



Health is wealth



Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organizing our curiosity

## Felicitation Ceremony Held in Honour of Cabinet Minister S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa

Sudhir Sahuja

New Delhi, May 7, 2025: A grand felicitation ceremony was organized on May 7, 2025, to honour S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Cabinet Minister in the Government of Delhi. The event was a collaborative effort by Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, Mata Sundri College for Women and Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce — all constituent colleges of the University of Delhi. The ceremony took place at Mata Sundri College for Women.

The occasion was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including S. Harmeet Singh Kalka (President, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee), S. Sukhbir Singh Kalra (Chairman, SGNDKC), S. Kulbir Singh (Treasurer, SGNDKC), Dr. Baljeet Singh (Officiating Principal, SGNDKC), S. M.P.S. Chadha (Chairman, SGGSCC), S. Gurinder Pal Singh (Treasurer, SGGSCC), Dr. Jatinder Bir Singh (Principal, SGGSCC), and S. Prithpal Singh Sawhney (Treasurer, MSCW).

In her welcome address, Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal of Mata Sundri College, highlighted the exemplary leadership and human-



itarian efforts of S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, when he extended substantial support to people across the Delhi-NCR region. His long-standing commitment to the welfare of the victims of the 1984 riots was also acknowledged.

S. M.P.S. Chadha commended the government's decision to entrust greater responsibilities to Mr. Sirsa, noting that his services should benefit not only the national capital but the entire country. Dr. Jatinder Bir Singh expressed pride in welcoming a visionary leader whose work is consistently guided by a clear and impactful agenda.

S. Kulbir Singh praised Mr. Sirsa's efforts toward realizing the dream of a pollution-free Delhi, while S. Gurinder Pal Singh stated that his contributions have surpassed all expectations. S. Harmeet Singh Kalka recalled numerous public welfare initiatives under Mr. Sirsa's leadership, including the establishment of new medical stores, a free dialysis centre, distribution of oxygen cylinders, and large-scale langar sewa (community kitchen services), even during lockdowns through home delivery.

In his address, Mr. Sirsa, currently serving as Minister of Industries, Food & Supplies, Environment, Forest and Wildlife in the Delhi Government, outlined a series of initiatives aimed at combating pollution in the city. These included the installation of mist spray systems and anti-smog guns, mechanised road sweeping integrated with jetting systems, extensive tree plantation drives, and the removal of obsolete vehicles. He also acknowledged the active cooperation of both the central and state governments in supporting the goal of a cleaner and greener Delhi.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jasmeet

## Karnataka directs mosque prayers to honour Indian troops



Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI) In a move to honour the Indian soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor, the Karnataka government has directed that special prayers be held in mosques across the state.

This follows the pujas held earlier this week at various government temples, offering blessings for the safety and success of the armed forces.

The directive, issued by Minority Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, mandates that all mosques,

including those under the jurisdiction of the Waqf Board, hold Friday prayers in tribute to the soldiers. The prayers are intended to seek divine blessings for the protection and well-being of the troops engaged in counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, was a series of precision strikes by India in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives.

strikes, part of a larger counter-terrorism initiative, have been met with widespread support across the nation. Zameer confirmed that he has instructed the CEO of the Waqf Board to ensure the prayers are conducted with the necessary respect and solemnity in all relevant mosques. The move underscores the state's support for the armed forces and is a gesture of solidarity with their critical mission.

The order follows a similar initiative where temples across Karnataka conducted pujas on May 8 to seek divine intervention for the safety of soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor. The Minister for Transport and Muzrai, Ramalinga Reddy, had issued a directive urging temples to perform ceremonies with devotion, focusing on the safety and success of the Indian Army.

