



India won't tolerate nuclear blackmail, 'Operation Sindoor' kept in abeyance, not called off: PM Modi

'Terror and talks, terror and trade cannot go together; water and blood also cannot flow together'

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI: MAY 12: Stating that India will not tolerate any "nuclear blackmail", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that "Operation Sindoor" has been kept in abeyance and not called off, the future actions will depend on the behavior of Pakistan.

In his first address to the nation after India-Pak ceasefire, PM Modi, according to the news agency—said, "Terror and talks cannot take place together; terror and trade cannot go together; and water and blood also cannot flow together."

He said, "Today, I would also like to tell the global community that our stated policy has been: if there



are talks with Pakistan, it will be only on terrorism and only on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)."

The Prime Minister said, "India's three forces, our Air Force, our Army and our Navy, our Border Security Force-BSF, India's paramilitary forces, are constantly on alert. After the surgical strike and air strike, now Operation Sindoor is India's policy against terrorism."

He said, "Operation Sindoor has carved out a new benchmark in our fight against terrorism and has set up a new parameter and new normal."

"I want to make three things clear first, If there is a terrorist attack on India, a fitting reply will be given. We will give a befitting response on our terms only. We will take strict action at every place

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Any misadventure by Pak will invite response for its seven generations to remember: LG Sinha

'Operation Sindoor avenged Pahalgam terror attack, I am proud of our armed forces'

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, MAY 12 Asserting that India has never been in favour of war, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday issued a stern warning to Pakistan, saying that any misadventure this time would invite a response so strong that it would be remembered by seven generations of the adversary.

Addressing displaced residents at the Shelter and Lodgement Centre at Sahib Bandgi Ashram in Mishiwiwala, Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—said, "If Pakistan doesn't indulge in any misadventure, the situation will remain normal. But if it does, our armed forces are fully prepared to give a fierce response that will be

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

All Military Bases, Systems Remain Fully Operational: DG Air Operations

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, May 12: India on Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any mission if the need arises.

At a press

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

India-Pak DGMOs hold talks, discuss issues

Deliberate upon both sides must not fire single shot or initiate any aggressive or inimical action

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 12:: Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan held talks on Monday evening.

Sources told the news agency—that "the DGMOs discussed issues relating to continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive or inimical action against each other."



"It was also agreed that both sides will consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the border

and forward areas," sources added.

Earlier addressing a joint press conference in New Delhi, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai (Army), Air Marshal AK Bharti (Indian Air Force), and Vice Admiral AN Pramod (Navy), according to KNO said, "India's fight was and will always be aimed at terrorists and terrorists' infrastructure in Pakistan, and not against the country's army or civilians."

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

32 Airports, Including Srinagar, Reopen for Civil Aircraft Operations

NEW DELHI MAY 12: In a significant development for air travellers, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has announced the immediate resumption of civil aircraft operations at 32 airports, including Srinagar Airport, following a temporary closure.

The closure was initially scheduled to last until 05:29 hrs on 15 May 2025.

The temporary suspension of operations, the reasons for which were not detailed in the notice, had caused disruptions across several regions. With the reopening coming ahead of schedule, the move is expected to ease passenger inconvenience and restore normalcy in air travel across affected routes.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Schools Reopen Across Kashmir from May 13, Except Border Areas: DSEK

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: All schools across Kashmir Valley will reopen on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, after remaining closed due to heightened India-Pakistan tensions.

However, schools in the border districts of Kupwara, Baramulla, and the Gurez sub-division of Bandipora will remain shut until further orders.

Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G.N. Itoo, confirmed the development while speaking to Kashmir News Service. "All schools shall reopen tomorrow on 13th of May 2025, except in the border districts of Kupwara, Baramulla,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Classwork to Resume at Kashmir University from May 14

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: : The University of Kashmir on Monday announced that regular classwork across all its campuses will resume from Wednesday, May 14. According to an official statement issued here to news agency JKNS reads, "It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned

India will never compromise on its sovereignty, territorial integrity: LG

Meets families affected due to cross border shelling by Pakistan

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, MAY 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday visited Shelter and lodgement centre at Sahib Bandgi Ashram, Mishiwiwala in Jammu, and met the families who have been affected due to the cross-border shelling from Pakistan.

The Lieutenant Governor enquired about the well-being of families, and listened to the issues raised by them. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of India and the Union Territory Administration to ensuring their safety and security. The entire nation stands in solidarity with the affected families, he said.

"India always advocated for peace. It never wants a war but what happened in Pahalgam was an act of war by terror state Pakistan. With "Operation Sindoor", we have avenged Pahalgam. I am proud of our soldiers and armed

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CM Omar Abdullah visits Poonch, assures support to victims of cross-border shelling

Praises communal harmony, promises relief, better infrastructure & protection system in border areas

■ HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive tour of Poonch district to assess the ground situation in the aftermath of the recent cross-border shelling. Poonch was among the worst-affected districts in the cross-border artillery shelling, which resulted in the loss of 13 lives



Pak shelling: Rana hints appointments for NoKs of victim families

■ HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 12: Stating that the compensation will be given to the families affected by the Pakistan shelling, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Monday hinted appointments for the Next of Kins (NoKs) of those who lost their lives in the skirmishes.

Rana, as per the news agency—congratulated both the countries—India and Pakistan for agreeing to sit on a

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

US helped a lot in bringing about ceasefire between India, Pak; helped avert nuclear war: President Trump

■ HT News Network



Washington/New Delhi, May 12 (UNI) US President Donald Trump today said the US "helped a lot" in bringing about the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and added that the US "stopped a nuclear conflict, I think it could have been a bad nuclear war".

In a statement to the media, the US President also said that a trade deal with India was nearing,

and that the US would also have a trade deal with Pakistan.

"On Saturday, my Administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire — I think a permanent one—between

and injuries to many others.

Upon his arrival, the Chief Minister visited the District Hospital Poonch, where he enquired about the condition and treatment of the injured. He expressed his admiration for their courage and resilience and assured them of the best possible medical care and full support from the administration. Later, the Chief Minister met with the bereaved families

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Forced To Flee Pakistani Shelling, Residents Of Villages Close To LoC Begin Journey Home

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Residents of villages close to the LoC who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by the Pakistani military started returning home on Monday.

They started their journey back to their villages after bomb disposal squads cleared the residential areas of any leftover or unexploded shells, officials said.

"We are happy that a ceasefire has been reached between



the two countries. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not

resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident

of the Kamalkote area in Uri.

Some residents praised the army and other security forces for taking care of them.

"The Indian Army has come out with flying colours. It had to respond and it did that well. They (army personnel) are our heroes, they always help us. Even now, when we are going back to Uri, they checked the place thoroughly (for shells)," said Mehak Khursheed, a resident of Uri near the Line of Control (LoC).

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

"Don't Share Sensitive Info with Unknown Callers": Srinagar Police Issues Cyber Security Alert

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Srinagar Police on Monday issued a cyber security alert, warning civilians, journalists, and public figures about spoofed WhatsApp numbers and suspicious calls allegedly being made by enemy intelligence operatives to extract sensitive information.

In a public advisory posted on X, Srinagar Police wrote, "Spoofed WhatsApp numbers and calls from enemy intelligence operatives are being used to impersonate officials and contact journalists, civilians, and public figures to extract sensitive information about ongoing situations."

The advisory strictly urged people not to respond to or

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM

from where the roots of terrorism emerge. Secondly, India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hideouts developing under the cover of nuclear blackmail. Thirdly, we will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism.”

WORLD SAW UGLY FACE OF PAKISTAN PM Modi said, “During Operation Sindoor the world has again seen the ugly face of Pakistan, when top Pakistani army officers came to bid farewell to the slain terrorists. This is strong evidence of state-sponsored terrorism. We will continue to take decisive steps to protect India and our citizens from any threat.”

PM Modi said, “This is not an ear of war, but it is also not an era of terrorism too. Our greatest strength is our unity against all forms of terrorism. Zero tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee for a better world.”

“The way the Pakistani army, Pakistan government are encouraging terrorism, it will destroy Pakistan one day. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to destroy its terror infrastructure. There is no other way to peace. India’s stand is very clear,” he added.

ISALUTE THE VALIANT FORCES OF INDIA Referring to the “Operation Sindoor” and skirmishes with Pakistan during the last week, PM Modi said, “In the past days, we all have witnessed both the strength and patience of our country. On behalf of the people of India, I salute the valiant forces of India, the armed forces, our intelligence agencies, and our scientists. Our brave soldiers displayed immense courage to achieve the objectives of Operation Sindoor. I pay tribute to their bravery, courage and valour. I dedicate this valour to every mother, every sister and every daughter of the country.”

PAHALGAM ATTACK GRUESOME FACE OF TERROR

Terming Pahalgam attack as “barbaric”, PM Modi said, “The cruelty displayed by terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22 had shocked the entire country and the world. The merciless killing of innocent citizens in front of their family and their children on the basis of their religion was a very gruesome face of terror. This was also a disgusting attempt to break the harmony and unity of the country.”

He said, “For me personally this was very painful. After this terrorist attack, the entire nation, every citizen, every community, every class, every political party, unitedly stood up for strong action against terrorism. We gave full freedom to the Indian forces to wipe out the terrorists.”

TODAY EVERY TERRORIST KNOWS CONSEQUENCE OF WIPING OUT SINDOOR OF OUR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS

PM Modi said, “And today every terrorist, every terror organisation knows the consequence of wiping out the Sindoor of our sisters and daughters.”

He said that “Operation Sindoor” is not just a name but it’s a reflection of the feelings of millions of people of the country. “The Operation ‘Sindoor’ is our unwavering commitment to justice. Late night of 6th May and in the early morning of 7th May, the whole world saw this pledge turn into reality. Indian forces attacked terror hideouts in Pakistan and their training centers with precision. The terrorists had never imagined that India could take such a big decision. But when the country is united, endowed with the spirit of Nation First and national interest is paramount, then strong decisions are taken and results are achieved,” he added.

Referring to the strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force (IAF) jets, PM Modi said, “When India’s missiles and drones attacked terrorist bases in Pakistan, not only the buildings of terrorist organizations but their courage also was shaken badly.”

BAHAWALPUR AND MURIDKE UNIVERSITIES OF GLOBAL TERRORISM

Calling terrorist bases, like Bahawalpur and Muridke as universities of global terrorism, PM Modi said, “The big terrorist attacks of the world, be it 9/11, be it London Tube bombings, or the big terrorist attacks which have happened in India in the last many decades their roots are somehow connected to these terrorist hideouts.”

He said that the terrorists had wiped out the Sindoor of our sisters and India responded by destroying their terrorist headquarters. “More than 100 dreaded terrorists have been killed in these attacks by India. Many terrorist leaders were roaming freely in Pakistan for the last two and a half to three decades who used to conspire against India. India killed them in one stroke,” PM Modi said.

MORE THAN 100 DREADED TERRORISTS KILLED IN STRIKES

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan was deeply disappointed and frustrated by this action of India. “It was bewildered and in this bewilderment it did another cowardly act. Instead of supporting India’s strike against terrorism, Pakistan started attacking India itself. Pakistan targeted our schools, colleges, Gurudwaras, temples and houses of civilians,” he said.

PM Modi said, “Pakistan targeted our military base. But in this act Pakistan itself got exposed. The world saw how Pakistan’s drones and missiles fell like straws in front

of India. India’s strong air defense system destroyed them in the sky itself. Pakistan had prepared for an attack on the border, but India struck at the heart of Pakistan. India’s drones and missiles attacked with precision.”

“The Indian Air Force damaged those airbases of the Pakistani Air Forces, of which Pakistan was very proud of,” he said, adding, “India caused heavy damage to Pakistan in the first three days itself, which it had never imagined. That’s why after India’s aggressive action, Pakistan started looking for ways to escape. Pakistan was pleading to the world to ease tensions.”

PAK DGM O APPROACHED FOR CEASEFIRE The Prime Minister said, “After suffering heavy losses, Pakistan’s army contacted our DGM O on the afternoon of 10th May. By then we had destroyed the infrastructure of terrorism on a large scale. The terrorists were eliminated. We had destroyed the terror camps established in the heart of Pakistan. Therefore, when Pakistan appealed and said that it will not indulge in any sort of terror activities or military audacity further, India considered it.”

The Prime Minister said, “After suffering heavy losses, Pakistan’s army contacted our DGM O on the afternoon of 10th May. By then we had destroyed the infrastructure of terrorism on a large scale. The terrorists were eliminated. We had destroyed the terror camps established in the heart of Pakistan. Therefore, when Pakistan appealed and said that it will not indulge in any sort of terror activities or military audacity further, India considered it.”

“And I am repeating again, we have just suspended our retaliatory action against Pakistan’s terror and military camps. In the coming days we will measure every step of Pakistan on the criterion that what sort of attitude Pakistan will adopt ahead,” PM Modi said—

DGM O

The top military commanders said India’s air defense grid—featuring a layered, integrated command and control system operated by the Indian Air Force—successfully repelled multiple aerial threats over the past week.

“Pakistani attempts to strike Indian forward positions on May 9 and 10 were entirely foiled,” they added.

“Not a single enemy aircraft could breach our multi-tier defense system,” Air Marshal Bharti asserted, adding that “our pilots, drones, helicopters, and air defense systems operated seamlessly both day and night to protect vital assets.”

They confirmed the successful downing of several enemy drones and loitering munitions, including Turkish-origin UAVs that attempted incursions.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod emphasized the role of the Indian Navy in ensuring maritime security, confirming that Indian naval air defense systems and fleet patrols remained alert and active.

“If needed, we have the capability to strike at will across maritime or land-based targets. Pakistan could not threaten us during maritime operations either,” he said, as per KNO.

Officials confirmed that offensive operations were carried out across “the length and breadth of enemy territory,” including high-impact strikes near Nur Khan Air Base and Rambhayr. These precision attacks were aimed at disrupting terrorist command hubs and logistics networks.

They praised the perfect synergy between the Army, Air Force, Navy, Border Security Force, and intelligence units during recent operations. “From the DG to the last jawan, the BSF played a vital role in securing the borders,” said Lieutenant General Ghai.

