

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 09, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Abir Gulaal row: Ridhi Dogra says 'I stand with my country' on release postponement

Amit Shah reviews security along Indo-Pak border, airports with top officials

Pope Leo XIV celebrates first Mass after historic election as Pope Francis' successor



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BRIEFLY

Missing youth found dead in South Kashmir Mosque

SRINAGAR, May 9 (Agencies): Body of a youth was found hanging in a mosque on Friday in the Sarnal area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Officials said that today the body of a youth was found hanging in a mosque at Sarnal by some locals.

The deceased has been identified as Aadil Gulzar Kadoo, son of Gulzar Ahmad Kadoo, resident of Papibal Ashajipora. He had been missing since 6th May 2025 from his home.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

Indian Railways announces special trains from Jammu, Udhampur to Delhi

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): Indian Railways has planned to run multiple special trains from Jammu and Udhampur to Delhi in view of the current situation, as per an official statement.

According to official information, Train number 04612 is planned to depart from Jammu at 10:45 am. The special train comprised 12 unreserved coaches and 12 reserved coaches for general and reserved category passengers.

In addition, a 20-coach Vande Bharat rake has also been planned as a special train scheduled to depart from Udhampur at 12:45 pm.

The train is set to run via Jammu and Pathankot, connecting the northern districts to the national capital. Further, another 22-coach fully reserved LHB special train was planned to depart from Jammu around 7:00 pm (19:00 hrs) on Friday evening.

Meanwhile, on Friday, acting on the instructions of Andhra Pradesh's Nellore District SP and the Guntakal Railway SP, the Dog Squad, GRP team, and Santhapeta police personnel jointly conducted thorough inspections at Nellore Railway Station.

The checks included railway platforms, train coaches, and the parcel office.

Railway DSP Muralidhar said, "After

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews security situation with CDS, 3 Service Chiefs

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday carried out a comprehensive review of the national security scenario with the top military leadership, a day after Pakistan's attempts to target Indian military installations were repelled.

Every aspect of the evolving security situation was discussed in the meeting, it is learnt.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripa



thi.

India last night neutralised Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones.

After the Pakistani attempts were foiled, the defence ministry

said India remains "fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and ensure the safety of its people."

Indian military officials said the Pakistani drones and missiles were effectively engaged by Indian armed forces and the attempts by the enemy were thwarted. Paki-

stan's fresh attempts to target Indian military installations came less than 24 hours after a similar attempt.

On Thursday afternoon, the defence ministry said Indian armed forces foiled Pakistan's attempts to target military installations in 15 cities in the northern and western parts of the country using missiles and drones.

It said the Pakistani military attempted Wednesday night to target Awanpura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarail, and Bhuj.

BSF foils infiltration bid along Pak border in Jammu; Kills seven terrorists

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): The Border Security Force on Friday said it has foiled an infiltration bid from across the India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu, killing at least seven terrorists and destroying a Rangers post.

The terrorists were engaged around 11 pm on Thursday in Samba district after a "big group" of terrorists was detected by the "surveillance grid".

This infiltration bid was supported by fire from Pakistan Rangers post Dhandhar, a BSF spokesperson said.

He said the troops

neutralised the infiltration bid, killing "at least" seven terrorists and caused "extensive" damage to the Dhandhar post.

Officials said there could be more terrorists, who could have been neutralised.

The BSF also shared a thermal imager clip of the firing and "destruction" of a bunker of the said post where a heavy machine gun of the Rangers was mounted.

The force is on high alert in the wake of the current hostilities between the two countries following the Pahalgam terrorist attack of

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Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary reviews security, hospital arrangements in Rajouri

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary arrived in Rajouri on Friday morning to review the security situation in the region. During his visit, he conducted a thorough review of the hospital arrangements in the district, which has been a focal point for recent security concerns.

Choudhary emphasised that this was not the first instance of Pakistan launching attacks against India.

"I reached Rajouri in the morning. I have reviewed the hospital arrangements. This is not the first time Pakistan has attacked India...our people are brave. They (Pakistan) think that they can break the morale of people of India, especially J&K people, that is wrong," he told ANI.

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CM Omar visits injured civilians at GMC Jammu



JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah on Friday visited Government Medical College (GMC)

Jammu to inquire about the well-being of civilians injured in the recent cross-border shelling incidents.

Chief Minister interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of full medical support and necessary assistance. "We are praying for their swift recovery and stand with them during this difficult time," Omar said during his visit.

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IPL suspended indefinitely amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): The Indian Premier League (IPL) was on Friday suspended indefinitely due to the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

A cloud of uncertainty had loomed over the future of the ongoing edition since the can-

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J&K Cong slams Pakistan for targeting Jammu, Says it will pay for its sins

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Friday condemned Pakistan for targeting Jammu and other areas in the region with missiles and drones on Thursday night, saying the neighbouring country "will have to pay for its sins".

"J-K Pradesh Congress Committee strongly condemns the provocative and escalatory actions of Pakistan by launching drone and missile attacks in Jammu city and other parts last night," the party's chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

"Pakistan will pay for its sins," he added.

India on Thursday night thwarted Pakistan's fresh attempts to strike military sites with drones and missiles - including in Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur - after foiling similar bids at

15 locations across the northern and western regions of the country, as tensions soared between the two nations amid fears of a wider conflict.

In a swift and precise response, Indian armed forces successfully thwarted attacks launched from across the border by intercepting and neutralising all incoming missiles and drones directed at key locations in Jammu and its surrounding areas late on Thursday night.

Eight missiles were fired from Pakistan, targeting civilian and strategic locations in Satwari, Samba, RS Pura and Arnia.

However, Indian Air Defence units sprang into action and intercepted every missile, preventing any casualties, officials said.

The renewed attempts by the Pakistani

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Fresh air siren sounded in Chandigarh, residents advised to stay indoors

CHANDIGARH, May 9 (Agencies): The Chandigarh administration on Friday sounded a fresh air raid siren, appealing to people to remain indoors.

"An air warning has been received from the air force station of a possible attack. Sirens are being sounded. All are advised to remain indoors and stay away from balconies," an official statement issued by the Chandigarh adminis-

tration said.

About an hour later, it said the siren for the alert was over.

Chandigarh is the common capital of Punjab and Haryana. The development came amid escalating tension between India and Pakistan.

The district administration in neighbouring Panchkula too sounded a similar siren and appealed to people to stay indoors.

Meanwhile, the Mohali district administration in Punjab has advised people living in the areas bordering Chandigarh to remain indoors.

"There is an alert in some areas of Chandigarh. We are advising Mohali residents in the bordering sectors to remain indoors and away from windows and glass panes," a message shared by the Mohali administration

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CHOUBARSI

You are probably looking down from heaven up above sending out smiles with blessings and love. Wherever you are, you will always be in our heart forever.

Choubarsi of our beloved **Late Smt. Rekha Gandotra** W/o Sh. Deepak Gandotra will be performed at our residence H.No. 69, Ward No. 7, Anderkote, Rajouri on 10th May, 2025 (Saturday) at 12 noon.

Deeply Missed & Remembered By:

Sh. Deepak Gandotra - Husband
Smt. Uma Gandotra - Jethani
Sh. Raman & Smt. Surekha Gandotra - Devar & Devrani
Sh. Arun Abrol & Smt. Madhuri Abrol - Bhaliya & Bhabi
Smt. Geeta Sawhney & Sh. G.G. Sawhney - Didi & Jija
Smt. Anita Suri & Sh. B.B. Suri - Didi & Jija

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Mrs. Smilee Nargotra & Mr. Ritesh Nargotra
Mrs. Shuchee Gupta & Mr. Shivender Gupta

Son & Daughter-in-law

Mr. Shivam Gandotra & Mrs. Jyotika Gandotra
Grand Children:- Asmi, Diva, Sambhav, Anvi, Shivik
Contact No:- 9796398111, 9419121898



LATE SMT. REKHA
GANDOTRA

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that 10th Day of beloved **Smt Kamla Rani** W/o Sh Bhagwan Singh Jasrotia will be performed at our residence Bari Brahmana House No. 67, Ward No. 02, Jasrotia Niwas on 07th May 2025 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM.

The **Kriya** and **Rasam Pagri** will be performed on 10th May 2025 (Sat) at our residence Bari Brahmana at 12:00 Noon.

Ritual	Day	Time
Tenth Day	07-05-2025	11:00 AM (at our Residence)
Kriya	10-05-2025	12:00 Noon (at our Residence)
Pagri	10-05-2025	04:00 PM (at our Residence)

GRIEF STRICKEN : Husband - Sh Bhagwan Singh Jasrotia**Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-laws**

Sh Purn Singh Jasrotia & Late Smt. Prakash Devi
Sh. Late Jagdish Singh Jasrotia & Smt. Sanjosh Devi

Son and Daughter-in-law

Mr. Dinesh Singh Jasrotia and Mrs. Minakshi Jasrotia

Daughter and Son-in-law

Mrs. Rajni Sambyal and Mr. Kulvinder Singh Sambyal

Mrs. Babli Salathia and Mr. Joginder Singh Salathia

Grand Children

Mr. Bharu Pratap Singh and Mrs. Manvi Sambyal

Mrs. Varsha Manhas and Mr. Rohit Manhas

Vanshika, Raghuvansh, Akhil, Rudra, Anandhaya

Great Grand Child:- Abhyant



Smt Kamla Rani

BARKHI

One year have passed since you left this mortal world, but your memories will always remain eternal in our heart, mind and soul.

Your Honesty, Simplicity, Wisdom & Courage will always remain a source of inspiration for all of us.

The **Barkhi** of our beloved **Late Sh. P.P. Sharma, I.F.S(Retd.)** Ex. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, J&K will be performed on Saturday 10.05.2025, at our residence 41/9, Trikuta Nagar Jammu, **CHEJ PUJA** will start at 12:00 Noon followed by **PREETI BHOJ/LUNCH** at 01:00 PM



Sh. P.P. Sharma, I.F.S(Retd.)
Ex. Principal Chief Conservator
of Forest, J&K
(19-11-1942 to 21-05-2024)

DEEPLY MISSED AND FOREVER CHERISHED BY:-

Dr. Usha & Sh. Atul Sharma JKPS -Daughter-in-Law & Son

Mrs. Anshuja & Mr. Yasser Tak, Advocates J&K High Court -Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Suman Prabha, W/o L.Dr. S.P Upadhyay -Sister

Smt. Shashi Prabha, W/o L.Dr. J.N Dhar -Sister

Smt. Jyoti Prabha & Sh. Dinesh Kumar Sharma -Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Chanchala W/o L.Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma -Bhabhi

Smt. Kanchan & Sh. Anu Kumar Sharma, (AAO Retd.) -Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Sharika & Sh. P.N. Raina (Sr. Advocate, J&K) -Bhabhi & Brother-in-Law

Smt. Geeta & Sh. P.L. Raina (Retd. Development Officer) -Bhabhi & Brother-in-Law

Smt. Naseem & Sh. Ejaz Ahmed Tak (Advocate) -Samdhan & Samdhi

Grand Children : Anargha, Ashana, Amrith, Mrityunjay & Krishiv

Mobile: 9419187286, 9086087286, 9419195331, 9419195866

SHARMA'S, RAINA'S, PATYAR'S, TAK'S, SHEORAN'S, DHAR'S

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FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our **Fufa Ji Sh. Surinder Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Sansar Chand Gupta R/o Udampur, who left for heavenly abode on 7th May, 2025, Wednesday.

Fifth Day will be performed on Saturday, 10th of May, 2025 from 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon at our residence H.No. 1498, Vidhya Bhawan, Gole Gujral Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Parul Gupta & Shilpa Gupta

& Gupta Family

M/s Vijay Steel Industries, Moti Bazar, Jammu

M/s Vijay Steel Works, Talab Tillo, Jammu

M/s Vaishno Traders, Talab Tillo, Jammu

Mob. No.: 9419125923, 9419201408, 9541825923



Sh. Surinder Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of the light of our life **Smt. Rajni Kaul**, wife of Prof. Hriday Nath Kaul (Vessu), resident of 58, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 1st May 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Director of School Education office) on 10th May 2025 at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Husband:**

Prof. Hriday Nath Kaul - 9469749178

Sons:

Subhash Kaul - 9848043329

Suresh Kaul - 9904407141

Sudhir Kaul - 8130302220

Daughters-in-law; Grand Daughters-in-law and Grand Children



Smt. Rajni Kaul

25th DEATH

ANNIVERSARY

25 YEARS!!!

A LIFETIME WITHOUT YOU...

You are gone, but not forgotten.

You might be unseen and unheard, but

always near, still loved and still missed.

Always and forever in our thoughts,

until we meet again.

DEEPLY MISSED BY:-

Smt. Kusum Lata (Wife)

Ashish & Pallavi (Son & Daughter-In-Law)

Komal & Tikshan (Daughter & Son-In-Law)

Adhirav, Adhira & Saarthak (Grand Children)

M:- 9419105081/7006137456



SH. VIJAY JANDIAL

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Brother in Law **Sh Jagdish Raj Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Mani Ram Sharma R/o 138 Colnol Colony Talab Tillo Bohni Jammu, who left for heavenly bode on 06-05-2025.

FIFTH DAY right from **Mayka side** will be performed on Saturday 10th may 2025 from 11 am to 12 Noon at Mahajan Hall Gali No 7 Talab Tillo Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Brother & Sister in Laws**

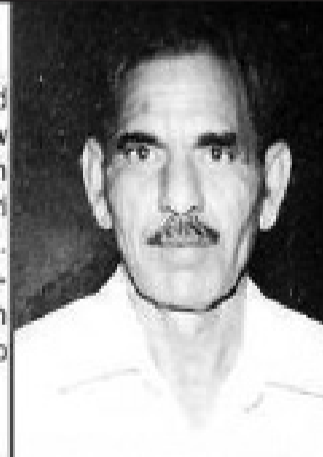
Smt Pushpa Sharma & Sh. Shiv Sharma

Smt Asha Sharma & Sh. Ashok Sharma

Lt Smt Shakti Sharma & Sh. Ravi Sharma

Sh Pujja Sharma & Sh. Pawan Sharma

MOBILE NO 9419181483



SH JAGDISH RAJ
SHARMA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is inform you that our revered mother **Smt Reeta Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat originally resident of Gurd Gushi Kupwara at present TRT Phase 4 Community Hall Purkhoo Camp Jammu left to Vaikuntha Dham on 05/05/2025

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Sharda Colony Ghat Patoli Near Shiv Mandir on Wednesday 14/05/2025 at 9 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in law

Anubhav Bhat (Vinu) & Rashmi Bhat

Daughter & Son in law

Neeru Bhat & Kuldeep Kumar Raina

Neha Bhat

Meenakshi Bhat

Devar & Devrani

Pawan Kumar Bhat & Shanu Bhat

Sister in law & Brother in law

Daily Bhat & Roshan Lal Bhat

Children: Karan



Smt Reeta Devi

AND SAMAST PARIVAR

MOB: 9821970965,

9622395357 & 9796244244

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since your noble soul departed to heavenly abode. But your memories are still fresh in our hearts and mind. We miss you in every second of time and every moment of day.

With deep love and everlasting remembrance we request your presence on the **Choubarsi** of our beloved **Sh Surinder Kumar Sharma** on 10th day of May 2025 (Saturday) at our residence at 1.00 PM.

Deeply Remembered By:

Smt. Parvash Sharma -Wife

Mr. Himanshu Vashist -Son

Dr. Divya Vashist & Anurag Kaulish -Daughter & Son-in-law

Naveen Sharma & Prem Lata Patil -Brother & Sister-in-law

Bushan Dubey & Neeru Dubey -Brother-in-law & Sister

Dr. S.P. Sharma & Bharti Sharma -Brother-in-law & Sister

Ashok Sharma & Neena Sharma -Brother-in-law & Sister

Bharat Dubey & Roshni Khajuria -Nephew & Nephew Daughter-in-law

Navey -Niece

Koheenu Kaulish -Grand Daughter

Mobile: 9419136042, 9419108537, 9906014907, 9878285809



Sh. Surinder Kumar
Sharma

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

One year has passed since you left us for your eternal journey. Your memories are still fresh, and we feel your presence everywhere, every time, and every day. We love you and miss you deeply. Papa, May your soul rest in eternal peace.

