



FRIENDLY, BUT FIERY TOO: JAISHANKAR ON INDIA'S IMAGE AFTER BALAKOT, LAC, RUSSIA OIL ACTIONS

UK COURT REJECTS NIRAV MODI'S FRESH BAIL PLEA, CITES 'REAL, SUBSTANTIAL' FLIGHT RISK

Toronto float targets PM, govt raises it with Canada

'Stop Providing Secessionists & Criminals Haven, Political Space'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Following the use of a controversial float targeting PM Narendra Modi at a Khalsa Day parade in a Greater Toronto neighbourhood, India again called upon the Canadian govt to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements "a safe haven and political space in Canada".

MEA said India continues to remain concerned about the security of its diplomatic representatives in Canada and expects local authorities to ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities without fear.

"As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns regarding the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leadership. Last year, a float depicting the assassination of our former PM was used in a procession," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

He was speaking in response to queries regarding a float in the Nagar Kirtan parade at Malton in Canada. "Celebration and glorification of violence should not be a part of any civilised society. Democratic countries which respect the rule of law should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression," said the official.

India had last month summoned the Canadian deputy high commissioner to register a strong protest against the raising of anti-India slogans at an even attended by PM Justin Trudeau.



MEA said India continues to remain concerned about the security of its diplomatic representatives in Canada

'In '18, Amarinder refused to let Trudeau plane land unless he agreed to a meet'

'Handed List Of A-Category Terrorists'

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Jalandhar: Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and his defence minister Harjit Singh Sajjan were not allowed to land in Amritsar in Feb 2018 until they had agreed to meet the then Punjab CM, Capt Amarinder Singh, according to a report in Globe and Mail, a Canadian newspaper, on Tuesday.

The newspaper's report comes within days of the arrest of three Punjabi youths in connection with the murder of pro-Khalistan separatist and chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) Hardeep Singh Nijjar (45), designated a terrorist by India. Diplomatic ties between Canada and India are already in rough weather over allegations of the involvement of Indian agents in the murder.

Amarinder had handed over a list of nine "A-category" Canada-based terror operatives, including Indian-origin members of KTF, International Sikh Youth Federation and Babbar Khalsa International members, to Trudeau



Amarinder had told Trudeau that the Canadian govt had failed to take any action against those in the list, including Nijjar

on Feb 21, 2018 in Amritsar. He had informed Trudeau that Canadian soil was being misused by pro-Khalistan activists for financing terror activities in India. Except in one or two cases, Amarinder had told him that the Canadian govt had failed to take any action against those nine people, including Nijjar.

"The discussion with Capt Singh was 'not pleasant'," Globe and Mail report quoted a source as saying, adding that Canadian govt officials had assured the Indians they would look at the list presented to Sajjan, one that had previously been shared with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

US: Take Pannun case seriously, waiting for probe outcome

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India should take seriously the murder-for-hire plot related to Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun as the US awaits results of the probe India is conducting, a State Department spokesperson said on Monday.

India had in Nov formed a high-level committee to probe information shared by the US on the foiled plot to assassinate Pannun, a US national designated terrorist by India, allegedly masterminded by an Indian govt official. While India has so far been silent about the outcome, a US media report identified the Indian official and claimed the plot had been approved by then RAW chief Samant Goel. India had said in its response that the report made unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter.

"They (Indian govt) opened a committee of inquiry to look into the matter, and that work is ongoing; we'll wait to see the results. But we made it very clear that it's something that we are taking seriously, and we think they, too, should take this seriously," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at a media briefing.

Miller, however, did not comment on the arrests of Indian nationals in Canada for the murder of another Khalistan separatist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "I would refer you to the Canadian authorities to speak on the details of the investigation there. With respect to the indictment that was returned in the US, I will let the Department of Justice speak on behalf of that in detail."

"And then the only thing further I would say: when it comes to the State Department, we had made it clear right when these allegations were first made public that it's something we think India should take very seriously and investigate," Miller added.



V-DAY VIGNETTES: WOMEN PAWAR TO PAPON

Democracy cut a pretty picture in booths bathed in diversity on Tuesday as citizens emerged flashing smiles and flaunting inked fingers after exercising the power of their vote across 93 seats of 12 states and UTs. The exercise marked the third of seven phases of India's second-longest Lok Sabha elections after the country's first one in 1951-52.



