

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**LG Sinha reviews security situation in Border areas**



SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reviewed the security situation in the border districts that have been badly hit by the cross-border shelling of Pakistani troops. Fine dining reservations

"Reviewed security situation in the border districts. Anguished by loss of lives due to unprovoked shelling by Pakistan," the LG said in a post from his X handle. Sinha also expressed grief over the death of a senior administration officer in Pakistani shelling in Rajouri district. "We have lost brave citizens including our ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa in the line of duty. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he said.

**8 BSF troops injured in Pak shelling**

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): Eight Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have been injured in Pakistan shelling along the international border (IB) in Jammu on Saturday, officials said.

The incident took place in the R S Pura sector, they said.

The troops have been rushed to a nearby military medical facility, the officials said.

The BSF is tasked to guard the over 2,000 kms long India-Pakistan IB.

**Terrorist launchpad in Pak opposite Akhnoor destroyed: BSF**

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): The Border Security Force on Saturday said it has "completely destroyed" a terrorist launchpad opposite Akhnoor in Jammu in response to unprovoked firing from the other side along the International Border.

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## Govt official among five killed in Pakistani shelling in Jammu region

JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): A senior government official was among five persons killed while several others were injured in heavy Pakistani shelling in Rajouri, Poonch and Jammu districts early Saturday, officials said. Fine dining reservations

They were rushed to the Government Medical College where Thappa succumbed to his injuries, they said.

Condoling Thappa's death, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in



a post on X, "Devastating news from Rajouri. We have lost a dedicated officer of the J-K Administration Services. Just yesterday he was accompanying the Deputy CM around the district and attended the online meeting I chaired. "Today the residence of the officer was hit by Pak shelling as they targeted Rajouri town kill-

ing our Additional District Development Commissioner Sh Raj Kumar Thappa. I've no words to express my shock & sadness at this terrible loss of life. May his soul rest in peace."

Devastating news from Rajouri. We have lost a dedicated officer of the J&K Administration Services. Just yesterday he was accompanying the

Deputy CM around the district & attended the online meeting I chaired. Today the residence of the officer was hit by Pak shelling as they...

— Omar Abdullah (@OmarAbdullah) May 10, 2025

Two more persons — two-year-old Aisha Noor and Mohd Shohib (35) — were killed and three others were injured in Pakistani shelling near an industrial area in Rajouri town, the officials said.

According to the officials, a 55-year-old woman named Rashida Bi lost her life when a mortar shell hit her house at Kanghra-Galhutta village in Mendhar sector of Poonch district. Ashok Kumar alias Shoki, a resident of

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## India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire, says Donald Trump

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Saturday said India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire", amid both countries launching strikes and counter-strikes against each other.

"After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence," he said in a post on Truth Social.

Both countries agreed to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral

location. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on X saying, "Over the past 48 hours, Vice President JD Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Pakistan Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisers Ajit Doval and Asim Malik.

"I am pleased to announce that the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site," Rubio said.

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## Missile-like object lands in Dal Lake as loud explosions rock Srinagar

SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): A missile-like object landed deep inside the Dal Lake — a major tourist attraction in Srinagar — after loud explosions rocked the city on Saturday morning, officials said.

Smoke bellowed from the surface of the lake when the object landed, the officials said.

The debris of the object, which has been fished out by the security forces, is being analysed, they added.

Another suspected object was recovered from Lasjan on the outskirts of the city on Saturday morning, which is being examined, the officials said.

## Pak's claim of destroying India's S-400 Missile systems false: Indian Military

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Pakistan's claim that its hypersonic

■ Turn to page 9

## China 'Strongly' urges India, Pakistan to exercise calm, restraint

BEIJING, May 10 (Agencies): China on Saturday "strongly" urged India and Pakistan to exercise calm and restraint and return to the track of peaceful settlement.

China is closely following the ongoing situation between India and Pakistan and is deeply concerned about the escalation, a statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry here.

"We strongly urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability,

exercise calm and restraint, return to the track of political settlement through peaceful means, and refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions," the statement issued by the spokesperson of the ministry said.

"This will be important for the fundamental interest of both India and Pakistan, and for a stable and peaceful region. This is also what the international community hopes to see. China is willing to continue to play a constructive,

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## Indian Military destroys Pakistani drones in Amritsar

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Indian military on Saturday destroyed Pakistani drones flying over Khasa Cantonment in Amritsar and warned Islamabad against violating India's

sovereignty. "Pakistan's blatant escalation with drone strikes and other munitions continues along our western borders," the Indian Army said in a statement.

"In one such incident, today at approximately 5 AM, Multiple enemy armed drones were spotted flying over Khasa Cantt, Amritsar. The hostile drones were

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## CM Omar Abdullah visits residential areas hit by large explosions in Jammu



JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday visited two residential localities hit

by explosions triggered by suspected Pakistani drones or shells, causing damages to a house and several parked vehicles, officials said. Fine

dining reservations Abdullah visited the explosion sites in Rehari and Roop Nagar and interacted with the affected families, they said.

Four persons — Neeraj Gupta, his daughter Hitakshi Gupta, Vineet and Rajinder Kumar — were injured in Rehari, the officials said.

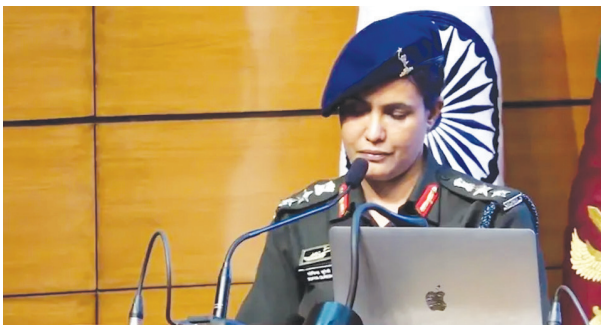
"Visited Rehari and Roopnagar in Jammu today to see the damage caused by the recent shelling. The pain and disruption faced by the residents is deeply

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## Pak moving troops in forward areas, launched missile in Punjab and attacked health facilities in J&K: Govt

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Pakistan's military is moving its troops in forward areas, India said on Saturday as the two countries continued to attack each other's military facilities, dangerously escalating the ongoing conflict.

"The Pakistan military is observed to be moving their troops to border areas," Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said at a press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyo-



mika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Pakistan, she said, had launched a high-speed missile in Punjab and attacked medical facili-

ties in Srinagar, Avantipura and Udhampur.

"A befitting reply has been given to Pakistani actions," Qureshi said.

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# GupShup

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**MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE**

With profound grief & sorrow, we intimate the sad & untimely demise of our beloved daughter **Anglee Raina** W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar on May 09, 2025. **Mourning from Malun side** will be held at H.No-10/C Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Kishni Raina (Mother)

Sh. Moti Lal Raina (Uncle)

Smt. Veena Raina (Jija - Bhabhi)

**Brother's & Sister-in-Law**

Sh. Opinder Raina & Smt. Babli Raina

Sh. Sanjoo Raina & Smt. Renu Raina

**Sisters & Brother-in-Law**

Smt. Veena Bhat

Smt. Neelam Raina & Sh. Sanjay Raina

Smt. Sheetal Pandita & Sh. Rakesh Pandita

**Niece/Nephews**

Rahul, Akshay, Sahil, Shilpa, Sarthak, Sahil, Shivam, Aryan,

Aditya and Niyati

Contact details : 9419206149, 9419280054



Anglee Raina

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Sudershan Kumari (Retd. Principal)** w/o Sh. Suraj Parkash Sharma R/o Bhure Chak (Phallian Mandal) at present H.No. 352 Patoli Mangotrian, Jammu who expired on 2/5/2025.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on 11/5/2025 (Sunday) at 11.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Suraj Parkash Sharma (Husband)

Son & Daughter-in-law

Dr. Shrikant Sharma & Rama Sharma (Edu Deptt)

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sukirti Sharma & Sh. Kanav Raina (Advocate)

Sh. Chander Parkash & Satya Devi (Jeth & Jethani)

Nephew & Daughter-in-law

Dr. Bhagwati Sharma & Dr. Bhawani Sharma

Shruti Sharma & Ravikant (Agr. Deptt) - Niece and Son-in-law

Mobile No.: 7006486941, 9419136662, 9419136527



Smt. Sudershan Kumari  
(Retd. Principal)

**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 Gund 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) & Rashi 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

**CONDOLANCE**

With profound grief, we extend our deepest condolence on the passing of our elder and beloved sister, who was more like our mother **Behna (Sharda Khar)**, we will miss her presence always. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

From sisters and brother in laws

Ratna Tikoo W/o Pran Nath Tikoo

Shashi Bhat W/o Rattan Lal Bhat

Anjana Mukhi W/o Ashwani Mukhi



Behna (Sharda Khar),

**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 (Bairag) 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 Mukhi (Jammu). Masvar and Vaharvar shall be performed on 10.05.2025 and 11.05.2025 at our residence, Mukhi, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Smt. Roopesh Bhat (Aunt)

Smt. Sarla Bhat (Wife)

Brother and Brother-in-law

Sh. Bansil Lal Bhat and Smt. Prana Bhat

Sister's and Brother-in-Law's

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

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

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

Smt. Kusum Raina and Sh. Ramesh Raina

Daughter's and Son-in-Law's

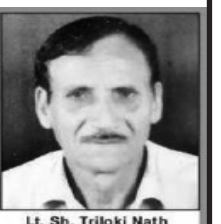
Lt. Smt. Jyoti Pandita and Sh. Bhanshi Pandita

Mrs. Purnima Bhat and Mr. Sanjay Bhat

Son's and Daughter-in-law's

Mr. Ashwani Bhat and Mrs. Vandana Bhat

Mr. Anand Bhat and Mrs. Sandhya Bhat



Lt. Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat (Bairag)

Grandchildren's :  
Ashita, Ayush & Trivani  
Ph. No's - 999347425,  
987190361, 980700412

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Triloki Nath Raina** S/o Late Sh. Sudershan Raina originally from Razdan Mohalla Handwara Kashmir A/p 34-B Om Nagar Udhewala Jammu on 02-05-2025.

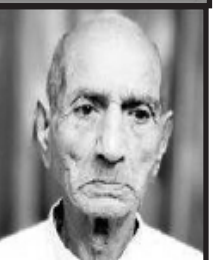
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 11-05-2025 (Sunday) at Mukhi Ghat at 8 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Raina's, Koul's, Pandita's, Tickoo's, Kachroo's, and Dhar's

Bushan Lal Raina (Son)

MOBILE NO: 9103253103, 9086395626



Sh. Triloki Nath Raina

**MOURNING**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Kaw** S/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Ji Kaw originally of Naddigan Shopian A/P House No.57, Lane No.5 Sector-2, Laxmi Nagar, Mukhi Jammu on Monday 5th May 2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Rajdulari Kaw (Wife)

Sh. Atan Ji Kaw & Smt. Lalita (Brother & Bhabhi)

(Sons & Daughters-in-law)

Sh. Sanjay Kaw & Smt. Sheelu

Sh. Sandeep Kaw & Smt. Neelam Kaw

Mr. Vishal Kaw (Son)

Smt. Shama Ji W/o Lt. Sh. B.L. Bhat (Sister)

Smt. Phooli Ji W/o Lt. Sh. A.K. Bhat (Sister)

(Brother-in-Law & Sister)

Sh. Surinder Krishan Bhat & Smt. Susheela Bhat

Sh. Veer Ji Hakhu & Smt. Lovely (Son-in-Law & Daughter)

Sh. Surinder Ji Maltoo & Smt. Pummy (Son-in-Law & Daughter)

Sh. Vinod Ji Koul & Smt. Lucky (Son-in-Law & Daughter)

Sh. Anubhav Ji Bhat & Rashi (Son-in-Law & Daughter)

Grand Children: Payal, Manu, Naina, Pihu, Arnav, Ayaan & Aryan

(M) 7006948725, 9419147093, 9419859193



SH ROSHAN LAL KAW

**SHRADHANJALI**

Your presence will always remain with us as blessing. Your simplicity, Wisdom & Courage will always remain a source of inspiration for all of us. May your pious soul rest in peace in Vaikuntha Dham.

MISS YOU NAANI MAA.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Grand Sons & Grand Daughter-in-Laws.

Vishal Malla & Ritika Malla

Vikas Malla & Himanshi Malla



SMT PITY DEVI

**OBITUARY**

WITH IMMENSE GRIEF AND SORROW, WE HEARTILY INFORM ABOUT THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. GIRDHARI LAL THUSSU** S/O LATE SH. TARACHAND THUSSU ORIGINALLY FROM HABBAKADAL, AGA HAMAM, SRINAGAR (KASHMIR) PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 922, SWARN VIHAR POLICE COLONY, JAMMU ON 8TH OF MAY-2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT. GIRJATHUSSU - WIFE

SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

MR. & MRS. SANJAY THUSSU AND ANJU THUSSU

MR. & MRS. SAJAN THUSSU AND SHIVANI THUSSU

MISS. ANUPAMA THUSSU - DAUGHTER

GRAND CHILDREN : SWARNIM, SHERYL, SATVIK

CONTACT- 7889799814



SH. GIRDHARI LAL THUSSU

**MASVAR**

One month has passed since you left us. Your memories are still fresh, and we feel your presence everywhere, every time, and every day. We love you and miss you deeply. May your atma attain moksha.

Masvar of our beloved mother, the **Lt. Smt. Jai Kishori Kandroo**, w/o Lt. Sh. J.N. Kandroo, originally from Nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag, Kashmir, and presently residing at H. No. 418, Lane-4, Laxmi Vihar, Tomal, Bohri, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY

Kandroo's/Bhat's

Mob - 9858505452, 9419139327, 9419205083



Lt. Smt. Jai Kishori Kandroo

**MOURNING**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Anglee Raina** W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar (Lar, Genderbali) A/P H.No. 11/C Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana on May 09, 2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar (Husband)

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-law

Sh. Surinder Dhar

Smt. Daisy Aga

Smt. Sweety Raina & Sh. Autar Krishan Raina

Sh. Kuldeep Dhar & Smt. Pummy Dhar

Sh. Rakesh Dhar & Smt. Sunita Dhar

Smt. Ruby Gassi & Sh. Sanjay Gassi

Daughters and Son-in-law

Smt. Ansoya Dhar & Sh. Amit Bhat

Ms. Akshita Dhar

Smt. Priya Dhar & Sh. Vivek Labroo

Smt. Deepshikha Aga & Sh. Shubham Bhat

Grand Children : Kiaan, Manavi & Sawan.

Nieces/Nephew: Annpurna, Danish, Ankush, Ankit.

Contact Details: 9419802087, 7006273402, 9419685140



Anglee Raina

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT ANITA SADOTRA** W/O SHIVANDER KUMAR R/O HAKKAL JAMMU ON 30-04-2025.

TENTH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON FRIDAY 9-05-2025 AT 10 AM.