He also acknowledged the unwavering support from the Indian government and the collective will of India’s 140 crore citizens. “This is not just a military effort. Every domain—air, land, sea, and cyber—is involved, and every Indian stands behind the forces,” the commanders said.

Responding to reports from across the border, the Indian military dismissed Pakistani claims that a terror leader reportedly killed in a targeted strike, was still alive. “They will say whatever it takes to manage their internal narrative. But facts speak louder. Our fight is not with Pakistan’s people—it is with the terrorists they shelter,” Air Marshal Bharti said.

In a symbolic gesture, he also quoted a Hindi poem to reaffirm India’s resilience and self-reliance, adding that indigenous systems were fully capable of countering modern threats, including drone swarms and cyber warfare.

The military commanders said that while India remains open to dialogue through DGM O-level talks, its forces are “ready for the next mission—anytime, anywhere.”

“Every war is different. What matters is staying ahead of your adversary. We were ready, and we remain ready,” they added—

DIG AIR

briefing here, Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal AK Bharti said India’s robust air defence system effectively thwarted Pakistani attempts to target Indian installations.

Another highlight was stellar performance of indigenous air defence weapons like Akash system, he said.

The Integrated Air Command and Control system thwarted Pakistan’s military offensives.

“Our fight was against terror infrastructure and terrorists but the Pakistan military chose to support terrorists and widened the conflict,” the top IAF officer said.

The Indian Army said earlier this morning, “The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the International Border.” Fine dining reservations Jammu and Kashmir tourism

“No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days,” it said in a statement.

India launched Operation Sindoor on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under ‘Operation Sindoor’.

India and Pakistan on Saturday last announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with effect from 5 pm that day. (Agencies)

LG

remembered by seven generations of Pakistan.”

Referring to India’s long-standing position against war, the Lieutenant Governor said, “India has never been in favour of war, but our neighbour continues to violate the ceasefire and sponsor terrorism. Jammu and Kashmir has bled for too long due to terrorism. Despite repeated calls for peace, Pakistan is not mending its ways.”

In the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, LG Sinha echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s earlier resolve, saying, “Terrorists and their backers will be taught a lesson. Our forces are on high alert, and any further provocation will be met with decisive force.”

“India always advocated for peace but what happened in Pahalgam was an act of war by the terror state Pakistan. With Operation Sindoor, we have avenged Pahalgam. I am proud of our soldiers and armed forces. Our war was to teach Pakistan a lesson,” LG Sinha said, as per KNO.

“Our Armed Forces have repeatedly demonstrated their capability to respond decisively to threats posed by Terror state Pakistan. It harbors and exports terror and caused immense suffering through its terrorist activities in our territory,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that India will never compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. “We are resolved to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir. On the night of May 6th-7th, our Armed Forces executed a precise Operation Sindoor, demonstrating both unwavering resolve and commendable restraint and successfully demolished terror factories in Pakistan,” LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor acknowledged the anxiety among border residents and assured them of full support from the administration. “We understand the concerns of our people. We will provide all possible help, including the construction of bunkers as per the latest assessment. The entire administration is with you. When it comes to the nation, every citizen must cooperate and stand united.”—

CM

who lost their loved ones in the shelling. “Words fall short in the face of such grief. I offered my heartfelt condolences and assured them that they are not alone—the entire administration and I stand with them,” he said.

The Chief Minister also visited Zia-ul-Uloom and Anwar-ul-Uloom religious institutions, where a religious teacher was killed and several students were injured in the shelling incident.

Following his visits, the Chief Minister convened a meeting with public representatives, which included Members of the Legislative Assembly: Ajaz Ahmad Jan (Poonch-Haveli), Choudhary Mohammad Akram (Surankote), and Minister Javed Ahmad Rana (Mendhar). The meeting was also attended by prominent citizens, former legislators, and community leaders from the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and other communities.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chairperson of the District Development Council, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, SSP Poonch, and other senior officials were also present at the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged the grief and suffering caused by the shelling. “Today, we gather in a time of great difficulty and pain. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the spirit of unity and communal harmony displayed by the people of Poonch. The brotherhood among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others during this crisis is truly commendable. May the Almighty

HT - NEWS

continue to bless this unity,” he said.

He lauded the efforts of the civil administration, including the Deputy Commissioner, SSP, and their teams for their unwavering service. “They stood their ground and worked tirelessly to support the people and minimize the suffering caused by this tragic situation,” he added.

Speaking about the conflict, the Chief Minister said, “This situation was not of our making. Our neighboring country chose to target innocent civilians on our side of the border. This is both deeply saddening and unacceptable.”

Expressing sorrow over the loss of 13 innocent lives, he said, “While no compensation can replace a lost life, it is our responsibility to provide immediate support and Rs 10 lakh relief announced by me to each family of the deceased is not a measure of the value of life, but a step to help them cope during this difficult time.”

The Chief Minister acknowledged the role of local MLAs for their support during this crisis.

Commenting on the expanding threat of cross-border shelling, Omar Abdullah said, “For the first time, even the old quarters of Jammu have been affected. We are now forced to contemplate building bunkers in the city—something previously unimaginable.”

He stressed the need for immediate reforms in preparedness. “We must learn from this experience and rectify our shortcomings. Strengthening hospital infrastructure is essential. Citizens have suggested that retired doctors be engaged during emergencies. I will raise this with the Health Minister and explore re-employment or stipend-based scheme for retired medical professionals,” he said.

Outlining future preparedness, the Chief Minister said, “May we never face such a situation again, but if we do, we must be better prepared. We plan to establish critical infrastructure including fixed and mobile bunkers, reinforce ambulance services, and improve evacuation mechanisms in border areas through mock drills and practical assessments.”

In conclusion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah offered his deepest sympathies to the families of the deceased. “Their pain is our pain. I salute the people of Poonch for their resilience, unity, and sense of coexistence during this crisis. You have set an example for the rest of the state and the country. May peace return to our borders, and may our people continue to live in harmony and safety,” he said.

LG FAMILIES

forces. Our war was to teach Pakistan a lesson.

Our Armed Forces have repeatedly demonstrated their capability to respond decisively to threats posed by Terror state Pakistan. It harbors and exports terror and caused immense suffering through its terrorist activities in our territory,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that India will never compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are resolved to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir. On the night of May 6th-7th, our Armed Forces executed a precise Operation Sindoor, demonstrating both unwavering resolve and commendable restraint and successfully demolished terror factories in Pakistan, and avenged the killing of innocent civilians in Pahalgam.

Our Armed Forces have made it unequivocally clear: any threat by the adversary to the safety of our people will be met with such a decisive response that the action of our armed forces will be remembered by seven generations of Pakistan,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to all those individuals and organisations who are extending their support to the families affected due to unprovoked shelling by Pakistan. He also assured that bunkers will be built as per the new assessment, for the safety of the people—

TRUMP

and the fortitude to fully know and to understand the gravity of the situation.

And We helped a lot!

“And we helped also with trade. I said ‘come on we’re going to do a lot of trade with you guys, let’s stop it, let’s stop it’.

“If you stop it we’re doing trade, if you don’t stop it we’re not going to do any trade, People have never used trade the way I have

And all of a sudden, they said, I think we’re gonna stop.

And they have, and they did it for a lot of reasons but trade is a big one.

“We’re gonna do a lot of trade with Pakistan, and a lot of trade with India

“We’re negotiating with India right now, were gonna soon be negotiating with Pakistan

“And we stopped a nuclear conflict, I think it could have been a bad nuclear war

Millions of people could have been killed

“I’m proud of that, I also want to thank VP Vance and Secretary Rubio for their work and efforts, they worked very hard.”

RANA

table to resolve the issues.

“Although ceasefire is in place, Poonch has faced severe damage due to Pakistan shelling. The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had visited the families of those who suffered damage and lost their beloved ones in the shelling. The National Conference (NC) believes that the issues can only be resolved through talks. We congratulate the leadership of both the nations for agreeing to dialogue and resolving the issues,” Rana said.

“The suggestions were put forth by the civil society members and the Chief Minister himself has discussed some plans. The decisions in this regard will be made in the cabinet soon,” he said, adding that the families who lost their beloved ones will be given compensation while the CM has pointed toward appointments under SRO43 as well. “We will try to give people some benefits under SRO-43,” he said.

Pertinently, Rana was also present in the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with the civil society members in Poonch to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling—

URI

Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi has asked the residents of villages along the frontline to remain vigilant and not touch anything suspicious.

“They should immediately report any suspicious objects to the authorities for proper disposal,” he said.

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday asked the residents of border villages not to rush back as residential areas were yet to be sanitised and cleared of any unexplored shells. Fine dining reservation- sJammu and Kashmir tourism

More than 1.25 lakh residents of villages close to the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts were evacuated to safety as their homes were at a very high risk of being targeted in Pakistani shelling.

“Do not return to frontline villages. Lives are at risk as unexplored munitions remain (scattered) after Pakistani shelling,” police said in an advisory on Sunday.

“As many as 41 lives were lost in explosions of leftover shells near the LoC in 2023 alone,” they had said, highlighting the dangers of civilians rushing back to villages.

Poonch district accounted for 18 of the 25 total fatalities since Wednesday. It also recorded injuries to 50 people.

The Pakistani shelling began shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to avenge the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. However, hours later, New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching the agreement.

POLICE

engage with such suspicious callers. “All are strictly advised not to respond or share any information with unknown or suspicious callers,” it read.

Police also warned that sharing operational or sensitive details with unauthorised individuals could lead to legal consequences. “Any sharing of operational or sensitive details with unauthorised persons may invite legal action,” the advisory added.

The Cyber Cell has appealed to the public to remain vigilant and report any such suspicious activity to the nearest Police Station or the Cyber Cell directly. (JKNS)

AIRPORTS

Travellers are advised to check the latest flight status directly with their respective airlines and monitor official airline websites for any further updates or schedule adjustments, AAJ said.

The notice was issued by the Directorate of AAI.

SCHOOLS

and the Gurez sub-division of Bandipora,” Dr. Itoo told KNS.

The earlier closure was ordered as a precautionary measure due to exchange of fire by India and Pakistan armies.

KU

that the regular classwork across all campuses of the University shall resume from Wednesday, 14th May 2025.”

“However, those students residing in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and those from outside the Union Territory have been permitted to join from Monday, May 19, 2025,” it reads.

The university advised all concerned students and faculty to take note of the schedule and ensure timely resumption of academic activities. (JKNS)



J&K MBBS Interns Meet Deputy CM, Advisor & Health Minister, discuss Stipend Hike for Interns Seek CM Omar Abdullah's Intervention to Resolve Stipend Hike Issue

HT News Network

Srinagar May 12 (KNS): delegation of MBBS interns from various Government Medical Colleges of J&K met with the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Advisor to the Chief Minister, and the Health Minister today to appeal for the immediate resolution of the long-pending demand for a hike in internship stipends. The interns presented a detailed memorandum, highlighting the urgent need for implementation of the revised stipend structure as recommended by the official committee. The Health Minister, while acknowledging the immense workload shouldered by MBBS interns and terming the demand for stipend enhancement as "genuine and justified," explained

the administrative roadblock that has stalled progress. She informed the delegation that the Finance Department has conditioned the approval of the proposed stipend hike on an increase in MBBS Course fees—a move she firmly opposed in the larger interest of medical students in J&K, stating that such a move would be unfair to future MBBS students. "The Health Minister has clearly communicated to the Finance Department that no fee hike should be imposed on MBBS students in exchange for the stipend revision. She assured us that the proposal would be resubmitted without any linkage to fee increase, and that she is actively monitoring the matter herself," said Dr. Manaan, one of the representatives. The delegation also met with the



Hon'ble Advisor to the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, both of whom extended their support. They acknowledged the critical role played by interns in daily hospital

functioning and called for expedited approval of the revised stipend structure. Both dignitaries commended the interns for their dedication and professionalism during their clinical

duties. Presently, MBBS interns in J&K receive ₹12,300 per month—a figure last revised in January 2019. The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department had constituted a committee under Government Order No. 538-JK(HME) in June 2023. The committee recommended increasing the stipend to ₹26,350, in line with National Medical Commission (NMC) norms, and submitted its report in August 2023. However, the matter remains stalled in the Finance Department since January 2024. Citing growing disparities with other Indian states and mounting financial stress, the interns have made a heartfelt appeal to the Hon'ble Chief Minister to personally intervene. "Since the Finance Department

falls under the domain of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we humbly request his urgent intervention to grant budgetary approval for the stipend hike. It would bring immense relief and recognition to interns who are at the frontline of patient care," said another member of the delegation. The delegation expressed confidence that with the combined support of the Hon'ble Health Minister, Deputy CM, Advisor, and the personal intervention of the Chief Minister, the proposal for stipend revision will soon be approved—upholding both equity and dignity for future doctors of J&K. er member of the delegation. The delegation expressed confidence that with the combined support of the Hon'ble Health Minister, Deputy CM, Advisor, and the personal intervention of the Chief Minister.

Private Taxi Drivers Seek Relief from EMI Amid Tourism Slump Appeal Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to Intervene

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 12, KNT: Private taxi drivers in Kashmir have appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and facilitate a temporary suspension of their vehicle loan EMIs, citing severe financial distress caused by the recent downturn in tourism. The drivers said that the fallout from the Pahalgalam attack had led to a sharp decline in tourist arrivals, directly impacting their daily income. "We have taken our vehicles on finance, and the current situation has made it impossible to pay monthly installments," a group of drivers told Kashmir News Trust. Adding to their troubles, the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan have further discouraged tourists from visiting the Valley, worsening the already fragile tourism sector. The drivers urged the Chief Minister to request banks and finance companies to defer EMI payments for at least two to three months until the situation improves. "We are not asking for a waiver, but only a pause until we can resume our work and earn again," they added. [KNT]

Srinagar-Jammu Highway Still Blocked, Authorities Continue to Clear Debris

HT News Network

Ramban, May 12, KNT: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains blocked for the second consecutive day following a series of mudslides in Ramban district. The highway was rendered impassable after multiple stretches were hit by landslides triggered by intermittent rainfall, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded and causing major disruption to passenger and goods traffic. Officials from the traffic department confirmed that restoration efforts are currently underway, with heavy machinery deployed to clear the debris. However, the slippery and unstable terrain, compounded by continuing rain in the region, is hampering progress. "The road remains blocked. We are working round the clock to restore connectivity, but commuters are strictly advised not to travel on NH-44 until the route is fully cleared and declared safe," said a senior traffic police officer stationed in Ramban. Long queues of stranded vehicles, including trucks carrying essential supplies to the Valley, were seen at various halt points along the route. District officials have advised locals and travelers to stay updated via official bulletins and official social media handles before planning any movement. [KNT]

95th Death Anniversary of Mirwaiz Ahmadullah Shah (RA) Observed with Reverence

HT News Network

Srinagar May 12 (KNS): Today marks the 95th death anniversary of Kashmir's distinguished Islamic Scholar and social reformer, former President of Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Mirwaiz Maulana Ahmadullah Shah Sahib (RA), which was observed with great devotion. President of the Anjuman, Mirwaiz Dr. Moulvi Mohammad Umar Farooq, paid rich tributes to the late Mirwaiz, describing him as a devout lover of the Prophet Muhammad, a true follower of Sunnah and a man of exemplary character.

