



# 'Lakshman Rekha' Against Terrorism is Drawn Now : PM Modi

Any future attack on our soil would be retaliated on India's terms and conditions

- Visits Admapur airbase, salutes courage, dedication of armed forces
- Says within 20 to 25 minutes IAF destroyed terror hideouts, adversary couldn't even react
- No place in Pakistan now safe for terrorists, godfathers have realised casting evil eye on India will only mean their destruction

■ HT News Network

ADAMPUR (PUNJAB), MAY 13: Reaffirming India's unwavering resolve to fight terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday issued a strong warning to Pakistan and terror outfits, asserting that any future attacks on Indian soil would be met with a befitting response—on India's own terms and conditions.

While addressing armed forces personnel at Adampur Airbase in Punjab, which Pakistan had claimed was damaged during the recent attacks, PM Modi, according to the news agency—said, "India's new doctrine is clear: any terror attack will evoke a decisive response. India's Lakshman Rekha against terror is drawn. If crossed the response will be powerful, precise, and on our terms."

"If Pakistan dares to carry out another terror attack, our armed forces will



respond by hitting them within their dens," said the Prime Minister, while addressing armed forces personnel at Adampur Airbase in Punjab.

"We have suspended Operation Sin-

door, not called it off. New India wants peace, but it cannot tolerate attacks on humanity," he said.

Highlighting the success of "Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said the Indian

forces not only defended critical airbases but also took the battle deep into enemy territory. "Our Air Force entered deep inside Pakistan in just 20 to 25 minutes and destroyed terror hideouts with such precision that the adversary couldn't even react," he said.

"More than 100 terrorists were killed, and nine major terror centers were destroyed. The Indian forces taught a stern lesson to the Pakistan Army. Our soldiers proved that India will enter the homes of terrorists and eliminate them," he declared, evoking thunderous applause from the troops.

Saluting the courage and dedication of the Army, Air Force, Navy, BSF, and other security agencies, PM Modi, as per KNO, said, "Every Indian is proud of you. When the feet of our veer jawans touch the earth, the land becomes blessed. I have come here for your darshan. You are the inspiration for gen

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## 'Operation Sindoor' MEA dismisses Trump's claim of brokering ceasefire deal

India's military response compelled Pakistan to seek talks; Only outstanding matter is vacation of POJK

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, MAY 13: Dismissing US President Donald Trump's recent claim that he brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday clarified that it was Pakistan that approached India for a cessation of hostilities, following a strong retaliatory offensive by Indian forces.

Addressing a news conference here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, as per the news agency—said that India's military response compelled Pakistan to seek a ceasefire. "The call from Pakistan's side was received at 12:37 PM on May 10. Due to technical issues, they faced difficulties in establishing the connection, and finally the conversation between the DGMOs (Directors General of Military Operations) took place at 15:35 hours," he said. Jaiswal confirmed that an understanding on

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## NEWS BRIEF

### India Expels Pakistani Official At Pak Mission

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: India on Tuesday expelled a Pakistani official working at the Pakistan high commission for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status.

The external affairs ministry said the official has been given 24 hours to leave India. The action came amid heightened tension between the two countries following their four-day military confrontation. India also issued a demarche to Pakistani Charge d' Affaires in New Delhi on the activities of the official.

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### Speaker to set-up House Committees including 3 financial panels

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: The Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is set to constitute different House Committees, including three crucial financial committees.

Sources told news agency—the process has begun to constitute these committees in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly. "The Legislative Assembly secretariat has sought names of MLAs from different political parties for their inclusion in these committees," they said, adding that representation of the parties in these committees would be proportionate to their strength in the House.

As per Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly, 13 House Committees have to be set-up for different functions.

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### Centre Declares Sep 23 As Ayurveda Day

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: The Union government has officially designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day.

The change, notified through a Gazette Notification dated March 23, 2025, marks a significant shift from the earlier practice of observing Ayurveda Day on Dhanteras, which follows a variable lunar calendar.

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## Top LeT Commander Among 3 Terrorists Killed In J&K's Shopian

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Shahid Kuttay was among three terrorists killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. Jammu dining guide

Based on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in Shukroo Keller area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces who retaliated.

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## Schools to reopen in JK border districts today

Edu Institutes near border areas to remain closed  
KU, CUK postpones exams

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Following the reopening of educational institutes in non-border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, School Education Department Tuesday said that all schools in the border districts shall reopen on Wednesday except for those falling in the proximity of border zones.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said, "All government and private schools of zone Gurez shall remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025 as a precautionary measure. However, teachers will resume their duties by tomorrow. Schools in all other zones of district Bandipora shall remain open."

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## Pain of border dwellers won't go unnoticed: CM Omar Visits shelling-affected Karnah, says LoC dwellers want ceasefire

■ HT News Network

KARNAH, MAY 13 Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan is the will of the people living along the border, and not a demand driven by TV anchors in far-off cities.

Speaking with reporters during his visit to shelling-affected Karnah, the Chief Minister, as per the news agency—said locals have suffered financial losses, but



thankfully, there has been no loss of life.

He said the district administration is currently assessing

the damage and compensation will be provided once the assessment is completed. "We

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Hospitals in LoC zones to  
get enhanced emergency  
capabilities: CM Omar

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 13: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the hospitals in border areas will be further strengthened and

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## Flight operations resume at Sgr airport after 6-day suspension

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: After a six-day suspension, the flight operations at Srinagar International Airport resumed on Tuesday with the arrival of Air India's flight from New Delhi, marking the formal restart of air traffic to and from the Valley.

A senior official at the airport told the news agency—, that Air India's service from Delhi was the first to land this morning. "This marks the official resumption of flight operations that

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## India showed its capability, power during conflict with Pak: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

KATHUA/JAMMU, MAY 13: India demonstrated its capability and power to the outside world in the recent four-day conflict with Pakistan, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday, crediting the development strides made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule.

Visiting areas in Kathua affected by Pakistani drone intrusions along the international border,



Singh promised 600 'family bunkers' for residents and a centralised, technology-driven siren system in the district.

Indian armed forces on May 7 launched a missile strike on nine terror infra-

structure targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack. The strike led to intense clashes for the next three days before the two countries reached an understanding to stop military action and firing.

"All this, I think, was a good opportunity for India to prove to the world where it is standing now and what our capabilities

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## Chief Secretary Visits Shelling Hit Border Village; Reviews Relief Measures

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulla, today visited Kalsian panchayat in Tehsil Nowshera, located near the Line of Control (LoC), where some houses have been damaged due to recent cross border shelling.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary interacted with the affected residents and assured them of all possible support from the administration. He expressed solidarity with the



people in this hour of distress and emphasized the government's commitment towards ensuring their safety and wel-

fare. Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri

where he met with the patients, including those injured in the shelling incident. He directed the Principal GMC to ensure best possible medical treatment is provided to all the patients. He reviewed the overall functioning of the institution.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the availability and condition of bunkers in the border areas. He directed the concerned officers to ensure the construction of new bun-

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## Srinagar Police intensify crackdown against terrorist aides

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, May 13: In its continued resolute efforts to combat terrorist ecosystem by targeting terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police Tuesday continued to intensify searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terrorist ecosystem in the district.

