstorm with winds gusting up to 80kmph and intense downpours left a trail of destruction across the capital and claimed the lives of five people on Friday.

A woman and her three children were killed when a tree collapsed on a room they were sleeping in, in south-west Delhi's Jafarpur Kalan. The woman's husband was se-

FULL COVERAGE: P 2-4

verely injured. In Safdarjung Enclave, a 25-year-old construction worker died of electrocution when a wire broke due to the storm and lay in contact with the iron gate of an under-construction building which the man touched.

The storm peaked around 5am. By 8.30am, Delhi's main weather station, Safdarjung, had recorded 77mm of rain. This was the second-highest 24-hour rainfall for May in records going back to 1901.

►Continued on P 3



Sheikh Sarai

Highest 24-Hr Rain in May
(Safdarjung since 1901, mm)

119	77	60
May 20, 2021	May 2, 2025	May 24, 1976

Power Knocked Out

Long outages in parts of Rohini, Pitampura, Model Town, Lajpat Ngr, Mukherjee Ngr, Paharganj. Cuts also at CR Park, Chhatarpur, Mundka, Jafarpur, Dwarka, Laxmi Nagar, parts of west Delhi

98 Emergency Calls

In just 4 hrs, fire dept gets 98 emergency calls for house & wall collapses, fallen trees & flooding. Around 800 firefighters deployed. At least 200 trees uprooted or damaged, around 200 birds killed

Traffic snarls on flooded roads a foretaste of monsoon chaos?

Ahead of the monsoon, Delhi got a familiar taste of rain chaos, with Friday's storm challenging the preparedness of the city govt and municipality in managing heavy downpours. Usual trouble spots such as Dhaula Kuan, Lajpat Nagar, Ring Road, Mundka and New Friends Colony, among others, were flooded, leading to traffic ma-

yhem in the morning rush hours. Underpasses at Kishanganj, Minto Road, Bhalron Marg and Azadpur again went under, showing that efforts at managing water flows weren't sufficient.

Backflow from sewer lines, choked drains and unfinished desilting led to PWD getting complaints from more than 150 locations. **P 4**

10-metre stretch of a main Ggn road sinks

Gurgaon again went under as the skies opened up in the season's first heavy downpour. Most roads were waterlogged, traffic jams reported across the city, underpasses flooded and water inundated homes. To top it all, a 10-metre stretch of Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) collapsed, creating a massive sinkhole that brought the city's peak-hour traffic to a grinding halt. **P 4**