Satish Sharma pays homage to BSF martyrs at Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 12: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, today paid heartfelt tribute to the brave soldiers of Border Security Force (BSF) during a solemn wreath laying ceremony held at Shahid Smarak, BSF Frontier Headquarters, Paloura Camp, Jammu.

The ceremony was held in honour of Constable Deepak Chingakhm, who laid down his life in the line of duty on May 11, 2025, during unprovoked cross-border firing along the International Boundary in R.S. Pura, Jammu. The Minister along with senior BSF officials and dignitaries, laid wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence, paying deep respects to the supreme sacrifice of the young soldier. Earlier, Satish Sharma paid floral tributes to Sub Inspector Mohammad



Imteyaz, another valiant BSF officer who made the ultimate sacrifice. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that our nation stands indebted to these brave hearts whose courage and dedication safeguard our borders. Their sacrifices will always be remembered and serve as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come. The tribute ceremony was attended by BSF personnel, civil and police officials, family members of fallen soldiers and locals who expressed gratitude to defenders of the nation.

Ceasefire Brings Hope: Civil Aviation Authorities to Reopen 32 Airports Amid Haj Travel Backlog

HT News Network

MUMBAI/SRINAGAR, May 12 (KNS): Following last week's armed conflict between India and Pakistan, civil aviation authorities have decided to reopen 32 airports that were temporarily closed to civilian flight operations. Official sources confirmed on Monday that a formal announcement regarding the resumption of operations is expected soon. The Airports Authority of India (AAI), in coordination with other aviation bodies, had issued Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) on May 9, suspending civilian flight operations at key airports across northern and western India, including Srinagar, Amritsar, Jammu, Pathankot, Jodhpur, and Bhuj. The shutdown was in place until May 15 as a security precaution during



the military standoff. The reopening decision comes in the wake of a ceasefire agreement reached between the two neighbouring countries, bringing a sense of relief to thousands of stranded passengers, especially Haj pilgrims. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took to social media to highlight the urgency of the situation. "Now that we have a ceasefire, I hope the airports can be reopened quickly & civil flights can resume. We have

a backlog of hajis who should have been in Medina by now. I hope the Union Government will move quickly to reopen airspace & enable us to resume Haj flights from Srinagar," he tweeted. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took to social media to highlight the urgency of the situation. "Now that we have a ceasefire, I hope the airports can be reopened quickly & civil flights can resume. We have a backlog of hajis who should have been in Medina by now.

Tarigami urges govt to provide jobs to kin of cross-border shelling victims, seeks compensation for losses

Farooq Rather.

Srinagar, May 12: Expressing deep concern over the suffering of people living along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Boundary (IB), CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami on Monday urged both the Government of India and the J&K administration to urgently prioritize the rehabilitation of families affected by recent cross-border shelling. While addressing the press conference at Srinagar Today, Tarigami said that border villages in Uri, Poonch, Rajouri, Kupwara, and others faced devastation due to skirmishes. "These people have lived through fear, destruction, and loss. It is the government's responsibility to ensure their safe return, provide adequate compensation, and rebuild their lives with dignity," he said. He said that the damage to homes, crops, and livestock must be assessed thoroughly, and the affected must be



compensated fairly. "These villages have not only lost

shelter but some also livelihood. In areas like Rajouri and Poonch, entire homes have been reduced to rubble. These families deserve a roof over their heads," Tarigami added. The CPI(M) also extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, saying, "We stand with every family that has suffered loss. In this hour of pain, our solidarity is with them, and we will continue to raise their voice." He also called for immediate support to the families who lost loved ones in the shelling. "The next of kin of those killed must be provided government jobs without delay to ensure their families can survive and rebuild," he urged. Tarigami appealed to the Government of India to take full responsibility for leading the rehabilitation efforts and to extend all possible assistance to the J&K administration. "It is a time to stand with the people in their hour of grief and need," he said.

Ceasefire brings relief to Uri as guns fall silent

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 11: A ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan has brought much-needed relief to residents of the border town of Uri in north Kashmir, who were caught in the crossfire of heavy Pakistani shelling over the past week. Jammu and Kashmir tourism The guns have fallen silent after days of intense bombardment that followed India's Operation Sindoor – a military strike targeting nine terrorist camps across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



The operation was launched in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgalam, which claimed the lives of 26 tourists, including that of a local pony handler. In response, Pakistani forces began pounding civilian areas in Uri and other border areas across Jammu

and Kashmir with artillery and mortar shells on the night of May 7, forcing thousands of families to flee with only basic belongings. The violence led to large-scale displacement from the border town. With the guns now quiet, Uri's deserted markets are slowly springing back to life. Shops are reopening, and residents are cautiously returning to their homes. "The market opened after four days. There is still fear, but life is slowly returning. As soon as the ceasefire was announced, we opened our shop. Thankfully, there has been no shelling since last night," said Abdul Rasheed, a local shopkeeper.

Kashmir Industry Body Constitutes 9-Member Election Commission to Ensure Timely, Transparent Polls

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: In a significant step aimed at restoring robust democratic functioning within its ranks, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has constituted a nine-member Election Commission tasked with conducting fresh elections within two months, in strict accordance with the FCIK Constitution. The development followed the first meeting of the newly formed Advisory Committee, chaired by FCIK President Shahid Kamili, during which the appointment of Majid Aslam Wafai as the head of the Commission was unanimously approved. The other members of the Commission include Javid Ahmad Bhat, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Zain-ul-Abideen, Mohammed Ayub, Abdul Raheem Sofi, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Abdul Wahid Chishti, and Mehraj-ud-Din.

EDITORIAL

Time to act
against unethical,
irresponsible
journalists

Press or media is considered to be one of the pillars of democracy and as such journalists need to be responsible while reporting events, incidents or accidents. In recent years the term sensationalism has been added to the vocabulary of journalism and some of the scribes resort to the same while reporting for various media outlets. Social media has added yet another dimension to the scenario of journalism.

As on date people tend to believe this form of media rather than mainstream media. Most of the people who are hit on different social media platforms are not well qualified and at times they take things for granted. Yet another thing that has taken over the scene of journalism in the world, especially India is breaking news. In the name of breaking news the electronic media channels are indulging in a mad race and in order to score brownie points these channels can go to any extent.

Same happened a few days back when many border areas of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir were rocked by shelling from across the border. In the Poonch area in the Jammu division a shell exploded in a residential area as a result of which a civilian identified as Qari Iqbal was killed. As this person was spotting a beard some of the media channels resorted to absolute misinformation by reporting that Qari Iqbal was a terrorist.

As soon as the news was flashed by these channels and also on the social media the people of Poonch got surprised and they raised strong protest against the reportage. The reporters of these channels faced wrath from the common masses and they said that mere spotting a beard is enough for these irresponsible media-men to label a person as a terrorist. Qari Iqbal was an imam who used to lead prayers in a Masjid in his area and also imparted religious education.

It is high time that the Press Council of India takes note of such misreporting and takes appropriate action. Action should be taken against irresponsible journalists and unethical media houses. Once action is taken against these media houses then the other media outlets would fall in line. Only then we can expect that the highest standards of responsible and ethical journalism are followed by all the media houses operating in the country. This would give a new meaning to journalism in India and people would believe only credible journalists.

Digital Detox: Reclaiming Media for
a Better Society and Nation

In today's interconnected world, the reach of electronic and social media is unparalleled. What once began as a revolutionary tool to democratize information and empower voices has, in many cases, become a platform that accelerates division, spreads misinformation, and erodes civil discourse. Particularly vulnerable are young, impressionable minds, which are being conditioned more by controversy than by curiosity, more by hate than by hope.

Across countries and cultures, we are witnessing a dramatic transformation in how media functions. Once regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy, a watchdog meant to keep governments accountable and societies informed, mainstream and digital media now often prioritize revenue, ratings, and reach over truth, ethics, and impact. The media space is increasingly governed by algorithms that reward engagement—even if that engagement is built on outrage, extremism, and emotional manipulation. What gains more traction is not intelligent debate but incendiary content, not policy discussion but personality clashes, not factual reports but fabricated drama.

One of the most troubling outcomes of this shift is how it conditions society to see the world in binaries—us vs. them, right vs. left, religious vs. secular, nationalist vs. anti-national. Young audiences, in particular, are now often exposed to a daily diet of emotionally charged content that leaves little room for nuance. This constant ideological reinforcement erodes empathy, destroys critical thinking, and replaces civic engagement with mob mentality. Instead of understanding different perspectives, people are taught to attack them.

On television, we no longer see meaningful debates about a country's economic future, technological capacity, education system, healthcare challenges, or environmental responsibilities. What we often see are chaotic shouting matches framed as “debates,” where participants are reduced to caricatures, and dissent is labeled as disloyalty. The quality of dialogue has sharply declined, and in its place, abusive language, communal tropes, and baseless accusations have taken center stage—all in the name of TRPs or digital virality.

This dangerous shift isn't limited to traditional media. Social media, which once held the promise of decentralizing power and amplifying unheard voices, has become fertile ground for hate speech, disinformation, and ideological manipulation. The use of

deepfakes, coordinated disinformation campaigns, and troll armies has turned these platforms into battlegrounds where facts often lose to fury. The psychological damage to users—ranging from increased anxiety and depression to social polarization and radicalization—is now well-documented across several global studies.

Fortunately, both constitutional provisions and legal mechanisms exist to confront this crisis. In India, while Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, Article 19(2) enables the State to impose reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order, decency, morality, and national integrity. This balance is crucial to prevent media freedoms from morphing into license for abuse. Legal tools like the Indian Penal Code Sections 153A, 295A, and 505 prohibit content that promotes enmity between communities, outrages religious sentiments, or incites violence. Moreover, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, have empowered authorities to demand timely removal of illegal or harmful content and promote accountability among publishers and platforms.

There are tangible examples where these laws have made a difference. The Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check Unit has flagged thousands of fake news items, many of which could have stoked panic or communal tension if left unchecked. Election bodies have routinely issued notices and taken down misleading political content to preserve the sanctity of democratic processes. In several high-profile cases, content removal orders were executed swiftly following mass complaints, preventing potential unrest. These interventions have not only prevented violence but also helped preserve social trust and reinforced the rule of law.

Globally too, the importance of curbing false narratives has been recognized. Germany's Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG) has made it mandatory for platforms to remove hate speech and illegal content within 24 hours, leading to a tangible drop in xenophobic posts. New Zealand's response to the Christchurch terror attack included the global “Christchurch Call,” which created international pressure on tech giants to remove violent extremist content. Finland's approach is preventive—by embedding media literacy education across its curriculum, it ensures that citizens are trained to detect manipulation, verify sources, and resist divisive propaganda. This has contributed to

Finland's consistent ranking as one of the world's happiest and most stable nations. France's Anti-Fake News Law enables judges to order content removal and public retractions during election periods, preserving democratic integrity.

What becomes clear from these global examples is that fighting media-induced division is not just about censorship; it's about nation-building. When false narratives are curbed and truthful reporting is upheld, public trust increases, polarization declines, and cooperation across communities becomes possible. A media ecosystem rooted in facts and ethics strengthens a nation's institutional framework, supports innovation, and fosters long-term peace and prosperity.

This is where the idea of digital detox enters—not as a luxury, but as a strategic necessity. Digital detox—consciously reducing media intake and screen time—has shown measurable positive effects on mental health, civic behavior, and productivity. India, despite its digital revolution, ranks poorly on the global happiness index, occupying the 126th position in 2024. One reason is the constant psychological overstimulation and emotional agitation caused by media consumption, especially of content designed to provoke.

Social media addiction, doomscrolling, and exposure to combative narratives fuel stress, anxiety, and isolation. A report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) highlighted how digital overstimulation, particularly among adolescents and young adults, has become a silent epidemic leading to lower life satisfaction and increased emotional burnout. Digital detox helps break this cycle. By reducing media consumption and promoting mindful engagement, it helps reclaim mental peace and civic sanity. When individuals unplug from toxic content, they tend to redirect their energy toward learning, innovation, family, and community building. This benefits national goals across economic, educational, and social dimensions.

There is strong empirical evidence that happiness and national progress are tightly linked. The World Happiness Report 2024 highlights that happier societies report stronger GDP growth, more inclusive political participation, greater innovation indices, and lower crime rates. Countries like Finland, Denmark, and Iceland—who top the index year after year—achieve this not because of their wealth alone but due to trust in institutions, low media toxicity, digital discipline, and well-balanced civic dialogue. These societies have

embraced digital hygiene policies and media literacy to ensure that people are not mentally hijacked by sensationalism.

In India, if such practices were embedded in school curricula, public campaigns, and corporate wellness programs, the national mood could shift dramatically toward cooperation, innovation, and growth. Programs promoting community connection, digital breaks, and media education could empower people to resist manufactured outrage and focus on real issues like job creation, technological innovation, climate change, and public health.

Digital detox is thus not a rejection of technology but a recalibration of how we use it. A society that promotes digital mindfulness is a society where citizens think critically, act empathetically, and contribute productively. It's a pathway toward reducing hate, enhancing productivity, and fostering long-term unity.