Pertinently, searches of residences of numerous terrorist associates have been conducted till now to target the infrastructure supporting terrorist activity unsparingly, a statement issued to the news agency—reads. In continuation wrt the same, Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### PM

erations to come.”  
“It is because of your valour that the entire world is hearing about Operation Sindoor. Operation Sindoor is not an ordinary operation. The echoes of Operation Sindoor’s success can be heard across the globe. It reflects India’s intent, policy and strength,” PM Modi told the soldiers.

He appreciated the exemplary coordination during “Operation Sindoor,” noting that the joint effort of manpower and advanced military technology has given India a new strategic edge. “The adversary tried to target this and other airbases, but every attempt was foiled. Our airmen even ensured civilian aircraft were not harmed, despite Pakistan using them as shields.”

PM Modi said, “We trampled terrorists in their homes. Pakistan tried to attack this base (Adampur) but failed. They tried to dare ‘Hind Ki Sena’. The terrorists have now realised, you try to attack us and the result would be their destruction...massive destruction. No place in Pakistan is now safe for terrorists. The godfathers of terrorism have realised that casting an evil eye on India will only mean their destruction.”

“India Will Not Tolerate Nuclear Blackmail”  
In a pointed reference to nuclear posturing by Pakistan, PM Modi stated firmly, “India will not tolerate nuclear blackmail. The terror bosses and the government that supports them will be dealt with in the same way.”

PM Modi reiterated his pride in the armed forces and expressed confidence in their ability to defend the nation. “A strong security framework has become the identity of India today. I am proud of our brave soldiers and the new technology that empowers them. This is the new Bharat—resilient, resolute, and ready.”

“India’s army, Navy and Air Force have made the Pakistani military bite the dust. Pakistan will not get any sleep for a long time just thinking of our drones and missiles. Our intent is clear, if there is another attack, India will respond. We saw this during the surgical strikes and Balakot strikes but Operation Sindoor is the new normal,” he added—

### MEA

ceasefire was worked out between the DGMOs. “We had mounted attacks on Pakistan that morning. It was the force and clarity of India’s military response that compelled Pakistan to seek talks,” he said.

ONLY OUTSTANDING MATTER IS VACATION OF POJK

As for Kashmir, Jaiswal reaffirmed India’s long-standing position: “We have a long-standing national position that any issues pertaining to the Union territory of J&K have to be addressed by India and Pakistan bilaterally. That stated policy has not changed. As you are aware—the only outstanding matter is the vacation of the illegally occupied territory by Pakistan i.e. Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).”

The MEA spokesman said that the next round of DGMO talks will be communicated “as and when scheduled” and stressed that the government remains committed to defending the country’s sovereignty and ensuring justice for victims of terrorism.

“The message from India is loud and clear—terrorism will not go unanswered,” Jaiswal said.

On May 11, Trump had said he is proud that the USA was able to help India and Pakistan arrive at the ceasefire agreement, and added that he would work with both countries to see if a solution can be arrived at regarding Kashmir.

In a post on his Truth Social, the US President said: “Additionally, I will work with you both (India and Pakistan) to see if, after a ‘thousand years,’ a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir.”

NO DISCUSSION ON TRADE WERE HELD WITH US

Asked about the discussions that took place between India and US leadership between May 7 and 10, Jaiswal said: “There were conversations between Indian and US leaders between May 7 and May 10, but no discussion on trade were held.”

“As regards the conversations with other nations, the message from India was clear and consistent. ‘And exactly the same message that we were conveying from public platforms was the one conveyed in private conversations. It was that India was responding to the 22nd April terrorist attack. However, if the Pakistani armed forces fire, Indian armed forces will fire back; if Pakistan stops, India will also stop.’”

He said, “This was also the message that was conveyed to the Pakistani side at the time of the commencement of Operation Sindoor, which was not heeded to by the Pakistani side at that time. It is natural that many foreign leaders who heard this from us would have shared it with their Pakistani interlocutors.”

HAVE SOUGHT DECLARATION OF TRF AS GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

He said, “Links have been established between the attackers and The Resistance Front (TRF)—a known proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).”

“TRF initially claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack and later denied it. We

have shared detailed information with the UN Security Council’s Sanctions Committee and reiterated our demand that TRF be designated as a global terrorist organization as it’s the shadow outfit of Lashkar-e-Toiba,” Jaiswal said.

The MEA spokesperson said that several terrorist camps and infrastructure in Bawalpur, Muridke, and Muzaffarabad were destroyed in Indian strikes. “Pakistan’s military capability has been significantly degraded,” he said, “The message is clear—a nation that nurtures terrorism at an industrial scale cannot escape consequences.”

INDUS WATER TREATY TO REMAIN IN ABEYANCE

On the question of the status of the Indus Waters Treaty, Jaiswal said, “Following the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting after the Pahalgam attack India decided to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The spirit of goodwill and friendship that led to its signing has been betrayed. The treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan abjures cross-border terrorism.”

INDIAN MILITARY ACTIONS WERE WITHIN CONVENTIONAL BOUNDS

He also dismissed any concerns about escalation into nuclear conflict. “All Indian military actions were within conventional bounds. India does not give in to nuclear blackmail. Our actions were calculated, legal, and strategic,” Jaiswal said.

He emphasized that the international community now recognizes Pakistan’s role in global terrorism. “The UN Security Council has clearly stated that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack must be held accountable,” he said.

He added that India’s right to self-defence remains non-negotiable, and any future act of terror will be met with a swift and decisive response.

ON BANGLADESH, RUSSIA-UKRAINE

The MEA spokesman also raised concerns about the ban on Awami League in Bangladesh “without due process,” calling for independent elections. On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India reiterated its support for direct dialogue and peaceful resolution—

### CM

will complete the damage assessment today or tomorrow. Whatever compensation needs to be given, we will do that,” he assured.

Omar said the community bunkers had been built earlier but were not used for a long time. “New bunkers have not been constructed in many years. People are now demanding individual bunkers. The government has a policy, and we will formulate a scheme for those living near the border and the LOC,” he added.

The CM said the J&K government will also speak to the central government about the issue.

He said the people of border areas want the ceasefire to continue. “Only some TV anchors sitting far away in Noida and Mumbai don’t like the ceasefire. The people who live near the border and the LoC want it to remain,” he said.

Regarding compensation norms, Omar said that under the SDRF rules, shops are not eligible for compensation. “A special package will be required. This isn’t just about Karnah. There are other areas like Uri, Rajouri, and Poonch where people need assistance,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said the government will do everything possible to support the shelling-affected people and help them rebuild what has been lost.

“During my visit to Tangdhar today, I saw homes and vehicles lay charred by relentless shelling. The scale of destruction is heart-breaking. Standing with the affected families in this hour of grief. We will do everything possible to support them and help rebuild what has been lost,” the Office of Chief Minister, J&K, wrote on X.

Omar visited the Sub District Tangdhar (SDH) and met the doctors and staff there. He hailed them for standing “firm in the face of crisis, saving lives without thinking of their own,” the tweet stated.

The CM assured that the hospitals in border areas will be further strengthened and equipped to effectively handle emergencies in future.

