

**DEFENCE NAVY'S NEW
AIR POWER**

**THE MEAT DEBATE RISE
OF THE VEGGIELANTES**

**CINEMA A BURST OF
PATRIOTIC FERVOUR**

www.indiatoday.in

MAY 5, 2025 ₹100



INDIA TODAY

PAHALGAM MASSACRE

PAIN AND PUNISHMENT

**MAKING PAKISTAN PAY
WHAT INDIA CAN DO NEXT**



Newly-wed
Himanshi Narwal
with her slain
husband Vinay in
Pahalgam

CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Aron Purie
VICE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kalli Purie
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Dinesh Bhatia

GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Raj Chengappa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Manoj Sharma

GROUP CREATIVE EDITOR: Nilanjana Das; GROUP PHOTO EDITOR: Bhandeep Singh

EDITOR (FEATURES): Kai Jaber Friesse

MANAGING EDITORS: Sunil Menon, S. Sahaya Ranjit; MUMBAI: M.G. Arun

EXECUTIVE EDITORS: Manisha Saroop, Kaushik Deka

SENIOR DEPUTY EDITORS: Sangram K. Parhi, Sasi Nair;
HYDERABAD: Amarnath K. Menon

DEPUTY EDITORS: Anilish S. Mahajan, Pradip R. Sagar;

JAIPUR: Rohit Parihar; MUMBAI: Suhani Singh

SENIOR EDITORS: Sonali Acharjee, Ashish Mukherjee, Saikat Niyogi;
PATNA: Amitabh Srivastava

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Sonal Khetarpal; MUMBAI: Dhaval S. Kulkarni;
AHMEDABAD: Jumana Shah; BHOPAL: Rahul Noronha

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Avishhek G. Dashtdar, Vipul Grover; BENGALURU: Ajay Sukumaran

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: KOLKATA: Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

PHOTO DEPARTMENT: Chandra Deep Kumar, Rajwant Singh Rawat (Deputy Chief

Photographers), Arun Kumar (Principal Photographer);

MUMBAI: Mandar Suresh Doodhar (Chief Photographer)

PHOTO RESEARCHERS: Prabhakar Tiwari (Deputy Visual Research Editor),

Saloni Vaid (Chief Photo Researcher),

Jodha Singh Adhikari (Principal Photo Researcher)

CHIEF OF GRAPHICS: Tanmay Chakraborty

ART DEPARTMENT: Sanjay Piplani (Creative Editor),

Angshuman De (Senior Art Director), Rajesh Kumar Angira, Bhoomesh Dutt

Sharma (Associate Art Directors), Santosh Kumar Sharma (Assistant Art

Director), Praveen Kumar Gummadi (Chief Designer),

Siddhant Junde (Chief Illustrator)

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT: Harish Agarwal (Chief of Production),

Naveen Gupta (Chief Coordinator)

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Suparna Kumar

IMPACT TEAM

Senior General Managers: Jitendra Lad (West), Syed Naveed (Chennai)

GROUP CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER: Vivek Malhotra

SALES AND OPERATIONS

Deepak Bhatt, National Head (Distribution)

Rajeev Gandhi, General Manager (North)

Yogesh Godhanlal Gautam, Regional Sales Manager (West)



Volume 50-Number 18; For the week

April 29-May 5, 2025, published on every Friday

• Editorial/Corporate Office Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group

Bangalore-560025; FC-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida - 201301; Phone: 0120-4807100

• Subscriptions: For assistance contact, Customer Care, India Today Group,

C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301, email: wecare@intoday.com;

Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778 (Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6 pm).

• Sales: Direct all trade enquiries to General Manager (Sales), Living Media India

Limited, C-9, Sector-10, Noida-201301 (UP).

• Regd. Office: F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

• Impact Offices: 1201, 12th Floor, Tower 2 A, One Indiabulls Centre,

(Jupiter Mills), S.B. Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013;

Phone: 022 69193355; Fax: 66063226

• E-1, Ground Floor, Videocon Towers, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi.

• Door No: 610, 610A, 612, 5th Floor, Block A, Imperial Chaitanya Building,

Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018.

• 201-204 Richmond Towers, 2nd Floor, 12, Richmond Road,

Bangalore-560025; Phones: 22212448, 22213037, 22218343; Fax: 22218335;

• 52, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700071; Phones: 22825398;

Fax: 22827254; • 6-3-885/7/B, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082;

Phone: 23401657, 23400479, 23401010, 23402481, 23410982, 23411498;

Fax: 23403484 • 39/1045, Karakatt Road, Kochi 682016; Phones: 2377057,

2377058; Fax: 2377059 • 2/C, 'Suryashakti Bldg', 2nd Floor, Behind White

House, Panchwati, Office C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006; Phone: 26560393,

26560929; Fax: 26565293 • Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights

reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited.