The solution, however, does not rest with governments alone. Citizens must embrace digital detox—not by abandoning media, but by consuming it more mindfully. Setting limits on screen time, following verified sources, engaging in respectful dialogue, and fact-checking before forwarding content must become routine practices. Schools must include media literacy as a core competency. Parents must guide their children in understanding the difference between debate and division, opinion and fact, freedom and responsibility.

Media institutions too must take stock. Ratings and virality should not override truth and decency. Regulatory bodies must be empowered, and penalties strictly enforced for repeat violators. Governments must implement media accountability mechanisms while preserving the sanctity of free speech. A media culture rooted in responsibility is not the enemy of freedom—it is the foundation of it.

If we continue to allow hate, division, and falsehoods to dominate our screens, we risk producing a generation that sees the world only through the lens of hostility. On the other hand, if we act now—through legal reform, societal awareness, digital detox, and responsible media—we can still reclaim media as a transformative tool for peace, unity, and national development.

It is time to detox our minds, detox our screens, and reboot our national conscience. The future of civil society and national progress depends on it.

My Visit to Land of Colourful Festivals

FAROOQ WANI
farooqwani61@yahoo.co.in

Nagaland, one of the seven sister states of Northeast India, offers a unique travel experience with its diverse landscapes, rich culture, and vibrant festivals.

This writer had an opportunity to visit this scenically and uniquely un-Indian beautiful region, with its mountainous terrain, cool and pleasant climate, distinctive culture and ancient tribal traditions recently.

My visit began with a warm and grand ceremonial welcome upon our arrival by flight (from Delhi) in Dimapur, the Business capital of Nagaland. With a population of nearly two million (as per the 2011 Census), Kohima is Nagaland's second largest city, and has a unique characteristic, in that apart from being the capital, it is also a district and a municipality.

Nagaland provides a fascinating glimpse into the heart of India's northeast. Lying to the east and south of Assam, north of Manipur and west of Burma, this state is predominantly tribal in terms of demography. In Kohima, we were told that this region is another version of “God's Own Country”, blessed with great valleys, meandering rivers and streams, high-peaked mountains, deep valleys and gorges and a rich variety of flora and fauna.

Another unique feature of Nagaland is that it goes by several names. It

has been called the “Land of Festivals” because of its vibrant and diverse tribal cultures and traditions. Many refer to it as the “Falcon Capital of the World”, as it serves as a major migratory stopover point for the Amur Falcon as it moves from Siberia in Russia, across to Northern China and onward to South Africa, before taking the same route back. Millions of Amur Falcons arrive in Nagaland each year to feed and rest before continuing their nearly 11,000-kilometre journey. Some sources describe Nagaland as the “Switzerland of the East.”

Formerly though, it was known as “The Naga Hills” when it was a district within the state of Assam. English is the official state language.

Nagaland is most famous for the “Hornbill Festival”, an annual ten-day cultural festival held between December 1 and December 10. It celebrates the rich traditions and diverse cultures of Naga tribes, exhibiting their music, dance, art and cuisine. This “Festival of Festivals”, as it is popularly known, aims to promote inter-tribal harmony and preserve an ancient heritage. It is organised in the Naga Heritage Village at Kisama.

Nagaland's population comprises of 16 Tibeto-Burman tribes. Each is identified by their multi-coloured spears, ceremonial daos (swords), bracelets, chest plates, head dress of coloured bamboo and colourful dresses.

The standard of living among the

My visit began with
a warm and grand
ceremonial welcome
upon our arrival by
flight (from Delhi)
in Dimapur, the
Business capital of
Nagaland. With a
population of nearly
two million (as per the
2011 Census), Kohima
is Nagaland's second
largest city, and has a
unique characteristic,
in that apart from
being the capital, it is
also a district and a
municipality

Naga people is relatively high. Their day typically begins early, around 4 a.m., due to its location to far east, which causes the sun to rise earlier. People usually have dinner by 6 p.m. and go to bed around 8 p.m., a routine that contributes to their physical well-being. The Naga community primarily follows the Baptist denomination and are staunch believers of Christianity.

I travelled to the interior regions of Nagaland, where I observed that the roads are in a dilapidated condition and overall development is very poor. Many locals blame the government for its negligence and lack of initiative in improving infrastructure and public services. Additionally, extortion by certain Tribal groups has severely impacted both the quality of life and the pace of development. Due to these challenges, Big Business houses are hesitant to invest in Nagaland, as they are often required to pay substantial amounts to these groups in the form of extortion.

In writing this travelogue on Nagaland, this writer came away with a feeling that festivals are an integral part of the Naga socio-cultural existence and that a majority of them are held with agriculture as the main theme.

Kohima is a hill station situated at an altitude of 1,495 metres above sea level. It gained fame during the Second World War, as it was from this place that the marauding Japanese

Army was forced to retreat in the mid-1940s.

I had an opportunity to visit the War Cemetery in Kohima, a memorial dedicated to India's martyred brave hearts. Each grave here has a bronze plaque with a suitable epitaph that makes one reflect on the freedom that we take for granted.

During my visit to the War Cemetery, I learned that the youngest soldier buried there was just 23 years old, while the oldest was 46, both martyred during battles against the Japanese army. This poignant information was shared with me by Chain Lal, who served as my guide throughout the journey.

The other places I visited included the Nagaland State Museum and the Catholic Cathedral at Aradura Hill.

The museum is a treasure house of Naga culture, showcasing gateposts, statues, pillars, and jewellery. There is also a ceremonial drum, which looks like a canoe. In the basement of the museum, there are exhibits of the birds and animals of North East India.

The Catholic Cathedral at Aradura Hill is another important landmark in Kohima. It is one of the biggest cathedrals in Asia and houses the largest wooden Christian cross which accommodated over thirty thousand people at a time.

In terms of shopping, Kohima offers colourfully designed and warm Naga shawls, shoulder bags, woodcarvings and bamboo baskets.

Echoes of Silence, the Elegy of Separation and the Lament of Love



WANI ARAFAT

The greatest literary minds throughout history have always ventured into the deep, uncharted waters of human emotion, their words offering a glimpse into the profound complexities of the heart. They have captured the essence of love, the weight of loneliness, and the bitter taste of loneliness, transforming these intangible feelings into written words that resonate with every reader. These works are not just stories; they are mirrors that reflect the deepest corners of our souls. Among the many iconic tales, we find the timeless love of "Laila Majnu," immortalized by the poet Qateel Shifai, the tragic and passionate story of "Salim and Anarkali," and, in the context of Kashmir, the name "Rashid Jamshed" stands out as a poet who beautifully intertwined love with the landscapes of his homeland.

These authors, with their exquisite craftsmanship, have portrayed the truths of love in its most raw and powerful forms. Through their words, they have captured not only the joy of love but also its immense pain and longing, allowing readers to relive their own forgotten moments of passion and loss. And in this tradition of capturing the complexities of love, a young man from Tral, Andaleeb Gull, has dared to pen his own heart-wrenching narrative. His book, *The Elegy of Unsaid Goodbyes*, emerges as a reflection of a silent world where love lingers, unsaid words echo in the heart, and the heartache of untold goodbyes becomes a living, breathing entity.

The *Elegy of Unsaid Goodbyes* is not merely a book; it is a quiet, poignant sigh that speaks of everything that was left unsaid—of every whispered emotion that was never voiced, every lingering sorrow that could not be captured by language. The book delves deep into the silences that often speak louder than words, the spaces between thoughts where pain and love intertwine. Each page

is infused with a philosophical depth that invites readers to not just read but to feel, to sink into the sorrow and beauty that each chapter carries. It is a journey into the heart's unspoken confessions, where readers will find echoes of their own untold stories and long-forgotten emotions.

Although Andaleeb Gull is a young author, his work holds a maturity and depth that rivals the great literary figures of the world. His sensitivity and realistic portrayal of love and sorrow elevate *The Elegy of Unsaid Goodbyes* to a place of unique reverence. It proves that the profound themes of love, pain, and loss are universal, transcending age, time, and place. This book becomes more than just a work of fiction—it becomes a mirror to the human soul, speaking to anyone who has loved, lost, or experienced the silent ache of an unspoken goodbye.

Each of the 31 chapters in this book encapsulates a unique emotion and a distinct story. Here, we will shed detailed light on these chapters to truly grasp the depth and reality that this book carries.

1. The Bloom

This chapter captures the innocent dawn of love—like the first blossom of spring, mirroring the very first heartbeat. Love here is fresh, untouched, and radiant.

First love is more beautiful than dreams—perhaps because it was never meant to become reality...

2. When the Conversations Started to Fade

This chapter reflects the slow silence that creeps into relationships. When two hearts begin to drift apart, words lose color, and a once-passionate love falls into quiet surrender.

3. When I Saw You with Someone Else

This is the moment a heart breaks without sound. Words fail, and emotions collapse into helplessness.

Seeing you with someone else—my heart shattered, and my eyes turned silent. That pain can never be spoken.

4. The Girl Who Looked Like You but Wasn't

This chapter explores the haunting blur between memory and reality. Love appears in familiar forms, but the ache remains, unchanged and unresolved.

5. Things I Wish I Had Said Before You Were Gone

A quiet gallery of regrets. This chapter gives voice to all the words that never left the heart, echoing softly in the silence of what could've been.

6. Long Distance – The Space Between Our Hearts

This is not just about physical separation, but the growing emotional chasm between two hearts. It portrays the aching silence that distance often brings to love.

7. If You Ever Miss Me, Don't

A story of pride and defiance. The heart aches, but the ego refuses to show it. A chapter wrapped in the struggle between longing and self-respect.

8. The Night I Finally Slept Without Thinking of You

A bittersweet milestone. A step toward healing, though it carries a lingering sorrow—the kind that follows the end of something once beautiful.

Sometimes, peace follows pain—just like every night ends in light.

9. You Forgot Me Slowly, I Remembered You All at Once

This chapter mirrors the cruelty of being forgotten gradually while memories of the other come rushing back all at once—piercing and overwhelming.

10. The Day I Realized I Deserved Love Too

A moment of awakening. It's the birth of self-love and the realization that one is worthy of the very love they once gave away.

When we learn to love ourselves, we find the greatest love of all.

11. I Was in Love Alone

An intimate portrayal of one-sided love. This chapter tenderly unpacks the yearning, the unanswered dreams, and the restless emotions of loving someone who never loved back.

12. Closure Never Came, But I Did

A powerful realization that closure is not always necessary. Some doors never open again, yet we move on. Life teaches us to rise even without answers.

13. I Wanted You to Stay, But I Needed Me More

This chapter navigates the painful balance between holding on and letting go. Love may wish to sacrifice, but saving oneself becomes essential. A piercing yet necessary truth.

14. I Don't Miss You Anymore, But I Remember Everything

Memories linger, even when emotions fade. A beautiful reflec-

tion of how we may move forward, yet parts of the past remain etched within us.

15. Some Goodbyes Don't Need Words

A silent farewell. This chapter beautifully captures the wordless goodbyes, where only the eyes speak, and the heart remembers—deep, spiritual, and serene.

16. She Moved on Without Me – And I Watched

A quiet heartbreak. This is the story of helplessness—watching someone build a new life without you, while your heart silently breaks apart.

17. Healing Didn't Look Like Moving On, It Looked Like Remembering Me

Healing, here, is not about forgetting but reconnecting with oneself. It's a journey of reclaiming self-worth, slowly and quietly.

18. The Versions of Me That Loved You

Love transforms us. This chapter reflects on how we become different people for those we love, and how, through love and heartbreak, we rediscover ourselves.

19. I Didn't Deserve to Be Forgotten Like That

A plea for justice of the heart. This chapter voices the silent scream of someone left behind, reminding us that every soul deserves to be remembered with dignity.

20. The Moment I Chose Peace Over Closure

A mature decision. It is about choosing inner peace instead of chasing explanations. Some endings don't need questions—they need acceptance and peace.

21. You Were My Almost, Not My Always

This chapter speaks of the pain when someone is close, but not forever. It captures the intense sorrow of an incomplete love story—where someone's presence, though real, never quite completes you.

22. What I Learned After Losing You

A reflective and enlightening chapter. Here, one begins to rediscover their true self and attempts to learn from the depths of a wounded heart. It reveals the profound truth that every loss carries within it a hidden lesson.

23. You Let Me Go Like I Was Nothing. I Found Out I Was Everything.

A declaration of self-worth—when someone leaves you, yet you

learn to cherish your own value. This chapter unveils a revolutionary realization: that your worth is never diminished by someone's departure.

24. How I Became the Person I Needed All Along

This is a tale of self-reconstruction—when you become the very person you always longed for. It's a beautiful revelation of discovering your inner strength, and that, indeed, is the essence of true self-hood.

25. The Last Time I Spoke Your Name Out Loud

A chapter of final farewell—when a name is spoken for the last time. It holds a moment that blends both tenderness and intensity, and within it lies a quiet acceptance that whispers of peace.

26. I Still Love, But Now It's Me

This chapter redefines love. It's no longer outward—it turns inward. When you learn to love yourself, your world transforms, and no pain in this world can touch you the same again.

27. You Lost Me When I Learned to Love Myself

A powerful truth: the moment you start loving yourself is the moment you let go of every unfulfilled expectation. It marks the freedom of the once-loving soul—and this chapter stands as a witness to that liberation.

28. I'm No Longer Waiting – Not Even for Closure

This is a symbol of complete freedom. No more waiting, no more questions. You become whole within yourself. It paints a portrait of revolutionary serenity and self-reliance.

29. You Became a Lesson I Had to Learn the Hard Way

This chapter illustrates that every person teaches us something—whether in the form of wounds or wisdom. It's a deep and often painful process of growth, hidden behind every heartbreak.

30. I Outgrew the Love That Couldn't Grow with Me

This chapter conveys that love should never come at the cost of losing yourself. When your love can't grow with you, you don't lose yourself—you find yourself instead.

31. After You, I Became My Own Home

The final chapter testifies to a revolution—when you find peace and home within your own soul. It defines a complete self, one that

emerges after weathering every shade of love.