Omar also inspected the community bunkers in Tangdhar. “We will ensure the construction of more such safer spaces to protect and support our people living in border areas,” he said—

### HOSPITALS

equipped to effectively respond to emergencies.

Omar, during his visit to SDH Tangdhar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) praised the courage and commitment of the doctors, nurses and support staff who despite being in the line of fire, continued to serve the people with unwavering dedication.

“They stood firm in the face of crisis, saving lives without thinking of their own. Their resilience is commendable and deeply appreciated,” the Chief Minister said.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by healthcare workers in border areas during emergencies, CM assured that hospitals in

vulnerable regions like Tangdhar will be further strengthened. “We will ensure that border hospitals are equipped with the best facilities and emergency response infrastructure to handle crises more effectively in the future,” he stated.

The Chief Minister also held a brief review meeting with the hospital administration to understand the gaps in resources and the additional needs that arose during the recent escalation—

### SHOPIAN

In the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed, they said.

A senior police official said the terrorists belonged to LeT. He identified the two as Shahid Kuttay and Adnan Shafi. The identity of the third one was being ascertained.

Kuttay, a resident of Chotipora Heerpora area of Shopian, who had joined the terror ranks in March 2023, was a category “A” terrorist and a top commander of the outfit, the official said.

He said Kuttay was involved in several terror incidents and anti-national activities, including in the killing of BJP sarpanch at Heerpora on May 18, 2024.

On April 26 last month, days after the Pahalgam attack, authorities razed the residential house belonging to Kuttay

Kuttay, active for the last three to four years, is involved in many anti-national activities, the officials said.

Shafi, a resident of Wanduna Melhora area of Shopian had joined in October 2024 and was a category “C” terrorist. He was involved in the killing of non-local labourer at Wachi, Shopian on October 18, 2024, the official said. (Agencies)

### SPEAKER

Sources disclosed that the Speaker would first constitute three financial panels—estimates committee, public accounts committee and committee on public undertakings.

Among other committees, the Speaker is likely to constitute the privilege committee, environmental committee, petition committee, subordinate legislation committee, government assurances committee, rules committee, general purpose committee and library committee.

The House Committees play a vital role in scrutinizing policies, reviewing government decisions. They present their reports/recommendations to the Assembly—

### SEP 23

Ayurveda Day has been commemorated annually to promote ayurveda as a “scientific, evidence-based, and holistic system of medicine” that plays a pivotal role in preventive healthcare and wellness, an Ayush ministry statement said.

Until now, Ayurveda Day coincided with Dhanteras, a festival observed in the Hindu month of Kartik (usually October or November), rendering it without a fixed annual date, the statement said.

The ministry also noted that in the coming decade, the date of Dhanteras will continue to vary between October 15 and November 12, posing logistical challenges for national and international observance, it said.

The Ministry of Ayush constituted a committee to examine suitable alternatives to address the inconsistency.

The panel proposed four potential dates, with September 23 emerging as the preferred choice, for it coincides with the autumnal equinox, a day when day and night are nearly equal, it said.

According to the ministry, the astronomical event symbolises balance in nature, perfectly aligning with the ayurvedic philosophy that emphasises “equilibrium between the mind, body, and spirit.” (Agencies)

### SCHOOLS

It also said that “All the schools in district Kupwarra shall reopen on May-14-2025 except the schools in Karnah sub division Keran, Machil, Budnambal, Jumagand and Kumkadi where class work will remain suspended.”

DSEK further said all government and private schools of zone Uri, Jhulla, Chandanwari and Boniyar (Sub division Uri) shall remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025 as a precautionary measure. “Schools in all other zones of district Baramulla shall remain open.”

In the meantime, the School Education Department said that in case of Jammu division, all government and private schools in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Samba Distt will remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025.

“However, all government and private schools in district Udhampur and Bani, Basholi, Mahanpur, Bhaddu, Malhar and Billa-war zones of Kathua district shall open on May-14-2025,” it reads.

Meanwhile, University of Kashmir (KU) in a fresh communiqué has said that it has decided to postpone all exams slated till May-18.

Central University of Kashmir (CUK) has also ordered postponement of exams slated till May-16. Besides, the authorities have ordered continuation of online classes till

further orders—

### FLIGHTS

had remained suspended due to the prevailing security situation,” the official said.

He said the airport saw a total of four arrivals and four departures, facilitating the travel of 935 passengers on the first day of resumed operations.

Earlier, flight operations across 32 airports, including Srinagar, had been temporarily suspended following India’s launch of Operation Sindoor—a military response targeting terror camps in Pakistan after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

The airlines, both IndiGo and SpiceJet, also announced that flights on the affected routes, including Srinagar, would be progressively restored starting May 14 (tomorrow).

“Scheduled operations to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot will resume gradually from tomorrow,” a statement from IndiGo said, advising passengers to check their flight status before heading to the airport.

SpiceJet also resumed its scheduled flights to Srinagar today. The airline’s first service, SG 9835, departed from Delhi at 2:30 PM, while the return flight from Srinagar was scheduled for 4:30 PM.

SpiceJet further announced that Haj 2025 operations from Srinagar would begin on May 14, with two wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft transporting pilgrims to Medina. “Each aircraft will carry 324 pilgrims, and the airline is facilitating the travel of approximately 15,500 Haj pilgrims this year,” the airline’s spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the resumption of flights brought relief to stranded passengers and their families in the Valley.

“I had to attend a medical appointment in Delhi, but my flight got cancelled last week. I am happy things are returning to normal,” said Saqib Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar, who was seen at the airport with his boarding pass.

Another local said he was stuck in Amritsar for days. “We were very worried, but now I am going back home tomorrow. I am happy that flights are finally resuming,” he said.

Notably, airport authorities have advised all travellers to remain updated through airline websites or official social media channels due to the evolving flight schedules.

Officials also said that coordination is being maintained with airlines and security agencies to ensure that all resumed operations are smooth, secure, and uninterrupted in the coming days—

### CS

kers wherever needed. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high quality standards in all such works to safeguard the civilian lives.

He also enquired about any challenges being faced by the district administration and assured necessary support from the higher authorities.

Commending the efforts of the district administration in managing the situation effectively, he lauded the swift and coordinated response to the recent shelling incidents.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, briefed the Chief Secretary on the district’s civil defence preparedness and detailed the status of all 12 essential services, including Warden Service, Rescue, Casualty, Firefighting, Transport, Survey Committee, Supply Services, Welfare, Headquarters, Communication, Disposal and Training Services was also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Tejinder Singh; SSP Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar; ADC Kotranka, Dilmir; ADC Rajouri, Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir; ACP, Sheraz Chouhan; Deputy Director Employment, Mohammad Nawaz; ACD, Auqil Naveed and other senior district and sectoral officers.