Masvar & Vaharvar of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat (Bairaj)** S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Lal Bhat and Lt. Smt. Sonawari Bhat, originally hailing from Vessu (Anantnag), presently residing at H.No. 194, Sec - 1st, Vinayak Nagar Muthi (Jammu). Masvar and Vaharvar shall be performed on 10.05.2025 and 11.05.2025 at our residence, Muthi, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Roshan Bhat (Aunt)

Smt. Sarla Bhat (Wife)

Brother and Brother

Sh. Bansi Lal Bhat and Smt. Prana Bhat

Sister's and Brother-in-Law's

Lt. Smt. Rani Pandita and Sh. Omkar Nath Pandita

Smt. Rana Bhat and Lt. Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat

Smt. Jaya Pandita and Sh. M.K. Pandita

CM Omar Abdullah visits camps in Jammu & Samba Takes stock of relief efforts, lauds security forces for swift response to cross-border aggression

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday rushed to Jammu to take stock of the situation following heightened tensions, drone attacks in Jammu and intense shelling in border districts of Jammu. With airports closed, the Chief Minister proceeded to Jammu by road early morning.

Chief Minister visited several camps and lodgement centres in Jammu and Samba districts, including those set up at Mishriwala, Nagbani, Bishnah and Thandi Khui, to assess the relief arrangements made for the public who have been evacuated to these shelters.

CM was accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma and other concerned officers. During the visit, the Chief Minister interacted with the displaced families and



reviewed the provision of food, shelter, medical aid and other essentials.

"All efforts shall be made to ensure that all necessities are provided to the people during this difficult time," he said, directing the administration to remain alert and responsive to emerging needs.

In view of civilian displacement caused by the hostilities, the gov-

ernment has established relief camps at multiple locations across border districts.

The Chief Minister also held discussions with senior district officers to assess the overall situation and ongoing relief measures, reiterating the government's firm commitment to the safety and welfare of all affected citizens.

The Chief Minister

expressed deep sorrow over the loss of civilian lives due to incessant shelling in border areas, particularly in Poonch district which witnessed the highest number of casualties and injuries.

He informed that the injured are receiving treatment at Government Medical College Jammu, while those grievously wounded have been referred

to Chandigarh for advanced medical care.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also commended the forces for their swift and effective action in repelling last night's cross-border attacks from Pakistan at multiple locations across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

He asserted that India reserves the right to defend its people and territory with full strength.

"Our security mechanisms responded with commendable speed and precision, ensuring the defense of all targeted areas," the Chief Minister said.

"If innocent people of ours are harmed, the nation reserves every right to defend itself in any way.

It is Pakistan which must stop aggression for peace to prevail. If they keep on taking the offensive, they are sure to suffer. Our forces are fully capable of giving a proportionate response."

Satish visits Pargwal displaced residents at Mishriwala; assures complete govt support, relief

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma, on Friday visited camp, where several families from Pargwal sector and other catchment areas have taken refuge following intense cross-border shelling.

The shelling has forced many villagers from the border areas of Pargwal to flee their homes for safety, prompting swift action by the administration to relocate and house them at the Mishriwala relief camp.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with the affected residents, listened to their grievances and reviewed the facilities being provided to them.

He expressed deep solidarity with the displaced families and assured them that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult period.

"The safety and dignity of every citizen is our utmost priority," said



the Minister. "We are fully committed towards ensuring that those affected by the cross-border violence do not face any further hardship. I have directed the district administration to ensure all necessary facilities, including adequate shelter, food, drinking water, medical aid and sanitation are made available without delay."

The Minister also reviewed the relief operations and took stock of the arrangements made at the camp. He instructed the officials to maintain regular health check ups, proper sanitation and timely distribution of essential commodities.

He asked the concerned to give special attention to children, elderly and women to ensure their specific needs are met.

He appreciated the swift response of the district administration, security forces and civil society volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief and maintain peace and order during the crisis.

The Minister stated that the situation along the border is being closely monitored and the government is taking all possible diplomatic and administrative steps to ensure the safety of civilians and prevent further loss.

BJP leadership visits refugee camp at Bishnah



Top News Report

BISHNAH, May 9: To assess the ground situation and understand the hardships faced by displaced people due to continued Pakistani shelling along the international border, senior BJP leaders visited the refugee camp set up at Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Bishnah.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Rajiv Bhagat, MLA, Rinku Chaudhary, District President, Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and other BJP leaders met the displaced families from the border affected by Pakistani shelling at Bishnah.

While addressing on the occasion, Sat said that the visit aimed to take a ground-level review of the conditions in which the displaced people are currently

living and to express the party's commitment to their safety and well-being.

Sat said that the BJP has taken serious cognizance of the repeated misadventures by the Pakistan. He said that the morale of people and the forces is high. But still in wake of the persistent threat to their lives the people directly in range of the Pakistani shelling had to leave their homes.

Sharma lauded the measures taken by the administration to provide the basic essentials to the displaced people. He insisted that there should be surplus supply of things available for the people.

Sunil Sharma emphasized the importance of maintaining open and regular coordination with the civil administration to minimize panic among the displaced and to curb the spread of misinformation. "Timely and accurate

communication can help ease the psychological burden on the affected families," he noted.

Jugal Kishore Sharma reassured the refugees that the BJP stands firmly with them during this challenging time. "Our party workers are actively coordinating with the administration to ensure that all necessary aid reaches the displaced individuals. We will not leave any stone unturned in providing them the support they deserve," he affirmed.

Rajiv Bhagat also reaffirmed the party's commitment and the efforts of administration to take care of all the needs of the displaced families.

Raj Singh, Narayan Datt, Surjit Singh, Surat Singh Charak, Jaideep Sambyal, Sumit Sadotra, Surjit Kumar, Sonu Pardhan, Pradeep Gupta, Satish Bharati, Rajeev Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

MLAs Randhawa, Surinder meet displaced families from border areas



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: In a show of solidarity with the victims of cross-border shelling, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa, along with MLA Marh Surinder Kumar and senior leaders Omi Khajuria and Nand Kishore, met today with displaced families from the border areas at Nanu Palace, Phallian Mandal.

During the interaction, the leaders listened attentively to the grievances and hardships faced by the affected families, many of whom have lost homes, livestock, and livelihoods due to the unprovoked Pakistani shelling. The displaced residents voiced concerns about inadequate relief, lack of shelter, and the need for long-term rehabilitation measures.

The MLAs assured the gathering that their concerns have been promptly conveyed to the concerned officials and departments for immediate redressal. They also urged the administration to expedite the disbursement of relief packages, provide temporary housing, and ensure access

to medical care and education for the displaced children.

Speaking on the occasion, Ch. Vikram Randhawa reaffirmed his commitment to stand by the border residents, stating, "The pain and suffering of our people will not go unheard. We are committed to ensuring that every affected

family receives proper support and that strong steps are taken to prevent such tragedies in the future." MLA Surinder Kumar and the accompanying leaders echoed the sentiment, calling for coordinated efforts between the civil administration, security forces, and social organizations to provide comprehensive assistance and restore normalcy in the affected areas.

The leaders also emphasized the need for constructing permanent community bunkers, strengthening border infrastructure, and creating livelihood opportunities to build resilience among border communities.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, O&M Division, Kathua
Email:-xenmrekathua123@gmail.com; CIN No.U40300JK2013SGC003898

Extension Notice-01

In view of Limited response, the last dates for submission of e-bids of below noted e-NIT is hereby extended up to 14.05.2025 at 02.00 P.M and bid opening shall be on 16.05.2025 at 12.00 P.M

S.No.	Particulars of e-NIT
1.	e-NIT No: KED/03 of 2025-26 Dt.16.04.2025

DIP/J-477-P/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
JPDC, O&M Division
Kathua.

No:-KED/TS/573-76
Dated:- 07.05.2025

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE (J&K GOVT) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CANNING AND PROCESSING INSTRUCTOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CRAFT CENTRE CHAND NAGAR JAMMU.

Phone No. 0191-2579072
ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited for undergoing six months training course in the art of fruit & vegetable preservation from persons who are interested to establish their own unit (Small/Micro Industry) to earn livelihood. The desirous candidates should be above 18 years as on 1st January, 2025 and should be at least matriculate. The candidate having additional qualification/ aspiration for setting up of unit shall be given preference. Interested person should submit their application in this office by or before 27-05-2025 and should be accompanied with the following documents (attested copies).

- 1) Date of Birth Certificate.
- 2) Qualification Certificate along with marks sheet.
- 3) Two Passport size photographs.
- 4) Character Certificate from any Gazetted Officer or from the Head of the Institution last attended.
- 5) Domicile Certificate.

The interview/scrutiny shall be conducted on 28-05-2025. The list of selected candidates shall be displayed on the notice board on 30-05-2025. No separate communication shall be made in this regard. The candidates are advised for their own convenience to mention their contact number in application forms. The classes shall commence from 02-06-2025. No tuition fee shall be charged from the selected candidates.

No TA/DA shall be paid to the selected candidate/Trainees. Stipend payment to the successful candidate subject to the availability of grant.

For further details, candidates may contact at Phone No. 0191-2579072, 94196-30137 / 7006723439 during working hours on any working day.

No:- Craft/ J/
Dated:- /05/2025

DIP/J-965/25

(Gul Sayed)
Chief
Canning & Processing Instructor
Jammu

Farooq, Omar convey condolences

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister J&K, Vice President JKNC Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away after prolonged illness of Abdul Hamid Rana District Secretary Poonch who was close associate of Sher-e- Kashmir late Sheikh Mohd Abdullah and worked for the down-trodden people during his life and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed soli-

darity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Ajaz Jan MLA Poonch, Ch. Javid Iqbal MLA Budhal, Ch. Liaquet Ali Central Secretary, Dr. Mumtaz Bukhari Vice President Jammu Province, Ch. Rahim Daad former MLC, Ch. Wali Daad, Shafqet Mir Secretaries Jammu Province, Ch. Naseem Liaquet Ali DDC Chairman Rajouri and others.

EDITORIAL

Defense System of India

India’s defense system is a complex and robust structure designed to protect its sovereignty, maintain internal security, and ensure regional stability. The system encompasses the Indian Armed Forces, defense research and development, paramilitary forces, and a growing focus on cyber and space defense. With a combination of conventional military strength, nuclear deterrence, and advanced technological capabilities, India’s defense architecture is one of the most formidable in the world. The Indian defense system is primarily divided into three main branches. Responsible for ground-based military operations, the Indian Army is the largest component of the defense forces. It plays a vital role in border security, counter-terrorism, and maintaining peace in conflict-prone areas. Tasked with maritime security, the Navy safeguards India’s vast coastline and sea-based trade routes. It also supports humanitarian and disaster relief missions and contributes to regional maritime diplomacy. The IAF ensures air superiority, strategic airlift, and surveillance. It operates a wide range of fighter jets, transport aircraft, and helicopters, and has advanced missile systems and radar capabilities. These forces operate under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), which formulates defense policies and oversees military procurement and modernization. India possesses a credible minimum nuclear deterrent, based on a policy of “No First Use” and a triad of nuclear delivery systems: land-based missiles (e.g., Agni series), air-launched weapons, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) such as those deployed on INS Arihant. The Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been instrumental in developing indigenous missile systems like Agni (strategic) and Prithvi (tactical), as well as anti-satellite weapons and ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems. A significant part of India’s defense system is its emphasis on indigenous research and production. DRDO, in collaboration with organizations like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), designs and manufactures weapons, aircraft (like Tejas), UAVs, radars, and electronic warfare systems. Biotechnology is increasingly being integrated into defense R&D for the development of protective gear, biosensors, combat medical support, and decontamination systems. In addition to the main defense services, India has several paramilitary forces such as the Assam Rifles and Central Armed Police Forces like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). These forces are crucial for maintaining internal security, managing borders, and responding to insurgencies and civil unrest. Modern threats require multi-dimensional defense strategies. India has established the Defence Cyber Agency and Defence Space Agency to safeguard national interests in the digital and extraterrestrial domains. These agencies focus on cybersecurity, satellite communication protection, and strategic space-based operations. The government has actively promoted the “Make in India” initiative in the defense sector to reduce dependency on imports and enhance self-reliance. Strategic partnerships with countries like the USA, Russia, France, and Israel have helped India acquire critical technologies while also strengthening defense diplomacy.

The Religio -Cultural Significance of Suryaputri Tawi

By: Omkar Dattatray

Jammu which has rightly the distinction of being the city of temples is situated on the bank of River Tawi which as per the scriptural texts and Hindu mythology is called Suryaputri Tawi has got immense religious, spiritual and cultural importance. River Tawi is the daughter of sun God and it is the life line and pride of dufferland and this river is held in high esteem and people perform many religious rituals and ceremonies on the banks of this river which is considered very holy. Tawi River ,also known as Suryaputri ---Daughter of the Sun ,holds significant religious and cultural significance for the people of Jammu. It is revered as a sacred river with healing and restorative powers. The river is mentioned in ancient Hindi texts and is believed to have been brought to Jammu by a local deity to cure his father. Jammuites perform religious rituals and ceremonies on its banks despite its current state of pollution, declining water level and shrinkage. The present plight of this sacred river is very bad and deteriorating day by day. The government ,NGO’s, voluntary associations ,political parties ,Religious bodies and the people at large should play their positive role in maintaining the cleanliness, purity and religious sanctity and cultural beauty of river Tawi. Tawi River is the very identification and glorious cultural identity of Jammu and so this pristine and beautiful city is called Jammu Tawi in official and even in private parlance. Religious Significance of Tawi—1 Sacred River—The Tawi is considered a holy river by Hindus

in Jammu, particularly by those who revere it as Suryaputri.2—Healing Power—It is believed that its water has the healing and restorative properties and power and so its water has shaffa that is healing power.3—Religious Practices—Locals of Jammu perform various religious functions, including prayers, rituals , and ceremonies on its banks.4—Mythogical Value—There is mention of this river in ancient Hindu texts. This river is referenced in Vishnudharmonttara Purana which further enhances its religious and spiritual significance. 5—Local Belief---Local mythology suggests the river was brought to Jammu by a deity to treat a sick father, solidifying its place in local religious beliefs. Cultural Significance-----Besides great religious importance, river Tawi has also immense cultural significance and it can be mentioned as follows—1-- Shaping History and Traditions---The Tawi has played a crucial role in shaping the history ,traditions, and spiritual practices of the people of Jammu. It is praised in local folklore and traditions and thus it has great cultural value as well.2—Symbol of the City---This river is the life line of Jammu city and its presence is deeply ingrained in Jammu’s cultural and traditions. Jammu city is identified by this river.3--Local Attachment---Despite pollution and declining water levels ,many locals continue to hold the river in reverence and maintain its cultural importance.4—Historical Significance---This river is linked to ancient legends and stories, making it a significant part of the city’s cultural heritage.5—lifeline of Jammu—The Tawi is considered the lifeline of Jammu city and its waters are essential for daily life.6—Cultural

Heritage---This river is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the region and its preservation is seen as crucial.7—Local Identity---The Tawi river is a source of local identity and pride for the people of Jammu. Challenges and Concerns—A—Pollution—Despite its religious significance ,the Tawi River faces significant pollution challenges, threatening its extinction. B---Water Levels---The rivers water levels have declined significantly ,raising concerns about its future. C—Environmental Concerns—Large –scale constructions and illegal mining have negatively impacted the river’s health. D—Conservation Efforts—There are ongoing efforts to protect and restore the river ,emphasizing the need for a long –term commitment. The development of Aarti Ghat is a key initiative that will attract pilgrims and tourists from across the country and even abroad. As the Tawi Ghat and Riverfront project nears completion ,it promises to become a spiritual landmark in Jammu. With its upcoming Aarti Ghat , Jammu is set to offer a tranquil and divine experience for worshippers ,reinforcing its status as a premier pilgrimage destination. The Jammu Municipal Corporation—JMC in collaboration with Jammu Smart City ,Directorate of Tourism and Raghunath Bazzar Vikas Corridor celebrated Baisakhi festival at Suryaputri Tawi River Front. Besides, a special Aarti ceremony was also performed and LG Manoj shina inaugurated these programmes at river front. Tawi River also called as Suryaputri in ancient texts ,is a major tributary of Chenab River and an important river in Jammu region. The Tawi rises from Kalpas Kund of Seo Dhar in the Bhaderwah in

Doda district ,then descends to Sudh Mahadev and finally merges with Chenab River in Pakistan. Surya Putri Tawi or Tawishi ,as called in Puranas ,later came to be known as Tawi .It is said that Pehad Nag ,the son of Vasuki Nag –the king of serpents brought Tawi to Jammu. He brought forth the river from Kali Kundi glacier of Bhaderwah to cure his father with the help of Kalika Mata and another illustrious folk-god and legend ,Baba Kaliveer .Vasuki Nag ,in return ,handed over the kingdom of Jammu to Pehd Nag. The river Tawi has divided the Jammu city into two parts –old city and new city. This river is also the main source of water for the entire city. There are five bridges over this river. ,two from Gumat to Vikram chowk,a third connecting Gujjar Nagar with the Bahu Fort area and the fourth connecting city bypass near Nagrota and the fifth from Bhagwati Nagar to Bali Nallah. In short Tawi river is the pride of dufferland and its has immense religious, spiritual ,cultural and historical significance .It is no exaggeration to say that Tawi river is the lifeline of Jammu. Let all of us including the government protect and preserve Tawi and take steps to restore its pristine glory and beauty besides save it from pollution and extinction.