UTHALA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT SHREE GIRIRAJ MARRIAGE HALL OPP. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY HAKKAL JAMMU ON MONDAY 12-05-2025 FROM 4 PM TO 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SHIVANDER KUMAR -HUSBAND

ANIRUDH DOGRA -SON

NIDHI -DAUGHTER

PH. 9858142347



SMT ANITA SADOTRA

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# Avoid rumours and stay calm: J&K Govt to people amid Indo-Pak Military conflict

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: A man stands inside a house damaged after cross border shelling by Pakistan, during the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, at Behra village of Mendhar sector, in Poonch district, Jammu, May 10: Amid an ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, the Jammu and Kashmir government advised people on Saturday to avoid engaging with or spreading rumours,

asserting that the cooperation of the public in maintaining peace and discipline during these times is crucial. The government appreciates all its citizens for their continued resilience and trust in the face of recent developments, it said. "Misinformation and unverified claims circulating on social media can cause unnecessary panic. The residents are strongly advised to avoid engaging with or spreading rumours. Trust only credible news channels and govern-

ment communications for accurate information," the government said in a statement here. The statement said the government is fully prepared to deal with any kind of exigency and is continuously monitoring the situation. "All the necessary measures are being taken and the government is fully prepared and equipped to handle any situation and there is no cause for alarm. The general public is requested to stay calm and not panic. Please

follow SOPs issued by NDMA and government in this regard," the statement said, referring to the prevailing situation after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure across the border on May 7. It said the health department has activated its emergency protocols and is fully prepared to handle any medical exigencies. "The cooperation of the public in maintaining peace and discipline during these times is crucial. Public in gen-

eral and mediapersons in particular are requested to be responsible in sharing information and follow the guidelines issued by government in this regard," it said, adding that further updates will be shared through official government channels only. The statement reaffirmed the government's commitment to the safety and security of every citizen. "Stay vigilant, stay informed, and let's work together to uphold security and stability of our great nation," it said.

# Senior BJP leaders visit shelling-affected areas in Jammu, hospital to ensure well-being of victims

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: In response to the recent unprovoked shelling and drone attacks by Pakistan in Jammu, a delegation of senior BJP leaders visited the affected locations in Rehari and Shivalik Puram (Janipur) areas of Jammu, and the injured at Government Medical College Hospital, Bakshi Nagar.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President & MLA, Arvind Gupta, MLA, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, District President, Kushant Prajapati, Sahil Mahajan, Keshav Chopra, Sunita Gupta, Ravikant, Ravish Mengi, and others were also present on the occasion. During the visit to the shelling-affected localities, the BJP leaders interacted with the residents whose homes and properties suffered damage due to the attacks. They assured the local population of full support from the party and government authorities. The delegation took detailed stock of the damages and emphasized the need for prompt relief and rehabilitation. At the Government College Hospital, Bakshi



Nagar, the leaders met with injured civilians and inquired about their condition. They appreciated the efforts of the medical staff and urged hospital authorities to remain fully prepared to handle any medical emergencies efficiently and with utmost professionalism. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma expressed deep anguish over the combative situation caused by Pakistan's continuous aggression on borders and targeted attacks on civilian areas. He stated, "Instead of curbing terrorist activities, Pakistan has resorted to irrational and irresponsible conduct. The BJP stands firmly with the people in this hour of crisis. We are working in coordination with the administration to ensure essential supplies like dry ration, milk, and

medicines reach those in need. Blood donation camps and other relief measures have already been initiated." Sunil Sharma reiterated the BJP's commitment to the people and assured that the party is actively following up with the administration to expedite relief operations. He appealed to the citizens to stay united and follow government directives word for word to maintain safety and order during this challenging time. Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant while avoiding panic. "People must adopt all protective measures and cooperate fully with security and administrative authorities," he said. "Being prepared is important, but creating chaos helps no one."

# BJP leadership visits refugee camp at Bishnah



## Top News Report

BISHNAH, May 10: 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 CA, 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 Sharma 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 Sharma, said that the BJP has taken seri-

ous 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 administra-

# Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth participates in Victory Day celebrations during his visit to Moscow, Russia

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth participated in Victory Day celebrations during his visit to Russia from May 08 to 09, 2025. The celebrations were organised on May 09, 2025, in Moscow to commemorate 80th anniversary of the victory of Soviet People in the Second World War (1941-45). Shri Sanjay Seth laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witnessed the Victory Day Parade, along with the distinguished delegates from other countries. The participation of Raksha Rajya Mantri in the Victory Day Parade is the symbol of longstanding special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia. During the visit, Raksha Rajya Mantri called on Russian Presi-



dent Mr Vladimir Putin and extended congratulations for the 80th Victory Day. Raksha Rajya Mantri also held a bilateral meeting with the Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin and thanked the Government & people of

Russia for their support in India's fight against the menace of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. The two Ministers also discussed multifaceted military & military - technical cooperation and agreed to further deepen ties within the framework of existent

institutional mechanisms. The two sides will continue to hold regular consultations and enhance cooperation in the evolving situation. Shri Sanjay Seth also interacted with the prominent members of the Indian Community at the Embassy of India, Moscow.

## OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, JAMMU

### SHORT TERM QUOTATION

As the below mentioned items are not available on Govt-e-Market Place (GeM) Portal and also urgently required for use in various Operation Theaters of Govt. Medical College Hospital, Jammu as the same items are not available in Stores of this Hospital. The sealed quotations are invited from the firms dealing in the line for supply of the following items. The quotations should reach the office of the undersigned within **Seven Days Positively** during working hours from the date of publication in the newspaper:-

| Sr. No. | Name of the item/Particular                            | Sr. No. | Name of the item/Particular                                   |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| 1.      | Sponge Holders   | 31.     | Ligasure 36 cm  |
| 2.      | B.P. Handles 4 & 3 No.                                 | 32.     | Ligasure Open Ace   |
| 3.      | Dissecting Scissor Curved (8")                         | 33.     | Plastic Tray for Sterilization of Instruments (Various Sizes) |
| 4.      | Suture Cutting Scissor                                 | 34.     | B.P. Cuff (Small/Medium/Adult)                                |
| 5.      | Bisecting Scissors Curved (6")                         | 35.     | Saturation Probe  |
| 6.      | Artery Forceps Curved (5")                             | 36.     | B.P. Bladder B.P. Bulb  |
| 7.      | Artery Forceps Curved (6")                             | 37.     | Biosteri-Med-40 E.D. Gas Cartridge Net Weight 40 GM           |
| 8.      | Artery Forceps Straight (6")                           | 38.     | Bone Holding Clamps (Small, Medium and Large)                 |
| 9.      | Needle Holder 6" & 8"                                  | 39.     | Plate Holding Clamps (Small, Medium and Large)                |
| 10.     | Tooth Forceps (Medium/Big)                             | 40.     | Reduction Clamps  |
| 11.     | Lange Beck Small/ Medium                               | 41.     | Drill Bits (2.7, 3.2 and 4 mm)                                |
| 12.     | Cat's Paw Retractor                                    | 42.     | Ventilator Circuit  |
| 13.     | Towel Clips forceps 6"                                 | 43.     | Nebulizer Mask  |
| 14.     | Kidney Trays (Small, Medium and Big)                   | 44.     | HME Filter  |
| 15.     | Chilchmi (Small, Medium and Big Size)                  | 45.     | ECG Leads/Cable   |
| 16.     | Peri-Orterm  | 46.     | ECG Lead for Monitor  |
| 17.     | Curette  | 47.     | Hose Pipe (NIBP)  |
| 18.     | Bone Spikes Small, Medium & Large                      | 48.     | Jamshedi Needle (Bone Marrow)                                 |
| 19.     | Pliers   | 49.     | Trephine Needle (Bone Marrow)                                 |
| 20.     | Bone Nibber  | 50.     | Illinois Needle (Bone Marrow)                                 |
| 21.     | Skin Grafting Handle                                   | 51.     | Holter Cable/Lead (DMS)                                       |
| 22.     | Hammer Small & Big                                     | 52.     | ECG Battery   |
| 23.     | Gigli Saw Hooks  | 53.     | SPO2 Sensor   |
| 24.     | Instrument Trays                                       | 54.     | Condenser/Capacitor   |
| 25.     | Bi-pap Mask Vented Size (Small, Medium, and Large)     | 55.     | DDS Secretion Canister (Plastic 51, autoclave)                |
| 26.     | Bi-pap Mask Non Vented Size (Small, Medium, and Large) | 56.     | DDS Canister Lid, Complete Set                                |
| 27.     | Ventilator Circuit (Nebulizer HME filter)              | 57.     | DDS Canister Lid with sealing, autoclavable.                  |
| 28.     | Silicone Gel Pad Nasal                                 | 58.     | DDS Secretion Canister Handle, grey, autoclavable             |
| 29.     | Harmonic Long Ace 36 cm                                | 59.     | DDS Hose Adapter Set  |
| 30.     | Harmonic Open Ace                                      | 60.     | L-Type Connector  |

### Terms & Conditions:-

- The quotation must be **typed** only.
- The successful quotationer shall have to execute the supplies immediately or within 15 days, from the date of issue of formal order with them.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof, without any reason thereof. Any dispute, if arises, shall be subject to the Jammu jurisdiction.
- If the supplier failed to supply at the quoted rates, then the undersigned reserves the right for debarring/blacklisting of firm for a period not less than 2 years.

No: GMCH/PS/2025-26/  
Dated:- /05/2025.

DIP/J-985/25

Medical Superintendent  
Govt. Medical College Hospital  
Jammu



EDITORIAL

NATIONAL RESOLVE  
AGAINST TERRORISM

Terrorism has long posed a grave threat to India’s internal security, peace, and development. From the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attacks to cross-border skirmishes and insurgencies in different states, India has been compelled to adopt a multi-dimensional strategy to combat terrorism. Amid these challenges, political unity against terrorism has emerged as a crucial pillar in maintaining national integrity and public confidence. Despite ideological differences, Indian political parties have time and again shown solidarity when it comes to protecting the sovereignty and safety of the nation.

One of the most visible displays of political unity occurred after the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Cutting across party lines, leaders from the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unequivocally condemned the attacks and supported immediate countermeasures. Parliament sessions were marked by constructive dialogue, and there was consensus on enhancing counter-terror mechanisms, including the strengthening of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Similar unity was seen following the Pulwama attack in 2019, where 40 CRPF personnel were martyred in one of the deadliest terrorist strikes in Kashmir. All major parties, including the BJP, Congress, AAP, TMC, and regional parties like DMK and BJD, condemned the attack in one voice. They supported the government’s response, including the Balakot air strikes, showcasing that national security transcends partisan politics.

In recent years, political parties have shown maturity in passing counter-terrorism laws with minimal opposition. The 2019 amendment to the UAPA Act, which enabled individuals to be designated as terrorists, received support from multiple opposition parties. While some raised concerns about civil liberties, most agreed on the urgency of combating terror networks more effectively.

Moreover, several states governed by non-BJP parties have cooperated with the central government in counter-terrorism efforts. Whether through intelligence sharing, support for NIA investigations, or deploying state resources during crises, coordination between state and central agencies—often under different political dispensations—has reinforced the collective will against terrorism.

Whenever Pakistan-sponsored terrorism escalates, Indian political parties unite in defense of the country’s interests. Be it in United Nations debates, bilateral talks, or diplomatic statements, the central government’s stance is usually backed by the opposition. This unity sends a strong signal internationally that India’s fight against terrorism is not limited to one government or ideology but is a national endeavor supported across the political spectrum.

Leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, and Sharad Pawar have publicly acknowledged the need to support security forces and maintain internal unity during times of external aggression. Their statements, despite political rivalry, have reassured the public and the armed forces alike.

While unity is generally observed during major incidents, there have been moments where political friction has surfaced. Accusations of politicizing terror attacks for electoral gain, differences over investigating agencies’ roles, and criticism of government handling have sometimes caused divisions. However, most of these disagreements stem from governance concerns rather than a divergence on the core goal of eliminating terrorism.

Furthermore, political parties often differ in their approach to counter-terrorism—some favor stronger surveillance laws, others stress the importance of protecting civil liberties. Still, such debate is essential in a democracy and contributes to balanced policymaking.

Political unity is also encouraged by public sentiment. Citizens expect their leaders to rise above partisan politics during national crises. Media platforms often amplify this call, pressuring political parties to adopt a unified tone. Civil society groups, veterans, and academic circles also promote bipartisan consensus on national security matters.

India’s fight against terrorism is ongoing and multifaceted. While intelligence, military strength, and international diplomacy are vital, political unity remains a foundational strength. The consistent resolve shown by Indian political parties to stand together during terror attacks, support national security measures, and back security forces demonstrates a mature democratic consensus.

As threats evolve—be it cross-border terrorism, cyber warfare, or homegrown extremism—the need for continued political unity becomes even more critical. In the face of any terror, India’s political parties must continue to rise above ideology and electoral rivalry to defend the nation with one voice. The message is clear: when it comes to terrorism, India stands united.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Pakistan does not mend its ways and is continuing provocation and is escalating tension and has on the last night of 8thMay carried missile strikes on India’s military and civilian population. But our valiant defense forces have repulsed these strikes and has made these installations and civilian population safe and thus thwarted its mischievous attempts to inflict maximum damage in terms of the loss of innocent civilian lives. India carried and continued its operation Sandoor and repulsed Pakistani missiles and drones by robust defense system and used S400 defense system to foil all attempts to damage our military mainly air force stations at Satwari Jammu, Jammu university areas of Samba ,R S Pura ,Poonch which came under heavy shelling as well our borders. The first provocation was made by Pakistan on 22rd April when its terrorists carried Pahalgam massacre and India has only responded to that provocation and that too with utmost restraint and only hit terrorist hideouts in POK and Pakistan and has no hit any civilian and military installations of Pakistan. As a retaliation to our calibrated, restrained and precise strike at the fountain heads of terrorism ,Pakistan escalated and retaliated further and resorted to unprovoked missile attacks on our military installations and have dared to strike missiles and drones on civilian population unlike India which has hit only terrorist hideouts in POJK and Pakistan. Intentions of Pakistan are not good which is clearly evident from her missile and drone attacks on India’s military and civilian areas but thank God all those attempts and their drones and missiles were intercepted by our S400 which is our Sudershan Chaker .Last night ,Pakistan’s military fired missiles

Napak Pakistan Ke Karistani & Dusahss

and drones ,targeting border areas in Jammu ,Jammu city ,Punjab ,Chandigarh and Rajasthan .This incident followed India’s strike under Operation Sandoor on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir-POJK the previous day in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Pakistan opened artillery fire in Jammu, Punjab’s Pathankot ,and Rajasthan’s Jaisalmer. Pakistan fired missiles and drones targeting border areas and several cities .All drones and missiles fired by the enemy were neutralized by Indian air defense system. In Pakistan’s shelling ,a women was killed and another was injured in J&K’s Uri. In all in Poonch sector Pakistan shelled civilian areas and at our 16 civilians were killed and these included a Granthi ,a Moulvi and there were attacks on a Gurdwara ,a mosque,&a Madrassa .India also responded and its action was in response to Pakistan’s attempt to engage military targets in northern and western India .Indian Armed Forces launched ‘OPERATION SIndoor’ last night hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and POJK from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed. Altogether nine terrorist sites have been hit and no civilian areas and military installations were hit by Indian forces in its Operation sindoor at the first instance. In all these attacks on terrorist infrastructure in POJK and Pakistan at least 100 terrorists and their associates got killed. Pakistan gave these killed terrorists a state funeral and it obviously shows that Pak government and military is supporting terror activities in India as both government and military is very soft towards terrorists. India hit several high –profile targets in Pakistan ,including Chinese –origin air defense system in Lahore and Multan ,destroying them with precision strikes on Thursday morning as tensions

between the neighbors peaked ,crossing the military –on-military threshold from military –on-terrorist action. Harop suicide drones were used to target Pakistani air defense systems in response to an escalation by Islamabad’ which tried to hit military targets the previous night at 14 places across India ,including Srinagar, Chandigarh and Bhuj. The debut of the Sudarshan S-400 air defense missile system of the Indian Air Force has created a lot of ripples by neutralizing a drone attack by Pakistan. Pakistan launched a wave of drone and missile attacks on the night of May 7-8 ,attempting to strike Indian military installations in 15 cities in northern and western India but managed to foil Pakistani attacks with the help of its Sudershan air defense system which has now proved its mettle in war .India has brought the S-400 Triumf ,a mobile surface –to-air missile system ,from Russia and named Sudarshan Chakra of Lord Krishna. So for as operation Sindoor is concerned ,India has called its response as focused ,measured and non-escalatory. About its Operation Sindoor of May 7,it was specifically mentioned that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. It was a restrained operation focused on terrorist infrastructure and terror hideouts were hit and no civilian areas were hit. It was reiterated that any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response. People of Jammu and Kashmir said major and multiple explosions struck the city of Jammu as sirens blared ,causing a complete blackout for several hours. Spiraling tensions between India and Pakistan included heavy cross –border shelling Thursday along the line of control LoC .At least 48 deaths have been reported ,32 of them in Pakistan ,since India launched missiles on Wednesday that targeted terrorist camps and

Pakistan retaliated with a barrage of artillery strikes. Pakistani troops resumed firing across the Line of Control ,including Kupwara, and Uri ,early Friday morning. This came after Indian repulsed the missile and drone attacks at several places including Jammu, Samba, Chandighar ,Pathankot, Jasimир .Firing resumed across the LOC hours after India thwarted a wave of missile and drone attacks from Pakistan targeting military stations and other cities. India retaliated effectively against the Pakistani hostilities. India foiled the second round of Pakistan’s airstrikes on military stations in Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur and several cities in Rajasthan ,Gujarat and Punjab .All missiles and drones were successfully intercepted and neutralized. Pakistan is a snake in the grass and it can bite any time and therefore enemy should not be taken leniently but should be taken seriously and she will strike again with full might and so India should retaliate with full force and defeat her nefarious designs of bleeding India. There is no room for complacency and India should continue its Operation Sindoor to teach Pakistan a lesson so that she will not dare to sponsor and back terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. People of the country have full faith in Indian army and they are in a better position to defeat Pakistan and will do it and will take offensive activities and till now India has been defensive.To escalate or not to escalate rests on Pakistan said by our foreign secretary Vikram Misri.