This religious show of unity highlights the collective national effort in support of India's defense forces, with both Hindu and Muslim communities coming together in their prayers for the well-being of soldiers engaged in dangerous operations. UNI BDN SSP

## CJI forwards Inquiry Panel report on Justice Yashwant Varma to President, PM

New Delhi, May 8, (UNI)

In a significant development, Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Thursday forwarded the report of a Supreme Court-appointed three-member inquiry committee probing serious allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The CJI also enclosed Justice Varma's written response to the allegations, adhering to principles of natural justice.

The confidential communication, made under the Supreme Court's in-house procedure, pertains to allegations surrounding the discovery of unaccounted cash following a fire incident at Justice Varma's official residence in Lutyens' Delhi on the night of March 14. At the time, Justice Varma was serving as a judge of the Delhi High Court before being elevated to the Allahabad High Court.

"The Chief Justice of India, in terms of the in-house



procedure, has written to the President of India and the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith a copy of the three-member committee report dated May 3 along with the letter / response dated May 6 received from Justice Yashwant Varma," the Supreme Court stated in a press release. Crucially, the press note does not explicitly mention that the Chief Justice has recommended Justice Varma's removal. Sources

said it was part of the confidential correspondence. The inquiry committee was headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and included Chief Justice G.S. Sandhawalia of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court. The panel conducted a detailed investigation, examining evidence and recording statements of over 50 individuals, including senior

officials such as Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and the Chief of Delhi Fire Services, both of whom were among the first responders on the night of the fire.

The report was earlier shared with Justice Varma for his comments before it was forwarded to the President and the PM, maintaining transparency and fairness in line with the norms governing judicial accountability.

## Mata Sundri College for Women Celebrates its 58th Annual Day with Grandeur

Sudhir Sahuja

New Delhi, May 6, 2025: Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, commemorated its 58th Annual Day on May 6, 2025 with great zeal and solemnity. The event served as a fitting culmination to a year marked by notable academic accomplishments and dynamic cultural engagements.

The celebration commenced with a serene Shabad recital establishing a spiritually enriching ambience. The event was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including Shri Vijender Gupta, Honorable Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly (Chief Guest), Ms. Nandini Paliwal, Secretary Higher Education, Delhi Government (Guest of Honour), S. Harmeet Singh Kalka (President DSGMC), S. Atma Singh Lubana (Vice President DSGMC) and members of the Governing Body—S.



Satnam Singh, S. Kulbir Singh, S. Rawail Singh, S. H.S. Nag and Treasurer S. Prithpal Singh. The distinguished guests were cordially received and felicitated by the college. In her welcome address, Principal Prof. Harpreet Kaur highlighted the college's key initiatives, institutional achievements, and strategic vision for the future. Addressing the gathering, Shri Vijender Gupta shared inspiring reflections from his student leadership days as former President of Delhi University Students' Union, encouraging students to pursue their goals with discipline and passion. Ms. Nandini Pali-

wal underscored the importance of women's empowerment and solidarity, while S. Harmeet Singh Kalka announced the introduction of mental wellness labs aimed at supporting the emotional well-being of students. A significant highlight of the event was the release of the college's annual magazine Bani, a comprehensive compilation of academic and creative contributions by students and faculty. The occasion also saw the unveiling of notable faculty publications, including Teg Bahadur Boliya and Sikh Women in Indian History, authored by Principal Prof. Harpreet Kaur. An audio-visual

presentation showcased the year's key milestones and achievements, capturing glimpses of national and international conferences, seminars, academic lectures, heritage walks, cultural festivals, and other noteworthy college activities.

The prize distribution ceremony honoured outstanding students across diverse domains. The prestigious 'Student of the Year' award, along with scholarships and special recognitions was conferred upon students for exemplary academic performance and excellence in co-curricular pursuits.

The ceremony concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

## Avaana Capital leads 1.2 million dollars seed round in High Time Foods

Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI)

Avaana Capital, an venture capital fund, adventuring deep-tech and frontier innovation, has led a USD 1.2 million seed round in High Time Foods, a food-tech startup offering cost-effective, shelf-stable plant-based protein solutions. Existing investors also participated in the round.