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist &Freelancer)

Beyond IITs & IIMs: Surprising Courses You Didn’t Know Existed in Indian Universities

By: Vijay Garg

Looking for a career path that’s anything but ordinary? From healing through music to solving climate challenges with science, Indian universities are now offering courses that break the mould. Here’s a look at fresh, future-ready options you may not have heard of – but should. Gone are those days when becoming a doctor or an engineer was the only benchmark of ambition. In today’s rapidly evolving world, driven by technology and global challenges, new career paths have emerged, offering students a wide array of specialised and future-ready options. Here are some niche and offbeat courses now offered by Indian universities that reflect this shift. 1. Environmental engineering What is it: Simply put, this course equips students to make development more sustainable. It aims to build expertise in managing environmental systems through both proactive and reactive approaches. The focus is on minimising pollution at the source and using the best available technologies to control it when it occurs. Where can you find it: Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani launched a four-semester MTech in Envi-

ronmental Engineering in 2023. Graduates in environmental engineering can work as water quality specialists and environment design engineers. Graduates in environmental engineering can work as water quality specialists and environmental design engineers. Picture credit: Carroll Engineering Corporation What can you explore with it: This is ideal for engineers who want to work in the field of sustainability. This course opens doors like: Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Manager Air Quality Specialist Solid Waste Management Engineer Environmental Design Engineer 2. BTech in Cyber Physical Systems What is it: Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) bridge the digital and physical worlds — think self-driving cars or AI-driven factories. This course integrates computer science, electronics, mechanical systems, and data science to build real-time intelligent systems Where can you find it: Manipal University, Mangalore, and Vellore Institute of Technology offer a four-year-long BTech in cyber-physical systems. What can you explore with it: Graduates are equipped to design and build intelligent, real-world

systems where computers, sensors, machines, and networks interact seamlessly. Career paths include: Cyber Engineer Robotics Developer Embedded Systems Architect AI Researcher Automation Engineer 3. Medical coding What is it: A medical coder translates doctors’ notes, diagnoses, and procedures into standardised universal codes used across healthcare systems globally. This is the first step in the medical billing process, helping track patient history, connect hospitals with insurers, and streamline billing operations. Medical coders get involved in the business side of healthcare and helps to keep the link between hospitals and insurance agencies seamless. Medical coders get involved in the business side of healthcare and help to keep the link between hospitals and insurance agencies seamless. Picture Credit: Shutterstock Representational Image Where can you find it: Centre for Health Management and Research in Delhi offers postgraduate and executive diploma courses. Imperial Institute of Clinical Research, Ahmedabad, offers one- and three-month certificate programmes.

What can you explore with it: This is perfect for students interested in the business or administrative side of healthcare. Job roles include: Medical auditor Health information technician Compliance officer 4. Musopathy What is it: Musopathy explores the therapeutic qualities of music by studying sound’s universal properties for healing. It blends health sciences and technology to assess how sound impacts human wellbeing. While it overlaps with music therapy, musopathy is rooted in the scientific application of sound for therapeutic outcomes. Where can you find it: IIT Mandi introduced this course in 2024. It offers both postgraduate (MS) and PhD programmes. What can you explore with it: This emerging field prepares graduates for careers such as: Music-based therapist (musopathist) Healthcare specialist in music medicine

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

Doda remembers Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq



Top News Report

DODA, May 9: A tribute programme was organized on Friday to mark the second death anniversary of the noted personality of Doda and Retired District Health Officer, Dr. Masood Ahmed Tariq. The event was organized by senior trade union leader Niaz Ahmed Rahi at Shivalik Restaurant, Doda.

Before the start of the programme, special prayers were held to pay rich tributes to the departed soul, seeking eternal peace for him.

The programme was presided over by noted academican and writer Shoket Ali Mughal and was conducted by Faizan A. Tramboob. The event witnessed the presence of prominent personalities from various organizations across the district.

In his welcome

address, Niaz Ahmed Rahi fondly remembered the invaluable services rendered by Late Dr. Masood Ahmed Tariq both in his professional career and personal life. He highlighted Dr. Tariq's dedication to the health sector and his commitment to social welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, Shoket Ali Mughal, who presided over the programme, threw light on the life journey of Late Dr. Tariq from his childhood, highlighting his achievements, values, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of society.

Several other dignitaries spoke on the occasion, including Naseer Ahmed Khora, Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Dr. Hamid Parray, Dr. Matloob Ahmed Dar, Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev, Nazir Ahmed, Majid Tantary and Prof. Zaheer Abass

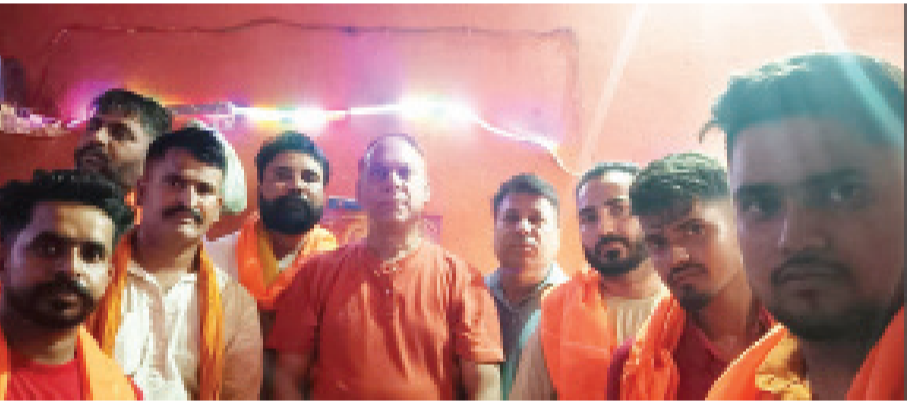
Hashmi. The speakers reflected on Dr. Tariq's remarkable contributions to the healthcare sector and his active role in the social sphere of Doda.

Among others, the event was also attended by Hafiz Ullah Khora, Adv. Farooq Ahmed Khan, Asif Ali Zargar, Umar Anayat Khan, Abdul Hamid Molvi, Javed Iqbal Sheikh, Gh Hassan Bagwan and Abid Pampori.

As a mark of respect and recognition, a posthumous award was presented to the family members of Late Dr. Masood Ahmed Tariq, acknowledging his dedicated professional and social services.

The programme concluded with heartfelt tributes and prayers for the departed soul, leaving an indelible mark of admiration and respect among the attendees.

Bhandaras attract divine grace and blessings from deities, saints: Kaith



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 8: A Bhandara was organised at the ashtan of Bawa Surgal in Domana where a large number of devotees hailing from different corners participated.

Devotees first paid obeisance to Baba Surgal and sought his blessings for the well-being of all, and then

partook parshad from the Langar.

R.L.Kaith said, Baba Surgal is benevolent and kind, often fulfilling the wishes of his devotees, especially if they are pure and sincere. He is seen as a protective figure who can grant prosperity and success.

Kaith further said Bhandaras are believed to attract divine grace and blessings from

deities, as well as the blessings of saints.

Prominent among the devotees who participated in the Bhandara included Subedar Major Gunni Ram (Retd), Ladi Bawa, Sandeep Nath, Gagan Deep, Kali Bawa, Gourav Bawa, Sahil Kumar, Ram Saran, Ambu Ram, Prakash Chand, Jagdish Raji, Bodh Raj, Chaman Lal, Bishan Lal and Jeet Raj.

Apni Party condemns relentless shelling from across border by Pakistan

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 9: Apni Party on Friday strongly condemned the ongoing shelling by Pakistani forces across the Line of Control (LoC) in various areas of Jammu and Kashmir, which has resulted in the deaths of 15 civilians—including at least four women—and left many people injured.

Also the mortar shelling from across the borders has caused widespread damage to homes, commercial buildings, and vehicles in Poonch, Baramulla and Kupwara districts.

A statement issued by Apni Party reads "Apni Party strongly condemns the relentless firing and mortar shelling from across

the border at various locations in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Kupwara, and Baramulla.

These continuous attacks by Pakistani forces have resulted in the deaths of at least 15 innocent civilians, including four women, and left more than 70 people injured.

The shelling has also inflicted severe damage to homes, shops, and vehicles across multiple districts, with the worst-affected areas being Poonch, as well as Kamah and Tangdhar in Kupwara, and Uri in Baramulla district."

The statement further said, "It is painful to see innocent people being targeted, assaulted, killed, and injured by

the mindless violence from across the border. Residents of the affected areas are fleeing in a desperate attempt to save their lives, leaving behind their homes, belongings, and land with standing crops.

They are terrified and deeply distressed by the situation. Apni Party strongly condemns this aggression and violence from across the border." "Apni Party demands an immediate and unconditional end to the ongoing firing and shelling by Pakistani forces, stressing the urgent need to put an end to these hostile actions that are inflicting severe damage on both civilian lives and vital infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir," the statement added.

Alumni interaction held at School of Mechanical Engineering

Top News Report

KATRA, May 9: The School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) hosted an alumni interaction session with two distinguished alumni, AnketaJandyal (2018 Batch) from Cognizant Technology Solutions and Sonal Bhatia (2018 Batch) from Jindal Stainless Steel Limited.

The event was aimed to bridge the gap between academia and industry by providing students with valuable insights into career paths, industry trends, and the skill sets needed to succeed in today's competitive job market. Anketa Jandyal, who is working as a Programmer Analyst at Cognizant, shared her journey from the classroom to the corporate world.

She discussed the technical and soft skills essential for thriving in the IT industry, stressing the importance of continuous learning, adaptability, and effective communication.

Anketa's session was a power-



ful reminder of how perseverance and dedication can lead to success in the fast-paced technology sector.

Sonal Bhatia, an Executive in Supply Chain at Jindal Stainless Steel Limited, also discussed her experiences in the manufacturing and logistics sector.

Sonal emphasized the critical role of supply chain manage-

ment in industrial operations and highlighted the importance of problem-solving, leadership, and organizational skills.

Her talk resonated with students interested in pursuing careers in supply chain and operations management, providing a real-world perspective on the industry's demands.

The alumni also spoke about

the challenges and opportunities that exist outside of academia, offering advice on how students can prepare for the realities of the professional world.

They discussed the evolving industrial scenario, the significance of internships, and the value of networking in securing jobs.

Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of SoME, Dr. Mir Irfan UIHaq, Associate Dean, International and Alumni Affairs thanked the esteemed alumni for sharing the experiences.

Prof. Yugal Khajuria, Dean International and Alumni Affairs expressed their gratitude towards the alumni for their valuable contributions.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar extended his best wishes to the alumni and students, emphasizing the importance of such interactions in helping students understand the industry landscape beyond their academic curriculum.

VHP J&K unit holds meeting to address ongoing ceasefire violations by Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: A meeting of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) J&K unit was held on Friday under the chairmanship of Rajesh Gupta, President, VHP J&K Unit, to assess the ongoing situation in view of the ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by office bearers from various districts

including State unit office bearers Shakti Dutt Sharma, Abhishek Gupta, Rajendrr, Karan Singh, Satish Kotwal, Nishu Gupta, and others.

The district teams from Poonch to Kathua narrated the situation, highlighting the plight of border residents who have come under fire and are taking shelter in camps.

"Our volunteers on the

ground are working tirelessly to motivate and support the affected people," they said.

The meeting, after offering condolences to the families those who sacrificed their lives in ongoing shelling, decided to form emergency response teams to provide immediate assistance to those in need and to work closely with local authorities to ensure the safety and security of border residents.

Meeting decided to gear up cadres to mobi-

lize public support and resources to aid in relief efforts, provide medical aid, food, and shelter to those in need, and offer emotional support and counseling to those affected by the violence.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad J&K unit has decided to provide all possible support to the affected families and individuals, work closely with local authorities, mobilize public support and resources, provide medical aid, food, and shelter, and offer emotional support and coun-

selling. We assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir of our support and assistance during this difficult time.



Lecture on various welfare schemes conducted by Govt at Dharamkot

Top News Report

DODA, May 9: Lecture on Various Welfare Schemes by Govt. as a part of an ongoing effort to educate the local population about various government welfare initiatives, a lecture on 'Government Welfare Schemes' is organized at Dharamkot on Friday.

During the session, Sandeep Singh elaborated on key government schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY), financial assistance for skill development programs for minorities.

He provided in-depth insights into these schemes, aiming to

empower youth with knowledge and encourage them to pursue productive and progressive careers.

The initiative was well-received by the attendees, with a total of 10 youth and locals participating. Expressing their appreciation, participants remarked that such informative sessions play a crucial role in guiding the younger generation towards making informed decisions and becoming responsible citizens.

The event successfully contributed to raising awareness and fostering a sense of empowerment among the local people.

Dr. Anthony Raju extends congratulations on appointment of Pope Leo XIV

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 9: "Heartfelt congratulations to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. This is a moment of profound significance and joy for the global Catholic community and an especially exciting milestone for the United States," said Dr. Anthony Raju, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and Chairman of the Indian National Human Rights Protection Council and the Global Interfaith Council for Peace, Tolerance, and Humanity, Dubai, UAE.

Dr. Raju hailed the



appointment of Pope Leo XIV as a beacon of renewed hope, unity, and spiritual leadership.

He expressed optimism that the new Pontiff's vision and compassion will inspire the world toward deeper interfaith understand-

ing, global peace, and the protection of human dignity.

"This historic development marks a new chapter for the Church and the world.

We look forward to Pope Leo XIV's guidance in promoting harmony, justice, and a collective commitment to humanity's shared values," he added.

Dr. Raju reaffirmed his Council's continued dedication to working in alignment with global leaders and faith-based institutions to advance the causes of peace, tolerance, and human rights across all nations.