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

The media’s freedom to challenge artificial intelligence

By: Vijay Garg

It may not be possible to ensure a healthy democracy without independent media in any country or society, as the media is actually the watchdog of democracy. Why only of democracy, media is the protector of nation, human civilization and culture, even humanity. Not surprisingly, from time to time, media across India and the world have also proved it right with their participation and roles. This is why media is called the fourth pillar of democracy. Along with the passage of time, the media has expanded with the expected changes in their participation and roles based on their past experiences. The main basis for doing media tasks is to be ‘public parties’ and its prime purpose is to bring awakening in the public and for both of these reasons it has never been comfortable to execute its actions without stopping, opposing and disintegrating media persons i.e. journalists. Indeed, the act of bringing awakening in public partiality and public is extremely risky. That is why journalism is often considered an extremely risky task around the world. Unfortunately, due to the day risk buffet, it is becoming

increasingly difficult and risky to be able to act by being fair to journalists in democratic countries around the world. At times, journalists have to lose their lives while executing their actions. So far, many such instances have come out from around the world. More than 1,200 media professionals were murdered worldwide between 2006 and 2020, according to a UNESCO report. In 90 per cent of these cases their killers could not be punished. In spite of this, journalist staying up to the norms of journalism does not even hesitate to risk his life over performing his responsibility to uncover the truth. No one can suppress the voice of journalists who act in danger of their life and no person, institution or government can curb their fair and empowering campaigns, their freedom is very important and important for this. Obviously if they won’t be free they won’t be able to do their tasks well while being fair. In view of the same, ‘World Press Independence Day’ is celebrated on 3rd May each year with the aim of following the fundamental principles of freedom of press and ensuring the freedom of journalists. The day is also celebrated to commemorate and honour journalists who have paid their lives to

highlight the truth or who have made their name on the back of their journalism in the country and the world and achieved a milestone.

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behalf of UNESCO to celebrate ‘World Press Independence Day’. This global conference generally involves participation of journalists, media leaders, policymakers, academics, and NGOs. Let this conference be held in 2025 from May 5 to 7 in Brussels, with a focus on the transformative role of AI in journalism and its implications for media freedom. The World Press Independence Day theme for the year 2025 by UNESCO has been declared as ‘Reporting in the Brave New World - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media’. The theme aims to highlight the buffet effect of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern journalism. Significantly, the world press through this theme is likely to emphasize the urgent needs of protecting human rights within a rapidly AI-regulated digital environment on the occasion of Independence Day 2025.

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



# J&K mourns loss of people-friendly officer in Pak shelling in Rajouri

JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life in Pakistani shelling early Saturday, was known for his unwavering professional devotion and people-friendly approach, leaving many in the union territory mourning. Fine dining reservations

Thapa, 54, was widely respected for his unwavering professional devotion and approachable nature, a quality that deeply resonated with the people he served.

An MBBS graduate, he joined JKAS in 2001.

Thapa lost his life when a Pakistani artillery shell struck his residential quarters in the bordering district of Rajouri. He is survived by his wife, a doctor, and their two children.

The officer was posted as the Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, in March last year and played a key role in handling the situation at Badhaal village where 17 members of three families, including 13 children, died under mysterious circumstances after falling sick between December 7 and January 19.

Before his tenure in Rajouri, Thapa served as an officer on special duty (OSD) to former deputy chief minister Tara Chand from

2009 to 2014, besides holding significant roles, including mission director of the J-K Skill Development Mission and special secretary in the Labour and Employment Department.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the bereaved family at Roopnagar and was seen hugging his father, Durga Dass, to condole his son's death.

"Paid my heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS, ADDC Rajouri, who lost his life in the line of duty today due to shelling by Pakistan. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief," Abdullah said in a post on X.

Earlier, the chief minister broke the news about the death of the officer and said, "Devastating news from Rajouri. We have lost a dedicated officer of the J-K Administration Services. Just yesterday he was accompanying the Deputy CM (Surinder Choudhary) around the district and attended the online meeting I chaired." "Today the residence of the officer was hit by Pak shelling as they targeted Rajouri town, killing our Additional District Development Commissioner Sh Raj Kumar Thapa. I've no words to express my shock and sadness at this terrible loss of life. May his

soul rest in peace," Abdullah said in an emotional post.

Tributes also poured in from various leaders, including Tara Chand, who hailed Thapa as a "people's officer".

"He was a highly-dedicated and competent officer, whose behaviour with the general public was matchless. He was working like a social worker, always ready to help the needy," the former deputy chief minister told PTI before leaving for Thapa's house to express his condolences to the family.

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma praised Thapa's exemplary dedication during the Badhaal incident, declaring him "a true hero in service".

Other prominent figures, including Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, too, extended their condolences to Thapa's family. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, praised on Thapa's dedication and selfless service, saying, "His sacrifice will always be remembered with the highest regard and deepest respect." "An insightful mind, a gifted writer, and a remarkable administrator," Jehanzeb Allaqaband, social media user, said, terming the loss as "heartbreaking".

# “Pak exposing its desperation, disregard for humanity” BJP stands united with people of J&K amid escalating tensions: Suri

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), today lauded the extraordinary resilience and high morale of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the face of rising tensions along the border with Pakistan. The Indian Armed Forces, through decisive actions like Operation Sindoor, have consistently dismantled terror camps across the border, dealing a severe blow to Pakistan's nefarious designs. In stark contrast, Pakistan, in sheer frustration, has resorted to targeting civilian areas, exposing its desperation and disregard for humanity.

Despite these provocations, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have displayed unparalleled courage and unity. "The morale of our people is sky-high, and their spirit of national service is truly inspiring. Instead of fear, we see determination and patriotism on their faces. This is the need of the hour," said Raman Suri. He emphasized that the people are wholeheartedly supporting the administration and adhering to advisories issued from time to time, showcasing exemplary cooperation during these challenging times.

The BJP stands firmly with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, extending all possible support to those affected by the ongoing situation. Elected representatives, party workers, and leaders are actively reaching out to needy and affected families, providing assistance in every possible manner. "Our party is on the ground, working tirelessly to help our brothers and sisters in distress. From ensuring essential supplies to offering emotional support, the BJP

is committed to serving the people," Suri added. The response from the public has been nothing short of energizing. Following Operation

Sindoor, the people of Jammu have come forward in large numbers to aid those affected by Pakistan's shelling. Blood donation camps

for the Indian Army have seen overwhelming participation, and private hospitals are providing free treatment to those injured in the shelling.

# Adesh University expresses heartfelt gratitude for unwavering support during student evacuations

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 10: Adesh University has extended its profound gratitude to a group of exceptional individuals whose swift and selfless actions ensured the safe evacuation of over 100 students during a recent emergency situation.

In a public statement, the university acknowledged the crucial role of Mr. Tariq Hamid Kara for his efficient coordination efforts and praised Mr. Umar Jaan, District President of the Congress Party in Pulwama, for his vital role in managing the control room operations in Shopian. A heartfelt special mention was given to Mr. Rather Shabnum, whose tireless dedication was instrumental in ensuring that the students returned safely to their families.

"In moments of uncertainty, it is the commitment and compassion of individuals like these that restore faith and provide strength," the university noted. "From organizing transportation to handling logis-



tics with precision, their actions offered immense reassurance to parents and students alike."

Adesh University emphasized that the dedication displayed by these individuals serves as a powerful example of leadership rooted in humanity. Their efforts not only ensured physical safety but also brought emotional com-

fort to families during a time of high anxiety. "As we reflect on this challenging period, we are reminded of the profound impact that unity and proactive community support can have. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary commitment shown toward the well-being of our students," the statement concluded.

# JKHCBA Jammu team meets victims of Pakistan's attack, assure free legal aid & cooperation in medical support

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Office Bearers of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to inquire about the health and well being of victims injured in recent attacks by Pakistan. The delegation, comprising of President K. Nirmal Kotwal, Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Agarwal expressed solidarity with the victims and their families during this challenging time. During the visit, the members met with the injured patients, their families, medical



staff attending to them, and also the Principal of the GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta.

President Nirmal Kotwal, on behalf of all members of the Association, conveyed heart-

felt wishes for a speedy recovery to all those affected and commended the efforts of the Principal and his staff for their efforts, dedicated care, and support.

Bar Association

assured free legal aid to all the victims, and complete cooperation to the Principal GMC Jammu, reaffirming their commitment to ensuring justice and medical support for victims.

# Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India launches 2025 CB650R, CBR650R with E-Clutch Technology; ‘Bookings Open’

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has taken a bold stride into the future of motorcycling with the launch of the 2025 CB650R and CBR650R. These middle-weight 650cc motorcycles are the first ones in India to feature Honda's state-of-the-art E-Clutch technology.

The company has commenced bookings across all BigWing dealerships, with deliveries slated to commence by the last week of May 2025. The new E-Clutch equipped 2025 Honda CB650R has been priced at Rs. 9.60 lakh while the CBR650R has been priced at Rs. 10.40 lakh, ex-showroom Delhi.



Announcing the launch, Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "We are delighted to introduce the latest additions to our premium motorcycle line-up - the CB650R and CBR650R - now

equipped with Honda's revolutionary E-Clutch technology. The premium motorcycling space has been experiencing remarkable growth in India, and with world-class products like the CB650R and CBR650R, we are confident they will set new benchmarks

for performance and riding innovation. The introduction of E-Clutch is a step into the future, giving riders a unique blend of control and comfort, reinforcing Honda's leadership in technological advancement." Commenting on this announcement,

Yogesh Mathur, Director, Sales and Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "We are excited to bring the new CB650R and CBR650R for our Indian riders, with the revolutionary E-Clutch technology. The standard variants of both these models were introduced earlier this year & they received a phenomenal response. With the introduction of the E-Clutch equipped variants, we believe this will further elevate the customer's riding experience while strengthening Honda's position in the premium motorcycle space. These motorcycles perfectly balance performance, ease, and innovation - qualities that today's riders value more than ever."

# Arpit secures 4th position at International Speed Ball Championship in Egypt

## Top News Report

R S Pura, May 10: Arpit, a talented student of Renu Public School, Tanda R.S. Pura, has brought laurels to the nation by securing the 4th position at the prestigious International Speed Ball Championship held in Egypt from April 26 to May 2, 2025.

The championship, hosted by the Egyptian Speed Ball Federation and recognized by the Ministry of Sports, Government of Egypt, saw participants from across the globe. Competing in the Sub-Junior category, Arpit showcased remarkable skill and stamina in the Super Solo and Single events.

With an impressive performance of 130 shots in just 2 minutes, he clinched the 4th position, representing Team India with pride and determination.

In recognition of his exceptional performance, Arpit has been selected to represent India at the World Speed Ball Championship 2025, which will be hosted in India later this year.

The President of the



Egyptian Speed Ball Federation lauded the Indian contingent for their sportsmanship and dedication. He extended special congratulations to Mr. Sunny Nanda, Chief Coach of the Indian Team, for his leadership and commitment.

Adding to the celebration, Pooja Malhotra, Patron of the Associa-

tion, congratulated both Coach Sunny Nanda and Master Arpit, acknowledging their significant contribution to enhancing India's reputation on the international sports stage.

This achievement marks a proud moment for Renu Public School and the nation, inspiring young athletes across the country.



# Operation Sindoor director apologises after facing backlash for announcing film amid India-Pak tension: 'Not for fame'

After announcing a film based on Operation Sindoor amid tensions between India and Pakistan, Uttam Maheshwari, the director of the project, has issued an apology as he faced backlash. Taking to his Instagram Stories on Saturday morning, Uttam said that he wants to direct the film "not for fame and monetisation". He added that he was moved by "the courage, sacrifice, and strength of our soldiers and leadership".

Operation Sindoor director apologises for announcing film. Uttam said that by announcing the film, he didn't want to "hurt or provoke anyone's sentiments". He wrote, "My sincere apologies for recently announcing a film based on Operation Sindoor, inspired by the recent heroic efforts of our Indian Armed Forces. The intent was never to hurt or provoke anyone's sentiments. As a filmmaker, I was moved by the courage, sacrifice, and strength of our soldiers and leadership, and simply wished to bring this powerful story to light."

Uttam Maheshwari on why he wants to make film

He added that the "timing and sensitivity may have caused discomfort or pain to some". "This



project was born out of deep respect and love for our nation and not for fame and monetisation. However, I understand the timing and sensitivity may have caused discomfort or pain to some. For that, I deeply regret (folded hands emoji). This is not just a film, it's an emotion of the entire nation and a social image of the country globally," Uttam added.

Uttam thanks govt, armed forces

In his note, he thanked PM Narendra Modi and the armed forces. "Thanks to our army and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who make us proud by working day and night for the country with the motto of

Always Nation First. Our love and prayers will always be with the families of the martyrs, as well as the Bravo warriors who are fighting on the border day and night to give us a new morning. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!" concluded his note.

Operation Sindoor poster

On Friday, Nicky Vicky Bhagnani Films and The Content Engineer officially announced the film titled Operation Sindoor. In the poster of Operation Sindoor, a female soldier, dressed in uniform, is seen standing with her back.

While she held a rifle in one hand, she applied sindoor (vermillion) on her forehead with her other hand. Firetanks, blasts

and fighter jets were also seen in the poster.