### POLICE

of Noor Mohammad Sheikh son of Late Gh Mohammad resident of Kanimazar involved in case FIR No. 156/2023 u/s 7/25 A Act, 13, 23, 39 UAP Act, Waseem Tariq Matta son of Tariq Ahamd resident of Rampora involved in Case FIR No 46/2023 u/s 7/25 A, Act 4/5 Exp Act 18, 23, 38 UAP Act of Police Station Chanpora, Anjum Younis daughter of Mohammad Younis resident of Kenihama involved in case FIR No 27/21 u/s 302, 392, 7/27 Arms act , 13, 16, 18, 20 UAPA of Police Station Nowgam, Bilal Ahmad Lone son of Ab Rehman resident of Syedpora Eidgah , involved in case FIR No. 51/021 u/s 302, 147, 148, 149 and 13 ULAP Act of Police Station Safakadal, Faizyab Showkat Dewani son of Showkat Ahmad resident of Pater Masjid Zainkadal involved in case FIR No. 35/2022 u/s 505, 153-A, 153-B IPC, 13 UAP Act Police Station M.R.Gunj Sgr, Bilal Lone @ Choonin son of Ab Rahman Lone resident of Saidpora Eidgah involved in case FIR No. 51/2021 u/s 302, 147, 148, 149, 341 RPC, 13 ULAP of Police Station Nowhatta and Case FIR No. 130/16 u/s 147, 148, 336, 152 RPC Police Station Safakadal, Manzoor Tola [ Released Militant ] son of Asadullah Tola resident of Khane-Sokta involved in case FIR No. 156/ 2023 u/s 13, 19, 39 UAP Act Of Police Station Safakadal, Mohammad Ayoub Dar son of Gh Mohammad

Dar resident of Reiteng Khanyar involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 u/s 7/25 A. Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Mushtaq Ahmad Bachoon son of Gh Mohi ud din Bachoon resident of Kathidarwaza Rain-awari involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 u/s 7/25 A. Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat son of Late Gh Qadir resident of Trehgam Kupwara A/P Devaigan Hawal involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 u/s 7/25 A. Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar and Firdous Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar resident of Ibrahim Colony, involved in Case FIR No 46/2023 u/s U/S 7/25 A. Act 4/5 Exp Act 13, 23, 38, UAP Act of Police Station Chanpora.

“The searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses under the supervision of the officers of J&K Police. The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the Nation,” the statement reads.

This decisive action of J&K Police aims to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir by identifying and taking legal action against individuals engaged in such anti-national and criminal activities, police said.

Srinagar Police remains committed to maintaining peace and security in the city. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence, disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law, police said—

### DR JATINDRA

and power are,” the minister of state in the Prime Minister’s Office told reporters in the Hiranagar sector in his Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency.

Thanking PM Modi for the country’s success over Pakistan, he said Hiranagar, located on the international border, witnessed the action of the S-400 missile system, which arrived in the country only after Modi took over.

“The morale of the people in the border villages was very high this time... During the 1971 and 1965 wars, the people had to dig trenches on their own. This time, people were confident that in this technology-driven warfare, the enemy ordinance would get destroyed in the sky before reaching them,” he said.

He said the return of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has been India’s unwavering policy and the cornerstone of the BJP’s stand.

“Modi himself reiterated that the only unfinished agenda is how to make the PoK an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir and India,” he said. Jammu dining guide

He said India has become strong under the leadership of Modi and its major achievements in the defence sector have come in the past 10 years.

“All the capabilities that India has acquired in the past 10 years came handy for the country,” he said.

Singh claimed that the previous Congress governments made it a government policy not to construct border roads.

But after Modi’s arrival, roads have been built up to the zero line and the border residents are saying that they are better than the highways. While mobile towers have also been installed.

The minister said Kathua is the first district in the country where 2,000 modern bunkers, almost like one-room apartments having all kinds of facilities, were provided to the residents.

“The border residents used these bunkers and refused to move out of their villages, asserting that they are more comfortable and secure in these bunkers. And today, due to the demand, we will make 600 more such bunkers,” he said.

In the beginning, he said community bunkers were provided and “now we will construct family bunkers”.

Similarly, he said the people raised the issue of siren not being heard many times and “so, a centralised, automatic and technology-driven siren system will be established in Kathua district headquarters”.

“By pressing the button from there, automatic sirens will start ringing in every border area, in every village,” he said. The minister said Kathua is the first district in the country where 2,000 modern bunkers, almost like one-room apartments having all kinds of facilities, were provided to the residents.

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# Cautious calm returns to Kashmir border villages after days of shelling, displacement We lost everything but are alive — that's what matters, say affected residents

## HT News Network

Srinagar, May 13 (KNO): After days of deafening shelling and sleepless nights, a fragile calm has returned to the border villages of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, with markets partially reopened and residents cautiously resumed daily activities. Border areas in Baramulla, Kupwara, and Gurez in the Kashmir Valley, as well as villages in Jammu affected by cross-border shelling and forced evacuations following the Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent Indian retaliation under Operation Sindoor, had descended into silence. Homes were emptied, and shops remained shut, reflecting the widespread fear and displacement. Locals of Kashmir's border areas speaking to the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the recent calm has brought a much-needed sigh of relief after days of relentless fear and displacement. "We want peace, not war. War brings nothing but destruction," a local shopkeeper at Uri, whose shop reopened for the first time since the hostilities began, said. "Our children deserve to live in peace and focus on their education, not grow up in fear and uncertainty." Many residents echoed similar sentiments, urging both countries to maintain the ceasefire and prioritise the well-being of people living along the Line of Control (LoC). On Monday, the residents of several Uri areas were allowed to return only after security forces cleared unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Initially with six villages were declared safe by



officials following clearance operations. The process is still underway in other parts of Uri and across LoC areas, including

Kupwara, Rajouri, and Poonch. Similarly, in other LoC areas across Jammu and Kashmir, life is gradually limping back to

normal after days of intense shelling and displacement — markets that remained shuttered are beginning to open

and locals are stepping out to rebuild what was lost. Though the fear still lingers, the holding of the ceasefire has instilled a sense of cautious relief among residents. "We just want peace to stay now," Jammu residents said. Residents living along the LoC have collectively welcomed the ceasefire, describing it as a relief from fear and displacement. It is pertinent to mention that the recent flare-up left behind a trail of destruction, with civilians losing their lives and extensive damage to scores of homes, shops, and structures. The government says it is assessing the damage caused—Locals of Kashmir's border areas speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the recent calm has brought a much-needed sigh of relief after days of relentless fear and displacement.

"We want peace, not war. War brings nothing but destruction," a local shopkeeper at Uri, whose shop reopened for the first time since the hostilities began, said. "Our children deserve to live in peace and focus on their education, not grow up in fear and uncertainty." Many residents echoed similar sentiments, urging both countries to maintain the ceasefire and prioritise the well-being of people living along the Line of Control (LoC). On Monday, the residents of several Uri areas were allowed to return only after security forces cleared unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Initially with six villages were declared safe by officials following clearance operations. The process is still underway in other parts of Uri and across LoC areas, including Kupwara, Rajouri, and Poonch.