Samsung launches Galaxy F56 5G – Its Slimmest F-Series Smartphone in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, has unveiled the Galaxy F56 5G, its slimmest and most powerful smartphone yet in the F-Series lineup. Measuring just 7.2mm in thickness, the device sets a new standard in design and performance, boasting flagship-grade camera features, enhanced durability, and a future-proof software upgrade cycle.

"With the launch of Galaxy F56 5G, Samsung is reaffirming its commitment to bringing meaningful innovation to empower customers' lives through powerful, future-ready technology," said Akshay S Rao, Director, MX Business, Samsung India. The Galaxy F56 5G is equipped with a 50MP

OIS triple rear camera, delivering high-resolution, shake-free images and videos. The 12MP HDR front camera ensures rich and vibrant selfies, while Nightography features powered by Big Pixel Technology, Low Noise Mode, and AI ISP make low-light photography impressive.

A new Portrait 2.0 mode with 2x zoom creates natural bokeh effects, and users can record 4K 30 FPS videos in 10-bit HDR for ultra-realistic color reproduction.

The device also includes AI-powered editing tools such as Object Eraser and Edit Suggestions to enhance every shot.

The Galaxy F56 5G features Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®+ on both front and back, offering top-tier durability. The 6.7" Full HD+ Super AMOLED+ display boasts 1200 nits HBM

brightness, Vision Booster technology, and a 120Hz refresh rate for fluid performance, even under bright sunlight. With a glass back and metal camera deco, the phone delivers a premium look and feel, available in vibrant Green and Violet color options. Powered by the Exynos 1480 processor with LPDDR5X RAM, the Galaxy F56 5G ensures fast, energy-efficient performance. Gamers and multitaskers will benefit from the flagship-level vapor cooling system and superior audio-visual capabilities. A 5000mAh battery supports extended usage for gaming, streaming, and browsing, and 45W super-fast charging keeps downtime minimal. The Galaxy F56 5G comes with One UI 7 out of the box, featuring a streamlined, custom-

izable interface and innovative features like the Now Bar for real-time lock screen updates and deeper Google Gemini integration for voice interactions. The device promises 6 generations of Android OS upgrades and 6 years of security updates, setting a new industry standard for long-term usability.

Samsung has also included Samsung Knox Vault, its hardware-based security platform, for robust protection from threats. Additionally, the Tap & Pay feature via Samsung Wallet provides a secure and effortless payment experience.

With a sleek profile, premium features, and strong performance, the Galaxy F56 5G is designed to meet the evolving needs of India's young, tech-savvy consumers.

Here's a look at some patriotic songs that forever give you goosebumps

Assam se Gujarat tak, Bengal se Maharashtra tak, Jaati kai dhun ek hain, Bhaasha kai sur ek hai, Kashmir se Madras tak, Keh do sabhi hum ek hain, Aawaaz do hum ek hain ... Jago ... was the sentiment as India woke up to the news of Operation Sindoor; two women in uniform — Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sophia Qureshi — leading the press briefing soon after! Any doubts of partisanship that the code name gave way to were soon allayed and the nation came together to rejoice the avenging of Pahalgam terror attack.

If people were not bursting crackers or being part of the bike or torch rallies, posts on social media underlined the jubilant mood.

Patriotic songs, a celebration of Indian courage and valour, set the mood. Here's a look at songs that bring the nation together, some full on josh, others paying soulful tributes to nation's bravehearts; some timeless like Lata Mangeshkar's Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon or the rather recent Ae Watan from Raazi.

Maa Tujhhe Salaam

Composed by music legend AR Rahman and sung by Shankar Mahadevan, the song is almost two decades old but still doesn't fail to move us to the core. Rukna kabhi seekha nahin, Jhukna hamein aata nahin...this, with a chorus of Vande Matram, fill one with patriotic fervour.

Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon
Written by Kavi Pradeep and



composed by C Ramachandra, the song famously moved India's first Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru to tears when the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar sang it on the occasion of Republic Day in New Delhi in 1963.

Ae Mere Pyare Watan

One of the most memorable Hindi patriotic songs by Manna Dey, it has an emotional touch and a soothing feel that transports you into a space of complete devotion and earnest love for your motherland.

Luka Chhupi

This AR Rahman composition and Prasoon Joshi's lyrics are sure to bring tears in your eyes. A mother's ode to her son, who dies in the line of duty, this song generates goosebump moments.

Desh Mere Desh Mere

This patriotic song imbues you in a feeling of complete surrender for the country's good. Smooth and melodious, this one is written by Sameer and sung by AR Rahman and Sukhwinder Singh.

Yeh Jo Des Hai Tera

One of the AR Rahman's top patriotic songs, this evokes a spirit of nationalism. Whether you are in India or far away in some other country, you feel the unbreakable bond with your country with this patriotic song.

Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyara Hai

One true tribute to multi-religious fabric of India, written by PK Mishra and music composed by AR Rahman, this song sung by Hariharan still moves the soul.

Jai Ho

Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire had the song Jai Ho — a catchy and thunderous tune. Written by Gulzar and Tanvi Shah, it has been sung by Sukhwinder Singh, Tanvi Shah, Mahalakshmi Iyer and Vijay Prakash.

Sandese Aate Hain

This song from the film Border holds importance not only because of its patriotic touch, but also the romantic feel of a soldier longing to see his lover and family. Written by Javed Akhtar

and sung by Sonu Nigam, Roop Kumar Rathod and chorus, this is one hopeful song of victory.

Rang De Basanti

AR Rahman has undoubtedly understood the pulse of patriotism. This playful patriotic song is high on fervour and zeal. With Daler Mehndi's energetic tone, the song has a flavour of patriotism that is sure to heighten your spirits.

Mera Rang De Basanti Chola

Sonu Nigam has excellently maneuvered his silken voice to come up with this piece that makes us sit back, reflect upon the Indian freedom struggle and get overwhelmed with a sense of patriotism.

Dil Diya Hai Jaan Bhi Denge

This song has stayed with one and for all the right reasons. From music to lyrics, this patriotic song is one gem of a composition that has been sung by Mohammad Aziz and Kavita Krishnamurthy.

Teri Mitti

A soulful number from Kesari, written by Manoj Muntashi, this one is an ultimate ode to one's nation. Music by Arko and sung by B Praak, the song stirs one's soul with the sentiment of sacrifice for the desh ki mitti!

Between old hits and new numbers — Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo, Sholay (RRR), Hai Preet Jahan (Puran Aur Pashchim), Lehra Do (86) to the recent Challa from Uri —are some of the other songs that capture the true essence of love, sacrifice and valour.

Kangana Ranaut to Vir Das, celebs salute Indian army's valour: You are our heroes



Bollywood celebrities, including Vir Das, Anil Kapoor, Genelia Deshmukh, Kangana Ranaut, and AP Dhillon, among others, extended prayers for peace amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. In their posts, they also honoured the courage of the Indian Army, expressing deep gratitude and pride in the nation's brave heroes.

In a post on X, actor-comedian Vir Das offered prayers for those affected by power outages amid the unrest. He wrote, "To family, friends and more who sit in blackouts, thinking of you, praying for you. To those protecting us, we thank you. Gratitude, prayers and respect. Be safe, be strong (sic)."

Actor and Member of Parliament Kangana Ranaut shared a series of posts on X and Instagram, offering prayers and words of encouragement for the people of Jammu. She also posted videos showing neutralised Pakistani drones. One of her captions read, "Jammu on Target! Indian Air Defence neutralises Pakistan drone in Jammu. Stay strong #Jammu (sic)."

Actor Richa Chadha took to social media to caution against trivialising the conflict. Her post read, "It is not a match. It is not a game. War is sombre. Not everything needs comical commentary or a meme. Please be thoughtful. Some of us feel this anxiety in our bones. Pause for

a second and think of people residing near our borders (sic)."

Actor Anil Kapoor wrote, "All my gratitude and prayers for the brave women and men defending us. You are our heroes (sic)."

Singer-songwriter AP Dhillon's post on X read, "Heartbreaking to hear the stories from my family back home. Praying for peace (sic)."

Genelia Deshmukh also shared a post that read, "Saluting our Indian Army for their bravery, courage, valour, grit. We pray for your well-being and success. Jai Hind (sic)."

On Thursday, Pakistan launched a series of missiles and drone attacks targeting several regions in India, including Jammu, Rajasthan, and Punjab. All incoming threats were successfully thwarted by India's defence forces, preventing large-scale damage and loss of life.

The provocation came just a day after India carried out precision strikes on terror camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Abir Gulaal row: Ridhi Dogra says 'I stand with my country' on release postponement

Actor Riddhi Dogra reacted to the indefinite postponement of the release of her film 'Abir Gulaal' in India. While speaking to a paparazzo account, the 40-year-old called the decision 'beyond us'. The film in question has been facing scrutiny from the Indian audience and film bodies for Pakistani actor Fawad Khan's association with it.

Khan has been paired alongside Vani Kapoor in the romantic drama, while Dogra plays another important role. The trailer and other promos of the film started circulating on social media earlier this year. However, the makers announced that it has been postponed following the barbaric Pahalgam attack on April 22, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists, including a foreign national.

Dogra, while speaking to Varinder Chawla, said, "I think these things are beyond us and I think I stand with my country, so that's foremost."

Earlier, when she was asked about starring in a film being spearheaded by a Pakistani actor amid India-Pak tensions, she said she had to check the 'government rules' about the same before saying yes to the film.

She later posted on social media against, expressing her stance on being called 'dual-faced' for her choice. Dogra wrote, "I DID stand by my government allowed it. And I stand by the laws and



rules... But I also know Peace, Grace and Harmony is important for a healthy civilization. Yes there's duality in the words but that is the very life we lead."

On Thursday, the government issued a fresh directive, asking the OTT platforms to remove all Pakistani content, including series and films.

Meanwhile, Fawad Khan, known for gaining newfound popularity for his performances in Indian films, condemned India's precision strike against terrorist centres in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Celina Jaitley calls out ageism in Bollywood

While Bollywood actor and Miss India, Celina Jaitley, is quite active on social media, she has been away from the industry for a long time. In a recent social media post, Celina, 43, opened up about ageism in the industry and clapped back at those who said, "After 39, a woman begins to fade in this industry."

Celina Jaitley says industry told her woman begin to fade after 39

Celina took to Instagram and shared a photo of herself standing in a garden, wearing a tank top paired with blue jeans and a black net shrug. She also penned a note slamming the industry's ageism. She wrote, "They said recently to me, after 39, a woman begins to fade in this industry. I was told, 'You may look 27, but the digits matter.' Well, here's my response: watch those digits, because they will be great. Some of my Instagram reels



have more views than their full-length films at the box office. With reels having reached a phenomenal 30 million views..."

Celina Jaitley says she is here to stay

She further urged men and women not to be sidelined by age and said, "Personally speak-

ing, I've been sharpened by experience. Motherhood didn't pause my journey, it empowered it. Every challenge, every reinvention, has only made me stronger. I'm not done, I've only just begun. I'm evolving, I'm rising, and I'm here to stay. Stronger. Bolder. Unstoppable. I will bring my own chair to the table where there are none for me!!!"

She concluded, "No matter what, the circumstances—never stop working on yourself. Through the chaos, the silence, the rejection, the applause, and even the heartbreak... keep building. Keep evolving. You are your own greatest investment. Your growth is your power. And no one can take that away from you."

Fans rallied behind the actor, praising her looks and appreciating her strong stance. One of the comments read, "Beautiful shot! You look so beautiful, natural without make-up."

Another commented, "This is fire! Your words are a powerful reminder that age is not a limitation. You haven't just stayed in the game; you've redefined it on your own terms." Another wrote, "Well said! Truly an inspiration for today's youth." One fan commented, "You look better than all the new Bollywood actresses."

About Celina Jaitley

Celina made her Bollywood debut alongside Fardeen Khan in Janashen. Over the years, she featured in several Bollywood films like No Entry, Apna Sapna Money Money, Golmaal Returns, Paying Guests, and Thank You. The actor also featured in the Kannada film Shrimathi starring Upendra.

After this, she took a break from the industry and welcomed her twins in 2012. She made her acting comeback in 2020 with the short film Season's Greetings, but has been away from the limelight since then.

Bollywood filmmakers and actors make beeline to secure titles relating to Operation Sindoor

Aditya Dhar, who directed 2019 film "Uri: The Surgical Strike", Suniel Shetty, Madhur Bhandarkar, Vivek Agnihotri, Ashok Pandit, and production banner T-Series are among those who have applied

'Operation Sindoor', 'Mission Sindoor' and 'Sindoor: The Revenge'... Bollywood filmmakers and actors are in a rush to register film titles inspired by the codename for India's military strikes in Pakistan, submitting over 30 applications in just two days.

India carried out the targeted strikes on terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early Wednesday under 'Operation Sindoor', two weeks after the massacre of 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Since the strikes, the Indian Motion Picture Producers Association (IMPPA), Indian Film and Television Producers Council (IFTPC) and Western India Film Producers' Association (WIFPA) have witnessed a surge in applications for registration of film titles related to Operation Sindoor.

"The three bodies have received over 30 title applications via email related to Operation Sindoor. The numbers will go up to 50-60. This is not something new. Most people have applied for the title, 'Operation Sindoor' and 'Mission Sindoor'."

"One person can apply for any number of titles but the title will be allotted to the person who has first applied for it. Any producer who wants to make a film looks for what is in the news. This is something India is proud of. So, filmmakers want to bring this story," Anil Nagrath, Secretary, IMPPA, told agency.

Nagrath said in the past, they have received title applications for Kargil, Uri, Kumbh, and others.

The titles being applied for also include 'Hindustan Ka Sindoor', 'Mission Opera-



tion Sindoor' and 'Sindoor Ka Badla'. The applications have also been received for titles in the name of Pahalgam—'Pahalgam: The Terror Attack', 'Pahalgam Attack', amid others.

According to sources, Aditya Dhar, who directed the 2019 film "Uri: The Surgical Strike" based on the 2016 Uri attack and India's retaliatory strikes, as well as actor

Suniel Shetty, filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, Vivek Agnihotri, Ashok Pandit, production banner T-Series are among those who have applied for the above mentioned titles.

"Once the title is applied, a committee consisting of members IMPPA, IFTPC or WIFPA, and Producers Guild of India, decides who should get the title purely on the basis of who registered it first. There's no favoritism in this process," Nagrath said.

The application fee for the registration of a title is set at Rs 300 plus GST and if it is on an urgent basis then it is Rs 3,000 plus GST.

"There's a timeline of three years. For instance, if the film is not ready within three years with the title, then the title will be taken away," Nagrath said.

Earlier in the day, it was reported that Reliance Industries Limited and five others have approached the Controller General of Patents Design and TradeMarks for the registration of term "Operation Sindoor", seeking to use the phrase for entertainment-related services like audio and video content.

The applications were filed for registration under Class 41 of the Nice Classification, which includes education and training services, film and media production, live performances and events, digital content delivery and publishing, and cultural and sporting activities.

Reliance Industries Ltd later withdrew its application, stating that it was inadvertently filed by a junior employee without authorisation.

PM's 1st public comments after Op Sindoor: Wishes for Pope, tributes for Tagore, Maharana Pratap

In his congratulatory message to the Pope, Prime Minister Modi stressed the ideals of peace

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): In his first public comments after 'Operation Sindoor' against terrorist training camps in Pakistan and PoK, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sent his wishes to the Pope and paid tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Maharana Pratap on their birth anniversaries.

In his congratulatory message to the Pope, the Prime Minister stressed the ideals of peace.

"I convey sincere felicitations and best wishes from the people of India to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. His leadership of the Catholic Church comes at a moment of profound significance in advancing the ideals of peace, harmony, solidarity and service," said Modi, even as India assessed its response



and threat perception from Pakistan after thwarting all its attacks so far.

The Prime Minister said India remains committed to continued dialogue and engagement with the Holy Seer to further our shared values.

The Prime Minister also paid

education and learning, seen in how he nurtured Santiniketan, are also very inspiring," he wrote on X.