It is based on India's operation against terror bases in Pakistan on May 6 and 7, neutralising several terrorists. It was a response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack.

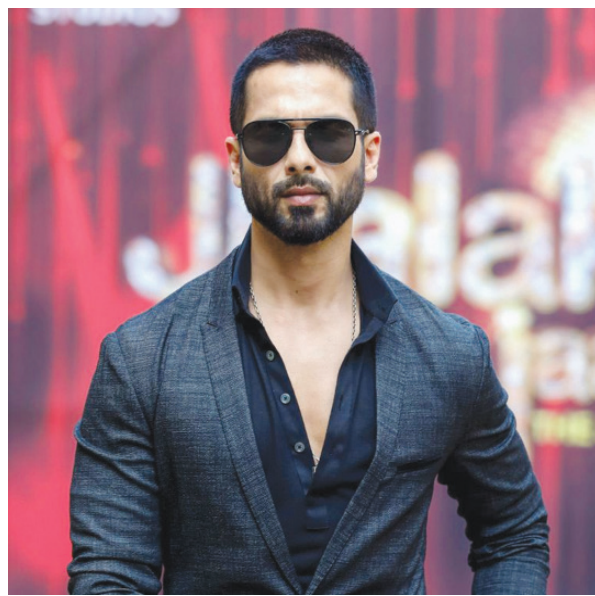
Internet slams team of Operation Sindoor film

The poster was shared by a paparazzo on Instagram. Reacting to it, a person wrote, "Stop embarrassing yourself and your country." "Milking an ongoing war, with an AI-generated poster. This is as dystopian as it gets," read a comment.

"Shame on you and all of Bollywood for making everything a capitalist opportunity! Operation Sindoor has not even been completed, and you're out here trying to take advantage of the worrying situation. Praying for karma to teach you a good lesson," commented a person.

"Actors and celebrities don't have the guts to say anything publicly, and they just want to mint money by making a movie on this. Wow, brilliant," said an Instagram user. "Stop encasing on such topics. Height of shamelessness," commented another person.

## Shahid Kapoor is making more bank than ever, earning ₹45 crore for Farzi 2: report



Shahid Kapoor's Farzi season 2 paycheck has been revealed and it is sure to blow your mind. As per a new report on agency, the actor is getting his biggest pay day ever for the Raj & DK series.

A massive pay day for Shahid Kapoor

The report quotes sources close to the production, who confirm that the new season is in production and Shahid will be paid a massive ₹45 crore for it. This makes him one of the highest-paid actors in

Bollywood. For context, Shahid usually charges ₹25-30 crore per movie.

About Farzi

In Farzi, Shahid Kapoor faced off against Vijay Sethupathi in an edge-of-the-seat thriller that won hearts both for its storyline and performances. A small-time artist is propelled into notoriety when he begins making counterfeit notes in the Raj & DK Prime Video India series. The show also starred Kay Kay Menon, Raashi Khanna and Bhuvan Arora. It

was among the most watched series of 2023.

The movie even inspired a few criminal gangs in real life. A gang of five individuals attempted to replicate their on-screen inspiration by producing counterfeit currency notes with a face value running into lakhs.

However, their illicit operation was brought to a halt when they were held in Lucknow in 2023.

What's up with Shahid Kapoor?

Shahid was last seen in Deva, which is streaming on Netflix. In the movie, Shahid portrays a rebellious police officer who delves into a high-profile case. As he digs deeper, he unravels a complex web of deceit and betrayal, plunging into a perilous journey of investigation, while Pooja Hegde stars as the leading lady in the role of a journalist. Produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, Deva is an action-packed roller-coaster ride full of thrills and drama. It was released on January 31, 2025.

## John Cena returns in 'Peacemaker' Season 2 trailer packed With DC Cameos

DC Studios has released the much-anticipated first trailer for Peacemaker Season 2, marking the return of John Cena as the crude, patriotic anti-hero Christopher Smith.

Created by James Gunn, the series continues the newly rebooted DC Universe, which began with the animated show Creature Commandos and will carry forward with the upcoming film Superman.

The trailer reveals surprise cameos from Nathan Fillion as Guy Gardner and Isabela Merced as Hawkgirl — both set to appear in Superman as well. As reported by Variety, returning cast members include Danielle Brooks as Leota Adebayo, the daughter of Amanda Waller; Freddie Stroma as the quirky crime-fighter Vigilante; Steve Agee as John Economos; and Jennifer Holland as Emilia Harcourt.

Robert Patrick also reprises his role as Peacemaker's controversial father, August "Auggie" Smith, aka White Dragon. Sol Rodriguez and Tim Meadows join the cast in undisclosed roles, while Frank Grillo makes his live-action debut as Rick Flag Sr., a character he originally voiced in Creature Commandos.

The first season of Peacemaker,



released in 2022 on Max (formerly HBO Max), spun off from Gunn's The Suicide Squad film. It followed Peacemaker as he reluctantly teamed up with A.R.G.U.S., a covert government agency, to take down a mysterious alien threat in "Project Butterfly."

The mix of dark humour, brutal action, and surprising emotional depth earned the show critical acclaim and a strong fan following. Peacemaker's pet eagle, Eagly, also became an unexpected breakout star.

Season 2 is expected to delve deeper into Peacemaker's troubled past and complicated future, particularly following his involvement in the death of Rick Flag Jr. The arrival of Rick Flag Sr. is likely to set the stage for emotional and physical confrontations.

Peacemaker Season 2 will premiere on August 21 on Max and will feature a total of eight episodes.

## Mother's Day 2025 | Shonali Bose shares how she channelised the pain of losing her mum in Amu

Filmmaker Shonali Bose was just 21 when she lost her mother, Junie Dass, in 1986, a tragedy that profoundly shaped her life and artistic journey. This immense personal loss became a recurring undercurrent in her storytelling.

"Losing her at 21 was devastating and painful — it changed my life," Shonali recalls, adding, "I explored mother-daughter relationships and the theme of death across Amu (2005), Margarita with a Straw (2014), and The Sky is Pink (2019). With Amu specifically, we intentionally wrote a story around a mother daughter to tap into my pain and write from an honest place. I believe that if you can write from the depths of your pain - that can be powerful."

In her debut film Amu, Shonali cast her maternal aunt Brinda Karat in a pivotal role. One emotionally charged scene required Brinda's character, Keya, to reveal Amu's (played by Konkona Sen Sharma) origin story —



a moment that required Brinda to tap into the pain of losing her sister.

"Brinda had already delivered two brilliant takes" Shonali recounts, adding, "But hours later, at around 2 a.m., when it was her cue again, she couldn't emote, she was just numb."

No matter what I said she couldn't tear up. Then I got an idea. The scene was in an ambassador car and I was crouched under the seat. After calling action I did a sense

memory exercise and talked Brinda through the memory of the last moments of my mother's (her sister) life before the plug was pulled in Breach Candy ICU. And she couldn't hold back the tears. When I called out and came out of the car I saw that my sound recordist and designer Resul Pookutty was sobbing too — he had heard every word through his headphones."

This deeply personal emotion extended into her later work as well. In Margarita with a Straw,

Shonali recreated the raw emotion she had experienced in 1986.

"When Revathy's character dies in the hospital and Kalki's (Koechlin) character rushes out in her wheelchair, wailing — that was me, just as I did when my mamma died in 1986," she shares, adding, "For years Mother's Day was painful for me. And then I gave birth to Ishan and became a mamma myself. And would love the cards he would hand paint for me that I still have," she shares. Shonali lost Ishan at just 16 years old in 2010. This life-altering loss found expression in her 2019 film The Sky is Pink.

"His death took me to another place... I felt a deep peace about death. In The Sky is Pink, the character played by Priyanka (Chopra Jonas; actor) wears a vibrant pink scarf to her daughter's funeral. Just as I had worn red. To celebrate. Not mourn. It marked the end of a marathon. A journey," Shonali ends.

## I'm nothing if not Indian: Hina Khan's strong note for trolls 'across the border'

Actor Hina Khan on Saturday shared a powerful note on her Instagram story, hitting back at trolls attacking her for standing by her nation as tensions escalate between India and Pakistan following the barbaric Pahalgam attack on April 22.

She revealed in the note that people 'across the border' have been 'abusing' her and 'cursing' her, even wishing the worst for her and her family given her medical condition. Khan earlier expressed solidarity with the fellow countrymen, and applauded the Indian Armed Forces to launch Operation Sindoor as a response to the terrorist attack which took 26 innocent lives, mostly tourists, including one Nepalese, in the Baisaran meadow in Kashmir.

The 37-year-old shared the song 'Bharat humko jaan se pyara hai (We love India more than our own lives...)' in the

background and began by writing: "All my Life I only saw affection from across the border. After supporting my Country before and after Operation Sindoor: Many of you abused me, cursed me, Many have unfollowed me. Many more threatening to unfollow me (sic)."

She added that hate had been directed at her and her 'faith'. Khan, known for her performances in popular TV shows and movies, shared that she was hoping people 'across the border' would at least behave 'humanly'.

"This threat is accompanied by Abuses, Salacious and Demeaning Hate directed not just to me but to my Medical Condition, My Family and even my Faith. I don't expect you to support my country. You support yours that's ok, I don't expect you to understand the nuances beyond the mutual alienations. I only hoped that



you will conduct yourself at least as humanly as I have been towards you all (sic)," she said.

The former 'Bigg Boss' contestant expressed her love for India. She

said people could continue to unfollow her on social media, but that wouldn't stop her from standing by her country and its defence forces. "But I Guess, that's the

Difference. I am not Anything if I am not an Indian. I will always be an Indian, First. So, Go Ahead. UNFOLLOW Me. I Don't Care (sic)," she wrote.

She concluded her post with an Indian flag graphic. "I did not abuse or curse any of you.. I only support my country.. What you say defines you. What you choose defines your ideology. How you act in tough times shows your depth as a Human Being. It has nothing to do with Me. No matter what I will support my country. Jai Hind (sic)," Khan said.

Hina Khan has been battling cancer for over a year now. The actor earlier condemned the Pahalgam attack, which took place last month. The 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actor maintained that a terror attack on tourists is ghastly, and India will protect its solidarity and sovereignty.

## Ranveer Singh delivers strongly worded reaction to Operation Sindoor



Actor Ranveer Singh is among the many Bollywood stars and celebrities to shares posts about Indian Army after their successful Operation Sindoor. However, Ranveer's reaction was among the strongest.

Ranveer's post

He shared a graphic of Operation Sindoor on his Instagram Stories and write in Hindi, "Raah chalte ko hum chedte nahi. Lekin agar koi chede toh phir hum use chedte nahi (We don't bother those who mind their own business but if someone bothers us, we don't spare them either)."

He added in a separate line, "Salute to the courage of our armed forces and the decisiveness of our Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi."

About Operation Sindoor India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads against each other after ter-

rorist camps were destroyed at nine locations in the neighboring country under Operation Sindoor, which was launched in response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Indian Army during the intervening night of May 8 and May 9 has 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."

Other reactions Ranveer's former co-star Anushka Sharma also posted about the operation. "On Friday afternoon, Anushka took to Instagram and thanked the Indian armed forces for working day and night to protect the nation.

In a heartfelt message, she wrote, "Eternally grateful to our Indian Armed Forces for protecting us through these times like the heroes that they are. Heartfelt gratitude to the sacrifices they and their families have made (folded hands and Indian Flag emojis)."

Anushka's husband and star batter Virat Kohli also saluted the Indian Armed Forces.



PM Modi chairs meeting with top defence establishment



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting with the top defence establishment to take stock of the emerging security situation amid the intensifying military conflict with Pakistan.

Modi met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the three service chiefs and

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan to review the security scenario and chalk out strategies for the future course of action, officials said.

The conflict with Pakistan has intensified with the armed forces responding proportionately and adequately to Pakistani attempts to target Indian installations.

Pakistan's military is

moving its troops in the forward areas, India said on Saturday, as the two countries continued to attack each other's military facilities.

"The Pakistani military is observed to be moving their troops to the border areas," Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said at a press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

DRDO scientists working on humanoid robot for military missions to reduce risk for troops

PUNE, May 10 (Agencies): Scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are working on a humanoid robot that can be part of front-line military mission, an official said on Saturday.

The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers), a key lab under the DRDO, is developing a machine that can carry out complex tasks under direct human command, aiming to reduce troop exposure in high-risk environments, the official said.

Talking to PTI, S E Talole, group director at the Centre for Systems and Technologies for Advanced Robotics within the R&DE (Engineers), said the team has been engaged in the project for four years.

"We've developed separate prototypes for the upper and lower



body and have successfully achieved certain functions during internal trials," he said, adding that the humanoid will be able to function on tough terrains like jungles.

The robot was recently showcased at the National Workshop on Advanced Legged Robotics held in Pune.

Currently in its advanced development phase, the team is focusing on refining the robot's ability to understand and execute operator commands.

The system relies on three key components:

actuators that generate movement like human muscles, sensors that collect real-time data from the surroundings, and control systems that interpret this information to guide actions.

Talole said, "One of the biggest challenges is ensuring the robot can carry out desired tasks smoothly, which requires mastering balance, rapid data processing, and ground-level execution." Researchers are concentrating on these aspects as they move towards completing the project by 2027, said

Kiran Akella, a scientist leading the design team.

DRDO officials said legged robots, both bipedal and quadrupedal, offer immense potential in defence and security and sectors like healthcare, domestic assistance, space exploration, and manufacturing.

However, creating autonomous, efficient-legged robots comes with significant technological hurdles, they said.

Scientists explained that the humanoid's upper body would feature lightweight arms with a spherical revolute joint configuration, offering 24 degrees of freedom — 7 in each arm, 4 in the gripper, and 2 in the head.

The robot will be able to perform complex autonomous tasks with closed-loop gripping and manipulate objects

by turning, pushing, pulling, sliding doors, opening valves, and overcoming obstacles, especially in high-risk environments, they said.

Both arms will work collaboratively to safely handle hazardous materials such as mines, explosives, and liquids.

The system will operate seamlessly day or night, indoors or outdoors, and incorporate proprioceptive and exteroceptive sensors, data fusion capabilities, tactical sensing, and audio-visual perception.

The humanoid biped will include features such as fall and push recovery, real-time map generation, autonomous navigation, and path planning through simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM), enabling it to carry out complex autonomous operations in challenging, high-risk environments.

Pakistan's hostile actions effectively countered: India

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): India on Saturday said it has effectively blunted Pakistan's provocative action of employing multiple threats along the western border using drones, long-range weapons, fighter jets, targeting civilian areas and military infrastructure, as the conflict between the two neighbours widened further.

Pakistan has been observed to be moving its troops into forward areas, indicating an "offensive intent", to further escalate the situation, the Indian military said, adding that it remains in a high state of operational readiness. As fears of a larger military conflict looms, military spokeswoman Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said the Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is reciprocated by the Pakistani military.

She was addressing a special press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Misri said India has responded to the Pakistani military's "provocative" and "escalatory" actions in a measured manner and that Islamabad has resorted to a wanton campaign of targeting innocent people and civilian infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Fine dining reservations

In a "cowardly" act, Pakistan attacked a medicare centre and school premises at the air



bases of Srinagar, Awantipora and Udhampur, and several "high-speed missile" attacks were noticed after 1:40 am at various air bases in Punjab, causing some damage, Qureshi said. All hostile actions have been effectively countered and responded appropriately, she added. "In a swift and calibrated response, the Indian armed forces carried out precision attacks only on identified military targets," she said.