## Posters of Pahalgam Attack Suspects Put Up in Shopian, ₹20 Lakh Reward Announced

### HT News Network

Srinagar, May 13 (KNS): Security agencies have released posters featuring three Pakistani terrorists believed to be behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 civilian lives. The posters, carrying the message "Terror Free Kashmir", have appeared at several locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district. Authorities have announced a reward of ₹20 lakh for anyone providing credible information about the whereabouts of the suspects. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential, officials said. The tragic incident, which took place in the Baisaran meadow about six kilometers from Pahalgam town, left 26 people dead — including 25 tourists and one Nepali national. It was the deadliest terror attack in the Kashmir Valley since the 2019 Pulwama incident. The suspects have been identified as Adil Hussain Thoker, a local from Anantnag, and two Pakistani nationals, Ali Bhai alias Talha Bhai and Hashim Musa alias Suleiman — all linked to the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

## Advocate Sofi Feroz elected as president Bandipora Bar Association

### HT News Network

Bandipora, May 13: Bandipora Bar Association today elected Advocate Sofi Feroz as its president, while Advocate Ab Asif Iqbal as vice president, during the election at a district court complex in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. A total of 53 members cast their votes during the election for the District Bar Association. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Service (KNS) that advocate Sofi Feroz secured 35 votes to be elected as president, while the other contender for the post secured 16 votes. Moreover, Advocate Asif Iqbal, elected as vice-president, secured 21 votes. Advocate Shafeeq Bhat was elected as secretary, he secured 41 votes. On this occasion, Advocate Sofi Feroz said that "he will do his job honestly to uphold the dignity and respect of the lawyers. I will work for the betterment of this association," he said. The election was conducted by the election body of the District Bar Association, Bandipora. (KNS)

## 25 Professor, over 150 Assistant Professor posts vacant at GMC Srinagar

### HT News Network

Srinagar, May 13: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar is facing a severe faculty shortage, with over 150 assistant professor posts and 25 professor-level positions currently vacant. This information was revealed through a Right to Information (RTI) query obtained by RTI activist MM Shuja and accessed by the news agency—According to the RTI details, GMC Srinagar has 108 sanctioned professor posts—83 filled and 25 vacant. The vacant professor posts are due to the promotion process, which recommends eligible candidates as they meet the requirements. To address the staffing shortage, GMC Srinagar advertised for assistant, associate, and professor posts across six sub-specialties at the Pediatric Hospital on an academic arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020, with the selection process ongoing.

## Karra demands PM package for rehabilitation of shelling affected people

### HT News Network

Poonch, May 13 JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra has said that Prime Minister should announce a special comprehensive package for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected population. Strongly condemning Pakistan for targeting civilian population in Poonch, Rajouri and elsewhere, Karra shared the grief & sorrow with families of those martyred or injured besides suffering great other loss to livestock and properties. Accompanied by Working President Raman Bhalla, Ex Chairman JKLC Jahangir Mir, AICC Secretaries Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Neeraj kundan and Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, MLA Iftikhar Ahmed, DCC President Poonch S Rajinder Singh Kaka, IYC Secretary Ayaz Chaudhary, Mir Iqbal Ex BDC, Ajay Lakhotra President NSUI, Kisan Cell Chairman Bharat Priye, Arif Qazmi, Vice President PYC today undertook extensive tour of different affected areas of



Poonch district to meet the bereaved families and affected families who suffered damages to livestock and houses, other property. Karra along with other leaders visited Baila in Mandi area in Poonch & offered condolences to the family of an Islamic scholar Qari Mohammed Iqbal besides another person martyred in shelling in Bandichechan. Karra regretted that a martyr was labelled by a section of national media as a terrorist which is highly condemnable and appropriate legal action must be taken.

## KVK Kupwara Organizes Awareness-cum-Seed Distribution Program for Tribal Farmers in Rajwar

### DR. AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, May 13: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara on Wednesday organized an Awareness-cum-Seed Distribution Program for tribal farmers at Yamlar Bala in the Rajwar area of district Kupwara. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 30 tribal farmers, reflecting the growing interest in modern and scientific farming practices within the region. The event was graced by Prof. Kaiser Mohi-ud-Din Malik, Head KVK Kupwara, as the Chief Guest. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Rayess Ahmad, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Dr. Shaid Hakeem, and other staff members of KVK Kupwara. While addressing the gathering, Prof. Kaiser Mohi-ud-Din highlighted the significant role played by SKUAST-Kashmir in empowering farmers by introducing innovative agricultural practices, modern technology, and farmer-oriented outreach programs. He urged the farming community to adopt scientific techniques for better productivity, sustainability, and economic upliftment. Local elected representatives, who also participated in the program, lauded the efforts of KVK Kupwara



in supporting tribal communities through awareness drives and seed distribution initiatives. They acknowledged the center's contribution towards strengthening the region's agricultural sector. Reaffirming his commitment to the farming community, the Head of KVK Kupwara emphasized that such programs will continue to be organized to address farmers' challenges and promote sustainable agriculture in remote and tribal belts of the district. The program concluded with the distribution of high-quality maize seed varieties, including Shalimar Maize Composite-3 and Shalimar Maize Composite-8, aimed at improving crop yield, promoting food security, and enhancing the livelihoods of tribal farmers in the area.

# PDF chief Hakeem Yaseen urges long-term peace plans, seeks compensation for cross-border shelling victims

### HT News Network

Srinagar, May 13: President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Tuesday welcomed the recent ceasefire and restoration of normalcy in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the security forces for their firm response during the crisis, which helped de-escalate tensions and safeguard civilian lives. In a statement issued to the press, Hakeem Yaseen emphasized that

the fight against terrorism must continue with full force until it is completely eradicated. However, he stressed that the pursuit of peace must be accompanied by long-term plans that prioritize the well-being of the region's residents, particularly those living in vulnerable border areas. "The return of calm is a welcome development, but the government must now shift focus to the rehabilitation of border residents who have suffered immense losses due to cross-border shelling," Yaseen said. He called for an urgent and comprehensive assessment of the



damage to homes and properties and demanded that affected families be provided with adequate compensation and assistance for reconstruction. "The government has a moral

and constitutional responsibility to not only ensure the safety of its citizens but also to restore their dignity and means of livelihood," he stated. The PDF chief further highlighted the plight of the Gujjar, Bakewal, and Chopan communities, whose seasonal migration to highland pastures is essential for their survival. He raised concern over the continued restrictions in these areas, which have prevented shepherds from accessing traditional grazing lands for their cattle, sheep, and goats. "While combating terrorism is absolutely necessary, it

should not come at the cost of our own people's livelihoods," Yaseen said. "These communities have depended on these pastures for generations. Their exclusion from these areas threatens their only source of income, pushing them deeper into poverty." He emphasized that while tourism and civilian movement may understandably be restricted in sensitive zones due to security concerns, the needs of local residents—especially those engaged in traditional occupations like pastoralism—must be handled differently and with empathy.

## Mission Director chairs review meeting of Jal Shakti Divisions

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of J&K through virtual mode. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, Superintending Engineers of respective circles in J&K, Executive Engineers of all civil and Mechanical divisions and the officers in Mission Directorate. The MD enquired about the status of Water Supply Schemes in the areas affected by recent situation.



He was informed that as per the field reports the water supply schemes in whole J&K are functioning normally. The MD also took a division wise review of scheme completion under JJM. He directed the recently posted Superintending Engineers to assess the ground situation and review the progress

on works fortnightly so that the timelines set for scheme completion are adhered to in letter and spirit. The MD also discussed Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages in the last year besides water quality monitoring and surveillance being undertaken by the water testing laboratories in the UT.