Principal in tweets row axed after refusal to quit

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Mumbai: Somaiya School in Mumbai on Tuesday sacked principal Parveen Shaikh, who was initially asked to resign after liking certain tweets that were pro-Palestine and sympathetic to Hamas.

The school had sought an explanation from her on Saturday. "The management has discontinued Shaikh's association with Somaiya Vidyavihar to ensure that our ethos of unity and inclusivity is not compromised," the management said. Reasoning the de-

cision, members of the management said, it had come to our attention that the personal social media activities of Shaikh, "who holds a leadership position at Somaiya School, have been starkly misaligned with the values we cherish."

"At Somaiya Vidyavihar, we strive to cultivate an environment where knowledge leads to wisdom and uplifts all members of the community, transcending small-mindedness and personal biases. We strongly support the right to freedom

of expression, yet we recognize that it is not absolute and must be exercised with responsibility and respect for others," the note added.

Shaikh, who had earlier refused to resign, told TOI that she was weighing her legal options. "I was shocked to know about my sacking from social media even before receiving a termination notice from the management. The termination notice is completely illegal."

On April 24, a portal published an article claiming to expose Shaikh's "disturbing

social media behaviour," accusing her of being a 'Hamas-sympathiser', 'anti-Hindu', and a supporter of 'Islamist Umar Khalid' based on posts she had liked on her X account.

Shaikh has been with the school for 12 years with 7 years as the head. She added, "I am disappointed that in spite of my dedication to the school's growth, the management chose not to stand by me in the face of this vitriolic public vilification campaign run against me, and instead fell prey to it and took this drastic and unwarranted action."

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I VIRENDER SAHNI S/O SH J L SAHNI R/O FLAT NO. 308, 6TH FLOOR, BLOCK -A, ATULYA APARTMENT, SECTOR 18-B, DWARKA, NEW DELHI - 110078 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDER KUMAR SAHNI S/O SH JAGDISH LAL SAHNI FOR ALL PURPOSES

I, Shakuntala, Spouse of Milawa Ram Gera resident of M-458, 1st floor, Guru Harikrishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name from Shakuntala to Shakuntla Gera vide affidavit dated 07.05.2024 at Delhi.

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Plant 200 saplings, says HC, as bail condition to abetment case accused

Cuttack: Orissa high court has granted bail to an accused in a Pocco suicide-abetment case on the condition that he plants 200 trees, reports Lal-mohan Patnaik. Allowing the relief on Monday, Justice SK Panigrahi asked the accused to plant trees like mango and tamarind in his village in Kalahandi. "He" shall start planting as soon as the (rains) approach and maintain those plants. The district nursery shall supply the plants," Justice Panigrahi said.

The local police will ensure compliance, the HC said, asking the accused to appear before the cops once a week and warning his bail will be cancelled if he commits any offence or tampers with evidence while he is out. The accused has been in custody since last Nov on several charges, including Section 12 (sexual harassment) of Pocco Act after a girl in his village allegedly died by suicide following threats of rape by six men. The case is pending before a Pocco court.

HC: Live-in relationships against expectations of traditional Indian beliefs

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh HC has rejected a man's appeal for custody of a child born from alive-in relationship, while emphasising the complexities of personal laws and interfaith marriages, reports Partha Behera.

A division bench comprising Justice Goutam Bhaduri and Justice Sanjay S Agrawal observed that the concept of a live-in relationship... "continues as a stigma in Indian culture as it goes against traditional Indian beliefs".

"It is an imported philosophy contrary to the general expectations of Indian tenets," HC said, pointing out that the regulations of personal law cannot be applied in any court unless they are presented and validated as customary practices.

Petitioner Abdul Hameed Siddiqui (43), a resident of Dantewada, sought custody of a child born from his live-in relationship with a woman (36) from a different faith. A Dantewada family court had turned down his plea in Dec 2023, after which he moved HC.

Man held for kidnapping, raping minor 40 yrs ago

Mumbai: Forty years after he disappeared, the D B Marg police traced and arrested a rape accused, now 70, from Agra and brought him to Mumbai on Tuesday, reports Mateen Hafeez.

The accused, in 1984, allegedly kidnapped a 17-year-old girl whose mother had lodged an FIR of kidnapping and rape. Soon after he was granted bail, the accused stopped attending court and later disappeared. A court in 2015 issued a standing warrant against the accused. Police said that it was perhaps after his bail that the accused and the girl got married. According to sources, the accused was living with his family.

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