Further, Modi sent millions of salutes to the immortal warrior of the country Maharana Pratap on his birth anniversary.

"The courage and bravery he displayed to protect the self-respect of the motherland remains a guiding light for our heroes and heroines even today. His valiant life dedicated to Mother India will always inspire the countrymen," he said at a time when India is engaged in an escalatory fight with Pakistan.

These three X posts today were Prime Minister's first since India launched 'Operation Sindoor' against Pakistan terror infrastructure on May 7.

Amit Shah reviews security along Indo-Pak border, airports with top officials



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the prevailing situation along India's border with Pakistan and airports in the country amid the military conflict between the two countries, sources said.

The meeting came hours after the Border Security Force said it has foiled an infiltration bid from across the International Border in Jammu, killing at least seven terrorists and destroying a

Pakistan Rangers post.

Apart from reviewing the security situation along the India-Pakistan border, Shah also took stock of the steps taken to beef up security at airports across the country, the sources said.

While the BSF guards the India-Pakistan border, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) protects the airports in the country, Metro networks and other vital installations.

Those who attended the meeting included Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Directors General of the BSF, CISF and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

There has been heightened tension between India and Pakistan following India's strike on multiple locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday and Pakistan's attempts to hit Indian military sites on Thursday, which were thwarted by the Indian armed forces.

Indo-Pak tension: Nadda reviews health infrastructure

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday reviewed health infrastructure preparedness across hospitals in the country amid the ongoing India-Pakistan military conflict, official sources said.

During the meeting, senior officials of the health ministry briefed him about the preparedness of health facilities and informed him that complete monitoring is being done from the control centre.

Nadda and his team assessed the readiness of hospitals and health facilities across the country, the sources.

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with secretaries of various ministries and called for continued alertness and clear communication, while reaffirming the government's commitment to national security and operational

Pakistan's shameless support for terrorists shows it's now fighting for its existence: Adityanath

LUCKNOW, May 9 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said Pakistan's open support for terrorists killed in India's recent retaliation proves the country is not just a shelter for terrorism but is now "struggling for its own existence."

"After India's action, when terrorists were killed, Pakistan's top military officers and politicians were seen attending their funerals. This shameless display should open the eyes of the world," he said while addressing a gathering here on the occasion of Maharana Pratap Jayanti.

He was referring to the



Indian armed forces on Wednesday carrying out precise missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

Adityanath added,

Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where tourists were targeted, the chief minister said India had resolved to give a strong reply. Jammu travel guide

"You all must have seen how barbarically our tourists were attacked. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a firm resolve, and our brave soldiers have given Pakistan a befitting response," he said.

Adityanath urged citizens to maintain national unity and support the armed forces during this "testing time."

"Every Indian must act responsibly. If any miscreant tries to spread unrest, we must remain alert and expose any act that endangers national security," he said.

He also warned about misinformation being spread through social media platforms. "There will be attempts to spread rumours. But we must ignore such noise and follow the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. India will win – there is no doubt," the chief minister asserted.

Adityanath also said that Maharana Pratap Jayanti serves as an inspiration for standing united in difficult times.

"Let this occasion remind us to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our security forces and boost their morale," he said.

Devendra Fadnavis chairs key security meet amid India-Pakistan tensions

MUMBAI, May 9 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Friday chaired a key meeting on internal security amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam last month.

"Whether it is the police, whether it's the Coast Guard or the Navy, everyone is on alert. There are regular exercises and SOPs are in place.

As per the procedures of the war book, we have done all of that. We have called for a meeting to review our internal security, and we are in a full alert mode," he told reporters in Mumbai.

The meeting came hours after the Indian armed forces thwarted a wave of missile and drone attacks from Pakistan.

While Maharashtra does not share a land border with Pakistan, Mumbai has been a target



for terror emanating from the neighbouring country for years.

Post the Mumbai 26/11 terror attacks, coordinated security measures have been put in place to thwart any bid by Pakistan to target India via the sea route, with the Navy, Coast Guard and the Coastal Police forming a three-tier security ring along the coastline.

Mumbai has also conducted mock drills along with other sensitive installations to prepare for threats from Pakistan.

The Indian Army on Friday morning said the Pakistani troops launched "multiple attacks" using drones and other munitions along the Western Border.

Pakistan also resorted to "numerous" ceasefire violations along the LoC, the army said.

"The drone attacks were effectively repulsed and befit-

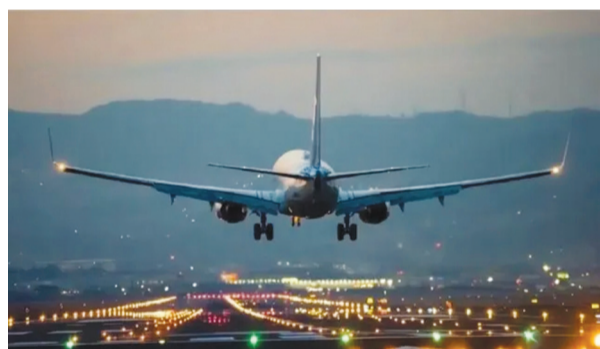
ting reply was given to the CFVs (ceasefire violations)," it said in a post on X, and tagged a video showing a Pakistani military post being destroyed.

Pakistani troops have been violating the ceasefire amid heightened tensions with India following the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, Pakistan had attempted to strike military targets in 15 locations across India, including Awantipora, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai and Bhuj.

This week, India launched 'Operation Sindoor' and destroyed multiple terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Over 130 flights cancelled at Delhi airport due to airspace closure



NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): As many as 138 flights to and from the Delhi airport were cancelled by various airlines on Friday, according to a source.

In the wake of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, security measures have also been enhanced at airports.

Around 27 airports in various parts of the country are closed in the wake of Operation

tional departures and 4 arrivals, were cancelled between 5 am and 2 pm on Friday, the source said.

"Delhi airport operations remain normal. However, due to evolving airspace conditions and heightened security measures, some flight schedules and security processing timings may be impacted," DIAL said in a post on X on Friday.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is the country's largest and busiest airport.

DIAL also advised passengers to be prepared for additional time at security checkpoints and cooperate with airline and security staff for smooth processing.

Prohibited GPS tracker seized from US national at Jabalpur airport

JABALPUR, May 9 (Agencies): The authorities seized a prohibited Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker device from a US national at Dumna Airport in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, police said on Friday.

Carrying and using the GPS tracker device is prohibited during air travel in India. City Superintendent of Police (Ranjhi) Santosh Kumar Sahu told agency.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) seized the device under provisions of the Telecommunication Act and handed it over to the Khamaria police, he said.

"Angela K Parinar (62), a resident of Kansas, USA, was carrying a GPS

tracker device for her travel from Jabalpur to Delhi," Dumna Airport director RR Pandey said.

He said the CISF found the device in the woman's hand luggage during a routine check before boarding on Thursday.

The official said when asked about the device, the woman said she carried it during her journeys to share her location with family due to her old age.

He added that the passenger was allowed to board the plane after the seizure.

Possession of satellite phones and satellite-enabled GPS devices is prohibited for people travelling to or through India.

Delhi HC closes case after Ramdev pledges no more offensive remarks against Rooh Afza

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Friday closed a case after Yoga guru Ramdev pledged not to pass any further disparaging remarks against Hamdard's Rooh Afza.

Justice Amit Bansal said the averments of Ramdev and Patanjali Foods Ltd in their affidavits were binding on them and decreed the suit in favour of Hamdard National Foundation India.

The court had previously ordered removal of the controversial online content and asked

Ramdev and Patanjali to file their undertaking.

The court passed the order while dealing with a lawsuit by Hamdard National Foundation India against Ramdev and his Patanjali Foods Ltd over the controversial remarks.

Hamdard claimed while promoting Patanjali's "gulab sharbat", Ramdev alleged the money earned from Hamdard's Rooh Afza was used to build madrasas and mosques.

On April 22, the court sought an affidavit from Ramdev and Patanjali assuring to "not issue

any statements, social media posts or disparaging videos/ advertisements in future similar to those which are subject matter of the present suit in respect of products of the competitors".

Ramdev's remark of "sharbat jihad" on Hamdard's Rooh Afza, the court said, was indefensible and shook its conscience, prompting the Yoga guru to assure he would immediately take down the related videos and social media posts.

Hamdard's counsel had said instead of taking down the

objectionable YouTube video in terms of an earlier order, the defendant had only made it private.

Ramdev's counsel, on the other hand, said he had "great respect for the court" and its directions would be complied with.

On May 1, after the court warned of initiating contempt action against Ramdev, his lawyer assured that certain objectionable content which was subsequently published would also be deleted within 24 hours.

Pope Leo XIV celebrates first Mass after historic election as Pope Francis' successor

VATICAN CITY, May 9 (Agencies): Pope Leo XIV celebrates his first Mass on Friday after his historic election as the first North American pope, meeting with the cardinals who chose him to lead the Catholic Church and follow in Pope Francis' reform-minded footsteps.

Leo, the Chicago-born Augustinian missionary Robert Prevost, surprised the world Thursday when he emerged on the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, overcoming the traditional prohibition against a pope from the United States.

The 69-year-old wore the traditional red cape — which Francis had eschewed on his election in 2013 — and trappings of the papacy, suggesting a return to some degree of rule-following after Francis' unorthodox pontificate.

But in naming himself Leo, the new pope could also have wanted to signal a strong line of continuity: Brother Leo was the 13th century friar who was a great companion to St Francis of Assisi, the late pope's namesake.

"Together, we must try to find out how to be a missionary church, a church that builds bridges, establishes dialogue, that's always open to receive — like on this piazza with open arms — to be able to receive everybody that needs our charity, our presence, dialogue and love," Leo said in near-perfect Italian in his first comments to the world.

Prevost had been a leading candidate for the papacy since Francis tapped him to be head of the Vatican's powerful Dicastery for Bishops, which vets bishop nominations around the world. There had long been a taboo on a US pope, given America's superpower status in the secular world, but Prevost prevailed, perhaps because he's also a Peruvian citizen and had lived for years in Peru, first as a missionary and then as bishop.

Francis, the first Latin American pope, clearly had his eye on Prevost and in many ways



saw him as his heir apparent. He sent Prevost to take over a complicated diocese in Peru in 2014, then brought him to the Vatican in 2023. Earlier this year, Francis elevated Prevost into the senior ranks of cardinals, giving him prominence going into the conclave that few other cardinals had.

Since arriving in Rome, Prevost had kept a low public profile but was well-known to the men who count. Significantly, he presided over one of the most revolutionary reforms Francis made, when he added three women to the voting bloc that decides which bishop nominations to forward to the pope.

"Even the bishops of Peru called him the saint, the Saint of the North, and he had time for everyone," said the Rev. Alexander Lam, an Augustinian friar from Peru who knows the new pope.

The crowd in St Peter's Square erupted in cheers Thursday when white smoke poured out of the Sistine Chapel shortly after 6 p.m. on the second day of the conclave. Waving flags from around the world, tens of thousands of people were surprised an hour later when the senior cardinal deacon announced the winner was Prevost.

US President Donald Trump said it was "such an honour for our country" for the new pope to be American.

"What greater honour can there be?" he said. The president added that "we're a little bit surprised and we're happy."

An Augustinian pope

The last pope to take the name Leo was Leo XIII, an Italian who led the church from 1878 to 1903. That Leo softened the church's confrontational stance toward modernity, especially science and politics and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought. His most famous encyclical, Rerum Novarum of 1891, addressed workers' rights and capitalism at the beginning of the industrial revolution and was highlighted by the Vatican in explaining the new pope's choice of name.

Vatican watchers said Prevost's decision to name himself Leo was particularly significant given the previous Leo's legacy of social justice and reform, suggesting continuity with some of Francis' chief concerns. Specifically, Leo cited one of Francis' key priorities of making the Catholic Church more attentive to lay people and inclusive.

"He is continuing a lot of Francis' ministry," said Natalia Imperatori-Lee, the chair of religious studies at Manhattan University in the Bronx. But she also said his election could send a message to the US church, which has been badly divided between conservatives and progressives, with much of the right-wing opposition to Francis coming from there.

"I think it is going to be exciting to see a different kind of American Catholicism in Rome," Imperatori-Lee said.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda, of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, told reporters he never thought he would see an

American pope, given the questions of how he would navigate dealing with a U.S. president, especially someone like Trump.

"And so I just never imagined that we would have an American pope, and I have great confidence that Pope Leo will do a wonderful job of navigating that," he said.

Looking ahead

Leo was expected to celebrate Mass with cardinals in the Sistine Chapel on Friday, deliver his first Sunday noon blessing from the loggia of St. Peter's and attend an audience with the media Monday in the Vatican auditorium, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said.

Beyond that, he has a possible first foreign trip at the end of May: Francis had been invited to travel to Turkey to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, a landmark event in Christian history and an important moment in Catholic-Orthodox relations. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, welcomed Leo's election and said he hoped he would join the anniversary celebration.

The new pope was formerly the prior general, or leader, of the Order of St. Augustine, which was formed in the 13th century as a community of "mendicant" friars — dedicated to poverty, service and evangelization. Vatican News said Leo is the first Augustinian pope.

In Peru, he is known as the saintly missionary who waded through mud after torrential rains flooded the region, bringing help to needy people, and as the bishop who spearheaded the lifesaving purchase of oxygen production plants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"He worked so hard to find help, that there was not only enough (money) for one plant, but for two oxygen plants," said Janinna Sesa, who met Prevost while she worked for the church's Caritas nonprofit.

"He has no problem fixing a broken-down truck until it runs," she added.

Russia's Victory Day parade marks 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany



WASHINGTON, May 9 (Agencies): Russia marked the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II with a massive military parade on Red Square on Friday attended by President Vladimir Putin and a slew of foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Victory Day, which is celebrated in Russia on May 9, is the country's most important secular holiday. A Red Square parade and other ceremonies underline Moscow's efforts to project its global power and cement the alliances it has forged while seeking a counterbalance to the West amid the conflict Ukraine that has dragged into a fourth year.

World War II is a rare event in the nation's divisive history under Communist rule that is revered by all political groups, and the Kremlin has used that sentiment to encourage national pride and underline Russia's position as a

global power.

The Soviet Union lost a staggering 27 million people in what it calls the Great Patriotic War in 1941-45, an enormous sacrifice that left a deep scar in the national psyche.

Festivities this year were overshadowed by Ukrainian drone attacks targeting Moscow and severe disruptions at the capital's airports.

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot on Wednesday morning canceled more than 100 flights to and from Moscow, and delayed over 140 others as the military were repelling repeated Ukrainian drone attacks on the capital.

Russian authorities have tightened security ahead of the parade and cellphone internet outages have been reported amid electronic countermeasures aimed at foiling more potential drone attacks.

Speaking at the parade, Putin hailed Russian troops fighting in Ukraine, saying that "we are proud of their courage and determination, their spiritual force

that always has brought us victory."

The Russian leader has declared a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire starting Wednesday to coincide with the Victory Day celebrations, but warned that Russian troops will retaliate to any attacks. Moscow has been reluctant to accept a U.S.-proposed 30-day truce that Ukraine has accepted, linking it to a halt in Western arms supplies to Ukraine and Kyiv's mobilization effort, conditions Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected.

Ukrainian authorities reported scores of Russian strikes on Friday that killed at least two people in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and damaged buildings.

As the Red Square parade and other festivities unfolded in Moscow, dozens of European officials were meeting in Lviv, in western Ukraine, to endorse the creation of a special tribunal tasked to prosecute Russian officials accused of war crimes.

Helicopter crash in Sri Lanka kills six

COLOMBO, May 9 (Agencies): A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter crashed on Friday during a demonstration flight, killing six of the 12 personnel on board, the military confirmed.