Epilogue: The Elegy of Unsaid Goodbyes

The *Elegy of Unsaid Goodbyes* is not merely a book—it is a silent scream. A scream of emotions buried deep within the heart; of moments lost in the ruthless cycles of time; of words that die on the edge of trembling lips.

This work by Andaleeb Gull is a dance of sorrow—a symphony of silence that echoes like a heartbeat on every page. The emotional current it carries is like a flowing river, sweeping the reader through droplets of memories, storms of regret, and rains of unfinished dreams.

This book gives voice to moments that never reached completion, to words that never found a listener. Andaleeb Gull, through this creation, has shown that silence too has its own language—and at times, it speaks the loudest and the most profoundly.

On the literary horizon, this book rises like a luminous star—its glow illuminating not just the eyes but also the soul. The tenderness of style, the elegance hidden within simplicity, and the depth of thought undeniably elevate this work to the stature of a masterpiece. The price of this book is only 449. The book is available on Amazon Kindle in India. The paperback edition is available in 15+ countries including the USA, UK, Canada, and Germany.

I writer wani arfat from the deepest chambers of my heart, extend my warmest congratulations to my dear friend Andaleeb Gull on this magnificent and impactful literary debut. Though it marks the beginning of his creative journey, it already reflects the richness of his vision, the intensity of his emotion, and the maturity of his pen.

I pray that Allah Almighty continues to elevate his knowledge, his expression, and his insight; that his imagination remains forever anchored in truth, beauty, and sincerity; and that he continues to enrich Urdu literature with such soul-stirring creations.

(Note: Mohammad Arafat Wani, a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com)

Can we be strangers again?

BY JAWAID

There is something incredibly ironic about the people we trust the most—they are often the ones who break us the hardest. We grow up believing in the power of friendship, in the warmth of relationships, and the security that closeness offers. But life, in its most bitter form, teaches us a different lesson: sometimes, the ones who claim to love us are the very people who end up hurting us the most.

Have you ever looked at someone you once laughed with, cried with, shared your secrets with, and thought, "Can we be strangers again?" Not because you want to erase the good memories, but because the pain they caused overshadowed all that was once beautiful.

Disloyalty doesn't always come from afar. It often lives next door, sits at your dinner table, or even shares your blood. In today's world, betrayal no longer comes wrapped in the clothes of enemies—it wears the face of a friend, the smile of a cousin, or the concern of a sibling. It's a devastating reality that many of us are forced to accept: sometimes, it's our own relatives who become the greatest enemies of our

"Strangers never had the keys to your soul. They never memorized your vulnerabilities or turned your trust into weapons. And maybe, that's why being strangers again feels like the safest option."

peace, our dignity, and our progress.

We invest time, emotions, and loyalty into people who we believe will stand with us, but when storms hit, they are the first to abandon ship—sometimes even drilling holes in the boat themselves. It's not just disloyalty; it's calculated betrayal

masked under the label of "love." That's when a voice inside us begins to whisper, "Can we be strangers again?" Can we go back to that point in time when I didn't know you, when I hadn't handed you the blueprint to destroy me?

Strangers never pretend. They don't make promises they can't keep. They don't share your life, so they don't have the weapons to hurt it. Sometimes, it's better to be strangers than to carry the weight of a relationship that's become toxic. Distance, after all, is not always a sign of bitterness—it is, more often, a declaration of self-respect.

In a society where envy hides behind smiles and selfishness is masked by sweet words, protecting one's peace becomes more important than keeping a connection. It's okay to walk away. It's okay to stop explaining. It's okay to rebuild yourself from the ruins of a broken friendship or a betrayed relationship.

So yes, maybe the idea of being strangers again isn't so bad. Because sometimes, going back to nothing is better than holding on to something that hurts. And in doing so, we find freedom, we find clarity—and most importantly, we find ourselves.

The Indo-Pak war through the eyes of a child



BY ROUF YATOO

I feel compelled to pour out the emotions that have overwhelmed me. Last night, as I returned from Baramulla, my five year old nephew ran to me and held me tightly. I was surprised. He sat in my lap, looked up with his innocent eyes, and said, "You know, war is going on... my friend told me we're all going to die." His words staggered me. They pierced through my heart like cold blades. Then, with a soft voice, he said, "I will sleep in your bed tonight." After dinner, I took him in my arms, and he kept asking me questions some strange, some logical, but all of them pure and filled with innocence. His tiny voice carried the weight of a world he hadn't yet lived in fully. His little mind was trying to make sense of the chaos he had absorbed throughout these days.

He kept repeating what he had heard: "They said on the

microphone to turn off the lights... pull the curtains..."

Out of curiosity, I asked him, "Why should we turn off the lights? Why pull the curtains?" He replied, "Don't you know?"

At night, helicopters fly. And if they see light, they might hit us. So it's better to turn off the lights and pull the curtains as well." I was shaken. I pulled him close to my chest and gently tried to shift his thoughts. I started fabricating a story and told him, "You know what? Airplanes don't fly in the night sky... how could they? Their engines get jammed in the dark." I wove that tale like a lullaby, hoping it would soothe his fragile mind and shield him from the cruel truths he wasn't meant to carry. Then, I recited a few verses from the holy Quran and told him, "If you recite these before sleeping, Allah will protect you. No harm will come your way." This is our future these little souls. If such thoughts are nesting in the hearts of our children, what future does Kashmir hold? How can we expect blooming gardens when fear has already taken root in the soil? He further mentioned, "I miss my school. It was so lovely. We laughed and played. But it's closed now... it's been four days will it open again?" he asked. My heart

clenched at his desperation. He added softly, "My friend said it won't open for a month." I continued pacifying his fears with stories, trying to offer him a world safer than the one he has been experiencing from the last few days.

Then, he told me, "Some people from the border came here... two or three families. They've lost their homes. People helped them... they gave them money for vegetables and bread. I had ten rupees, and I gave it too." His words gave me goosebumps. "Will you give me more money tomorrow so I can help them again? They have small babies," he said.

"Would you take me there?" he asked eagerly.

I asked, "Where?" "They're in our school. My friend and I went nearby. They were inside. My friend's father gave them a blanket."

People were whispering that those families had lost their homes in cross-border shelling.

He looked at me and asked, "Who will build them a house, Uncle?"

This time, I couldn't lie. I didn't have another story in me. I told him gently, "Allah will provide. Pray for them. You're young, and He listens to young hearts. Your prayers are special."

He asked questions deep

into the night, one after another, until he finally fell asleep around 11 p.m., his tiny hand wrapped around my finger. But I could feel the unrest beneath his sleep.

In the morning, he told me, "I was scared last night. I heard loud noises." However, I hadn't heard a single sound. Then I realized something heartbreaking those sounds weren't real. They were echoes of fear created in his imagination while listening to stories.

As I left my bed, I recalled the fragments of the whole conversation and decided to share it with the world.

And here I am, trembling, unable to hold my pen. My hands are weak from carrying the weight of his innocent words. The pain in his heart for those living near the borders crushes me.

And it's not new – it has been like this for decades.

But how long? How long will this go on?

How many more minds will grow up wrapped in barbed wires of fear instead of dreams?

How many more lullabies will be replaced with stories of missiles and innocent killings?

This is not just about borders. This is about broken childhoods.

And no child deserves a childhood like this.



NIT Srinagar to hold online classes from May 13 to June 6 Physical classes will resume from June 11: Registrar

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 12: In view of the recent developments along the Line of Control (LoC), the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has announced that online classes for all undergraduate and postgraduate students will commence from May 13 and continue till June 6, 2025. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said that the move follows a week of heightened tensions on the borders, during which many students were facilitated in returning to their homes for safety reasons. "A number of faculty members also travelled to their respective home-towns amid the uncertainty. With

the situation now stabilizing, the institute has opted for a phased and structured return to normal academic operations," he said. Prof. Rehman said that online classes will commence on Tuesday, May 13, and continue till June 6, college hostels will reopen on June 9, to facilitate students' return to campus. "On the directions of Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, offline (physical) classes will start from Wednesday, June 11, 2025," he said. Prof. Rehman said that administration underscored the importance of maintaining academic continuity during this period. Conducting online classes is aimed at minimizing disruption to the curriculum while prioritizing



ing the safety and well-being of both students and staff, he added.

Meanwhile as per an official notification issued by the Dean Academic

Affairs, after a meeting with the Dean Students Welfare, Registrar, and Director (in-charge), hostels will reopen on June 9, 2025, allowing students adequate time to return and settle on campus. "Subsequently, physical classes will resume on June 11, 2025, restoring full in-person academic engagement," it said. The notice has been circulated among all departments and students are urged to attend online classes regularly and begin preparing for the return to offline classes next month. In view of the recent developments along the Line of Control (LoC), the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has announced that online classes for all undergraduate and postgraduate students will com-

mence from May 13 and continue till June 6, 2025. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said that the move follows a week of heightened tensions on the borders, during which many students were facilitated in returning to their homes for safety reasons. "A number of faculty members also travelled to their respective home-towns amid the uncertainty. With the situation now stabilizing, the institute has opted for a phased and structured return to normal academic operations," he said. Prof. Rehman said that online classes will commence on Tuesday, May 13, and continue till June 6, college hostels will reopen on June 9, to facilitate students' return to campus.

Police arrests 3 drug peddlers in Budgam, Sopore

HT News Network

BUDGAM, May 12: Continuing its unwavering drive against the drug menace, Police achieved success by arresting 3 drug peddlers in Budgam and Sopore and recovered significant quantity of contraband substances from their possession. A police team from Police Post Soibugh at a checkpoint established near Soibugh Diyar Bridge, intercepted two suspicious individuals who tried to flee but were apprehended tactfully. Upon search, heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Mohd Imran Khan son of Abdul Rahman Khan and Waris Rashid Dar son of Abdul Rashid Dar, both residents of Narkara, Budgam. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 108/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam, and further investigation is underway. Similarly in Sopore, Police Station Dangiawacha apprehended notorious drug peddler namely Mohammad Iqbal Dar son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar resident of Drusoo Khalisa Rafiabab, in connection with FIR No. 22/2025 under sections 8/22 and 29 of the NDPS Act. Earlier investigations had led to the seizure of 496 capsules of SpasmoProxyvon Plus. Further investigation and sustained efforts resulted in the recovery of some additional capsules. Police remain committed in eradicating the drug menace from society and safeguarding the lives of the youth. The public is urged to continue supporting the police by reporting drug-related activities in their localities.

SSP Handwara Chairs Public Interaction Meeting at Mankal Qalamabad

HT News Network

Srinagar May 12: Senior Superintendent of Police Handwara Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary-JKPS convened a public interaction meeting at Mankal Qalamabad to engage with local residents and address community concerns. The session witnessed the presence of Additional SP Handwara Shri Fayaz Hussain Shah (JKPS), DySP PC Hqr Handwara, DySP (Prob), SHO PS Qalamabad, and other senior police officers. The gathering was attended by community leaders, social activists, religious heads, traders, and other prominent citizens from the area. During the interaction, participants voiced various local issues and grievances before the visiting officials. SSP Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary attentively listened to the concerns raised and assured the participants that police-related matters would be addressed on priority basis. He further stated that grievances concerning civil administration would be referred to the respective departments for timely redressal. In his address, the SSP stressed the importance of community policing as a vital tool for strengthening the trust between the police and the public. He also called for unified efforts to combat drug abuse and other social evils, urging citizens to actively participate in a mission-driven campaign to eradicate the drug menace from society. In his address, the SSP stressed the importance of community policing as a vital tool for strengthening the trust between the police and the public. He also called for unified efforts to combat drug abuse and other social evils, urging citizens to actively participate in a mission-driven campaign to eradicate the drug menace from society.

Tejinder chairs Youth National Conference Meeting to Strengthen Grassroots Cadre

Lauds Indian Forces amid Border Tensions, extends full support to Govt

HT News Network

JAMMU, May 12: Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference (YNC), Jammu, chaired an important meeting of party youth leaders and workers from Jammu Urban, Jammu Rural-A, Jammu Rural-B, and Samba districts at Sher e Kashmir Bhawan Jammu to discuss organizational matters and to strengthen the youth wing at the grassroots level. Addressing the meeting, Aman emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the cadre to remain proactive in connecting with people at the ground level and to act as a bridge between the public and the party leadership. During the meeting,



Aman also commended the Indian Armed Forces for their unwavering courage and commitment in defending the people of Jammu and Kashmir against ongoing threats, particularly in light of recent Pakistani drone intrusions amid heightened Indo-Pak tensions. He saluted the security forces for their "exemplary bravery in ensuring civilian safety and protecting the sovereignty of the nation." He informed the gathering that on the directions of Party President Dr.

Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Youth National Conference has extended its full support to the government and the armed forces. "At this critical hour, we stand united with the country," Aman stated, reinforcing the National Conference's consistent stand on national security and civilian welfare. He stressed the importance of grassroots mobilization, especially in areas affected by border hostilities. Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban

YNC said that the youth must work with sincerity and dedication to strengthen the National Conference at every booth, every village, and every mohalla. It is our collective duty to support people who have taken shelter in camps due to ongoing border tensions. The Youth NC must be at the forefront of relief and assistance," he urged. Taking stock of party organization, Aman instructed the Jammu District President of YNC to immediately constitute the district committee, ensuring greater coordination and outreach. The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolve to reinforce the presence of the Youth National Conference across the province and work in alignment with the party's mission of peace, unity, and development.