## War punishes border people most: Sajad Lone in shelling-hit Uri

### HT News Network

Uri, May 13: People living in border areas continue to suffer the most whenever tensions flare between India and Pakistan, People's Conference (PC) chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone said on Tuesday. Addressing reporters during his visit to shelling-hit areas of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, Lone, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "War punishes the most those who have the least to do with it — our border population." He expressed serious concern over the devastation caused by the recent escalation of hostilities along the Line of Control (LoC). The MLA said, "The destruction here is evident. Families have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their sense of security. We will appeal to the government to compensate the losses fully and fairly."



EDITORIAL

Fix the rates of doctors carrying out practice at clinics

Hundreds of doctors are carrying out private practice at the different clinics in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, but it is quite surprising that there is no fixed consultation fee for the same. The doctors charge according to their own wish and they are least bothered about the affordability of a particular patient. At times the patients could be seen pleading with the owner of the clinic over this issue, but at the end of the day they fail to convince the other side.

Some years back the health & medical education department had fixed consultation fees for the different levels of medicos carrying out practice at the private clinics. However, it has been observed that the consultation fee charged by a doctor is according to the wish of that particular doctor. At times the consultation fee of a particular medico is decided by the owner of the clinic and the people are more than willing to pay for the consultation fee fixed by the clinic owner.

It seems that the health & medical education department has limited its mandate in this regard to the mere issuance of the order since no follow-up action was taken. No raid was carried out on any clinic and this inaction from the people at helm emboldened the doctors and the clinic owners to fix consultation fees of their own. At the end of the day it is the common man who suffers and there are very few people who are concerned about the same.

It is very important that the consultation fee of a particular doctor is fixed according to his or her experience in that particular field of medicine. At the same time it is important that strict vigil is carried out on the doctors working in the government sector. Many of such doctors usually leave the hospitals earlier and can be seen rushing towards their clinics in order to earn quick bucks. This is a serious matter and needs immediate action from the concerned authorities.

In places other than Jammu & Kashmir a medico has to choose between a government job and a private one. The union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has its own set of rules in each and every sphere of life and medicine is no exception. There is no harm in earning more but the doctors should remember that medicine is a noble profession and people consider a doctor no less than a God.

Grey Hair, Grey Beard: A Witness to My Struggles



BY SYED MAJID GILANI

Amidst the bustling streets of downtown Srinagar, a city cradled by snow-capped mountains and mirrored in serene lakes, my life's journey began. I was born in the historic area of Khanqah Moulla, a place named after the revered Khanqah Moulla Shrine, located in the heart of downtown Srinagar. This spiritual and cultural epicenter, with its narrow alleys, bustling bazaars, and vibrant energy, shaped the foundation of my identity. The streets and sounds of this old city became the backdrop of my early life, filling me with a deep sense of belonging and a connection to the rich heritage that runs through the veins of my family.

Growing up in Srinagar, I was surrounded by beauty, both natural and cultural. The towering hills, the sparkling Dal Lake, and the lush gardens of Mughal architecture created a serene backdrop, while the mighty Jhelum River flowed nearby, adding to the natural beauty of our surroundings. Yet, it was the values instilled by my family that truly shaped my character. My parents, and especially my grandparents, infused in me a deep sense of faith, which has sustained me through life's trials. These values became the compass that guided me through many storms.

When I was a child, still in my upper KG classes, my family moved to Gilan House in Botshah Colony, Lalbazar, a posh neighbourhood in the upper downtown, about eight kilometers from the city centre. At that time, the area was a picturesque haven, with apple orchards and pomegranate trees in abundance, their vibrant fruits blending seamlessly with the lush greenery. This house, lovingly built by my grandfather, became the heart and soul of our family. It is more than just a home; it is a legacy, a living testament to our roots, holding the echoes of our ancestors and carrying the hopes I now hold for my own children. The walls of Gilan House are steeped in memories of laughter, prayers, and cherished stories, each moment a thread

in the rich tapestry of unity and heritage that my grandfather, Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani, so lovingly wove for us.

Amid the love and support of my family, I was a shy and average student. Yet, their unwavering belief in me gave me the strength to push beyond my limitations. My early years in school were not marked by exceptional academic achievements, but it was the constant encouragement from my family that kept me going. They taught me that success is defined by strength of character, determination, and the willingness to learn from life's lessons, rather than by achievements alone.

Life, as I knew it, was soon turned upside down. The first storm of my life struck when I was just 24. My loving father, my best friend, a gentle, quite disciplined, humble, and noble person who had always been the pillar of our family, passed away suddenly from a cardiac arrest at the age of 50. His death left a profound emptiness in my heart and thrust me into a different role at an early age. The grief was overwhelming, and the weight of responsibility seemed unbearable. However, amidst this turmoil, Allah's mercy was evident. At that time, I had just begun my career as a government employee, which provided some stability in the midst of the turbulence.

Amidst the emotional turmoil, my grandfather, who had always played a pivotal role in managing our family's affairs alongside my father, stepped forward to offer his guidance and support during this difficult time. A retired government officer and a poet with a deep love for literature, my grandfather became the guiding force in our lives. His wisdom, patience, and compassion gave me the strength to persevere through the darkest days. His unwavering faith in Allah and his ability to see the positive aspect in every situation became the blueprint for how I would approach life's challenges. May Allah bless his soul eternally.

My educational journey was marked by numerous challenges. I began my schooling at Caset Experimental School in Rainawari and later completed my 10th standard at Green Land High School in Hawal. Following that, I attended Government Higher Secondary School in Soura before enrolling at Gandhi Memorial College in Srinagar. However, life's circumstances intervened, causing me to discontinue my B.Sc. studies. Despite this setback, I refused to let it define me. Rather than giving up, I viewed

it as an opportunity to learn, adapt, and grow stronger from the experiences life presented.

Determined to continue my education, I enrolled in the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), completing my Bachelor's degree and later pursuing a Post-graduate degree in Public Administration. I also earned a diploma in Journalism from the Institute of Journalism in New Delhi and specialized in Creative Writing from the British Institute of Engineering and Technology in Mumbai. These courses, pursued through distance learning, enabled me to further my education while balancing the demands of work and daily life.

My professional journey began humbly as a casual copyist at Door-darshan Kendra Srinagar, where I developed a deep appreciation for hard work, dedication, and attention to detail. Over time, I joined the Excise and Taxation Department as an executive staff member. Through persistence and dedication, I passed the rigorous exams conducted by the prestigious J&K Public Service Commission, earning promotions and steadily advancing in my career. I qualified for positions such as Sub Inspector and later Inspector, achieving each milestone through unwavering effort and continuous learning.

Yet, beneath the stability of my career, writing remained my true passion. From my college days, I was captivated by the written word. My earliest articles appeared in Greater Kashmir, Kashmir Times, and Mirror of Kashmir. Back then, computers were a rare luxury. I would painstakingly handwrite my articles and deliver them personally to newspaper offices, driven solely by the desire to be heard. Noticing my passion, my grandfather gifted me a Remington typewriter, a priceless companion that allowed me to translate my emotions onto paper. Writing became my refuge, a sanctuary where I could pour my heart out, reflect on life, and connect with others. Though I lack command over English, I try to pen down what my heart feels. Every word comes from my bleeding heart, not polished, but honest and sincere, carrying my memories, emotions, and silent battles.