Qureshi said the Pakistani military targets at Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunian were engaged using air-launched precision weapons from Indian fighter jets and the retaliation largely focused on command-and-control centres, radar sites and weapon-storage areas.

Radar sites at Pasrur and the Sialkot aviation base were also targeted using precision munitions, she said, adding that India has ensured minimum collateral damage while carrying out these responses. Singh said

the Pakistani military is continuing with its "provocations", carrying out "aggressive actions" and employing multiple threat vectors all along the western border. Pakistan employed unmanned combat aerial vehicles, drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions and fighter aircraft to target civilian areas and military infrastructure, she said.

The Pakistani military also resorted to air intrusions using drones and fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control (LoC), she said. Along the International Border and the LoC, air intrusions and several "harassment attacks" were also attempted from Srinagar till Naliya at more than 26 locations, the officer added.

"Indian armed forces successfully neutralised these threats and the majority of the vectors. However, limited damage was sustained to equipment and personnel at the Indian Air Force stations at Udhampur, Pathankot, Adampur and Bhuj,"

she added.

The helicopter pilot said Pakistan also attempted to execute a continued malicious misinformation campaign with claims of destroying the Indian S-400 system at Adampur, destruction of airfields at Suratgarh and Sirsa, the BrahMos base at Nagrota and artillery-gun positions at Dehrangari and the Chandigarh Forward Ammunition Depot.

India unequivocally rejects these false narratives being spread by Pakistan, she said. The officer also showed a few images of air force bases in the Punjab and Rajasthan sectors, debunking the Pakistani claims of causing destruction at these facilities.

"You can also see the normalcy at these air force stations," she said, showing images of runways remaining "intact" at the Sirsa and Suratgarh air force bases.

Qureshi said Pakistan attempted multiple air intrusions using drones and conducted shelling using heavy-calibre artillery guns along the LoC, targeting civilian infrastructure and killing some civilians. Heavy exchange of artillery mortars and small-arm fire in the Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor sectors continues and the Indian Army has responded effectively and proportionately, causing extensive damage to the Pakistan Army, she noted.

Indo-Pak conflict: Residents advised to stay indoors in Gujarat's Kutch



BHUJ, May 10 (Agencies): The administration in Gujarat's Kutch issued an advisory on Saturday asking citizens to stay indoors and not step out unnecessarily in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

The advisory has come after the Indian Armed Forces thwarted drone attacks from Pakistan at Kutch last night, and blackouts were enforced in Kutch and two other districts of Gujarat.

"All citizens should stay safe indoors. Do not step out of the house unnecessarily, and do not pay attention to any rumours. Do not panic," the Kutch collector stated in a post

on the administration's official handle on 'X' in the morning.

District headquarters Bhuj was one of the 26 places along the international borders and the Line of Control with Pakistan where drones were sighted, the military said on Friday.

On Friday night, Blackout was implemented in the Kutch district, with power supply cut off in some areas of Banaskantha and Patan districts, which are close to the Indo-Pak border.

Some villages bordering Santalpur taluka of Patan are also under blackout, it was stated.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday met officials from the Armed Forces and

assured them that they won't face any difficulty in carrying out their operations in the state.

The meeting was aimed at establishing better coordination between government departments and armed and paramilitary forces operating in the state, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said after the interaction in Gandhinagar on Friday.

He said senior employees of various departments, including police and collectors of border districts, and officials from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force and Coast Guard also attended the meeting.

On May 7, Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke, in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

India's approach is measured, responsible: Jaishankar



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): India's approach has always been measured and responsible and remains so, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday after talking to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The phone conversation between Jaishankar and Rubio came as Indian and Pakistani militaries targeted each other's installations, escalating the already serious confrontations.

"Had a conversation with US @SecRubio this morning. India's approach has always been measured and responsible and remains so," Jaishankar said in a social media post.

The US State Department said Rubio emphasised that both sides need to identify methods to de-escalate and re-establish direct communication to avoid miscalculation.

"He further proposed US support in facilitating productive discussions to avert future disputes," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.

Missile debris found in Haryana's Sirsa, Punjab's Jalandhar; tension prevails in border districts

CHANDIGARH, May 10 (Agencies): The remnants of missile-like objects were found at two places in the fields of Sirsa in Haryana after possible air strike attempt by Pakistan was thwarted. Also missile-type objects were found at many places in Jalandhar in Punjab.

Meanwhile many drones were neutralized in Amritsar.

Sources said that debris of missile-like objects were found at two places namely, Rania Chungi Khajakhera and Firozabad Chaksheba in the fields near the Air Force station in Sirsa district.

The teams of Indian Air Force and district police reached both the spots, collected the debris and took it away.

In Firozabad, the pieces were found near a gurdwara. The debris found at both

sites resembled broken metallic parts, and both locations are about 16 km apart.

The local people claimed that on Friday night they reportedly saw an object descending from the sky before a sudden explosion. The officials are tight-lipped on the issue and have not provided any further details yet.

A loud explosion was heard past Friday midnight around 12:15 am thus triggering panic among residents. Soon after the blast, an increased activity of the Indian Air Force and police teams was observed across the city.

Adding to the confusion, another loud blast was heard in Sirsa around 8 am on Saturday morning.

While the residents of Kangniwal village near Adampur in Jalandhar



of Punjab woke up around 1:30 am by hearing a loud sound. They claimed that when they went outside, they saw debris of missile like objects. A car parked outside a house was damaged, and a water tank in another house developed cracks.

Also, debris were

found at Rampur Khalian village near Phagwara, where an 8-foot-deep crater was created in the fields and at Mand Maur village near Kartarpur this morning.

An official said that the Jalandhar administration was on red alert all night as many objects were seen and were

neutralized by the armed forces.

Also explosion-like sounds were heard in Pathankot district early on Saturday morning, amid the ongoing conflict.

The blast sounds were heard around 5 am. There was no official word in this regard.

There was a blackout in Pathankot on Friday night and administration urged residents to stay indoors.

Security forces thwarted multiple attacks by Pakistani drones in Punjab's Ferozepur, Pathankot, Fazilka, and Amritsar districts yesterday evening as per officials.

Meanwhile many drones were neutralized in Amritsar. The residents of the Khana near Amritsar claimed to have seen several drones being neutralised mid-air by the air

defence system. Locals said they heard explosions around 5 am. "We saw red streaks in the sky that burst in the air with explosions," said one of them.

Similar, explosions were also heard in the nearby Chheharata area. Then the district administration advised people to stay indoors. The officials remained tight-lipped over the development. In a statement the army stated, "In one such incident, today at approximately 5 am, multiple enemy armed drones were spotted flying over Khana Cantt, Amritsar.

The hostile drones were instantly engaged and destroyed by our air defence units."

Also explosions heard in Gurdaspur and there were craters in the fields at few places in Gurdaspur, as per claims by locals.



## US, Chinese officials to meet in Geneva to discuss tariffs as world looks for signs of hope

GENEVA, May 10 (Agencies): The US treasury secretary and America's top trade negotiator will meet with high-ranking Chinese officials in Switzerland this weekend to de-escalate a dispute that threatens to cut off trade between the world's two biggest economies and to damage global commerce.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will meet in Geneva with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Prospects for a major breakthrough appear dim. But there is hope that the two countries will scale back the massive taxes – tariffs – they've slapped on each other's goods, a move that would relieve world financial markets and companies on both sides of the Pacific Ocean that depend on US-China trade.

US President Donald Trump last month raised U.S. tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped \$660 billion.

Even before the talks began, Trump suggested Friday that the US could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that "80% Tariff seems right! Up to Scott.?"

Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, noted it will be the first time he and Bessent have talked. She doubts the Geneva meeting will produce any substantive results.

"The best scenario is for the two sides to agree to de-escalate on the ... tariffs at the same time," she said, adding even a small reduction would send a positive signal. "It cannot just be words." Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has aggressively used tariffs as his favourite economic weapon. He has, for example, imposed a 10% tax on imports from almost every country in the world.

But the fight with China has been the most intense. His tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States. The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed the 145%.

During Trump's first term, the US alleged that China uses unfair tactics to give itself an edge in advanced technologies such as quantum computing and driverless cars. These include forcing U.S. and other foreign companies to hand over

trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market; using government money to subsidize domestic tech firms; and outright theft of sensitive technologies.

Those issues were never fully resolved. After nearly two years of negotiation, the United States and China reached a so-called Phase One agreement in January 2020. The US agreed then not to go ahead with even higher tariffs on China, and Beijing agreed to buy more American products. The tough issues – such as China's subsidies – were left for future negotiations.

But China didn't come through with the promised purchases, partly because COVID-19 disrupted global commerce just after the Phase One truce was announced.

The fight over China's tech policy now resumes.

Trump is also agitated by America's massive trade deficit with China, which came to \$263 billion last year.

In Switzerland, Bessent and Greer also plan to meet with Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter.

Trump last month suspended plans to slap hefty 31% tariffs on Swiss goods—more than the 20% levies he plastered on exports from European Union. For now, he's reduced those taxes to 10% but could raise them again.

The government in Bern is taking a cautious approach but it has warned of the impact on crucial Swiss industries like watches, coffee capsules, cheese and chocolate.

"An increase in trade tensions is not in Switzerland's interests. Countermeasures against US tariff increases would entail costs for the Swiss economy, in particular by making imports from the USA more expensive," the government said last week, adding that the executive branch "is therefore not planning to impose any countermeasures at the present time." The government said Swiss exports to the United States on Saturday were subject to an additional 10% tariff, and another 21% beginning Wednesday.

The United States is Switzerland's second-biggest trading partner after the EU – a 27-member-country bloc that nearly surrounds the wealthy Alpine country of more than 9 million. U.S.-Swiss trade in goods and services has quadrupled over the last two decades, the government said.

The Swiss government said Switzerland abolished all industrial tariffs on Jan. 1 last year, meaning that 99% of all goods from the United States can be imported into Switzerland duty-free.

## Air strike on Sudan's Darfur kills 14 members of one family



PORT SUDAN, May 10 (Agencies): At least 14 members of the same family were killed in an air strike on a displacement camp in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region, a rescue group said Saturday, blaming paramilitaries.

The Abu Shouk camp "was the target of intense bombardment by the Rapid Support Forces on Friday evening", said the group of volunteer aid workers, which also reported wounded.

"Fourteen Sudanese, members of the same

family, were killed" and several people wounded, it said in a statement.

The camp near El-Fasher, the last state capital in Darfur still out of the RSF's control, is plagued by famine, according to the United Nations.

It is home to tens of thousands of people who fled the violence of successive conflicts in Darfur and the conflict that has been tearing Africa's third largest country apart since 2023.

The RSF, which is at war with the regular

army, has shelled the camp several times in recent weeks.

Abu Shouk is located near the Zamzam camp, which the RSF seized in April after a devastating offensive that virtually emptied it.

The United Nations says nearly one million people had been sheltering at the site.

The war, which began as a power struggle between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, has spiralled into what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

It has effectively divided the country in two with the army controlling the north, east and centre while the RSF dominates nearly all of Darfur in the west and parts of the south.

## World Uyghur Congress weekly brief warns of escalating Chinese repression

MUNICH, May 10 (Agencies): The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has issued its latest weekly brief, warning that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is intensifying its campaign of repression in Xinjiang while much of the democratic world remains either complicit or silent. One of the most alarming disclosures in the brief involves Harvard University's TH Chan School of Public Health, which hosted executive training programs in 2023 and 2024 for members of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC). According to the brief, the XPCC--commonly referred to as the "Bingtuan"--is a US-sanctioned paramilitary

and economic entity that has played a central role in Beijing's policies of forced assimilation, mass surveillance, internment camps, and state-orchestrated forced labour targeting the Uyghur population.

The WUC argued that Harvard's engagement with XPCC officials effectively legitimises a group at the heart of a system the U.S. government has formally designated as engaging in genocide. According to the brief, Uyghur human rights advocates described the university's cooperation as "academic complicity in crimes against humanity." The brief also highlighted a major setback for Uyghur media and freedom of information: the

shutdown of Radio Free Asia's Uyghur service, which was attributed to a Trump-era funding freeze. The WUC stated that nearly 90 per cent of RFA staff had been laid off, severely limiting independent reporting on Chinese state repression in the region. "We've gone completely dark," said Mamatjan Juma, former director of RFA's Uyghur service, as quoted in the brief. He warned that the information vacuum is rapidly being filled by Chinese state propaganda and disinformation campaigns.

Despite these challenges, the WUC noted positive developments on the international front. The organisation welcomed the election of Fried-

rich Merz as Germany's new Chancellor, expressing hope that Berlin would demonstrate renewed leadership on global human rights. The brief also reported that US Representative Chris Smith hosted a press conference in support of HR 1503, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act. The proposed legislation targets what Smith and others described as the CCP's "industrial-scale organ harvesting" from Uyghurs, Falun Gong practitioners, and other prisoners of conscience. In a final appeal, the WUC called on newly elected Pope Leo XIV to take a moral stand and publicly condemn the Chinese government's atrocities.

## Kim Jong Un justifies North Korea's role in Russia-Ukraine war as sovereign right

SEOUL, May 10 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said North Korea's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war was justified, calling it an exercise of sovereign rights in defence of a "brother nation," state media KCNA reported on Saturday.

"Our participation in the conflict was just, and it falls within the sovereign rights of our Republic," Kim said, according to KCNA. "I consider all the brave soldiers who participated in the Kursk operation to be heroes and the highest represen-



tatives of the nation's honour," he added.

Kim also said Pyongyang would not hesitate to authorise the use of military force if the United States persists in what he called military provocations against Russia.

North Korea did not

officially confirm until late April that it had sent more than 10,000 troops and weapons to Russia as the countries' military ties grew dramatically under a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty signed by Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin last year.

## Baloch National Movement launches mobile billboard campaign to condemn arrests and torture of Baloch leaders

WASHINGTON DC, May 10 (Agencies): The Baloch National Movement (BNM) has launched a mobile billboard campaign in Washington, DC, condemning the recent arrests and alleged custodial torture of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders in Pakistan. In a post on X, BNM revealed that the campaign, which featured a truck displaying messages highlighting human rights violations in Balochistan, was strategically driven near the Pakistani Embassy to garner international attention.

On X, BNM stated: "BNM condemns these arrests and the treatment of BYC leaders in custody. BNM will continue to raise its voice against these actions on every platform. Without the independence of Balochistan, these violations cannot be stopped. The international community must support the Baloch nation in their struggle for freedom"

Meanwhile, the Baloch National Movement (BNM) has also announced an awareness campaign in the cities of Arnhem and Maastricht, Netherlands, to spotlight the ongoing state-sponsored violence and severe human rights



abuses in Balochistan. In a post on X, BNM emphasised that this campaign seeks to draw global attention to the suffering of the Baloch people and amplify their fight for justice and freedom. The movement called on all to unite in solidarity, stand up for the oppressed, and give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.

Prominent Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch's arrest, alongside other activists, has triggered widespread protests throughout Balochistan and among the Baloch diaspora. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has reported a troubling increase in enforced disappearances in the region. Furthermore, extrajudicial killings have surged in recent months. Individuals, often young activists or suspected sympathisers of Baloch nationalism, are abducted, and their

whereabouts remain unknown, leading to significant distress among families and communities.

Many of these disappearances have resulted in later discoveries of victims' bodies, showing signs of torture or extrajudicial killings.

In February 2025, the BYC organised protests in Gomazi Tump, Dalbandin, and Noshki to condemn the targeted killings of Baloch youth by state-backed death squads in Kech and other areas.