DOMA Confederation celebrates Buddha Purnima by paying an homage

HT News Network

Jammu, 12.05.2025: DOMA (Dalit, OBC, Minority, Adivasis) Confederation J&K observed 2569 Buddha Purnima today at Jammu. Leaders of DOMA joined to pay their homage to Lord Buddha by showering flowers. RK Kalsotra, State President DOMA Confederation, said that Dr BR Ambedkar was a pioneer when it comes to revival of Buddhism in India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar saw Buddhism as a means of empowerment and annihilation of the caste system, which had oppressed the depressed and backward sects for centuries. This year let us honour his legacy and take a pledge by embracing the morals and values of the scientific ways of Buddhism. He also added that these values should be taught to younger generations and inculcated in one's daily life through "Atta deepo bhava" meaning 'be a light unto yourself'. This is the righteous path to move on and look ahead for a brighter tomorrow. The influence of Buddhism can be seen in Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's drafting of the Indian Constitution to enable social justice for all. Ramesh Uttama said that teachings of Lord Buddha were accepted all



across the globe as that was the level of acceptance of his values and his lessons. They were widely supported by people from different sects as well. Har Dutt said that Buddha became an inspiration for Dr BR Ambedkar for writing the Constitution of India and many such ideals were included in it like equality, brotherhood, among other virtues. He also added that Lord Buddha highlighted the importance of peace in the world and considering how things are in turmoil, such issues should be addressed through the teachings of Lord Buddha. Ramesh Sarmal added that there are increasing cases of war/violence today, be it on the basis of caste, creed, gender or religion. Lord Buddha

taught us that non-violence should be the way of life and thus, such teachings should be incorporated by all. Dr Ramesh Kaith said that Buddhism is one such religion that promotes equality, non violence and scientific approach. It also focus on the importance of self and mind and not on rituals that promote hierarchy in the society. Thus, the message of 'apna depak Khud Bano' becomes an important one in today's time. At the end they passed a resolution and appeal to Govt of India and Bihar to hand over the control of Bodhi-gaya Monastery site in Bihar independently to Buddhists and were the participants of mass conversion to Buddhism lead by Dr Udit Raj in 4 Nov. 2001.

Unexploded Shells Found In Civilian Areas Of Rajouri: Army

HT News Network

RAJOURI/JAMMU, May 12: Multiple unexploded shells have been found in civilian areas of Rajouri district in Jammu region - a discovery that debunks Pakistan's claim that no civilian area was targeted. Jammu

accounted for the highest 20 of the total 27 fatalities with over 50 others injured since Wednesday, shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and PoJK to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead. The heavy bombardment of civilian areas followed Indian Army strikes on nine

terror facilities located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). These strikes were retaliatory measures in response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed the lives of 26 individuals, predominantly tourists. Officials involved in the post-shelling operations have indicated that evidence on the ground.

ROSE ADVERTISING AGENCY

Make Your Business Grow

A Complete Advertising Agency

- Newspaper Ads
- Flex, Boards & Banners
- Radio Ads
- Tv Ads
- Social Media Ads On Multiple Pages

+91-7780847775, +91-6005902008





India extends financial support to Maldives through rollover of USD 50 million Treasury Bill

HT News Network

MALE, May 12: India has extended crucial financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the USD 50 million Treasury Bill for one more year, a move the Maldivian government said will support its ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience. At the request of the Maldivian government, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed, for one more year, a USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, the Indian High Commission in the Maldives said in a statement on Monday. Since March 2019, the Indian government has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills by the SBI and rolling them over, annually, interest-free to the Government of Maldives, it said. "This has been done under a unique Government-to-Government arrangement, as emergency financial assistance to the Maldives," the statement said.



The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour and an important partner in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision 'MAHASAGAR' i.e. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, the statement said. India has assisted the Maldives in times of need and the subscription of this Treas-

ury Bill, along with, the Government of India's decision earlier this year to extend the special quota for export of essential commodities for the Maldives, reflect India's continued support to the Government and the people of the Maldives, it added. Abdulla Khaleel, the Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed gratitude to India and External Affairs Min-

ister S Jaishankar for extending crucial financial support to his country. "This timely assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between #Maldives & #India and will support the Government's ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience," he said. Treasury Bills (T-bills) "rollover" refers to the practice of reinvesting the proceeds from a maturing T-bill into a new T-bill, effectively extending the investment term. The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour and an important partner in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision 'MAHASAGAR' i.e. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, the statement said. India has assisted the Maldives in times of need and the subscription of this Treasury Bill, along with, the Government of India's decision earlier this year to extend the special quota for export of essential commodities for the Maldives, reflect India's continued support to the Government and the people of the Maldives, it added.

Russian parliament claims evidence of anti-Russia campaign by NATO on Victory Day

HT News Network

MOSCOW, May 12: The head of the Russian parliament's lower house commission on foreign interference, Vasily Piskarev, on Sunday claimed there was evidence indicating that, on the eve of Victory Day, NATO countries launched a large-scale campaign against his country. "The State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Interference by Foreign States in Russia's Internal Affairs has found that on the eve of Victory Day NATO countries launched a massive anti-Russian campaign, using foreign agents among others. "There is also evidence of the desecration of war graves and memorials on the territory of 15 EU countries, a ban on Soviet war songs and marches, the wearing of Soviet military uniforms and paraphernalia.

Putin calls for 'direct talks' with Ukraine

HT News Network

MOSCOW, May 12: Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for "direct talks" with Ukraine, saying that they should "start without delay, as early as May 15", media reports said. "We seek serious talks... to remove the root causes of the conflict and start moving towards a lasting, strong peace", Putin said on Saturday, in a rare televised late-night address from the Kremlin, the BBC reported on Sunday. It came hours after the European leaders - including UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron - visited Ukraine and urged Russia to agree to an unconditional 30-day ceasefire. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had said in



response that Moscow would "have to think this through" - but warned that "trying to pressure us is quite useless". Putin said he would "not rule out" the possibility that the talks - which he proposed should take place in Turkey's largest city Istanbul - could result in Russia and Ukraine agreeing "new ceasefires, a new truce".

The Russian leader said he would speak to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday to discuss the details, the report said. European leaders visited Ukraine and called for a month-long ceasefire, but Kyiv has not responded to the invitation, which came on the same day. Leaders of France, Germany, the UK and Poland - part of the so-called "coalition of the willing" - were hosted by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and took part in a joint news conference during the trip. They warned that "new and massive" sanctions would be imposed on Russia's energy and banking sectors should Putin not agree to the unconditional 30-day ceasefire "in the air, at sea and on land".

Nepal PM Oli thanks India, Pak for stopping military actions

HT News Network

KATHMANDU, May 12: Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday thanked India and Pakistan for reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions, saying Lord Buddha's message of peace and non-violence is more relevant today. "Lord Buddha's teachings and his message of peace and non-violence are more relevant today at a time when we are facing conflicts around us," Oli said while speaking at an event held on the occasion of the 2569th Buddha Jayanti in Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha. "A few days ago in our neighbourhood, tensions had escalated between India and Pakistan, but now the conflict has ceased," he said. "I want to thank both India and Pakistan for the same," Oli said. "I have been saying from the beginning that tension should not escalate... the conflict should not turn into a war," Oli said, adding that he also talked to both sides. Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly following India's Operation Sindoor last week in response to the Pahalgam attack on April 22 that killed 26 people, including a Nepalese citizen. India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect on Saturday.



Speaking at the event, Oli said the doctrine of the founder of Buddhism is useful and relevant for world peace and humanity. He offered prayer at the idol of Buddha at Lumbini, where hundreds of people, including Buddhist monks, scholars, political leaders, students and peace lovers had gathered. In Kathmandu, people offered prayers at Swayambhunath and Boudhanath stupas to observe Buddha Purnima. Gyanmala Bhajan group organised a programme of devotional songs in praise of Lord Buddha on the occasion. In Kathmandu, people offered prayers at Swayambhunath and Boudhanath stupas to observe Buddha Purnima. Gyanmala Bhajan group organised a programme of devotional songs in praise of Lord Buddha on the occasion. (PTI)

Ukrainian president welcomes Russian overtures, but says ceasefire must come before peace talks

HT News Network

KTIV, May 12: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed Russia's offer for direct peace talks, but insisted there must be a full, temporary ceasefire in place before negotiations can start. Zelenskyy, writing on X, called Russian President Vladimir Putin's counter-offer to start talks without a ceasefire a "positive sign", and said "the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time". He added, however, that "the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire". Meanwhile, Russia resumed mass drone attacks in Ukraine early on Sunday, after its self-declared 3-day pause expired. Russia launched 108 attack drones and simulator drones from six different directions, Ukraine's Air Force said on Sunday. It said 60 drones were shot down and another 41 simulator drones failed to reach targets due to Ukrainian countermeasures. The Ukrainian president appeared to insist on his proposal to start a 30-day unconditional ceasefire on Monday. "There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire - full, lasting, and reliable - starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet," Zelenskyy said. Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed



restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead "without preconditions". He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations. Putin's counteroffer came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine that they offered on Saturday in a strong show of unity with Kyiv. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in comments aired by Russian state TV on Sunday, called Putin's proposal "very serious" and said it "confirms a real intention for find a peaceful solution". "The goals of the talks are clear: to eliminate the root causes of the conflict. And also to ensure the interests of the Russian Federation," Peskov said. (AP)

US, UK discuss tensions between India and Pakistan

HT News Network

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, May 12: The US has discussed the current situation between India and Pakistan with the UK, emphasising the need for both neighbours to maintain the "ceasefire". India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect on Saturday. In a readout, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Sunday. "On India-Pakistan, the Secretary and Foreign Secretary Lammy emphasised the need for both sides to maintain the ceasefire and to continue to communicate. The Secretary expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continued efforts to improve communications," the readout added. Rubio also reaffirmed the US position on the Russia-Ukraine war, saying "our top priority remains bringing an end to the fighting and an immediate ceasefire." Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. (PTI)

3 mineworkers killed in Afghanistan's Badakhshan

HT News Network

KABUL, May 12: Three miners lost their lives after part of a mine of mini-precious stones collapsed in northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan province on Sunday, local media reported Monday. The ill-fated miners were busy extracting mini-precious stones in a mine of the natural treasure in Ashkashiem district on Sunday, but suddenly part of the mine caved in, killing three workers on the spot. Tolnews quoted a provincial government official Mohammad Kamgar as saying. A similar accident claimed the lives of two gold miners in Badakhshan's neighboring Takhar province in late March this year. The lack of modern machinery in the mining sector, poor safety measures, illegal extraction of mines by unskilled miners and the use of outdated techniques have put the lives of mineworkers at risk in the war-torn Afghanistan. (UNI)

Top UN leaders welcome understanding between India, Pak to stop firings and military actions

HT News Network

UNITED NATIONS, May 12: Top UN leaders have welcomed the understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions, calling it a "meaningful" and "positive step" toward ending current hostilities and easing tensions.



President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly Philemon Yang wrote in a post on X that he welcomes the development, saying, "it is a meaningful step towards de-escalation reflecting the commitment of both nations to regional peace and stability." Yang urged continued diplomatic efforts and dialogue to resolve differences and achieve lasting peace and stability in line with the UN Charter and international law. Immediately after India announced "understanding on stoppage of firing and military action" on Saturday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the move, describing it as a "positive step" toward ending current hostilities and easing tensions. Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. (PTI) Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Awami League rejects its ban by Bangladesh interim govt, vows to continue operations

HT News Network

DHAKA, May 12: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League on Sunday rejected "with disgust" the interim government's decision to ban the party and vowed to continue its operations despite the restriction. The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's Council of Advisers or the Cabinet on Saturday night slapped a ban on "all activities of Awami League", including in cyberspace, under an anti-terrorism law. Reacting to the move, in a strongly worded statement posted on X, the Awami League said, "We are rejecting and protesting the fascist autocrat Yunus government's decision with disgust... Awami League will carry on

its activities in an appropriate course, defying the decision of the fascist Yunus government." The party regretted that "today's independent Bangladesh" had to witness the ban on Awami League activities by an "undemocratic fascist" government that now runs the country "without people's mandate", while the country "earned independence and sovereignty under its (Awami League's) leadership". Formed in 1949, the Awami League led the movement for the autonomy of Bengalis in the then East Pakistan for decades and eventually led the Liberation War in 1971. The statement said the ban is meant to "exile the spirit, ideals, and core values of the Liberation War and to empower the vulgar resurgence of anti-independence elements"



and "only an anti-state and anti-independence evil force alone". "We strongly believe that the people of Bangladesh will deliver a resounding response

to this reckless decision by the fascist Yunus regime. We call upon all leaders and activists of Awami League to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and build a total resistance against this incoherent and anti-people decision," it said. Awami League also called upon all democratic states, institutions, and leaders around the world to denounce the decision taken by the Yunus government. Earlier in the day, Yunus's press secretary Shafiqul Alam in a media briefing said the democratic world was unlikely to oppose the interim government's decision to ban "this shameless, killer, anti-democracy, and corrupt party". He said there are instances of the Western world banning political parties for their activities against the national interest and

for committing crimes against humanity, like the Nazi and Fascist parties of Germany and Italy. "So we don't expect any negative international reaction over the ban on Awami League activities," Alam said. The Election Commission (EC) has said it is awaiting a formal government notification to decide on scrapping the registration of the Awami League. According to Bangladesh law, if the Awami League's registration with the EC is cancelled, it will be disqualified from contesting the general election, which could be held between December 2025 and June 2026. "We will have to decide going with the spirit of the present Bangladesh," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin told reporters here.





NCW condemns online abuse targeting Foreign Secretary Misri and daughter

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has strongly condemned the online abuse and doxxing directed at Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family, particularly his daughter, following a ceasefire announcement between India and Pakistan.

In a statement posted on X, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar denounced the trolling campaign and the unauthorised sharing of personal information.

"The National Commission for Women (#NCW) strongly condemns the reprehensible online abuse against the family of Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India, particularly his daughter," she said.

The NCW expressed grave concern over the public circulation of Mis-



ri's daughter's contact details, calling it a serious breach of privacy that could put her safety at risk.

"Sharing the personal contact details of the Secretary of State's daughter is deeply irresponsible. It is a serious breach of privacy that could put her

safety at risk," it said.

"Such personal attacks on family members of the country's senior-most public servants like Mr. @VikramMisri are not only unacceptable but also morally indefensible. We urge everyone to show decency, civility and restraint," the NCW

added.

Misri has come under attack from a section of social media users after announcing a ceasefire between India and Pakistan on Saturday.

The trolling intensified with the circulation of his personal contact number, along with targeted abuse against his daughter.

The online harassment has drawn widespread condemnation from political leaders and civil service bodies.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi both came out in support of Misri, stating that such personal attacks harm the morale of public officers dedicated to national service.

The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Association also expressed solidarity with Misri, calling for respect and dignity for civil servants and their families.