Printed and published by Manoj Sharma on behalf of Living Media

India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited,

18-85 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana)

and at Rajhans Enterprises, 134, Industrial Town, 4th Main Road, Rajajinagar,

Bengaluru-560044, (Karnataka).

Published at F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

Editor: Raj Chengappa.

• INDIA TODAY does not take the responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of

competent courts and forums in Delhi/ New Delhi only

For reprint rights and syndication enquiries, contact

syndications@intoday.com or call +91-120-4078000

www.syndicationstoday.in

UPFRONT

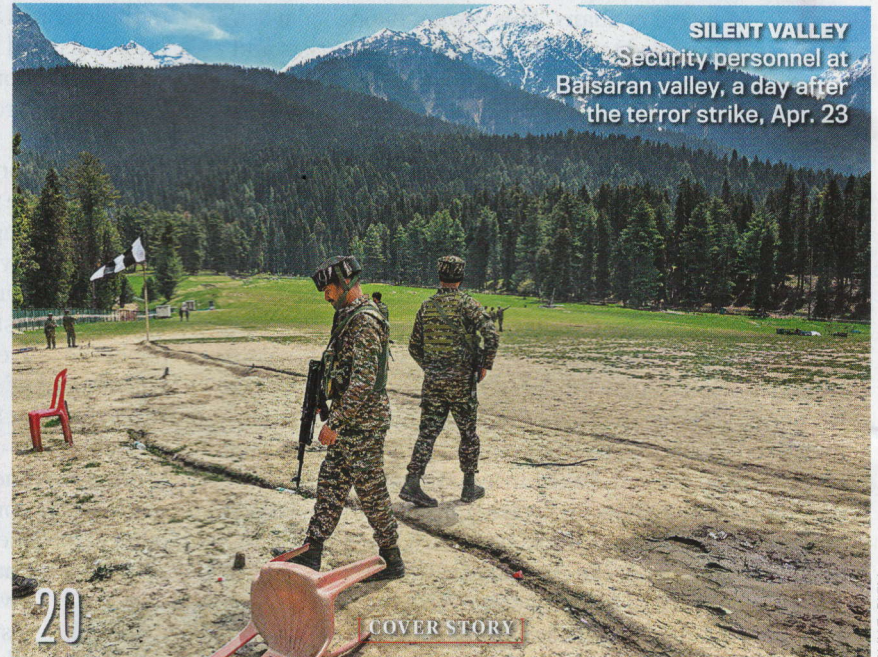
INDIA-US: GOING BEYOND
TRADE TIES PG 8

KERALA: PINARAYI'S
MAN UNDER
SCANNER PG 11

INSIDE

LEISURE
BEACONS OF PARS
HERITAGE PG 51

Q&A: UPAMANYU
CHATTERJEE
PG 58



SILENT VALLEY

Security personnel at
Baisaran valley, a day after
the terror strike, Apr. 23

20

COVER STORY

PAHALGAM MASSACRE

PAIN AND PUNISHMENT

MAKING PAKISTAN PAY. WHAT INDIA CAN DO NEXT

THE NATION

32 RISE OF THE VEGGIELANTES

Religious vigilantes are
opening new fronts over
meat-eating across India

DEFENCE

42 NAVY'S NEW AIR POWER

INS *Vikrant's* decks will soon
have advanced Rafale-Ms,
giving the Indian Navy an edge

KARNATAKA

38 PITFALLS OF THE CASTE COUNT

Notwithstanding the Congress
enthusiasm, the new caste
survey is a political hot potato

CINEMA

48 PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

Filmmakers are revisiting India's
colonial past to bring forgotten
stories and heroes to life

Note to the reader :

From time to time, you will see pages titled 'An Impact Feature' or 'Focus' in INDIA TODAY. These are no different from advertisements, and the magazine's editorial staff is not involved in their creation in any way



Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries before sending money, incurring expenses or entering into commitments in relation to any advertisement appearing in this publication. The India Today Group does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, editor-in-chief and the editor of the India Today Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences in the event of such claims not being honoured by the advertisers.

FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT: Customer Care,
India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301.
email: wecare@intoday.com | Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778
(Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6 pm)

E-MAIL to:
letters.editor@intoday.com or
log on to www.indiatoday.in



SCAN HERE TO
SUBSCRIBE