Human rights organisations have echoed these concerns, calling on the Pakistani government to respect the rights of the Baloch people and to hold those responsible for these abuses accountable. This mounting crisis highlights the growing repression faced by the Baloch population, with widespread violations of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

## European leaders arrive in Kyiv in show of solidarity against Russia

KYIV, May 10 (Agencies): The leaders of France, Britain and Germany arrived in Ukraine on Saturday for talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky, vowing to ratchet up pressure on Russia until it agrees a ceasefire the day after a lavish military parade in Moscow.

French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived together by train from neighbouring Poland. Later, they were to be joined by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

It is the first time the leaders of the four European nations have made a joint visit to Ukraine.

More than three years into Russia's invasion, the hugely symbolic show of European unity comes a day after President Vladimir Putin struck a defiant tone at a Moscow parade marking 80 years since victory in World War II.

US President Donald Trump has proposed a 30-day unconditional ceasefire as a step to end the conflict. But Putin has resisted so far.

"Alongside the US, we call on Russia to agree a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to create the space for talks on a just and lasting peace," the leaders said in a statement ahead of the visit.

"We are ready to support peace talks as soon as possible, to discuss technical implementation of the ceasefire, and prepare for a full peace deal," they added.

"We are clear the bloodshed must end, Russia must stop its



illegal invasion, and Ukraine must be able to prosper as a safe, secure and sovereign nation within its internationally recognised borders for generations to come".

They warned: "We will continue to increase our support for Ukraine. Until Russia agrees to an enduring ceasefire, we will ratchet up pressure on Russia's war machine."

In an interview with the ABC news channel on Saturday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said arms deliveries from Ukraine's allies must stop before Russia would agree to a ceasefire.

A truce would otherwise be an "advantage for Ukraine" at a time when "Russian troops are advancing... in quite a confident way" on the front, Peskov said, adding that Ukraine was "not ready for immediate negotiations."

'Russia obstructing efforts'

For Merz, who took office only this week, it will be his first visit to Ukraine as chancellor. Macron has not been to Kyiv

since June 2022 when he went with the Italian and German leaders of the time.

In the talks with Zelensky they will make their "steadfast commitment to Ukraine", the statement said.

"We, the leaders of France, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom will stand in Kyiv in solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's barbaric and illegal full-scale invasion," they said.

"We reiterate our backing for President Trump's calls for a peace deal and call on Russia to stop obstructing efforts to secure an enduring peace," they added.

After meeting Zelensky in the morning, they are to host a virtual meeting to update other European leaders on moves to create a European force that could provide Ukraine with security after the war.

Such a force "would help regenerate Ukraine's armed forces after any peace deal and strengthen confidence in any future peace", the statement

said.

'Number of symbols'

After meeting Tusk in France on Friday, Macron called for the speedy drawing up of a US-Europe plan for the 30-day truce that would be backed by "massive economic sanctions" if one side "betrays it".

Finland's President Alexander Stubb said at a meeting in Norway on Friday to discuss Ukraine that the "United States has two sanctions packages on the table" and that countries were discussing action in the "banking and the energy sector."

Macron said Putin's "belligerent comments" at the Red Square parade showed he remained "on the side of war". But he also said talks about territory could be held once a ceasefire starts.

Russia has occupied about a fifth of Ukrainian territory and has yet to respond to the pressure for an enduring ceasefire. Trump has also said Ukraine will have to consider giving up territory but has expressed growing impatience with Russia's refusal to halt the fighting.

The timing of the visit is striking, coming a day after Putin hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping but also Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, whose country is an EU member, at the Moscow parade.

A French presidential official, who asked not to be named, said the visit just four days after Merz took office "demonstrates Europe's unity, strength, and responsiveness. And it mirrors Putin's celebrations."



# Villagers From 3 Border Districts In Kashmir Move To Other Areas In View Of Pak Shelling



SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies) : Residents of villages located near the Line of Control (LoC) in three districts of Kashmir are leaving their homes in droves as Pakistan has intensified its shelling of civilian areas over the last four days.

Nearly 1.1 lakh people living along the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts have moved to safer places as dozens of houses and government buildings have been hit by Pakistani shells.

"It is not easy to leave behind a place where you have spent all your life. I would not leave my home if the threat to my life and that of my family was not so high," Irshad Ahmad Khwaja, a

resident of a border village, said. Khwaja has shifted to a relative's house in Baramulla and does not expect to face much difficulty. "I know we will be taken care of but I am still very sad. I have lived in this house all my life," he said as he looked back at his home one last time.

Mubeen Ahmad, a resident of Boniyar in the Uri area of Baramulla, said he was not sure whether his house would survive the current wave of cross-border shelling.

"We have seen cross-border shelling since the 1990s but it has never been this intense. These days, shells are landing at places that were earlier considered safe," Ahmad said.

He said another cause of concern for house owners is the possibility of thefts and break-ins.

"Unscrupulous elements have always used a turmoil to carry out their nefarious designs. I hope that it does not happen during this calamity," he added.

The evacuation started after Pakistan resorted to unprovoked shelling on civilian areas along the LoC in response to the missile strikes carried out by Indian armed forces targeting the terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country.

One woman has been killed, while 20 people have been injured, in the cross-border shelling that began on May 7.

More than half of the evacuations have been carried out in Kupwara district's Karnah and Machhil sectors, followed by Uri in Baramulla and some areas of Bandipora.

Authorities have also made arrangements for the evacuated people at various makeshift shelters.

In Baramulla, the district administration has turned several educational institutes into temporary accommodation facilities.

"Our staff worked round the clock to prepare the facilities. These families have lost so much. We want to ensure that they have a safe place to stay and access to basic necessities," Rashida Maq-

bool, the principal of the Hanifa Model School Sheeri, said.

Nodal Officer for Relief and Rehabilitation Reyaz Ahmad Ganai said all the departments are working in tandem to ensure basic amenities for the migrants.

"From the PDD ensuring electricity to the health department arranging medical camps, every stakeholder has contributed. The local community's generosity has been overwhelming," Ganai said.

## Sakeena Itoo condoles sad demise of ADDC Rajouri Remembers late Dr. Thapa's exceptional service during Budhal tragedy

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 10: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo has condoled the sad demise of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who was tragically killed today morning by cross border shelling.

Remembering the late officer's unwavering dedication to public service, Sakeena Itoo recalled his exceptional

efforts during the Budhal tragedy, highlighting that his swift and compassionate response brought solace to many affected families. The Minister said that Late Dr. Thapa used to update about the situation even during the night hours and was active on the ground for the relief of common masses. "He was a symbol of sincerity and responsibility, particularly during times of crisis. His humane approach during the Budhal tragedy left an indelible

mark on the hearts of the people", Sakeena said.

Describing the late ADDC as a committed and upright officer, Sakeena said that the loss is not only a blow to the administration but also to the countless lives he touched through his selfless service.

Sakeena Itoo also extended her heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family in this hour of grief.

## Apni Party teams actively assisting shelling victims in Baramulla

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 10: In response to the ongoing cross-border shelling by Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC), Apni Party has mobilized its cadre in Baramulla to provide immediate relief and assistance to affected residents.

The initiative is being led by District President Shabir Ahmad Shah, Vice President Mehmood Bukhari, and Constituency Incharge for Uri, Choudhary Mushtaq.

Teams composed primarily of young party workers have been deployed across the district to support families facing human and property losses due to the continuous shelling.

In an effort to extend timely aid, Apni Party has issued a set of helpline numbers for residents in need of emergency support or assistance Helpline Numbers: 9320647881, 9419002457, 9906562450, 9906299926, and 7006032430.

Party leadership has instructed all local units and workers to remain on high alert and maintain close contact with the affected population, ensuring that no family is left unattended during this difficult period.

Apni Party reiterated its commitment to standing with the people of Baramulla and other border areas, urging the administration to provide prompt medical aid, food, and shelter to all victims.

# MP Mian Altaf grieved over death of ADDC Rajouri, others in Poonch, Rajouri cross border shelling

SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): National Conference Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmed Saturday expressed his grief over the loss of innocent lives in Poonch and Rajouri areas in the ongoing cross border shelling.

In a statement, Mian Altaf termed the death

of senior JKAS officer and ADDC Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa tragic and unfortunate, adding that several people have been injured in the ongoing cross border shelling since last few days as well.

He said that as per reports, at least five people including a

senior officer and a minor have lost their lives since yesterday.

He also urged the administration to provide adequate medical facilities including ambulances to the people in the affected areas.

"More precious lives lost in Rajouri, Poonch

areas including a dedicated officer ADDC Rajouri RK Thapa Sb, in the ongoing cross-border shelling. I offer my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Urge Admin to ensure adequate medical facilities available in affected areas" Mian Altaf as per statement said.

### Top News Report

BISHNAH, May 10: In the wake of recent shelling incidents affecting border villages within the Bishnah constituency, MLA Dr. Rajeev Bhagat has been actively engaged in providing relief and support to the displaced residents. Demonstrating a strong commitment to the well-being of his constituents, Dr. Bhagat has undertaken daily visits to the affected areas, assessing the damage and offering assistance.

The recent escalation of tensions along the

border has resulted in the forced migration of numerous families from their homes. Seeking refuge from the cross-border shelling, these residents have sought shelter in temporary camp set up in Bishnah. Recognizing the urgent need for essential supplies, Dr. Bhagat has personally overseen the distribution of edibles to those residing in the camp, ensuring that they have access to basic necessities.

Beyond providing immediate relief, Dr. Bhagat has also focused on addressing the psy-

chological needs of the displaced population, particularly the children. Understanding the importance of maintaining a sense of normalcy during times of crisis, he has distributed sports kits to the children, providing them with an outlet for recreation and play. This initiative aims to alleviate the stress and trauma experienced by the children, fostering a sense of community and resilience.

Dr. Bhagat's consistent presence in the affected areas and his direct engagement with the displaced residents

have been commended by local community leaders. His efforts highlight the crucial role of elected officials in providing on-the-ground support during times of crisis.

The situation in the border areas remains sensitive, and the ongoing support provided by Dr. Bhagat and other local authorities are vital in ensuring the well-being of the affected population. The need for continued support remains, and the work done by Dr. Bhagat is a great example of dedication to the people he serves.

## Govt official among five killed in Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir

Bidipur Jatta village, was killed in cross-border firing along the International Border in the R S Pura sector of Jammu district, they said. Three more persons were also injured in intense shelling in Poonch and were evacuated to a hospital, they said.Fine dining reservations

Several persons were also injured in Jammu city when artillery shells and suspected drones hit residential areas, including Rehari Colony and Roop Nagar.

**India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire, says Donald Trump**

"We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence," he added.

**Pak's claim of destroying India's S-400 Missile**

## systems false: Indian Military

missiles fired from JF-17 fighter jets destroyed India's S-400 air defence system in Adampur is "false", an Indian military official said on Saturday.

Pakistan's state-run PTV earlier reported that Pakistan Air Force's hypersonic missiles destroyed the S-400 system in Adampur.

China's Xinhua news agency also said Pakistan JF-17 Thunder jet destroyed India's S-400 air defense system in India's Punjab, according to Chinese news outlet Global Times.

These reports are false, the spokesperson of the Indian Air Force said.

## China 'strongly' urges India, Pakistan to exercise calm, restraint

role to this end," it said.

Tensions between India and Pakistan increased after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Pakistan launched a fresh wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India — from Jammu

and Kashmir to Gujarat — for the second night on Friday, with the defence ministry saying the enemy's attempts to hit vital installations, including airports and air bases, were successfully thwarted.

## Indian Military destroys Pakistani drones in Amritsar

instantly engaged and destroyed by our air defence units," it said.

The Army said, "Pakistan's blatant attempt to violate India's sovereignty and endanger civilians is unacceptable."

The Army, it added, will thwart enemy designs.

## CM Omar Abdullah visits residential areas hit by large explosions in Jammu

concerning. We stand with every affected family and will ensure all necessary support is provided without delay," Abdullah said in a post on X.

People across Jammu on Saturday woke up to blast-like sounds as sirens rang out in the city amid a fresh wave of suspected drone attacks and intense artillery and mortal shelling by Pakistan.

Deafening sounds of explosions started rattling Jammu around 5 am, with officials confirming a fresh wave of drone attacks from across the border, triggering panic among the people.

A residential building was damaged in the Roop Nagar area of the city, the officials said, adding that at least three persons, including a woman and a girl, were injured in the Bantalab area of the city.

The fresh attacks followed after Pakistan launched a wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India — from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat — for the second night on Friday.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

**Pak moving troops in forward areas, launched missile in Punjab and attacked health facilities in J&K: Govt**

"Pakistan military used high-speed missiles at 1.40 am to target air base in Punjab," she disclosed.

Pakistan used drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions, jets to attack India's military sites along the Western front, Qureshi said.

In response to Pakistani actions, India has responded in a measured way, said Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

"It is the Pakistan act that constituted provocation and escalation," he said.

He dismissed as ludicrous claims by Pakistan of missiles being fired at religious sites.

India also said that Pakistan's claims of critical infrastructure damage were "completely false".

The Indian military showed time stamped pictures to deny Pakistan's claims about air force stations and base destruction in India.

"Indian armed forces remain in high state of operational readiness... all hostile actions have been effectively countered," Wing Commander Vyomika Singh told reporters.

India, she said, had targeted Pakistan military assets in Rahim Yar Khan. "Pakistan had attempted a malicious misinformation campaign. Its claims of destroy-

ing our S-400 system and airfields at Surat were false," Singh said.

Indian armed forces carried out precision strikes only at identified military targets in response to Pakistan's actions, she said. Singh said Indian armed forces are committed to non-escalation, provided Pakistan side reciprocates.

**Terrorist launchpad in Pak opposite Akhnoor destroyed: BSF**

Fine dining reservations

The base was located at Looni in Pakistan's Sialkot district, a BSF spokesperson said.

This came after Pakistan initiated "unprovoked" firing on BSF posts in Jammu sector from 9 pm on Friday.

The BSF responded in a commensurate manner, causing widespread damage to the posts and assets of the Pakistan Rangers along the international boundary, the spokesperson said.

The terrorist launchpad at Looni in Sialkot district, opposite Akhnoor area, was completely destroyed by the BSF. Our resolve to protect India's sovereignty is unshaken, the spokesperson said.

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## FTAs enable participation in global value chain, India Inc looks forward to more such deals: CII President

*Indian industries are looking forward to more free trade agreements (FTAs) because such trade pacts are the key enablers for participating in the global value chain, said Sanjiv Puri, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Managing Director of ITC.*

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Indian industries are looking forward to more free trade agreements (FTAs) because such trade pacts are the key enablers for participating in the global value chain, said Sanjiv Puri, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Managing Director of ITC. ITC MD Puri said that after the FTA with the United Kingdom, the industry is also keen to have a trade deal with the United States.

"Industry is very keen to have the FTAs because these are important enablers to participate in global value chains, which are 70 per cent of the global trade. So, the industry is very much looking forward to it," CII President and ITC MD Sanjiv Puri said.

"We know that both the other FTAs are strong focuses of the government and there's a possibility of (Trade deal with) the US one by autumn and the EU - there was this EU president along with a large number of the



cabinet ministers here in India - a commitment was made that by the end of the year they should get signed so we are hoping these within the timelines," Puri further added.

Puri went on to state that focusing on agriculture is needed to increase the income and consumption of the people employed by the sector.