16 militants arrested, 17 weapons seized in Manipur

AGENCIES

IMPHAL, MAY 12

In a series of joint operations, the Army along with other forces have arrested 16 militants of different outfits and recovered 17 weapons, huge quantities of ammunition and explosives from different districts of Manipur, officials said on Monday.

A Defence spokesman said the Army, Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, ITBP and the Manipur Police in a joint operation during the past few days have recovered 17 weapons, 17 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), several grenades, large cache of ammunition and war-like stores.

These arms and ammunition were recovered from six Manipur districts -- Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Tengnoupal, Chandel and Senapati -- comprising the valley region and mountainous areas.



During the intelligence-based operations, 16 wanted militants of different outfits, including Kan-gleipak Communist Party (KCP), were apprehended from the hill and valley regions.

The arms and ammunition recovered include AK series rifle, INSAS rifle, Carbine, self loading rifle,

modified .303 rifle, bolt action single barrel rifles and .22 rifle.

The apprehended cadres and the recovered arms and ammunition have been handed over to the Manipur Police.

These coordinated efforts by security forces highlight their unwavering commitment to maintain-

ing peace and security in Manipur, the Defence spokesman added.

The police, during the past 24 hours, have recovered three more stolen vehicles in a special drive conducted for the recovery of stolen/snatched vehicles from anti-social elements or miscreants.

In the middle of the ethnic violence in Manipur, which began on May 3, 2023, theft of cars and two-wheelers was reported, and more than 155 stolen cars and 30 two-wheelers have been recovered since April 16 from different places in the state.

The Manipur Police launched a special drive on April 16 for the recovery of stolen/snatched vehicles.

The combined security forces have continued search operations and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts.

Well-being of nurses linked with strength of health systems, national growth: JP Nadda

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Well-being of nurses is necessary to strengthen health systems, and help in the growth of the nation, said Union Health Minister J P Nadda on International Nurses Day on Monday.

International Nurses Day is observed every year on May 12 to offer gratitude for their service and to promote their health and well-being. Lauding nurse's efforts, Nadda stressed the need to increase investment in nurses and to protect and empower them.

"Today, on International Nurses Day, we pay tribute to the compassion, strength, and commitment of our nurses. We recognise that the well-being of nurses is directly linked to the strength of our health systems and national growth," Nadda said, in a post on social media platform X.



"Investing in nurses means investing in healthier societies, productive communities, and a more resilient future. Today and every day, let us value, protect, and empower those who dedicate their lives to caring for others," he added.

This year's theme, "Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies"

underscores the critical role nurses play not just in delivering quality healthcare, but also in strengthening health systems and driving economic progress.

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel called the nurses' contribution to society as unique and unforget-

table. She also saluted their "tireless efforts and dedication".

"Nurses not only play a vital role in health care but also instill hope and courage in the hearts of patients. We can never forget their unique contribution. As the backbone of our healthcare system, the contribution of nurses is incomparable," Patel said in a post on social media platform X.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) has in a report called out the inequities faced by the nursing workforce, despite an improvement.

The State of the World's Nursing 2025 (SoWN) report, based on data reported by 194 countries through the National Health Workforce Accounts, showed that the wide disparities in the availability of nurses across regions and countries can threaten global health goals.

Martyred BSF officer's mortal remains brought to Patna with full state honours; tributes pour in

AGENCIES

PATNA, MAY 12

The mortal remains of Border Security Force (BSF) Sub-Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz, who was martyred during a confrontation with the Pakistan Army in Jammu's R.S. Pura sector, were brought to Patna Airport on Monday via an IndiGo flight.

A solemn wave of grief enveloped the area as his body arrived, and tributes were paid with full state honours.

Prominent leaders, including Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, Bihar Ministers Shravan Kumar and Nitin Nabin, along with top administrative and BSF officers, were present at the airport to pay emotional tribute to the fallen hero.

State Rural Development Minister Shravan Kumar said, "The whole country salutes martyr Mohammad Imtiaz. His



sacrifice will not go in vain. Bihar and the entire nation stand in solidarity with his family."

State Road Construction Minister Nitin Nabin said, "Sub-Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz, a brave son of Narayanpur village in Saran district, has made the ultimate sacrifice. The state government will ensure his last rites are conducted with full honours and extend financial support to his family."

Rashtriya Janat Dal

leader Tejashwi Yadav expressed his condolences and posted on X: "Salute to the bravery and sacrifice of BSF Sub-Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz, who laid down his life protecting the nation. The country will always remember his courage and patriotism."

Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also paid tribute and assured that the next of kin would receive appropriate compensation and that the

martyr's funeral would be conducted with full police honours.

"His bravery and sacrifice will be etched forever in the heart of the nation," CM Kumar said in a social media post.

In another tragic loss, Joint Commissioned Officer (JCO) Sujeet Kumar of the Indian Army, hailing from Amarpur village in Begusarai

district, was also martyred in Jammu and Kashmir during 'Operation Sindoor'.

Tejashwi Yadav personally visited JCO Kumar's home on Sunday night and met with his grieving family.

"Amar Shaheed Sujeet Kumar made the supreme sacrifice for our motherland. His valour and dedication will always be remembered. May his soul rest in peace," Yadav wrote on his official X account.

Cong is never happy when India succeeds: Chandrasekhar slams LoP Gandhi's call for special Parliament session

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a scathing attack on Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, after he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a special session of Parliament, and remarked that the "Congress cannot stand to see India's progress under the PM."

LoP Gandhi wrote a letter to PM Modi on May 10, requesting a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, 'Operation Sindoor,' and the resulting ceasefire understanding with Pakistan.

Chandrasekhar questioned the LoP's motives behind demanding a special session, pointing to the Congress leader's repeated absence during regular proceedings.



"I don't know why he wants a special session, because when there are regular sessions, he doesn't show up. During regular debates and proceedings, he and his sister are often absent. So why is there a sudden demand for a special session? I have no idea," said Chandrasekhar.

He further alleged that the Congress cannot stand to see India's progress under PM Modi.

Chandrasekhar professed, "If India succeeds, Congress is unhappy. If India's economy grows, if Indian women are empowered, if the global commu-

nity respects India, Congress is still unhappy."

"They go abroad and claim that democracy is in danger," he stated and accused the Congress party of indulging in opportunistic politics, especially on matters of national security.

"If the Congress Party wants a debate on who did what in the fight against terrorism, the BJP is more than happy to have that discussion. Let's talk about 26/11. Let's talk about their statements after Pulwama and the Balakot airstrike," he said.

"Let's talk about the lack of modernisation of

our armed forces during ten years of UPA rule," he professed.

Chandrasekhar criticised the party's broader political approach.

"Congress only does politics of appeasement and falsehood. This is nothing new," he claimed.

"The people of India have recognised their politics, which is why they've lost three consecutive elections," he stated.

Referring to the Congress' response to the April 22 terrorist attack, Chandrasekhar said, "When terrorists strike, Congress' son-in-law defends it by blaming Article 370. Their track record is dubious, whether in government or in Opposition."

He challenged the Congress to face the truth: "If they want a legitimate debate, we're ready. But if they want to play politics, the BJP is fully prepared to expose them."

'Operation Sindoor' proves every inch of Pakistan is within India's reach: BJP

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra on Monday lauded the success of 'Operation Sindoor', stating that the Indian armed forces' strikes against terror targets deep within Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) have sent a strong global message that no part of Pakistan is beyond India's reach.

"For the first time, the world saw that every inch of Pakistan is within India's striking capacity. Their air defence collapsed on May 7, and in just 25 minutes, the world witnessed what India can do to eliminate terror hideouts," Patra said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters.

Calling the Congress a "moment of national pride," the BJP leader emphasised that India's military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was not just swift



but decisive, fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public promise of retaliation.

"This was not a normal press conference," he said, adding, "This was India's message to the world -- that terrorism will be met with force."

Patra highlighted the international support India received, revealing that PM Modi had personally spoken with heads of state from nearly 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the US, to isolate Pakistan.

"Major Islamic nations

also stood with India," he said, citing PM Modi's cut-short visit to Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

He also underlined the non-military actions taken by India for the first time in five decades, especially the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.

"Nearly 90 per cent of Pakistan's water supply depends on the Indus River. Cutting it off will cripple their agriculture and shrink their GDP by nearly a quarter," Patra warned.

Patra detailed the twin objectives of Operation Sindoor -- military precision and civilian safety.

"The strikes were on remote, high-value terror hideouts. No military base was targeted. The mission was to eliminate terrorists without civilian casualties," he said.

He named high-profile terrorists killed in the operation, including Abu Jundal and Abdul Rauf,

and emphasised that India had struck inside Punjab province, the political heart of Pakistan.

"This is Naya Bharat. We strike in their backyard," the BJP leader said.

Showing photos of Pakistani military brass attending the funerals of terrorists draped in national flags, Patra reiterated India's long-standing claim that Pakistan provides state support to terrorism.

He pointed out that Hafiz Abdur Rauf, a US-designated terrorist, led the funeral prayers -- underscoring the deep collusion between Pakistan's establishment and terror groups.

Calling it a first in global military history, Patra concluded, "This is the first time a country has struck deep inside a nuclear-armed nation and destroyed its terror infrastructure... Operation Sindoor is a turning point in India's fight against terrorism."

US scientists to explore potential of antibody against Long Covid

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

US scientists are undertaking a clinical trial to decode the efficacy of a long-acting antibody against Long Covid -- a condition that affects at least 65 million people worldwide.

Long Covid affects people after an infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The condition not properly defined yet presents with more than 200 symptoms.

The team from the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and the Schmidt Initiative for Long Covid (SILC) announced that a clinical trial is underway to assess the effectiveness and safety of sipavibart -- a long-acting monoclonal antibody designed by British drugmaker AstraZeneca to protect the condition.

The team enrolled 100 patients in the multi-



year research, reviewed and cleared by the FDA earlier this year. It aims to improve patients Long Covid symptoms and restore them to full health.

"Like many multi-symptom, post-viral conditions, Long Covid is incredibly complicated and thus little understood," said

Nancy Klimas, director of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine at NSU. "Finding a treatment will be life-changing for patients suffering from the myriad symptoms of Long Covid," she added.

The study will test whether the monoclonal antibody sipavibart -- approved for the pre-

exposure prophylaxis (prevention) of Covid-19 in Japan and the EU -- is effective in treating Long Covid. The trial is one of three Long Covid treatment trials expected to begin in 2025.

"Long Covid affects at least 65 million people worldwide, and with more than 200 symptoms, the health impacts of the disease can be debilitating," said Dr. John Redd, CEO of SILC.

"This trial represents our overall commitment to addressing the most pressing health challenges of our time. We're leveraging our research expertise to potentially transform treatment options for millions suffering from Long Covid, advance knowledge, and improve patient outcomes through innovative clinical research," added Dr. Ken Dawson-Scully, NSU's senior vice president for research and associate provost.

Scientists find details of process driving evolution, major diseases

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

A new study has provided crucial insight into how a genetic element that has come to make up a large part of human DNA can successfully invade the nucleus to copy itself.

Viruses are known to use the genetic machinery of the human cells they invade to make copies of themselves.

As part of the process, viruses leave behind remnants throughout the genetic material (genomes) of humans.

The virus-like insertions, called "transposable elements," are snippets of genetic material even simpler than viruses that also use host cell machinery to replicate, according to the study published in the journal Science Advances.

Nearly all these inserted elements have been silenced by our cells' defence mechanisms over time, but a few, nicknamed



"jumping genes," can still move around the human genome like viruses.

Just one, called long interspersed nuclear element 1 (LINE-1), can still move by itself.

According to Liam J Holt, associate professor in the Department of Bio-

chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, and the Institute for Systems Genetics, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, these "findings on the precise mechanisms behind LINE-1 insertion lay the foundations for the design of future therapies to pre-

vent LINE-1 replication."

To copy itself, however, LINE-1 must enter each cell's nucleus, the inner barrier that houses DNA.

Led by researchers at NYU Langone Health and the Munich Gene Center at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitat (LMU) Munchen in Germany, the study revealed that LINE-1 binds to cellular DNA during the brief periods when nuclei break open as cells continually divide in two, creating replacements to keep tissues viable as we age.

The research team found that LINE-1 RNA takes advantage of these moments, assembling into clusters with one of the two proteins it encodes, ORF1p, to hold tightly to DNA until the nucleus reforms after cell division.

"Moving forward, we will be looking to see if other condensates undergo functional changes as the ratios between their components change," said Dr Holt.

Scientists create hair-like electrode to monitor brain's electrical activity

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

A team of researchers in the US has created a hair-like device for long-term, non-invasive monitoring of the brain's electrical activity.

The lightweight and flexible electrode attaches directly to the scalp and delivers stable, high-quality recordings of the brain's signals, said the team from Penn State University.

The future of electroencephalography (EEG) monitoring may soon look like a strand of hair, in place of the traditional metal electrodes, a web of wires and sticky adhesives.

EEG is critical for diagnosing and assessing neurological conditions like epilepsy and brain injuries.

In some cases, clinicians need to monitor brain waves for longer periods of time, for example, to evaluate seizures,



sleep disorders and conditions that affect the blood vessels and blood flow in the brain.

The researchers described the new electrodes, which were shown to maintain stable performance for over 24 hours of continuous wear, in a study published in the journal npj Biomedical innovations.

This technology holds promise for use in consumer health and wellness products, in addition to

clinical health care applications, according to the researchers.

"This electrode allows for more consistent and reliable monitoring of EEG signals and can be worn without being noticeable, which enhances both functionality and patient comfort," said Tao Zhou, senior author of the paper published in npj Biomedical innovations journal.

EEG monitoring is a widely used method to measure the brain's

electrical activity, Zhou explained.

The traditional EEG monitoring process, however, can be a cumbersome -- and sometimes messy -- affair. Its limitations make it difficult to use for continuous, long-term monitoring.

The conventional EEG electrodes are rigid, too, and can shift when someone moves their head, even slightly, which can compromise the data uniformity.

To address these limitations, the research team designed a small monitoring device that looks like a strand of hair and is made from 3D-printed hydrogel material.

One end is the electrode. It looks like a small dot and captures the brain's electrical signals from the scalp. There's a long, thin wire-like component that extends from the electrode, which connects to the monitoring system.