The incident occurred at Maduru Oya, east of the capital Colombo, when a Bell 212 helicopter plunged into a lake as part of preparations for a "fast-roping" manoeuvre—a display in which troops descend by rope from a hovering helicopter.

The exercise was part of a graduation ceremony for Special Forces commandos.

"There were 12 people on board, and six sur-



vived with minor injuries," a military official told agency. Among the deceased were four commandos and two Air Force gunners.

The ceremony was immediately called off, and an investigation into the cause of the crash is currently underway.

This marks the deadliest air force incident since January 2020, when a Chinese-built Y-12 aircraft crashed in Haputale, around 200 kilometers east of Colombo, killing all four crew members. The most fatal helicopter crash in Sri Lanka's history occurred in September 2000, when an Mi-17 helicopter went down in central Sri Lanka, killing all 15 people on board.

Pakistan says its economic affairs ministry's X account hacked following post seeking more loans

ISLAMABAD, May 9 (Agencies): Pakistan on Friday said that the X account of its ministry of economic affairs was hacked and an appeal was posted on it for more international loans to meet the 'heavy losses' caused by the current tensions with India.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a 'FAKE TWEET ALERT', saying the account was 'hacked'.

An official also confirmed that the X account has been hacked, and work was going to switch off the account.

The hacking led to a fake appeal by the Economic Affairs Division of



the ministry, calling for more loans and urging the international community to help defuse the tensions with India following the Pahalgam

terror attack.

The tensions caused the stock market in Pakistan to tumble. Govt of Pakistan appeals to International Partners

for more loans after heavy losses 'inflicted' by enemy.

"Amid escalating war and stocks crash, we urge international partners to help de-escalate. Nation urged to remain steadfast," the post on the account said.

Interestingly, 'inflicted' was misspelt in the post, leading to suspicion as official handling accounts seldom make such glaring mistakes.

The post came after the Pakistan Stock Exchange fell by more than 6,000 points on Thursday.

However, the market recovered on Friday and gained more than 1,000 points in the morning trading session.

The timing of the post was also intriguing as it coincided with a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board to decide on the next installment of a USD 7 billion loan agreed last year.

Pakistan is expected to get more than USD 2 billion as part of the second tranche of the loans and a new loan which the fund approved to combat the impact of environmental changes.

Earlier, India's Press Information Bureau had took a swipe at the fashion the economic affairs division of Pakistan was seeking alms. PIB is central government's media information and publicity arm.

“Pak started conflict, India a victim,” says former Pentagon official

While talking to agency, he said that India's military has shown itself to be much capable

WASHINGTON DC, May 9 (Agencies): Michael Rubin, former Pentagon official and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, while talking about the India-Pakistan conflict said that Pakistan started the conflict with its support to terrorism, and India was the victim of it.

While talking to agency, he said that India's military has shown itself to be much capable.

He said, "Pakistan started the conflict with its support for terrorism. Indians were the victims of terrorism. While I was initially critical that Prime Minister Modi had taken so long to respond, but it's clear that the Indian military was carefully planning and the Indian military has shown itself to be far more capable," he said.

He added that Pakistan is now trying to save its face. He added that when one sees themselves in a hole, they must stop digging.

"Pakistan is thrashing about, looking for a way to save face. But Asim Munir should understand that the first rule of hole digging is when you're in a hole, stop digging... Looking forward, there can only be one metric by which we look at the diplomatic solution to this issue. Pakistan has to be designated by the United States to be a state sponsor of terror," he added.

Rubin added that although the US designated individual terror groups, they have not designated Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism.

"The United States has previously desig-

nated individual terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, but we haven't designated Pakistan itself as a state sponsor of terror. It's time to stop designating the tentacles of the octopus and designate its head. The United States should side unequivocally with India," he said.

Rubin said that PM Modi and other leaders are rallying to the realisation that all Indians are under threat. Pakistan Army General Asim Munir gave away his goal that Hindus and Muslims should not be able to live together.

"The job of any democratic leader is to protect their citizens. What we see PM Modi and others across the Indian political spectrum doing is rallying to the realisation that all Indians are under threat. Before this

started, Asim Munir gave away his goal. He argued that Hindus and Muslims should not be able to live together," he said.

However, Munir added that both communities live together successfully in India but not in Pakistan because their government has driven the minorities outside.

"The fact of the matter is that they live together successfully in India. The only reason why they no longer live successfully together in Pakistan is because Pakistan has systematically driven its minorities out of the country," he said.

Rubin added that every time the government fails, they turn the guns to their minorities.

"Every time Pakistan fails inwardly, in

terms of corruption, economy, society, or its leadership, it turns its guns on its minorities to distract the Pakistani people from the government's failings. That is the playbook of a failed state. Fortunately, India has a different playbook in which all Indians thrive and openly discuss their issues," he said.

Meanwhile, US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce on Thursday said Secretary of State Marco Rubio has called for restraint amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

During a press briefing, Bruce said that Rubio spoke to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, urging immediate de-escalation.

CEC LAHDC Leh holds meeting with religious organisations to discuss ongoing situation



Top News Report

LEH, May 9: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson on Friday held a meeting with religious organisations in the presence of DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; President, LBA, Tsering Dorje Lakrook; President, LGA, Gyen Tsering Angdus; President, Anjuman Imamia, Ashraf Ali Barcha; President, Christian Association, Sonam Parvez; President, Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam, Dr. Abdul Qayum; and Vice President, Anjuman Sofia

Noor Baksh, Ghulam Hussain.

The meeting was convened to discuss the current situation arising out of recent security concerns in different regions and to take the religious organisations into confidence as part of the ongoing preparedness and coordination efforts.

Discussions were held on possible steps to be taken in case the situation demands further action.

It was also suggested that if the situation escalates and evacuation becomes necessary,

support from Ladakh House in Jammu, local Gompa Tsogdus, monasteries, and community members may be sought to temporarily accommodate the students.

The religious heads extended their support and shared their suggestions for ensuring a calm and united response.

The Chairman stressed the importance of collective effort, community confidence, and preparedness in addressing any developments that may arise.

CEC LAHDC Leh assess prevailing situation, review rising tension in region



Top News Report

LEH, May 9: A meeting was held on Friday in the conference hall of the LAHDC Secretariat, chaired by the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, to assess the prevailing situation and review the rising tension in the region.

The discussion was attended by Executive Councillors Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Stanzin Choshpel, and Ghulam Mehdi; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh Santosh Sukhadeve; Hon'ble

Councillor Lop Tsering Namgyal and all the Councillors. Gathered in the backdrop of growing concerns, the officials engaged in a detailed deliberation on the current circumstances, particularly the recurring blackouts. The need for strict adherence to established protocols was strongly emphasised. The Chairman urged the public to extend full cooperation by switching off all visible lights during blackout hours, as mandated. He also appealed to residents using private

street lighting systems within their compounds to disconnect them until normalcy is restored.

Further, it was reiterated that in the event of a siren, all vehicles must halt immediately and switch off their lights without delay, in keeping with the standard blackout procedures.

The situation is being closely monitored by LAHDC Leh in close coordination with the UT Administration, and all necessary measures are being taken to ensure public safety and maintain order.

J&K BJP holds meeting following escalation of tensions with Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: In the wake of the recent escalation of tension due to drone and missile attacks launched from across the border by Pakistan, J&K BJP held a crucial meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was chaired by Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and was attended by several senior party leaders to assess the prevailing situation and coordinate the party's response.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Dr. Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Ministers, Adv. Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary, J&K BJP, Adv. RS Pathania, Spokesperson & MLA, Baldev Singh Billawaria, former Dy Mayor, Sanjita Dogra, Rakesh Mahajan, Rajeev Charak, Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu and others were present in the meeting.



The attack, which occurred late Thursday evening, was effectively neutralized by India's robust defense systems, preventing any damage and reasserting India's superior strategic preparedness. The BJP leadership commended the Indian Defense Forces for their swift and decisive action, which not only averted a major crisis but also sent a strong message to adversaries across the border.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma condemned the attack and said that while the act of aggression by Pakistan was deplorable, the entire nation stands united and proud of the Indian defense forces for their swift and effective

response that followed the hostile attempt. He emphasized that the BJP takes serious note of the tension created due to this attack and is committed to supporting efforts to maintain public morale and ensure safety.

Sharma informed that senior party leaders have been tasked with overseeing prominent and sensitive areas across the region to keep a close watch on developments and coordinate party activities in response to any situation that may arise.

He urged BJP leaders and activists to take a leading role in building public confidence, dispelling rumors, and reinforcing trust in the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the preparedness of India's armed forces.

Highlighting the need for preparedness, Sat Sharma also appealed to healthy adult citizens to come forward and register for emergency blood donation. He mentioned that the BJP, in coordination with civil society and allied organizations, would be organizing blood donation camps across various locations, which could prove vital in case of any eventuality.

Sunil Sharma stressed the importance of maintaining close coordination with the civil administration. He instructed senior leaders to mobilize party workers at the grassroots level to extend full cooperation

with government agencies, especially in relief and emergency preparedness efforts.

Sunil Sharma appealed to the masses to stand firmly with the nation and support all efforts aimed at ensuring peace, preparedness, and public safety in the current volatile scenario.

Ashok Koul urged party cadre to engage in awareness campaigns, help people stay informed and alert, and assist in reviewing and strengthening emergency protocols.

He advised that such efforts must be carried out responsibly to avoid creating panic among the public.

Koul also emphasized the need for party members to provide assistance to people displaced due to ongoing shelling along the border.

He called for special attention to ensuring uninterrupted supplies of food, medicine, and other essential commodities to the affected families living in temporary relief camps.

Mula Ram, Hari Singh visit shelter camps in Mishriwala Jammu amidst border tension *Listen to public issues, ask them to stay united, support Indian forces*



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Senior Congress leader and former Minister Mula Ram, along with Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) incharge District President Jammu Rural (JKPCC), today visited the shelter camps

set-up by the district administration at Government Degree College Paloura Mishriwala,, and Sahib Bandagi Ashram Misriwala. The visit was undertaken to assess the condition of residents shifted from villages Gharkal, Pargwal, and adjoining areas due to unprovoked firing from across the border by Pakistan.

During the visit, the Congress leaders

interacted with the displaced residents and listened to their concerns amidst escalating tensions along the Indo-Pak border. The people highlighted the lack of basic facilities including shortage of medicines, unhygienic washrooms, and poor sanitation. They also requested essential supplies such as milk and other necessities for small children.

Mula Ram, Hari Singh assured the people that their concerns would be taken up with the Congress High Command. They reiterated the party's deep concern for the welfare of border residents and affirmed that steps would be initiated to ensure immediate relief. "The Congress Party is fully aware of the difficulties faced by the people living near the border and remains committed to standing by them in these testing times," said Mula Ram. Both leaders said that "We are here on the directions of senior Congress leadership —

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, Shri K.C. Venugopal ji, Dr. Naseer Khan ji, and Shri Karra Sahib ji — to take stock of the situation and ensure timely support for the affected people."

Hari Singh Chib emphasized unity among the people and called for unwavering support to the Indian

Army. He reiterated that the Congress Party, under the visionary leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Party President Mallikarjun Kharge and kc venugopal ji, Dr Naseer hussain khan ji and Tariq Hameed Karra sahib remains steadfast in its commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those living in vulnerable border areas.

Dilshad Shaheen bereaved, mother passes away *Apni Party leaders extend condolence, pray for departed soul*

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 9: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and other senior leaders have extended condolences to Dilshad Shaheen, the president of the party's Women's Wing, on the passing of her mother, Zoonia Begum, who departed for her heavenly abode today following a brief illness.

According to a press release issued here, "The mother of Dilshad Shaheen passed away today. Party leaders have expressed their grief and sorrow over the loss and extended their condolences to Dilshad Ji and other members of the bereaved family."

From Page No: 1

BSF foils infiltration bid along Pak border in Jammu; Kills seven terrorists

April 22 and India's strike on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation.

Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary reviews security, hospital arrangements in Rajouri

"People are standing with the Indian armed forces bravely. Pakistan will get a befitting reply. I appeal to people to keep up the brotherhood," DY CM Choudhary added.

In a related development, civilian houses in a border town of Jammu and Kashmir were damaged last night due to shelling by Pakistan. The situation prompted local authorities to take preventive

measures, including the closure of schools, colleges, and educational institutions in Udhampur on Friday.

CM Omar visits injured civilians at GMC Jammu

He also said that a comprehensive review of the situation is being undertaken in light of multiple drone attacks reported from various areas across the Jammu region. "I will be taking stock of the ground situation and coordinating with security and civil agencies to ensure civilian safety," he added.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sakina Masood Itoo and Agriculture Minister Javed Dar visited GMC Baramulla to meet injured civilians and assess the healthcare arrangements.

The visits come amid heightened tension along the border, with repeated ceasefire violations and casualties due to shelling by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control.

Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary reviews security, hospital arrangements in Rajouri

JAMMU, May 9 (Agencies):

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary arrived in Rajouri on Friday morning to review the security situation in the region. During his visit, he conducted a thorough review of the hospital arrangements in the district, which has been a focal point for recent security concerns.

Choudhary emphasised that this was not the first instance of Pakistan launching attacks against India. "I reached Rajouri in the morning. I have reviewed the hospital arrangements. This is not the first time Pakistan has attacked India... our people are brave. They (Pakistan) think that they can break the morale of people of India, especially J&K people, that is wrong," he told ANI.

"People are standing with the Indian armed forces bravely. Pakistan will get a befitting reply. I appeal to people to keep up the brotherhood," DY CM Choudhary added.

In a related development, civilian houses in a border town of Jammu and Kashmir were damaged last night due to shelling by Pakistan. The situation prompted local authorities to take preventive

measures, including the closure of schools, colleges, and educational institutions in Udhampur on Friday.

J&K Cong slams Pakistan for targeting Jammu, Says it will pay for its sins

forces came after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday carried out precise missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Fresh air siren sounded in Chandigarh, residents advised to stay indoors

said. The district administration in Patiala also issued an advisory urging people to stay indoors and remain calm. "Please avoid stepping out unless it is absolutely

necessary.

All educational institutions in the district are closed until further notice. Residents are strongly advised to stay indoors and away from balconies, rooftops, and open areas," the advisory said, as it urged people to contact the control room in case of an emergency.

A similar air siren was sounded in Chandigarh on Thursday night as India swiftly thwarted Pakistan's fresh attempts to strike military sites with drones and missiles, including in Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur, after foiling its attempts to target military installations in 15 cities in the northern and western parts of the country. According to the defence ministry, the Pakistani military on Thursday night attempted to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai and Bhuj. The renewed attempts by the Pakistani forces came after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday carried out precise missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor' in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Indian Railways announces special trains from Jammu, Udhampur to Delhi

the Pahalgam attack, we started checks at Nellore Railway Station, following instructions from the Director General of Police, AP, and the SRP of Guntakal. The local inspector, three town inspectors, and about 100 personnel from the GRP, RPF, and town police, along with the dog squad and BD team, were all involved in checking the station."

"We inspected every platform, train, and the entire station area. We divided the area into six teams to cover it thoroughly, and checks were also carried out at stations in Gudur, Nellore, Kavali, Vongole, and Chirala. Local police helped by inspecting the areas around the stations, including hotels, lodges, and bus stands," he added.

Railway DSP Muralidhar said that this was a precautionary drill after the Pahalgam terrorist attack. Local police also supported the searches at and around the station.

Dr Jitendra addresses ‘Global Exploration Conference’, highlights India’s ‘Space Power’

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 9: India affirmed its growing prominence as a leading “Space Power” in the global arena as Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh addressed the “Global Space Exploration Conference” (GLEX 2025) at Yashobhoomi, here.

The high-profile summit, themed “Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance,” brought together space leaders, astronauts, and scientists from across the globe, with participation of more than 35 countries and international agencies, reinforcing India’s role at the forefront of space diplomacy and innovation.