Industry body CII welcomed the India-UK FTA, adding that it is guided by the 2030 Road-

map. The timely agreement will help advance a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the UK, steering bilateral trade towards the ambitious target of USD 100 billion by 2030, the CII had added.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry on May 9 highlighted the importance of FTAs, adding that such trade agreements make India more competitive with markets like the United States of America, China, and

Brazil.

According to APEDA, India will gain ground over the USA, China, and Thailand in processed food. We will become more competitive than the USA, China, Thailand, and Vietnam in bakery items, said an official.

The official statement added that the recently concluded FTA with the UK is a "totally job-orientated deal".

The trade between India and the UK will double by 2030, creating millions of jobs and increasing our overall exports to the UK.

However, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in a report highlights potential risks to the domestic industry, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), due to increased foreign competition.

GTRI further adds that India should draw lessons from the recently concluded US-UK trade deal and be cautious on a deal with America for its bilateral trade deal.

## Honda launches 2025 CB650R and CBR650R with new E-Clutch technology



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) on Saturday launched its middle-weight 650cc motorcycles--the 2025 CB650R and CBR650R--which are claimed to be the first in India to feature Honda's state-of-the-art E-Clutch technology.

The newly launched CB650R and CBR650R are priced at Rs9.60 lakh and Rs10.40 lakh respectively (ex-showroom, Delhi), and are now available for booking across all Honda Big-Wing dealerships nationwide. Deliveries are expected to begin by the last week of May 2025.

"The premium motorcycling space has been experiencing remarkable growth in India, and with world-class products like the CB650R and CBR650R, we are confident they will set new benchmarks

for performance and riding innovation. The introduction of E-Clutch is a step into the future, giving riders a unique blend of control and comfort, reinforcing Honda's leadership in technological advancement," said Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.

The 2025 CB650R and CBR650R are powered by the same in-line four-cylinder 650cc engine, delivering a peak power of 70 kW at 12,000 RPM and a maximum torque of 63 Nm at 9,500 RPM. This engine is paired with a six-speed gearbox and Honda's new E-Clutch system. Additionally, the CBR650R is equipped with Honda Selectable Torque Control (HSTC) to enhance traction and stability.

The CB650R will be available in two colour options: Candy Chromosphere Red and Matte Gunpowder Black Metallic. The CBR650R will come in Grand Prix Red and Matte Gunpowder Black Metallic.

Both motorcycles feature Showa 41 mm SFF-BP front forks and an adjustable rear monoshock, along with high-performance braking components, including dual 310 mm radial-mounted front discs and a 240 mm rear disc, supported by dual-channel ABS. A 5.0-inch full-colour TFT crystal display with Honda RoadSync app connectivity allows riders to easily access smartphone functions.

## RBI imposes Rs 1.72 crore penalty against SBI for certain non-compliances

MUMBAI, May 10 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has penalised the State Bank of India with Rs 1.72 crore for non-compliance with certain directions.

As per a statement from the RBI, the state-owned lender failed to comply certain certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances- Statutory and Other Restrictions', 'Customer Protection - Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions' and 'Opening of Current Accounts by Banks - Need for Discipline'.

This penalty has been imposed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

A Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2023) of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on

March 31, 2023.

Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank by the RBI, advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice, additional submissions made by it and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI decides that the bank deserves imposition of monetary penalty.

The charges against the bank is that it extended a bridge loan to an entity against amounts receivable from the Central / State Government by way of subsidy / reimbursement.

The bank failed to credit (shadow reversal)

the amount involved in unauthorised electronic transactions to certain customer accounts within 10 working days from the date of notification by the customer and compensate certain customers within 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. Another charge against the bank was that it opened / maintained certain current accounts in contravention of regulatory requirements.

"The action (against SBI) is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. Further, imposition of monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the bank," said the RBI.

## Birla Corporation Limited announces strong March quarter results, capacity expansion by FY28-29

KOLKATA, May 10 (Agencies): Birla Corporation Limited concluded FY24-25 with robust quarterly production and sales by volume, which resulted in a consolidated net profit for the March quarter, growing 33% year-on-year (yoy), to Rs 257 crore. This came after three challenging quarters that had affected the entire industry. An uptick in demand and prices during the quarter led to better realization and a higher capacity utilization of 105% in the March quarter.

Though realization for the quarter at Rs 5,103 per ton was still marginally lower than the same period last year (Rs 5,178 per ton) owing to the changed geographical mix, consolidated revenue for the quarter at Rs 2,863 crore was 7% higher yoy. EBITDA per ton rose to Rs 1,014--one of the highest in recent years. It represents a growth of 5% yoy and 78% sequentially. The Cement Division's operating profit margin was 20% for the March quarter, compared to 18.6% in the same period last year, and 14% for the full year (15.5% in FY23-24).

Capex: With stabilization of earlier expansions, mainly at Mukutban, in Maharashtra, and Chanderia, in Rajasthan, and consolidation of the Company's position in the core markets of central India, Birla Corporation Limited is now embarking on its next phase of growth. The Board of Birla Corporation Limited, along with its subsidiary, RCCPL Private Limited, approved an investment of Rs 4,335 crore to scale up the production capacity from 20 million tons (mt) to 27.6 mt by 2028-29, by expanding an integrated unit and setting up three new grinding units. The expanded capacity includes the ongoing expansion at Kundanganj, which is progressing on schedule.

RCCPL Private Limited will invest Rs 2,300 crore into its Maihar (Madhya Pradesh) unit to expand its clinker production capacity. The clinker produced at Maihar will be fed to the three new grinding units, to be set up at Prayagraj, Gaya and Aligarh, for which Birla Corporation Limited, and its subsidiary, RCCPL, have budgeted for an investment of Rs 2,035 crore.



BIRLA CORPORATION LIMITED

"Our capacity utilization in central and eastern India is more than 100%," said Shri Harsh V. Lodha, Chairman. "We expect cement demand to grow at a CAGR of 6-7% over the next few years. To improve our leadership position in high growth markets, we are ready for the next phase of growth. Addition of fresh capacity will have a favourable impact on profitability as well as reduce lead distances, with grinding units located closer to the market."

RCCPL continued to scale up production at its Mukutban unit, which in FY24-25 has significantly contributed to profitability. Commissioned in 2022, the 3.9-mt integrated unit is one of the most efficient cement plants in the country.

Through robust cash flow generation, Birla Corporation Limited has reduced its net debt to Rs 2,244 crore at the end of March against Rs 3,003 crore a year earlier. The Company's cost of borrowing at the end of March was 7.56%, down 35 basis points from a year earlier.

Weak pricing: The cement industry faced unprecedented pricing pressure through the first eight months of FY24-25. Prices fell 11% on an average till

the end of December. For the full year, it is estimated that prices were on an average 4-5% lower than the previous year. For the full year, Birla Corporation's price realization was 7% lower, at Rs 4,866 per ton. It is estimated that cement manufacturers' profit margin contracted 130-180 basis points in FY24-25 owing to weak pricing.

Birla Corporation Limited's cement sales by volume for the March quarter grew 8% yoy to 5.2 mt. In FY24-25, the Company sold 18.1 mt of cement, compared to 17.6 mt in the previous year, up 2.5%. The full-year consolidated revenue, however, was down 4% at Rs 9,312 crore. Despite a sharp turnaround in the March quarter, consolidated net profit for the full year was down 30% yoy at Rs 295 crore.

Notwithstanding pressure on prices and demand, the cement industry benefited from benign power and fuel costs. Birla Corporation's power and fuel costs for the March quarter were at Rs 1,001 per ton, down 9% yoy, while for the full year, power and fuel costs fell 14% to Rs 1,035 per ton. The share of renewable power in the total power consumed during the year was at 24.8%, compared to 23.8% in the previous year.

As a pioneer of brand premiumization to increase value share (as distinct from volume share, which is the traditional measure of market share), Birla Corporation Limited managed to drive up sales of its premium products, led by its flagship brand Perfect Plus. The Company achieved in FY24-

25 an 11% yoy growth in sales by volume of premium products. Premium products accounted for 60% of the Company's trade channel sales during the year against 54% in FY23-24. Perfect Plus has, on its own, grown 15% during the year, and now commands a premium in pricing over competitors in the Company's core market of Uttar Pradesh.

Birla Corporation Limited has entered the business of ready-mix concrete (RMC). The initial experience in the Uttar Pradesh market has shown encouraging results and the Company is now looking to scale up the business. The RMC business will potentially create further opportunities to shore up sales of the Company's premium products.

Re-appointment: Birla Corporation Limited's Board on Friday approved the re-appointment of Shri Sandip Ghose as Managing Director and CEO for three years effective 1 January 2026. Mr Ghose was responsible for developing the brand architecture of Birla Corporation Limited and launched the Company in its product premiumization journey. He also played a key role in the integration of operations of Birla Corporation and RCCPL. In his current term as the Managing Director and CEO, he has brought about transformative changes in the organization and was responsible for scaling up of the Mukutban operations. The Board has entrusted him with carrying forward the next phase of growth and expansion of the Company.

Jute: The Company sees its jute business as a unique asset that has significant potential to contribute to the topline as well as bottom line, alongside the main business of cement. With renewed management focus and improvement of operational efficiency, the Division is showing signs of turning the corner. After three consecutive quarters of

losses, the Division has reported a cash profit of Rs 4.43 crore in the March quarter.

The Division has significantly reduced the conversion cost, while raising order execution, both domestic and overseas. Thanks to improved efficiency in raw jute procurement and better capacity utilization, the Division reduced conversion cost in the March quarter by almost 14% sequentially. Significant sales growth was also achieved during the quarter: domestic sales grew 8% yoy, while exports grew 18%. Average production per day increased 9% yoy and 18% sequentially.

In addition to its sustained focus on sales of value-added products, the Division has started exploring opportunities at increasing research and development in partnership with institutes of repute. This will facilitate collaborative research, product development, industrial trials and commercialization of new value-added fibres.

The Company has set a target for the Division's new leadership team to turn Birla Jute into the most efficient jute manufacturing unit in terms of cost, profitability and safety.

Birla Corporation Limited (MP Birla Group) was incorporated as Birla Jute Manufacturing Company Limited in 1919, it was given shape by Syt MP Birla. The Company has interest in cement and jute goods. Its Birla Jute Mills is the first jute mill started by an Indian entrepreneur. The Company and its subsidiary, RCCPL Pvt Ltd, have 10 cement plants, in eight locations, across the country, with an annual installed capacity of 20 million tons. The Company produces an array of cement products, under the MP Birla Cement brand, suited to different climatic conditions as well as consumer segments. It also sells construction chemicals and wall putty.

## Migraine drug to reduce depressive symptoms in patients having both, finds study

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): A migraine drug has shown to significantly reduce symptoms of depression in patients--the first trial to show improvements in both the conditions using a single drug, researchers said.

In the study involving 540 patients, 'fremanezumab' was found to reduce days of migraine in a month and symptoms of depression, compared to a placebo (inactive substance producing no effects). The drug, administered as an injection beneath the skin (subcutaneous), is available in India.

Published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Neurology, the study is the first to demonstrate significant improvements in migraine and depressive symptoms--often seen to co-exist in patients--with a single drug, the researchers, including those from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, US, said.

Patients of migraine--a common neurological condition marked by recurring headaches--have been studied to be two to four times more likely to develop depression. The two conditions are suggested to have common genetic basis and biological processes that control levels of brain chemicals, such as serotonin and glutamine.

The researchers said that patients having migraine and depression are treated with antidepressants--which work by improving serotonin levels. Serotonin helps regulate mood, and

low levels can cause sadness, anxiety and irritability.

However, antidepressants are not uniformly effective for migraine. Further, data is limited on the efficacy of migraine therapy in people also experiencing psychiatric conditions.

The trial was conducted over a 28-week period at 61 centres across 12 countries, including the US, UK, France, and Germany, between July, 2020, and August, 2022.

The participants were randomly assigned to receive a monthly dose of fremanezumab (225 milligrams) or a placebo at the study's start and at the end of week four and week eight.

"Although treatment with fremanezumab and placebo both resulted in clinically meaningful reductions in depressive symptoms, fremanezumab achieved statistical significance vs placebo at week 8," the authors wrote.

They suggested that the reduced depressive symptoms could be an indirect effect of the drug actively treating migraine, although further analyses are required to understand this.

The results "suggest that fremanezumab was effective in a difficult-to-treat clinical population with migraine and comorbid major depressive disorders and may also be effective in alleviating psychiatric comorbidities, therefore reducing the cumulative burden on patients."



# “The Operation Sindoor should continue....”: Hockey India president hails Indian Armed Forces

Meanwhile, at least four airbases in Pakistan were hit by Indian strikes in the early hours of Saturday, sources said, as tensions between the two countries continue to escalate.

BHUBANESWAR, May 10 (Agencies): Hockey India president and former captain Dilip Tirkey lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their execution of the Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, saying that it should continue and the country is with its security forces.

Speaking to agency, Tirkey said, “Our forces are successfully carrying out Operation Sindoor... Terror camps have been destroyed successfully. Pakistan’s drone attacks were also destroyed successfully by our forces. The Operation Sindoor should continue, and we are with our security forces.”

Meanwhile, at least four airbases in Pakistan were hit by Indian strikes in the early hours of Saturday, sources said, as tensions between the two countries continue to escalate.



India launched the retaliatory strikes immediately after Pakistan attacked 26 locations across India, the sources said. Intermittent firing is still going on at several places along the Line of Control (LoC).

In its statement, the Ministry of Defence said, “Drones

have been sighted at 26 locations along the International Border and LoC with Pakistan. These include suspected armed drones. The locations include Baramulla, Srinagar, Avantipora, Nagrota, Jammu, Ferozpur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Lalgarh Jatta, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bhuj,

Kuarbet and Lakhi Nala. Regrettably, an armed drone targeted a civilian area in Ferozpur, resulting in injuries to members of a local family. The injured have been provided medical assistance and the area has been sanitised by security forces. The Indian Armed Forces are maintaining a high state of alert, and all such aerial threats are being tracked and engaged using counter-drone systems. The situation is under close and constant watch & prompt action is being taken wherever necessary. Citizens, especially in border areas, are advised to remain indoors, limit unnecessary movement, and strictly follow safety instructions issued by local authorities. While there is no need for panic, heightened vigilance and precaution are essential.”

# Virat Kohli communicates Test retirement plans to BCCI ahead of England tour

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Indian batting legend Virat Kohli has communicated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about his intention to retire from Test cricket, reported ESPNCricinfo on Saturday.

This report comes just two days after batter and his long-time teammate Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from whites and just over a month before India kickstarts its ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign against England with a five-match series, starting at Headingley from June 20 onwards.

As per ESPNCricinfo, Virat has been having such conversations with the board over the past month or so. If Virat indeed retires, it would mark the end of an illustrious Test career of 14 years, during which he made 9,230 runs in 123 Tests at an average of 46.85, with 30 centuries. He is also India’s most successful Test captain ever, having won 40 out of 68 Tests with the armband.

During 2016-2019, Virat enjoyed one of the biggest primes in longest format history, with 4,208 runs to his name in 43 Tests at an average of 66.79, scoring 16 centuries and 10 fifties in 69 innings, making him one of the biggest ambassadors of the format.

However, the decade of the 2020s has not been great for the superstar batter, having made just 2,028 runs in 39 Tests at an underwhelming average of 30.72, with just three centuries and nine fifties to show in 69 innings. His numbers received a boost from a fine 2023, where he made 671 runs in eight Tests at an average of 55.91, with two centuries and two fifties in 12 innings.