The funding coincides with High Time Foods' official launch in India, where it aims to address the country's protein gap by building a climate-resilient, non-refrigerated, and versatile protein product line catering primarily to the institutional food sector.

The Bengaluru-based startup had earlier secured a distribution deal with US-based Sysco, one of the world's largest food-

service providers, which it described as a significant global validation of its product innovation and operational efficiency. "With Avaana Capital backing us, my co-founder Damian and I are doubling down on our mission to deliver delicious and versatile plant-based proteins to our B2B partners across India and beyond," said Aakash Shah, Co-Founder and CEO, High Time Foods.

"We're relaunching at a very affordable price point, and as we scale, we aim to be cheaper than conventional protein sources, including meat." The firm's offerings, designed for restaurants, hotels, caterers, institutions, and manufacturers, are intended to function as adaptable ingredients in diverse preparations,

including Indian staples like samosas and kebabs. The company's early India operations include a partnership with Vasantha Bhavan, a 65-year-old restaurant chain with presence across Tamil Nadu and abroad. According to Avaana Capital's Investment Director Shruti Srivastava, "High Time Foods is tackling one of the most urgent gaps in food systems today—affordable, scalable protein. Their shelf-stable innovation is built for real-world conditions, especially in markets where infrastructure can be a challenge." Founded by MBA classmates Aakash Shah and Damian Felchlin, the company combines experience in food service, logistics, and international trade.

## Govt directs OTT platforms to immediately stop Pakistan-origin content



New Delhi, May 8 (UNI) Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the government on Thursday directed all OTT platforms, media streaming platforms and intermediaries operating in India to immediately stop streaming of web-series, films, songs of Pakistan origin. According to an advisory issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the decision has been taken in the interest of national security. The statement said, "Several terrorist attacks in India have been established to have cross border

linkages with Pakistan-based State and non-State actors. Recently, on April 22, 2025, the terrorist attack in Pahalgam led to the killing of several Indians, one Nepali citizen, and injuries to a number of others."

"In the interest of national security, all OTT platforms, media streaming platforms and intermediaries operating in India are advised to discontinue the web-series, films, songs, podcasts and other streaming media content, whether made available on a subscription-based model or otherwise, having its origins in Pakistan with immediate effect," it said.

Notably, the government had earlier banned several Pakistani YouTube channels, for disseminating provocative, false and misleading content against India.

## Airtel Africa revenue grows 21.1 pc in constant currency

London, May 8 (UNI) Airtel Africa Ltd on Thursday reported a strong financial performance for the year ended March 31, with constant currency revenue rising 21.1 per cent to USD 4,955 million and profit after tax (PAT) swinging to USD 328 million from a loss of USD 89 million in the previous fiscal, aided by easing currency headwinds and operational momentum across its markets.

Revenue growth accelerated in the fourth quarter to 23.2 per cent in constant currency and 17.8 per cent in reported currency, supported by improved pricing in Nigeria and strong execution across the Group. However, reported annual revenue saw a marginal decline of 0.5 per cent due to currency devaluation. Underlying EBITDA stood at USD 2,304 million, down 5.1 per cent in reported currency, with margins narrowing to 46.5 per cent from 48.8 per cent in the prior

year. The margin dip was attributed to increased fuel prices and a reduced contribution from Nigeria. Notably, EBITDA margins improved sequentially from 45.3 per cent in Q1 to 47.3 per cent in Q4, reflecting a more stable operating environment and cost efficiency gains.

Basic earnings per share rose to 6.0 cents from a negative 4.4 cents a year earlier, largely due to lower derivative and forex losses. EPS before exceptional items dropped to 8.2 cents from 10.1 cents, impacted by higher finance costs following tower contract renewals.

On the operating front, the telecom major expanded its total customer base by 8.7 percent to 166.1 million, driven by digital inclusion efforts and network investments. Smartphone penetration improved to 44.8 per cent, while the number of data customers increased by 14.1 per cent to 73.4 million.