Human antibodies neutralise neurotoxins of 19 of world's deadliest snakes

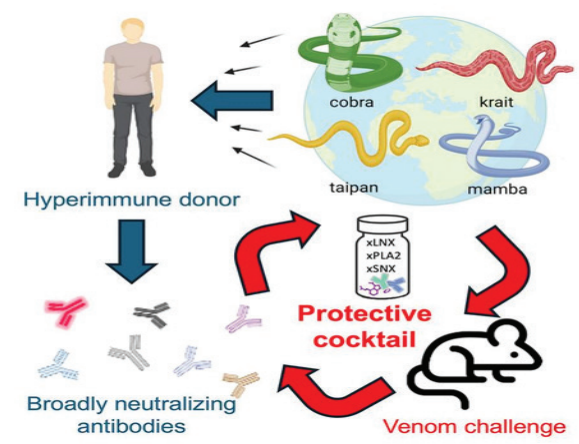
AGENCIES
NEW YORK

By using antibodies from a human donor with a self-induced hyper-immunity to snake venom, scientists have developed the most broadly effective antivenom to date, which is protective against the likes of the black mamba, king cobra, and tiger snakes in mouse trials.

Described in the Cell Press journal Cell, the antivenom combines protective antibodies and a small molecule inhibitor and opens a path toward a universal antiserum.

While exploring, scientists stumbled upon someone hyper-immune to the effects of snake neurotoxins.

"The donor, for a period of nearly 18 years, had undertaken hundreds of bites and self-immunisations with escalating doses from 16 species of very lethal snakes that would normally a kill a



horse," said first author Jacob Glanville, CEO of Centivax, Inc.

After the donor, Tim Friede, agreed to participate in the study, researchers found that by exposing himself to the venom of various snakes over several years, he had generated antibodies that were effective against several snake neurotoxins at once.

"What was exciting about the donor was his once-in-a-lifetime unique

immune history," says Glanville. "Not only did he potentially create these broadly neutralising antibodies, in this case, it could give rise to a broad-spectrum or universal antivenom."

To build the antivenom, the team first created a testing panel with 19 of the World Health Organization's category 1 and 2 deadliest snakes across the elapid family, a group which contains roughly half of all venomous

species, including coral snakes, mambas, cobras, taipans, and kraits.

Next, researchers isolated target antibodies from the donor's blood that reacted with neurotoxins found within the snake species tested.

One by one, the antibodies were tested in mice envenomated from each species included in the panel.

In this way, scientists could systematically build a cocktail comprising a minimum but sufficient number of components to render all the venoms ineffective.

To strengthen the antiserum further, the team added the small molecule varespladib, a known toxin inhibitor, which granted protection against an additional three species.

Finally, they added a second antibody isolated from the donor, called SNX-B03, which extended protection across the full panel.

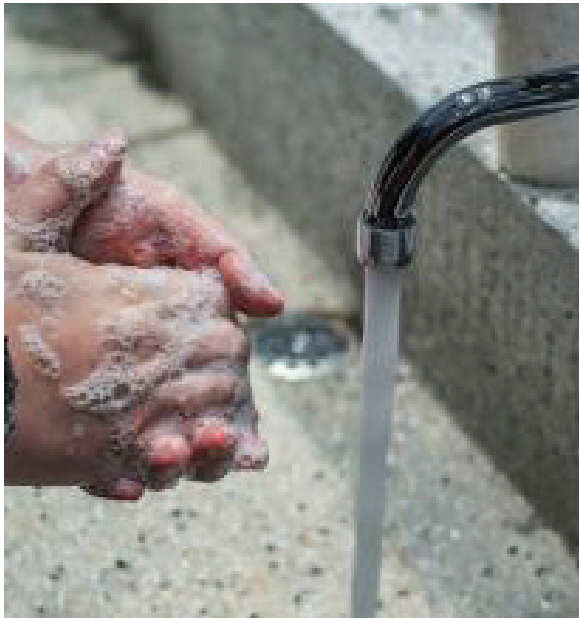
Hand hygiene not a luxury but cornerstone of safe healthcare: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hand hygiene is not a luxury but the cornerstone of safe healthcare, and is relevant to all health workers, patients and their families at every single health care encounter, Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia, said on Sunday.

It contributes to quality universal health coverage, meeting Sustainable Development Goal 3.8, and strongly supports the water, sanitation, hygiene and health (WASH) agenda. Hand hygiene is also an important component of combatting antimicrobial resistance, she said as the World Hand Hygiene Day approaches on May 5.

"Infection prevention and control (IPC), which includes hand hygiene, is fundamental to safe and effective health care systems. WHO supported countries in drafting evi-



dence-based IPC guidelines for healthcare settings, and established the WHO Core Components of IPC, a standardised framework guiding national IPC programmes, healthcare facilities, and training initiatives to ensure effective infection control," Wazed said in a statement.

WHO has also developed a Global IPC Strategy, Action Plan, and Monitoring Framework to guide Member States in effectively advancing this agenda.

"World Hand Hygiene Day 2025" coincides with the need for countries to rapidly consider imple-

mentation of the Global action plan and monitoring framework on infection prevention and control (IPC), 2024-2030 -- supported by a guide to implementation -- and the need to continue to improve IPC as demonstrated in the latest Global report on infection prevention and control 2024.

The Global Report reveals that most countries in our South-East Asia region have an active national IPC programme, many of which are supported by national guidelines complying with national standards or with WHO set core component standards.

"The appointed IPC focal points reported having dedicated time for their tasks in most of our countries, and six of our countries have an identified, protected, and dedicated budget allocated to the IPC program according to planned activity," said Wazed.

Vaccine against whooping cough in pregnancy to boost antibodies, protect baby

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Vaccinating pregnant women against whooping cough can boost the quantity and quality of antibodies in the early life of infants, according to a study.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly contagious respiratory infection characterised by severe coughing spells that can end in a high-pitched "whoop" when inhaling. It is caused by the bacteria Bordetella pertussis.

Despite extensive vaccinations, the disease has resurged. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are 16 million cases annually and approximately 195,000 deaths in children globally.

Researchers at the University of Turku in Finland conducted a randomised, controlled, double-blind, phase 4 trial in Gambia



to evaluate the effect of pertussis immunisation in pregnancy.

Two types of pertussis vaccines are currently used worldwide: whole-cell vaccines (wPVs) based on killed whole bacteria and acellular vaccines (aPVs) based on one to five purified bacterial antigens.

The findings, published in The Lancet Infectious

Diseases, demonstrated that vaccinating women with diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccines in pregnancy was safe and well tolerated and boosted the quantity and quality of pertussis-specific antibodies in infants in early life.

Since the highest incidence and mortality of pertussis occur in infants, especially those too young

to be vaccinated, immunisation in pregnancy (IP) is recommended to protect infants in early life against pertussis.

However, studies have shown that IP can decrease the antibody responses of infants to their primary diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccination. This phenomenon is called "blunting."

Blunting of vaccine responses has been observed in IgG-antibody concentrations to different pertussis vaccine antigens, specifically, pertussis toxin, filamentous hemagglutinin, pertactin, and diphtheria toxin.



News in Brief

Tom Aldred signs one-year contract extension with Mohun Bagan Super Giant

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Mohun Bagan Super Giant centre-back Tom Aldred has signed a fresh one-year contract with the Mariners, the Indian Super League (ISL) club announced on Saturday. The new deal will see the defender don the Green and Maroons till the end of the 2025-26 season, as per the ISL official website.

Aldred, who joined the Mariners from A-League outfit Brisbane Roar ahead of the 2024-25 campaign, quickly became a fan favourite. The 34-year-old played a crucial role in the heart of defence during a memorable season for the Kolkata-based side.

Under the leadership of head coach Jose Molina, MBSG retained the ISL Shield and clinched the ISL Cup with a victory over Bengaluru FC in the final, becoming only the second team in ISL history to achieve the double. The Mariners also finished as runners-up in the Durand Cup.

Aldred made 32 appearances across all competitions and, aside from his defensive solidity, also contributed in attack, mostly from set-piece situations, with three goals and one assist.

Alcaraz moves past Djere to enter Rd-4 in Rome

AGENCIES

ROME, MAY 12

Carlos Alcaraz pulled through to a 7-6(2), 6-2 triumph against Laslo Djere to reach the fourth round at the Italian ATP Masters 1000 for the first time.

Alcaraz, who also defeated Djere in April en route to the final in Barcelona, converted four of nine break points he earned in an ultimately comfortable one-hour, 44-minute victory, ATP reports.

With his Tour-leading 26th win of the season, the 22-year-old booked a fourth-round meeting with 23rd seed Karen Khachanov, who earlier sunk home favourite Francesco Passaro 6-3, 6-0.

Alcaraz was slow to get going on Campo Centrale, but he dug deep before accelerating past an opponent, who struggled with a right arm injury for much of the match, and produced a classy tie-break, highlighted by a stunning forehand slice winner from a seemingly impossible position to wrap up the opening set.

End of an era: Virat Kohli announces retirement from Test cricket



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Indian cricket stalwart and former captain Virat Kohli on Monday announced his retirement from Test cricket.

The decision came after it was reported that Kohli had communicated his decision to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ahead of next month's five-match Test series against England.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," Kohli wrote in his Instagram post.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever. As I step away from this format, it's not

easy – but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude – for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile. #269, signing off," he added.

In less than a week, both Kohli and Rohit Sharma have retired from the longest format of the game which will leave the Indian team without much experience in the batting department.

Kohli, who made his Test debut in 2011, has been a cornerstone of India's red-ball resurgence over the past decade. His aggressive captaincy, prolific batting and unmatched intensity have helped transform India into a formidable Test side both at home and abroad.

Kohli will bid adieu to his Test career with 9230 runs in 123 matches at an impressive average of 46.85 with 30 centuries and 51 half-centuries. He hangs up his spikes as the fourth-most successful Test captain overall, behind Graeme Smith (53 wins), Ricky Ponting (48 wins), and Steve Waugh (41 wins).

Kohli's 30 Test centuries make him the fourth-most successful India batter, behind Sachin Tendulkar (51 hundreds), Rahul Dravid (36), and Sunil Gavaskar (34). Kohli also made seven Test double hundreds, the most ever by an Indian. He also has the most Test hundreds by an Indian captain, with Gavaskar (11 centuries) way behind his 20 tons.

The right-handed batter previously announced his retirement from the T20I format after India's T20 World Cup triumph last year. The 36-year-old will now only feature in ODI cricket for India.

Hockey India names 24-member team for European leg of FIH Pro League

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Hockey India has unveiled the 24-member Indian women's hockey team set to compete in the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, scheduled to take place in London, Antwerp, and Berlin from June 14 to 29.

India will play twice against each of the four participating teams - Australia, Argentina, Belgium, and China - beginning their campaign with a clash against Australia on June 14.

The squad will be led by midfield dynamo Salima Tete as captain, with experienced forward Navneet Kaur serv-



ing as vice-captain. The team includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam. The defenders selected are Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary and Jyoti Chhatra.

The midfield features

Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sujata Kujur, Manisha Chauhan and Neha, with attacking midfielders Salima Tete, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, Sunelita Toppo and Mahima Tete. The forward line is made up of Deepika, Navneet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, Baljeet Kaur, Rutaja

Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Dungdung and Sakshi Rana.

The standby list includes goalkeeper Bansari Solanki and defender Ajmina Kujur.

India's performance in the Bhubaneswar leg of the league was marked by both resilience and learning moments. The team registered two wins and two draws, accumulating nine points to place sixth in the standings. They opened strongly against England with a 3-2 victory and a draw, but then faced three consecutive defeats - two to Spain and one to Germany. A 1-0 comeback win against Germany helped the team regain momentum.

Brazil defends FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup title

AGENCIES

VICTORIA (SEYCHELLES), MAY 12

Brazil won a record-extending seventh FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup title, edging Belarus 4-3 in a thrilling final to retain its crown at the 2025 edition of the tournament.

This is Brazil's second consecutive World Cup title and seventh overall.

The goals for the Brazil came from Rodrigo (twice, and he was named player of the match), Lucao, and



Catarino. Belarus scored through Ihar Bryshtsel (x2), who was the tournament's top scorer, and Yauheni Novikau.

Brazil conceded just eight goals in the entire World Cup, becoming the champion with the fewest goals conceded, breaking

France's record of 11 in 2005.

The defending champion took early control of the match in Victoria, Seychelles, building a 3-1 lead in the second period thanks to a combination of technical flair and attacking efficiency. But Belarus, appearing in its first-ever World Cup final, mounted a spirited comeback. Striker Ihar Bryshtsel scored twice midway through the final period to bring the game level at 3-3, reports Xinhua.

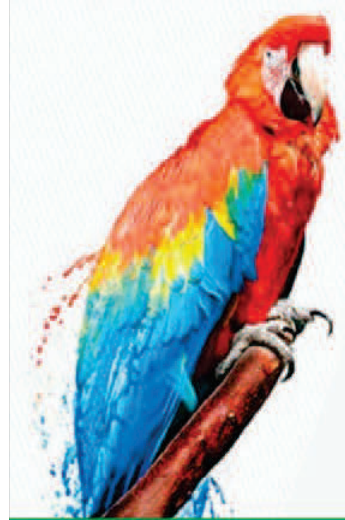
Increasing
business
profitability
by reducing
printing cost



LUBAAB
PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality



When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to



Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812

9419008414

Tel: 0194 2496287

Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com

Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar



- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calenders
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers

Cell. 9149442151 | 9419007973

AZIZ

AUTO MOBILES

ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS ARE ACCEPTED HERE
ALSO INSURANCE FACILITY ARE AVAILABLE HERE.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ | RELIANCE | HDFC ERGO | DIGIT | ICICI LOMBARD | LIBERTY INSURANCE ETC

BAJAJ Allianz | RELIANCE General Insurance | HDFC ERGO GENERAL INSURANCE | digit INSURANCE | ICICI Lombard GENERAL INSURANCE | Liberty Insurance

SERVICE AVAILABLE: DAINTING PAINTING WASHING MECHANICAL WORK

KREERI