Organised jointly by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and the Astronautical Society of India (ASI), the three-day summit is hosting over 240 interactive presentations across 10 parallel technical sessions, spanning 15 critical thematic areas. The event also witnessed the inauguration of a dynamic space exhibition by Dr. Jitendra Singh, featuring 22 stalls showcasing the work of Indian space



startups, international space agencies, and ISRO’s latest achievements. Speaking at the special session, Dr. Jitendra underscored India’s transition from being a follower in space exploration to becoming a global enabler. “India is now collaborating as an equal partner with some of the leading space-faring nations. This is a testimony to our scientific capability, visionary leadership, and commitment to peaceful space cooperation,” he said. He added that India’s space journey, which began with humble beginnings, has evolved into a source of inspiration for developing countries.

Dr. Jitendra described GLEX 2025 as a platform that advances India’s vision on two fronts — “A for Bharat” and “B for the World.” Elaborating on this, he said the conference embod-

ies India’s aspiration to serve its own people through space applications while also embracing the spirit of Vishwa Bandhu Bharat — a trusted global partner committed to collaboration, not domination. “We are not here to act as a Big Brother,” he emphasized, “but as equal brothers, working together with the rest of humanity for the shared benefit of our planet.”

The Minister highlighted the Government’s initiatives to democratize the space sector, encouraging private enterprise and public-private partnerships. “The opening up of India’s space sector has already triggered a boom in innovation, with over 190 startups emerging in the last two years alone,” he noted, adding that this ecosystem was vital to fuelling India’s ambitions in deep space missions, satel-

lite launches, and commercial space applications.

Among the international dignitaries present were Josef Aschbacher (European Space Agency), Kazuyoshi Kawasaki (Japan), Jill Smyth (USA), Wu Weiren (China), and Salem Al Marri (UAE), reflecting the truly global character of the event. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan reiterated the organisation’s vision to advance interplanetary exploration and to make space technology accessible for societal benefit. In a significant move to build public enthusiasm, the conference also launched an astronaut outreach programme featuring around ten astronauts from around the world. The lineup included Hazzaa Al-Mansoori (UAE), Alper Gezeravci (Türkiye), Michael López-Alegria (USA/Spain), and Indian astronauts Rakesh Sharma and Anand Pratap, who engaged with students and young professionals to ignite interest in space science.

As India prepares for its Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission and future lunar and planetary explorations, GLEX 2025 positions the country as both a hub for international space collaboration and a beacon of aspiration for young minds. The summit not only marks a milestone in India’s space narrative but also signals a broader global commitment to peaceful and inclusive space exploration.

CEC LAHDC Leh reviews situation of Ladakhi Students in Jammu, Chandigarh, Delhi amid rising tensions



Top News Report

LEH, May 9: In view of recent security alerts and growing concerns among students, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting to review the situation of Ladakhi students currently studying in Jammu, Chandigarh and Delhi.

The meeting was attended by DC/CEO LAHDC Leh Santosh Sukhadeve, RTO Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, Addl. SP Rigzin Sangdub, DPO Leh Junaid Amin Bhat. Joining virtually were the Presidents of all major student unions from Chandigarh, Delhi, and Jammu.

The student representatives briefed the Chairman on the prevailing conditions in their respective areas. While the situation remains largely stable, they shared that students are experiencing mild panic due to rising uncertainty and ongoing examinations. Concerns have also been raised by parents, particularly due to misinformation and unverified reports

circulating on social media.

CEC Tashi Gyalson assured that the situation in Jammu, Chandigarh and Delhi is being closely monitored in coordination with the Chief Secretary of J&K and the concerned district authorities.

He emphasized that necessary support will be extended wherever required.

He also informed that he has spoken to the DC Jammu, who assured full cooperation and continued monitoring of the situation. Student unions have been advised to stay in touch with the local administration, and coordination is underway to ensure timely response to any developments. As a precautionary measure, the Chairman directed Liaison Officers to coordinate with transport departments and keep evacuation logistics such as buses ready if needed.

Student unions have been instructed to compile lists and maintain coordination to avoid confusion or crowding. CEC stated that should evacuation become

necessary, arrangements will be made to temporarily accommodate students at Ladakh Sarai and other designated locations.

Similar preparations are being reviewed for students from Kargil as well. Alternate routes, including the Jammu-Manali road, are also being assessed as part of the overall contingency planning.

CEC Gyalson further stated that he is working in close coordination with the UT Administration, student bodies, and concerned officials to ensure a unified and effective response.

He urged students and everyone to avoid spreading or acting on rumours and to rely only on official and verified sources for information. The Chairman appealed to everyone to remain calm, united, and connected through official communication channels.

He added that a detailed action plan will be kept ready and regular updates will be shared with the student unions as the situation evolves.

Deputy Commissioner visits District Hospital Poonch, reviews healthcare arrangements



Top News Report

POONCH, MAY 09: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal conducted a comprehensive visit to District Hospital Poonch today to review healthcare arrangements and ensure the facility is fully prepared to meet medical needs in the eventuality of emergency.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with patients undergoing treatment and enquired about the quality of care, availability of essential medicines, and support

services. He conducted a thorough inspection of various hospital wards, emergency units, and other key departments to assess overall readiness and responsiveness.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Medical Superintendent and other senior officials from the district administration accompanied him during the visit. They briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the hospital’s functioning, recent patient inflow, and ongoing improvements in medical infrastructure. Given the pre-

vailing circumstances in the border region, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch emphasized the importance of maintaining a high state of preparedness in the health sector. He directed hospital authorities to remain vigilant, ensure timely treatment for all, and maintain efficient coordination among staff.

The visit underscored the administration’s commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring uninterrupted medical services, especially during sensitive times.

JK Govt makes key appointments in Jal Shakti Department

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the elevation and appointment of two senior officers in the Jal Shakti Department.

Upon their elevation, I/c Superintending Engineer, Mohammad Taj Chowdhary has been appointed as Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir on incharge basis, while I/c Superintending Engineer, Tirath Ram, has been appointed as Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Kashmir on incharge basis. These appointments have been made in view of the exceptional circumstances arising from significant vacancies and a shortage of senior officers at the top level in the department.

The Establishment-cum-Selection Com-

mittee had thoroughly discussed and recommended these elevations, underscoring the government’s commitment to filling critical positions. Meanwhile, Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, has ordered the elevation of five Executive Engineers to Superintending Engineers, effectively filling up all vacancies at the Superintending Engineer level in the Department.

This move is expected to bolster the implementation of vital water supply projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana’s proactive interventions have already begun to transform the human resource landscape in the Jal Shakti Department.

To ensure efficient project delivery, the Minister has directed to ensure regular monitoring and evaluation of top-level officers’ performance.

2nd National Lok Adalat Deferred

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, MAY 9: In accordance with directives from the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the 2nd National Lok Adalat, originally scheduled for May 10, 2025, has been postponed due to the prevailing circumstances.

Consequently, the event will not take place on the scheduled date in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Sakeena Itoo, Javed Dar visit shelling affected areas of Baramulla, Uri

Direct authorities to prioritize civilian safety, ensure swift rehabilitation of affected families

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, MAY 09: On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Cabinet Ministers, Sakeena Itoo and Javed Ahmad Dar, today visited frontier district Baramulla and took stock of ongoing situation due to cross border shelling.

During the visit, the Ministers visited GMC Baramulla and enquired about the well being of citizens injured in the recent shelling incidents. They expressed solidarity with the injured victims and their family members.



The Ministers directed the medical staff of the hospital to provide immediate and effective treatment to the injured citizens. They assured the victims and their family members that

the Government stands with them in these difficult times and we are committed to their well being. Later, the Ministers also visited Uri and took on-spot assessment of various areas

affected by ongoing shelling. They met the affected families and directed authorities to prioritize civilian safety and ensure swift rehabilitation efforts of affected families. The Ministers also met the grieving family of Nargis, a young woman killed during the ongoing shelling. They offered condolences to the affected family and assured them every possible support and assistance from the government. They also met other affected families in Uri and directed authorities to prioritize civilian safety and swift rehabilitation efforts.

The Ministers, in the meanwhile, visited Sub district Hospital Uri and met the injured civilians. They directed the hospital administration to keep sufficient medical care stock available at the facility to deal with any kind of exigency.

Later, the Ministers also visited GDC Uri and met the victims of cross border shelling rehabilitated in the college building. The Ministers urged the administration to keep all possible facilities available for the victims and ensure basic necessities are available round the clock for their well being.

Top News Report

BANI, May 8: In a strong gesture of solidarity and humanitarian concern, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bani, has appealed to both the Central and State Governments to make arrangements for the safe stay of border residents in Bani until peace prevails and the situation at the border normalizes.

While addressing media persons, Dr. Rameshwar Singh stated that during times of border tension and cross-border firing, the lives of residents living in these areas are severely affected. “It is our duty to ensure their safety and dignity. We have prepared Bani to extend all possible help and shelter to our brothers and sisters from the border areas,” he said.

Dr. Singh assured that



the people of Bani are wholeheartedly ready to support and accommodate the affected families and will stand by them in this time of crisis.

He highlighted the recurring threat posed by terrorism and the targeting of civilians in the border areas, pointing out that such situations make it impossible for people to lead normal lives in their own villages.

Taking a firm stance, Dr. Singh called upon the Central Government to take decisive action against terror activities and secure the lives of

Indian citizens living near the border.

“We must not allow our people to live in fear. We urge the authorities to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure across the border and restore peace,” he emphasized.

Dr. Rameshwar also acknowledged the sacrifice and courage of security forces and demanded a strong and comprehensive strategy to ensure national security. He said that until there is a permanent solution to this problem, the displaced families must be given safe accommodation, food, and medical support.

ADM Reasi bans transportation of bovine animals

Top News Report

REASI, May 9: Additional District Magistrate Reasi, in exercise of powers vested under section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, has prohibited the transportation of bovine animals without seeking permission from the District Magistrate within the jurisdiction of District Reasi.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months. However, it shall not apply in case of transportation of bovine animals by the Government departments for departmental purposes.

Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 223 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Neeraj Chopra, Virender Sehwag, Shikhar Dhawan back Indian Armed Forces amid escalating conflict with Pakistan

Cloud of uncertainty looms over future of ongoing Indian Premier League amid fears of larger military conflict between two nuclear-armed neighbours

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Top Indian sports personalities like Olympic hero Neeraj Chopra, Virender Sehwag and Shikhar Dhawan have expressed their support for the country's military action against terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

A cloud of uncertainty looms over the future of the ongoing Indian Premier League amid fears of a larger military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. The athletes have placed unflinching faith on the Indian armed forces.

"We are proud of our Brave Indian Armed Forces who are fighting for our nation against Terrorism. Let's do our part and make sure to follow guidelines to ensure everyone's safety during this time," double Olympic-medallist Neeraj Chopra posted on 'X'.



Thursday's match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was called off due to security reasons following air raid alerts in nearby areas, prompting the BCCI to review the evolving situation. Former opener Virender Sehwag blamed Pakistan for the current situation.

"War has been chosen by Pakistan when they had an opportunity to keep quiet. They have escalated to save it's terrorist assets, speaks so much about them. Our forces will reply in the most appropriate manner, a manner Pakistan will never forget," Sehwag posted on 'X'. Sehwag's former India team-

mate Shikhar Dhawan also paid his tribute to the Indian forces engaged in the conflict.

"Respect to our brave hearts for protecting our borders with such strength and stopping the drone attack on Jammu. India stands strong. Jai Hind," Dhawan tweeted.

The Indian armed forces, in the early hours of Wednesday, launched precision missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including the strongholds of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke.

The strikes were in response to the attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down. Pakistan retaliated by targetting 15 Indian cities, forcing another response from the Indian forces.

"We continue to closely monitor situation in Pakistan and India": Cricket Australia on IPL, PSL

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Australian players and coaches featuring in Indian Premier League (IPL) and Pakistan Super League (PSL) have been plunged into uncertainty amid escalating military tensions between the neighbouring countries.

Cricket Australia (CA) was closely observing the tense situation on Friday with more than two dozen players and coaches involved in ongoing T20 tournaments, the Indian Premier League, and the Pakistan Super League, as per the Cricket Australia website.

CA said they are monitoring the situation closely in Pakistan and India, consulting with relevant authorities and communicating with players and staff.

"We continue to closely monitor the situation in Pakistan and India,

including obtaining regular advice and updates from the Australian Government, the PCB, BCCI, and local government authorities, and maintaining communication with our players and support staff currently in the region," CA said in a statement.

Indian officials on Friday were considering next steps for the IPL, while the remaining eight Pakistan Super League matches (including finals) have been shifted to the United Arab Emirates.

Fast bowler Ben Dwarshuis played at Rawalpindi for Islamabad United on Wednesday in a game against Quetta Gladiators. Riley Meredith, Sean Abbott and Max Bryant are the other Australian players involved in the PSL.

Thursday's Punjab Kings-Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala

featuring Australian players Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Josh Inglis, as well Punjab coach Ricky Ponting, was abandoned midway through the first innings due to what Indian officials said was a power outage.

Australians at IPL 2025 Chennai Super Kings: Nathan Ellis.

Delhi Capitals: Mitch Starc, Jake Fraser-McGurk.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Spencer Johnson.

Lucknow Super Giants: Justin Langer (coach), Mitch Marsh.

Punjab Kings: Ricky Ponting (coach), Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitch Owen, Josh Inglis, Aaron Hardie, Xavier Bartlett.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Josh Hazlewood, Tim David.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Adam Zampa.

RCB, CSK and other IPL teams applaud Indian Armed Forces

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and other Indian Premier League (IPL) teams applauded the Indian Armed Forces for their courage and bravery after terrorist camps were destroyed at nine locations in the neighbouring country under Operation Sindoor.

RCB posted on their X handle, "In this hour of national crisis, we salute the unwavering courage and bravery of our Indian Armed Forces, and pray for the safety of everyone in India. Jai Hind."

Chennai Super Kings posted on their X handle, "Courage in every step. Pride in every heartbeat. Saluting our armed forces."



Lucknow Super Giants also posted on their X handle, "Nation first."

Earlier, the Board Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday announced the suspension of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), sources said.

The tournament had entered the decisive stage with the Final scheduled for May 25.

"I feel extremely proud of our Indian Army": Rohit Sharma praises Indian Armed Forces

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Indian captain Rohit Sharma hailed the Indian Army, Indian Air force & Indian Navy as India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads against each other after terrorist camps were destroyed at nine locations in the neighbouring country under Operation Sindoor, which was launched in response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Rohit Sharma posted on his official X handle, "With every passing moment, with every decision taken I feel extremely proud of our Indian Army, Indian Air Force & Indian Navy. Our warriors are standing tall for our nation's pride. It's important for every Indian to be responsible and refrain from spreading or believing any fake news. Stay safe, everyone! #OperationSindoor #JaiHind."



Earlier on Thursday, a complete blackout was enforced in Jammu after sirens were heard and explosions were reported near the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri districts, amid rising tensions in the region.

The Border Security Forces (BSF) foiled a major infiltration attempt along the International Boundary in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The attempt was made around



11 pm on May 8. In a post on X, BSF Jammu wrote, "At around 2300 hours on 8 May 2025, BSF foiled a major infiltration bid at the International Boundary in Samba district, J&K."

Additionally, the Indian Army during the intervening night of May 8 and May 9 successfully repelled and responded to multiple drone attacks by Pakistan along the western border and the Line of Control (LoC) in

Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Army said, "Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along entire Western Border on the intervening night of 08 and 09 May 2025. Pak troops also resorted to numerous cease fire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The drone attacks were effectively repulsed and befitting reply was given to the CFVs. Indian Army remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nation. All nefarious designs will be responded with force."

Earlier on Thursday, the Indian Army had shot down more than 50 Pakistani drones during the large-scale counter-drone operation along the LoC and International Borders (IB), sources told agency.