Amidst the trials and tribulations of life, Allah blessed me with three wonderful children, Arshad, Sarah, and Murshad. They are my lifeline, my pride, my greatest source of joy, and the only reason for my existence. Yet, life has tested me in ways I could never have imagined, and the weight of my pain often bears heavily on my heart. Despite the

challenges I face, I remain steadfast in my prayers, trusting that Allah will bring me solace. I hold tightly to my faith, believing that through patience and perseverance, the struggles will eventually bear fruit.

One of the most painful lessons life has taught me is betrayal, the plunging of my only friend. This individual, whom I once considered my confidant, backstabbed me, plunging a sword into my innocent heart. The scars are deep, the wounds still fresh, with blood oozing from the betrayal of my only friend. This one-sided attack, whose reason remains a mystery to me, has been a harsh reminder of life's uncertainties. Yet, even this treachery failed to shake my resolve to uphold my values. Loyalty, integrity, and honesty are priceless to me, virtues I shall never relinquish, regardless of the cost.

Through it all, my mother Shahida Chishti proves to be my rock. Despite being in her late sixties, her dedication to maintaining the household, her prayers, and her recitations of the Quran are constant reminders of her love. She treats and cares for me and my three lovely children with the same affection and care, she did when I was a child. Her piety, wisdom, and sheer dedication to family inspire me daily. Alhamdulillah, I am grateful to have her by my side, offering positive guidance and love in every moment of difficulty.

As I stand on the threshold of my 49th year, I reflect on the trials, the lessons, and the blessings life has presented. Every grey strand in my hair, every streak in my beard stands as a silent witness to my struggles, perseverance, and unwavering faith. I live for my children now, for they are my lifeline. The betrayals and hardships will forever be a part of my story, but they will never define who I am.

I trust in Allah's plan, knowing hardships will lead to peace. Guided by faith, I stay strong in my journey. Writing brings meaning, and my children are my greatest treasure. I stand firm in truth, rejecting deceit, and trust that Allah's plans are for my good. Despite hardship, I hold onto hope for a brighter future. With faith as my anchor, I continue my path, confident that the best is yet to come.

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer who reflects on human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences drawn from the rich tapestry of real life. He can be reached at syedmajid667@gmail.com

Operation Sindoor: India's decisive action against terrorism



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

India recently carried out a historic military operation, "Operation Sindoor," against terrorists in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), which is not just a military action but a symbol of the strength, courage, and self-reliance of the Indian Army. This operation came out as a big step against terrorism and gave a message to the whole world that when it comes to its security and honor, India will never back down. In Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army destroyed 9 terrorist hideouts inside Pakistan and POK. These hideouts included the headquarters of major terrorist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. By successfully carrying out this military action, the Indian Army gave a clear message to Pakistan and terrorists that India is not ready for any kind of compromise regarding its security.

Objective and plan of Operation Sindoor

For India, terrorism has become not just a military challenge but a national crisis. India was losing its civilian and military lives due to continuous terrorist attacks from Pakistan and cross-border terrorism. Not only Indian Army personnel were being martyred in these attacks, but innocent civilians were also losing their lives. India has always taken steps against terrorism through diplomatic and military means, but now it was clear that a decisive military action was required to destroy the bases of terrorism.

Keeping the plan of Operation Sindoor a secret, the Indian Army devised a strategy to attack terrorist bases in Pakistan and POK. Under this, a massive airstrike was planned by the Indian Air Force, in which the terrorist bases were destroyed by entering 100 kilometers inside Pakistan's border. In this attack, 9 important bases, including the headquarters of terrorist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, were targeted. The Indian Army ensured that the operation was made successful and effective from every aspect so that the terrorists do not get any chance and the safety of the citizens of India can be

ensured.

Strategic success of Operation Sindoor

The biggest success of Operation Sindoor was that the Indian Army destroyed the terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and POK without any major war. In this action, India proved that it will not tolerate any terrorist activity and will take every possible step to protect its borders. The Indian Air Force targeted the terrorist hideouts within Pakistan and POK through its airstrikes. This attack was carried out with such precision that not only were the terrorist hideouts destroyed, but a message was also given to Pakistan and terrorists that India is fully prepared for its security.

During this military action, the Indian air defense system shot down a Pakistani F-16 aircraft, which was trying to enter the Indian border. This incident proves that India is extremely vigilant about the security of its airspace and will not tolerate any intrusion. The quick response of the Indian Army and Air Force proved that India is fully capable of facing any challenge.

Global impact and international response

Operation Sindoor gave a message not only to Pakistan but to

the whole world that India is not ready to make any compromise in its policy against terrorism. This bold step of India gave a strong message against terrorism at the international level. India proved that it will not tolerate terrorism from any country within itself, whether that country is Pakistan or any other country.

After this operation, India's military capability and strategic thinking were appreciated in the international community. Many of Pakistan's allies made statements about India's military action, but it became clear from these statements that the attitude of the countries of the world was positive about India's action against terrorism. The United Nations and other international organizations saw this move of India as a decisive action against terrorism.

tension between India and Pakistan

Operation Sindoor has further increased the tension between India and Pakistan, but this step of India was completely in self-defense and against terrorism. Pakistan has always been pressuring India to escape its responsibility towards terrorism, but India has proved that it will not shy away from taking any step for its security. Indian action was

criticized by Pakistan, but India clearly stated that the purpose of its action is only to eliminate terrorism, and it is expected of Pakistan that it should take steps to stop terrorist activities on its land.

This move by India has taught Pakistan that the fight against terrorism is not fought only through war and military actions but also through diplomacy and internal security. Pakistan needs to understand that if it continues to promote terrorism, it will have to face the consequences.

India's permanent stand against terrorism

Operation Sindoor was not only successful as a military operation, but it is also a confirmation of India's self-reliance and its policy against terrorism. This action proves that India has made its fight against terrorism more decisive. Through this operation, India also gave the message that it will take every possible step to completely eliminate terrorism and will not give Pakistan any opportunity to support its terrorist activities.

Going forward, it remains to be seen how India will force Pakistan to take action against terrorism through its military action as well as diplomatic means. Eradication of terrorism is pos-

sible only when the whole world unites against it and countries that provide shelter to terrorists are held accountable. With the combination of India's military and government, it is expected that this fight against terrorism will be fought more effectively across the world.