He ended last year with just 382 runs in 10 Tests at a shocking average of 22.47, with just one century and fifty in 19 innings. His last Test outing was the Border-Gavaskar Trophy tour to Australia from November-January, where he made just 190 runs in nine innings at an average of 23.75, with his century at Perth being a highlight. That century was his first since July 2023, when he hit a ton against the West Indies at Port of Spain in 2023.

Also, he is yet to hit a home century since his century against Australia in early 2023 during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at Ahmedabad.

Despite the downward curve of his form, it is understood that the team management and selectors want his experience for the England tour, where India is playing under a new skipper after Rohit announced his retirement. Young batter Shubman Gill is the top contender for the captaincy armband.

Apart from Rohit, Ravichandran Ashwin announced his retirement from international cricket last year in the middle of the Australia tour. With middle-order veterans Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara no longer in the set-up for a while and a decline in senior pacer Mohammed Shami’s form after a long layoff from injury, Virat is



the only senior around, alongside all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

While England was a country where Virat first experienced a major setback during his 2014 Tour, scoring just 134 runs in 10 innings and continuously losing his wicket to pacer James Anderson, it was the 2018 tour which marks Virat’s peak in England, having topped the run-charts with 593 runs at an average of 59.30, with two centuries and three fifties.

In the 2021 England tour, Virat made 249 runs in five matches at

an average of 27.66, with two fifties in nine innings. Virat has played 17 Tests in England, scoring 1,096 runs at an average of 33.21, with two centuries and five fifties in 33 innings and the best score of 149.

2018 marked Virat at the top of his powers in Tests, scoring 1,322 runs in 13 Tests and 24 innings at an average of 55.08, with five centuries and five fifties. He scored centuries in South Africa, England, West Indies, and Australia, with tons at Perth, Centurion, and Edgbaston regarded as some of his best knocks.

# “BCCI had to do this”: Sourav Ganguly on suspension of IPL 2025



KOLKATA, May 10 (Agencies): Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly expressed his thoughts on the suspension of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced its decision to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL 2025, with immediate effect, for one week due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

“There is a war-like situation in the country, and the BCCI had to do this as there are so many Indian and foreign players. Let’s hope the IPL restarts soon, as an important stage of the tournament is around

the corner,” Sourav Ganguly told agency, “BCCI had to do this, especially Dharamshala, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

These are all venues of IPL. It is necessary to do this according to the situation that happened last night. With time, it will get better and matches will also be played. BCCI will complete the IPL, and this situation will end very soon as Pakistan will not be able to handle the pressure for a long time,” he added.

The match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala was called off midway through the first innings on Thursday.

Spectators were informed of the cancellation and asked to vacate the premises, while both teams were escorted back to their hotel.

Sanjay Sharma, a member of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) told agency, “Because of the tension between India and Pakistan, yesterday’s match played between Punjab and Delhi was called off in the middle due to security reasons. But because there was a possibility that something like this could have happened, the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association, the Punjab Kings franchise, and all the operations staff were already in touch with the administration. The administration was fully aware of this.”

According to a BCCI sources, the Indian board arranged a special Vande Bharat train to transport players from Delhi Capitals (DC), Punjab Kings (PBKS), and the entire broadcast crew from Dharamshala to Delhi.

# BCCI keen to host 2027 WTC final

The BCCI is contemplating about hosting the World Test Championship (WTC) final of the 2025-2027 cycle in India, and a proposal in this regard will be formalised at a later date

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): The BCCI is contemplating about hosting the World Test Championship (WTC) final of the 2025-2027 cycle in India, and a proposal in this regard will be formalised at a later date.

England hosted both the WTC title clashes — India vs New Zealand in Southampton in 2021 and India vs Australia in London in 2023. This year’s final between Australia and South Africa will also be held in London.

It has learnt that discussions in this regard were held during the ICC meeting in Zimbabwe last month, in which



the BCCI was represented by IPL chairman Arun Dhimal.

Jay Shah, the former BCCI secretary, is the current ICC chairman after taking over from Greg Barclay in December 2024.

“If India reaches the

next WTC final, then it will be a great spectacle for the fans. Even otherwise (if India does not feature in the final), a match involving two other top teams will have a lot of takers,” a source close to the development indicated.

# India men’s compound team wins gold at Archery World Cup Stage 2

SHANGHAI, May 10 (Agencies): India clinched a glorious feat at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, with the compound men’s team leading the charge in a memorable campaign that saw the country return with three medals, including a gold, on Saturday, May 10.

The men’s compound team—comprising Abhishek Verma and Ojas Deotale, alongside youngster Rishabh Yadav—delivered a composed and clinical performance in the final. They edged past Mexico 232–228 in a thrilling encounter to claim the gold medal, underscoring India’s dominance in the compound discipline.

It was an end-to-end battle against a strong Mexican side, but the Indian trio held their nerve with precise shooting in the final ends to secure a historic victory in Shanghai.

In the women’s com-



pound team final, India’s trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Madhura Dhamangaonkar, and Chikitha Taniparthi put up a spirited fight but had to settle for silver after a 221–234 loss to a superior Mexican team that dominated the contest from the outset.

Meanwhile, the Indian compound mixed team—featuring Abhishek Verma and Madhura Dhamangaonkar—bounced back strongly after missing out on the final. They secured a bronze medal by defeating Malaysia convincingly in the third-place match, adding yet another podium finish to India’s growing archery credentials.

These consistent performances are only the latest chapter in India’s rising archery narrative. At Stage 1 of the Archery World Cup in the USA, India had already bagged four medals, including a silver in the men’s recurve team event and a bronze by promising archer Dhiraj Bommadrevar in the individual recurve category.

With compound archery set to make its Olympic debut in the mixed team format at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, India’s current trajectory offers genuine hope of clinching its first-ever Olympic medal in the sport.

# “Saluting the courage, commitment and sacrifice of our Indian Armed Forces”: Smriti Mandhana

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Indian Women’s cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana on Saturday hailed the Indian Armed Forces for their courage, commitment and sacrifice, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, thanking them for their courage and service.

In an Instagram story, Mandhana wrote, “Saluting the courage, commitment and sacrifice of our Indian Armed Forces. Your strength protects our freedom. We stand with you, always, Vande Mataram.”

Several tournaments were suspended or postponed in India on Friday due to the recent escalating cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. On Friday afternoon, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced its decision to suspend the remainder of the



ongoing IPL 2025, with immediate effect, for one week due to the escalating tensions between the two nations.

“The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL 2025 with immediate effect for one week. Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a

comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders.” BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in the statement.

“The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed the concern and sentiments of their players,

and also the views of the broadcaster, sponsors and fans; while the BCCI reposes full faith in the strength and preparedness of our armed forces, the Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders,” he added.

Later in the day, the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025, which was set to be held on May 24 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, was postponed until further notice due to rising tensions between the two neighbouring countries. “In light of the current situation, the inaugural edition of the NC Classic has been postponed until further notice. This decision has been made after careful thought and consultation, with the well-being of athletes, stakeholders, and the broader community as the top priority,” read a state-

ment from NC Classic on Instagram.

“We believe in the unifying power of sport. But, in this critical moment, standing firm with the nation matters most. All our gratitude and thoughts at this point are only with our Armed Forces, who are at the forefront for our nation. A revised schedule for the NC Classic will be provided in due course. Jai Hind,” the statement concluded.

Due to recent developments, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) decided to postpone the Bengal Pro T20 League Season 2 and all related pre-events.

A revised schedule, including updated venues and fixtures, will be shared after a detailed review of the situation in coordination with relevant authorities and stakeholders and any advisory as issued by the BCCI, CAB said in a statement.



DC Kishtwar holds skill development meeting under R&R Plan



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 10: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened an important meeting today to review and strategize the implementation of Skill Development Program under the Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Plan of the Kiru, Kwar, Pakal Dul, and Rattle Hydroelectric Power Projects in District Kishtwar.

The meeting featured a detailed, point-wise discussion on the minutes issued by the

Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction (DMRRR) Department, with a particular focus on preparing a road-map and strategies for the implementation of the skill development program in the district.

The DC issued key directives to the members of the Project Management Unit (PMU), outlining a structured roadmap for the effective and timely execution of the skill development initiatives.

He directed the General Manager, NHPC,

to explore the implementation models used by NHPC in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam for possible replication in Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, AD FCS&CA Kishtwar Shafqat Ali Keen, AD Handicraft Pardeep Shan, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Dy. CEO Kishtwar besides other Senior Officers, Representatives from Power Projects, and other concerned staff

Dimple registers strong protest against Pakistan, demands immediate relief measures after drone missile attacks in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, today strongly condemned the recent drone missile attacks by Pakistan on Jammu city, which led to massive destruction and loss of life in areas including Bakshi Nagar, Janipur, and the Warehouse locality. The devastating strikes resulted in numerous casualties and significant damage to residential properties.

Among the tragic losses was ADC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who attained martyrdom in the blast.

Following a visit to the affected areas and the injured, Dimple went to GMC Jammu to assess the condition of victims undergoing treatment.

Speaking to the media at GMC, Dimple demanded immediate action from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He urged the creation of a dedicated "Operation Sindoor Relief Account" to provide financial assistance to the victims and their families.

He criticized political leaders for limiting their response to "photo sessions" and called on all 90 sitting and former MLAs, ministers, and MPs to donate six

months of their salaries to the relief fund. "This is not the time for appearances, but for meaningful contribution," Dimple asserted.

He further appealed to GMC and health authorities to provide the best possible medical facilities and to airlift critically injured patients to advanced centers like AIIMS Delhi and PGI Chandigarh.

Sunil Dimple also extended support to residents along the border, encouraging them to move to safer areas in Jammu where free food, shelter, and medical care would be arranged.

Reiterating his demand for the creation of Operation Sindoor Relief Account, Dimple urged the government to curb unnecessary expenditures on convoys and escorts for MLAs and ministers, emphasizing the need to redirect resources towards relief and rehabilitation.

He also demanded that compensation be announced immediately for the families of the deceased, the injured, and those who lost their homes and businesses.

"Announcing compensation must take priority over public appearances," he said.

In a strong statement on national security, Dimple declared that the

war must continue until PoK, Gilgit-Baltistan are liberated, and those responsible for terror — including Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar, and ISI Chief Muneer Khan — are neutralized.

He appealed to government employees and bureaucrats to donate one month's salary to the war relief fund and shared a helpline number (8825086618) for those in need of assistance.

**Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu bereaved**

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 10: A condolence meeting was held at Sheep Husbandry Complex, Jammu today to console the sad demise of the father of Director Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu, Dr. Syed Moin-ul-Haq.

Officers/ officials were present during condolence meeting and prayed to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Two minutes silence was observed as token of respect.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visits family of martyred officer Raj Kumar Thapa, visits several areas in Jammu struck by shelling Omar announces Rs 10 Lakh ex-gratia relief for families of those killed in cross border shelling

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the residence of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa (JKAS), Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty due to cross-border shelling near his residence Rajouri.

Expressing profound grief over the loss, the Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, acknowledging the officer's outstanding dedication and supreme sacrifice. "His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The Government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief," CM Omar Abdullah said during the visit.

Dr. Thapa was stationed in Rajouri town when he was fatally struck by Pakistani shelling. His untimely demise has sent shockwaves through the administrative and civil community, marking a sad and



solemn moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have lost a dedicated officer of the J&K Administrative Services. Just yesterday, he was accompanying the Deputy Chief Minister around the district and attended the online meeting I chaired," the Chief Minister said. "I've no words to express my shock and sadness at this terrible loss of life. May his soul rest in peace." Earlier in the

day, the Chief Minister also visited the affected areas of Rehari and Roopnagar in Jammu to assess the damage caused by the cross-border shelling, which continued for the second night in a row. "The pain and disruption faced by residents is deeply concerning. We stand with every affected family and will ensure all necessary support is provided without delay," he stated. The Chief Minister reiterated his govern-

ment's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives and well-being of its citizens amidst ongoing hostilities.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for the families of all those who lost their lives in the recent cross-border shelling. The decision comes as a gesture of solidarity and support for the grieving families, as the Government intensifies efforts to alleviate

the suffering of citizens in the affected areas.

"While no compensation can ever replace a loved one or heal the trauma caused to the family, as a gesture of support and solidarity, ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh will be provided to families of all the deceased," the Chief Minister said.

Expressing deep anguish over the loss of innocent lives in cross-border shelling, Omar Abdullah stated, "My Government is taking every possible measure to minimise the hardships of our people." He reaffirmed that the administration remains vigilant and proactive in ensuring both relief and safety for the residents of border districts.

The Chief Minister reiterated his resolve to provide all necessary support to the affected families and directed the concerned authorities to expedite the relief and rehabilitation process.

"We stand with every affected family in this hour of grief," he added.

India should take first step to de-escalate tensions with Pakistan: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said India should embrace its leadership role in the subcontinent and take the first step to de-escalate tensions with Pakistan, as it is a moment for the country to stand tall and demonstrate that its true strength lies in its soft power and commitment to peace.

Mufti's remarks came after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to Pakistani Army chief Asif Munir, and "urged both parties to find ways to de-escalate".

"Even though US Vice-President J D Vance initially said that

America wouldn't intervene beyond a certain point in the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, in light of the worrying intensity of the situation, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has now reached out to the Pakistani Army chief, urging de-escalation," Mufti said in a post on X.

Rather than relying on "inconsistent" international support, India should take the first step to de-escalate, she said.

"India as the world's largest democracy and now as an emerging power/the most populous nation with a rapidly growing economy must not rely on inconsistent international support.

"Instead, India should embrace its leadership role in the subcontinent and take the first step to de-escalate," Mufti said. "The world is watching us. This is the moment for India to stand tall and demonstrate that its true strength lies in its soft power and commitment to peace, not in nukes,"

Mufti added.

Tensions between India and Pakistan flared up significantly after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting nine terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April

22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Snowfall disrupts flight operation at Srinagar International Airport

Discover

'Very dangerous to be there right now, left everything behind': Gurez evacuees

Discover

No need to Panic, J&K has adequate supply of essential commodities: Govt

JAMMU, May 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday appealed to people to remain calm and avoid panic, assuring them that there is no shortage of essential commodities including food grains, petroleum products and cooking gas.

Fine dining reservations

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma made the appeal amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan.



"The general public is appealed to remain calm and avoid panic. There is no shortage of essential commodities, including food grains, petroleum products and LPG across the Union Territory," the minister said.

He said sufficient stocks are available at all distribution points and necessary arrangements are in place to maintain regular supplies.

"There is absolutely no need to panic. We have adequate reserves, and my team of dedicated officers is constantly monitoring the situation and taking timely decisions to ensure uninterrupted supply," Sharma,

who is also holding the portfolio of transport among others, said.

He expressed gratitude to trader associations and federations for their cooperation in ensuring that the supply chain remains unaffected. "Their support has been crucial in maintaining normalcy in the availability of various commodities," he added.

On the transport front, the minister said the concerned officers are working tirelessly to provide transportation to those who need to travel.

He emphasised that fare regulations are being strictly enforced and action is being taken against operators found overcharging passengers.

Sharma urged the public to stay vigilant and not believe in rumours.

"Vehicles are plying across the UT in accordance with advisories issued by the authorities. I request everyone to avoid panic besides urging the members of the business community not to indulge in hoarding or overpricing," he said.

The minister extended his best wishes for the safety and well-being of all citizens and reiterated the importance of adhering to official guidelines.

"Let us stand together, remain calm and follow all advisories to ensure the safety and stability of our society," he appealed.