Virat Kohli salutes Indian armed forces amid rising tensions with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Batting superstar Virat Kohli paid tribute to the Indian armed forces amid escalating tensions with Pakistan triggered by the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir where terrorists opened fire on tourists. Several Indian sportspersons have been sending their message of support and wishing for the safety of the armed forces, who

are leading the counter-strikes.

"We stand in solidarity with, and salute our armed forces for fiercely protecting our country in these difficult times. We are forever indebted to our heroes for their unwavering bravery and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices they and their families make for our great nation. JAI HIND," Virat Kohli said in a post on social media.



"Priyansh Arya is one of the finds of the tournament": Ricky Ponting on PBKS batter

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Punjab Kings (PBKS) Head coach, Ricky Ponting, called PBKS batter Priyansh Arya one of the finds of the tournament, while noting batter Prabhsimran Singh's consistent performance.

PBKS clashed with Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium on Thursday. The match was called off due to floodlight failure.

"You know, Prabhsimran Singh probably has

been the more consistent of the two, but you know, young Priyansh Arya, he's been one of the finds of the tournament. I've said that game after game, every time I've spoken, I've talked about the talent this young boy has, and he's shown it again tonight," Ricky Ponting said in a video posted by IPL.

PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to bat first. Batters Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh came out in the middle to open the innings for the hosts. Both players

started attacking the bowlers from the first over.

The Punjab-based franchise completed the 50-run mark on the last ball of the 4th over.

Priyansh Arya completed his half-century in 25 balls, whereas Prabhsimran Singh completed his fourth consecutive fifty in IPL 2025 in 28 balls.

Arya made 70 (34) before he was removed by DC bowler T Natarajan, his innings included five fours and six sixes.

Ponting also spoke about the lefty-righty combination of Arya and

Singh.

"They complement each other really well, you know, left hand, right hand, you know, Priyansh probably more adaptive against the faster bowling, whereas Priyansh Arya probably better off against the slower and the spin. So they work really well as a partnership, and we need them to keep going on," he added.

At the stoppage of play, the PBKS side were 122/1 in 10.1 overs. With Prabhsimran Singh (50*) and Shreyas Iyer (0*) unbeaten at the crease.

Sydney Sixers appoints Matthew Mott as head coach for their Women's team

NEW DELHI, May 9 (Agencies): Sydney Sixers have appointed former Australia and England mentor Matthew Mott as their new women's head coach for the next two years, as per a release from Sydney Sixers.

With a reputation as one of the most accomplished coaches in the modern game, Mott brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success at the highest level.

First secured by the club as an assistant with the Sixers men's side last summer, the appointment of the highly sought-after coaching talent marks a significant win for the club and one of the biggest coups in the competition to date.

Mott will take charge of the women's program following the departure of Charlotte Edwards last month and will continue to provide his services to the men's squad, working alongside coaching great Greg Chappell.

Renowned as one of the game's most prolific title-winners, Mott has led championship-winning teams at both the domestic and international levels, on home soil in Australia and



abroad.

Head coach of the national women's team from 2015 to 2022, Mott's tenure was marked by a culture of sustained excellence and World Cup success, producing two T20 World Cup victories (2018 and 2020) and an ICC Women's World Cup title (2022), in addition to four Ashes series wins, steering the side through an era of sheer dominance.

Following his departure from the Australian side, Mott was recruited to England to lead the men's national white-ball squads, where he saw further success with his side lifting the T20 World Cup in 2022 under his leadership.

A talented left-handed batter, Mott represented Victoria and Queensland in a first-

class playing career spanning a decade, before beginning his coaching journey with the organisation he now fittingly returns to, joining Cricket NSW as an assistant coach in 2005.

Speaking about his appointment, Mott said he was excited to build on his current connection with the club and its players.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be working with the Sixers women's team. I've had a strong connection with the club over many years, so when the opportunity came up, it was one I was really keen to take on."

"Having coached several players in the current squad, I'm looking forward to reconnecting with them, as well as working with some of the younger talent, as we

push to secure another WBBL title."

"The list is already stacked with talent, including players who've achieved success at various levels. We're looking to build on that at the Draft and put ourselves in a position to bring home a championship again this season," he added.

Speaking about the opportunity for Mott to take charge of the women's side, Sixers General Manager Rachael Haynes said:

"There are few coaches in world cricket who have achieved a similar track record of success, and 'Motty' has proven that he knows what it takes to build a strong, winning culture."

"Motty was a fantastic addition to our men's coaching group last season, and we're really pleased that he will also continue in his role assisting the BBL side under the guidance of Greg Shipperd."

"As a club, we strive to be world-class in all that we do, from our match day experience to our on-field performances, and we're excited to see Motty bring that same world-class approach to our program over the next two years," he added.

LG Brig Mishra chairs meetings to discuss construction of proposed Ladakh Bhawan at Chandigarh

Top News Report

LEH, May 9: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), chaired a meeting with the concerned officials at Raj Niwas to discuss the proposed construction of Ladakh Bhawan in Chandigarh. Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, Secretary/Managing Director, Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), Bhupesh Chaudhary, and Executive Engineer and Junior Engineer from SIDCO were present in the meeting.

MD SIDCO Bhupesh Chaudhary informed the LG that the Ladakh Bhawan in Chandigarh

will specifically cater to patients from Ladakh who are referred to PGI Chandigarh for treatment, as currently there are no such facilities for patients/students from Ladakh in Chandigarh as in Delhi, Jammu and Srinagar in the form of Ladakh Bhawan and Leh and Kargil House. He also informed the HLG that around 96 beds would be available for patients, officials, students, and the public from Ladakh at the Ladakh Bhawan, spread over 6,964 square metres in Sector 33. He further informed that the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation building byelaws, such as the inclusion of the



setback line, have been incorporated into the design. MD SIDCO Bhupesh Chaudhary informed the HLG about the floor plans for the two-floor building (G+2), including a multipurpose hall, dining hall, reception area, conference hall, etc. on the ground floor;

the first floor, which is earmarked specially for patients with dormitories, and the second hall, with suites and guest rooms, for officials and patients/general public. Highlighting the need for optimum usage of the building, which will cater to patients, stu-

dents, officials and visitors from Ladakh, the LG asked the concerned officials to collect data on the estimated foot-fall of patients/general public from Ladakh at Ladakh House in Chandigarh to ensure maximum occupancy of the rooms. He also asked the officials to earmark separate blocks for officials and guests/public/patients on the second floor. He also highlighted the need to provide openings/gates on both sides of the property. Pureways Infra Private Limited has been engaged as a consultant for the said project to prepare the detailed project plan (DPR).

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan rally against cross border shelling in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive anti-Pakistan rally at Rehari Chungi-Gurudwara Chowk, BC Road in Jammu. The rally was organized in response to the recent Pakistani missile and drone attacks across various regions including Jammu city, the Line of Control (LoC), Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Kashmir, Uri, Baramulla, and Tangdhar. People from all religious communities—Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims—as well as traders and transporters participated in large numbers, showing unity and resilience. Addressing the gathering, Dimple demanded that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah immediately set up an "Operation Sindoor Relief Fund" to provide financial assistance to the victims of the ongoing border conflict. He urged all 90 sitting and former MLAs, MPs, and ministers of Jammu and Kashmir to donate six months



of their salaries to this fund and continue donating until the war concludes. Dimple emphasized the need to reduce government expenditure, calling on ministers and MLAs to cut down on unnecessary vehicle convoys and fuel consumption to conserve resources for relief efforts. He highlighted the dire conditions of the border migrants who have lost their homes and loved ones and are now living in

temporary shelters. He assured that all displaced people will receive shelter, food, and medical assistance in Jammu, and circulated a contact number—8825086618—for anyone needing help. Dimple praised the Indian armed forces for their successful interception of Pakistani missiles and drones, which prevented major destruction in Jammu and other border areas. He lauded the defense system

for its effective response and dedication to national security. Appealing to the public, Dimple urged citizens of all religions to remain united, avoid spreading rumors, and help one another during this crisis. He requested traders and transporters to provide services on a no-profit basis and called on the medical community—including doctors and pharmacists—to exempt checkup fees and offer medicines at no profit. He further appealed to all government employees and bureaucrats to donate at least one month's salary to the Jammu and Kashmir War Relief Fund to support ongoing efforts. Finally, he asked LoC residents to relocate to safer areas in Jammu, where all essential services would be provided. Other senior leaders present at the rally included Narender Chowdhury, Sanjay Kumar, Sanjeev, Baba Gupta, Parveen Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Happy Kumar, Sunny Kumar, Rocky Kapoor, Ricky Singh, and several others.

Sahib Bandagi Ashram provides shelter, comfort to border displaced; CM Omar Abdullah assures govt support



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: In the wake of the ongoing Indo-Pak border conflict, the Sahib Bandagi Ashram in Mishriwala has once again emerged as a pillar of humanitarian support, providing full shelter, food, and essential facilities to families displaced from border areas. As the conflict continues to affect life along the Line of Control, the ashram has opened its doors to those who were forced to abandon their homes due to the shelling and drone attacks. True to its tradition of service, the Sahib Bandagi Panth has a long history of stepping up during crises. From the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to the prolonged Amarnath movement, the sect has consistently provided relief through free community kitchens (Bhandaras) and safe accommodation in its ashrams. Sahib, the spiritual leader of the sect, reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to serve humanity. "Even if we have to feed thousands for a year during a disaster, we will not step back.

We serve from the heart," he said. Today, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the displaced families currently residing at the ashram. He met with the affected individuals and assured them that the government is actively working to restore all facilities they have lost due to the conflict. The Chief Minister expressed appreciation for the services being provided by the Sahib Bandagi Ashram and pledged full government support to the displaced families. "Although these families are being looked after with great care by the Sahib Bandagi Ashram, the government will also ensure that they receive all the necessary help and support during this difficult time. We are with them," said the Chief Minister during his visit. The Ashram's timely intervention has brought hope and stability to many who were rendered homeless in the ongoing crisis, once again reinforcing the Sahib Bandagi Panth's role as a cornerstone of community service and spiritual compassion in Jammu and Kashmir.

India-Pak conflict: SUF expresses full support for Central Govt, armed forces Warns Pakistan against targeting civilian areas, religious sites



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: Sudershan Singh Wazir, Chairman of the Sikh United Front (SUF) J&K, expressed the Sikh community's resolute support for the Government of India and its armed forces amid rising tensions with Pakistan. While addressing the media, Wazir stated that Sikhs across India and abroad stand firmly with the Government of India in its fight against terrorism. He commended the valour and determination of the Indian Armed Forces, specifically in their retaliatory actions against Pakistan for its continued sponsorship of terrorism in Kashmir and other regions. Referring to the recent terrorist attack in Pahal-gam, Wazir said it was a tipping point that necessitated a strong and decisive response from India. Wazir strongly condemned the attacks on religious places, including the assault on Dera Nangali Sahib in Poonch and other religious structures such as

mosques and temples in Nowshera and parts of Punjab. He warned Pakistan against targeting civilian areas and religious sites, particularly Sikh Gurdwaras, stating that the Sikh community has a history of avenging the desecration of their holy places and will not tolerate such provocations. He urged Pakistan to adhere to the ethical conduct of warfare and refrain from harming civilians and places of worship. The Sikh leader extended congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government, all State Governments, and political parties across the ideological spectrum for standing united in this critical time. He appreciated the efforts being taken to safeguard the dignity, honour, and lives of Indian citizens. Calling for national unity, Wazir appealed to people of all castes, creeds, and religions to stay united and uphold the secular values of India, offering unwaver-

ing support to the armed forces and the government during this time of national crisis. Furthermore, Wazir appealed to Prime Minister Modi to take concrete steps towards liberating Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), which continues to remain under illegal Pakistani control. He noted that such a move would fulfill the unanimous resolution passed by the Indian Parliament and bring joy to the displaced persons from POK and the entire country. The press conference was also attended by senior Sikh leaders and representatives from various organizations, including Darbinder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Rajinder Singh, Kuldeep Kour, Kulwant Singh Khajuria, Charan Singh Bali, Harpreet Singh Chhotu, Dheeraj Singh, Surjeet Singh Kukoo, Manmohan Singh, Jagmohan Singh, Surinder Singh Dutt, Kulwant Singh, Kultar Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Tejpal Singh, and Charanveer Singh (Laad).

JKHCBAJ holds Blood Donation Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu (JKHCBAJ) successfully organized a blood donation camp on Friday at the District Court Complex, Jammu. This noble initiative was undertaken in response to the urgent need for blood donations amid the ongoing Indo-Pak war situation. The camp witnessed overwhelming participation from members of the legal fraternity, including Judges of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Judges of District Judiciary, and members of the Bar. Their selfless contribution of blood exemplifies the spirit of solidarity

and humanitarian commitment during these challenging times. The Blood Donation Camp was started with heartfelt participation from esteemed dignitaries including Judges, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Jusitce Yousuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem, who generously donated blood to support this noble cause. Principal District and Sessions Judge YP Bournay, along with 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Ranbir Singh Jasrotia, also honoured the event with their presence and contributed by

donating blood. The event witnessed enthusiastic involvement from the office bearers of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ), including Pardeep Majotra (General Secretary), Anshu Mahajan (Joint Secretary), Rahul Aggarwal (Treasurer), Designated Senior Advocates Sunil Sethi and Pranav Kohli, as well as numerous senior advocates, female advocates, and young lawyers, all of whom selflessly participated and donated blood. This remarkable show of solidarity and compassion exemplifies the spirit of service and humanity that binds the legal fraternity and com-



munity together. Their collective effort not only aids those in urgent need but also inspires others to contribute to the welfare of society. Such acts of generosity and civic responsibility deserve our highest appreciation and respect, reflecting the true essence of leadership and empathy. Jammu Bar extended gratitude to all the donors and organiz-

ers for their unwavering commitment to this life-saving initiative. The Association reaffirms its dedication to social responsibility and encourages continued community participation in such life-saving initiatives. JKHCBAJ appreciate the valour of our security forces and firmly stand with them, and hopes the peace prevails in the entire region.

Issuance of Pahari ST Certificate to Non-Pahari Speaking areas residents HC stays rejection order of ADC Jammu, asks for expeditious review

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 9: In a significant development, J & K High Court bench of Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani has stayed the order of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, wherein the ADC Jammu, vide his office order dated 19/10/2024, had rejected the appeal of the petitioner Garvit Raina, a student of 27 years and upheld the order of the Tehsildar RS Pura, Jammu, who had already rejected the application of the petitioner for the issuance of a Scheduled Tribe Certificate claiming to be

a member of the Pahari Speaking Clan. Aggrieved over the rejection of his application dated 08/08/2024 for issuance of ST certificate by the Tehsildar RS Pura, Jammu, the applicant, seeking indulgence of the office of DC Jammu, submitted a first appeal before the first Appellate Authority, i.e. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, and requested for issuance of an ST Certificate. The petitioner had claimed to be a member of the Pahari Ethnic Clan and originally hailing from Tehsil Plandari, Poonch (POJK). The petitioner in his

appeal had also submitted that his mother tongue would be Pahari. However, the office of the ADC Jammu rejected the appeal of the petitioner. On behalf of Garvit Raina, the petitioner, Advocate Chetan Prabhakar and Karan Prasher filed a writ petition before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and prayed for quashing the order of the ADC Jammu and for issuing directions to other respondents to issue an ST Certificate to the petitioner. In the petition before the court, the petitioner had stated that the

intent of the legislature regarding the reservation for Pahari Ethnic Clan is not area-specific but linguistic and ethnic-specific. The Single Bench Court of Justice Mohd Yusuf Wani after hearing the submissions of Advocate Chetan Prabhakar, stayed the order of the ADC Jammu and directed the ADC Jammu for an expeditious review of his order dated 19/10/2024. This order of the High Court dated 05/05/2025 may have broader implication for individuals belonging to the Pahari community residing outside traditionally recognized areas.