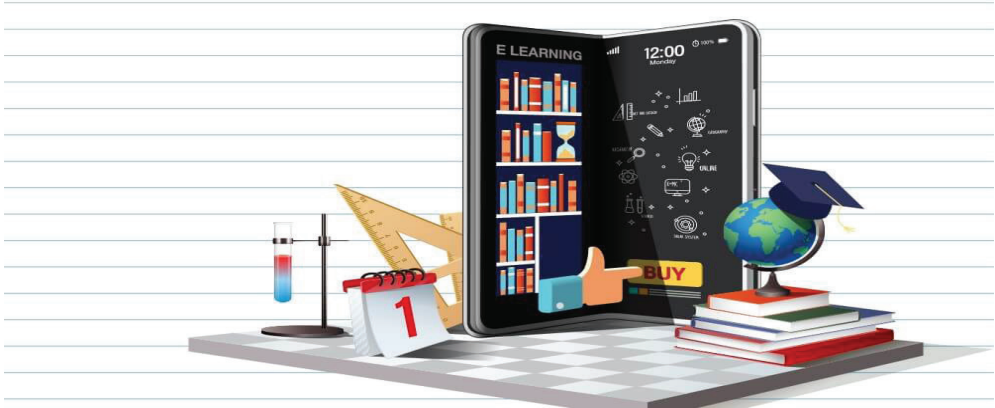
Operation Sindoor is not just a military action, but it is a symbol of India's courage, determination, and strong will against terrorism. India has proved that it can go to any extent for its security and honor. This action against terrorists in Pakistan and PoK is a strong step, which sends a message against terrorism across the world. The Indian Army is proud of the success of this operation and also congratulates the Government of India, who took this bold step.

As a result of Operation Sindoor, the question arises as to what steps Pakistan and other countries of the world will take against terrorism. This action of India is only the beginning, and it is hoped that in the future India will take even more decisive steps so that terrorism can be completely eradicated. Jai Hind!

Priyanka Saurabh is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist



# Digital Education: A Strategic Imperative for the Future of Kashmir’s Learners



BY JAWAID IQBAL

In an era marked by swift technological advancement and climactic unpredictability, digital education has transcended the status of a mere supplement and emerged as a vital pedagogical lifeline. For a region like Kashmir, which is perpetually at the mercy of nature’s fury and political uncertainties, integrating digital modalities into the educational system is not only pragmatic but imperative for safeguarding the academic continuum of its students.

The picturesque valleys of Kashmir, while revered for their natural beauty, are increasingly becoming epicenters of environmental extremities. Torrential rains, catastrophic floods, acute temperature fluctuations, and menacing heatwaves have metamorphosed into seasonal norms. Furthermore, occurrences of hailstorms and snow-induced disruptions repeatedly compel authorities to shut down schools, halting conventional classroom instruction. The cumulative impact of such recurrent closures has led to a significant attrition of valuable academic time, thereby imperiling the intellectual growth and psychological well-being of students.

Moreover, the looming specter of geopolitical tension continues to cast a shadow over the region. The frequent escalation of cross-

border hostilities, curfews, and security lockdowns disrupt not only the physical but also the cognitive serenity of the learners. In such an environment, where the rhythm of daily life is frequently interrupted by socio-political volatility, the traditional mode of education stands vulnerable and insufficient.

It is within this context that digital education emerges not as an alternative, but as an indispensable solution. Platforms such as Zoom and Google Meet have revolutionized the teaching-learning interface, allowing uninterrupted access to quality education even amidst external adversities. These digital portals facilitate real-time interaction between educators and students, encourage collaborative learning through breakout sessions, and ensure continuity of syllabus coverage despite the closure of physical institutions.

Furthermore, digital education transcends spatial constraints. A student nestled in the remote hamlet of Kupwara can attend the same lecture as his counterpart in Srinagar or Delhi, bridging geographical disparities and democratizing access to knowledge. The recorded lecture features offered by these platforms also provide students with the opportunity to revisit complex topics, thus reinforcing comprehension and retention.

Admittedly, the transition

to digital education is not devoid of challenges. Issues such as internet connectivity, digital literacy, and access to devices persist as barriers to equitable adoption. Nonetheless, these impediments are surmountable with strategic policy intervention, infrastructural investment, and community sensitization. The long-term dividends of a digitally enabled educational ecosystem far outweigh the initial logistical hurdles.

Moreover, the infusion of digital tools in pedagogy not only ensures educational continuity during natural and man-made crises but also prepares students for the digital economy. It cultivates a culture of self-directed learning, enhances technological fluency, and fosters adaptability—skills indispensable in the 21st-century knowledge economy.

In conclusion, Kashmir’s unique environmental and geopolitical landscape necessitates a robust, resilient, and adaptive educational framework. Digital education, with its manifold affordances, stands as the bulwark against academic regression in times of uncertainty. It is high time that stakeholders—from policymakers to parents—recognize this paradigm shift not as a contingency plan, but as a strategic imperative for the future of our youth. The blackboard must now evolve into the digital board, for the classroom is no longer a place—it is a purpose.

# Virat Kohli – A Legacy Etched in Time



DR. SATYWAN SAURABH

In the grand tapestry of Indian cricket, few names shine as brightly as Virat Kohli’s. Over the past fourteen years, Kohli has etched a legacy that is not only remarkable for his unparalleled statistics but also for the passion, intensity, and leadership he brought to the game. As he bids adieu to Test cricket, it is not just a player who departs, but a chapter of cricket history that closes—one that will be talked about for generations to come.

Virat Kohli, often referred to as the modern-day cricketing legend, has redefined what it means to be a cricketer in the 21st century. From his fearless batting to his dynamic leadership, Kohli has set new benchmarks for the sport. His journey is not just one of personal triumphs but also of the transformation of Indian cricket, where the team’s mentality, approach, and vision evolved under his leadership.

## A Trailblazer in the Era of Transition

When Virat Kohli made his Test debut in 2011, few could have predicted the scale of the impact he would have on the game. At the time, India was in the midst of a transition. The golden era of players like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and VVS Laxman was coming to a close. India needed a new leader, a new face to take the baton forward, and Kohli fit the bill perfectly.

Kohli’s entry into international cricket was marked by aggression and a hunger for success. Unlike the past era’s players who were methodical and often restrained, Kohli’s approach was unorthodox. He broke the norms with his aggressive play, sharp focus on fitness, and an undying desire to excel. The Indian team soon became synonymous with a new era of fitness and aggression, and Kohli was at the helm of it all.

## Mastering the Art of Test Cricket

Virat Kohli’s record in Test cricket speaks for itself. With 27 Test centuries, he is currently among the top 5 players in the world in terms of most Test centuries. For India, he is second only to the legendary Sachin Tendulkar. His 8,000-plus runs in Tests come at an average that rivals the best in the history of the game, making him a true giant in the longest format of cricket.

But Kohli’s brilliance is not just in the numbers; it lies in the manner in which he redefined batting in the Test arena. In an age where fast bowling and challenging conditions often dominate, Kohli has been unflinching. His ability to counter the best of bowlers, whether it is the swinging conditions of England or the spinning tracks of India, has been unparalleled.

His career took a special turn in 2014 when, after a poor tour of England in 2014, he rose to become an even better batsman. He worked relentlessly on his technique and temperament, making him one of the most formidable Test batsmen in the world. Kohli has not just been a run-scorer but also a trailblazer, constantly raising the bar for players who follow.

## Leadership: A Revolution on and off the Field

While Kohli’s individual brilliance is what earned him the respect of fans and critics alike, his leadership is where his true legacy lies. In 2017, Kohli became the captain of the Indian Test team, inheriting the baton from MS Dhoni. Under Kohli, India became a force to be reckoned with. His leadership turned India into one of the most consistent and successful Test sides in the world.

His tenure as captain saw India reach No. 1 in the ICC Test rankings for a prolonged period—a feat that had eluded India for years. Kohli’s aggression on the field translated into his leadership style. He pushed his players to give their best, maintain high fitness levels, and take pride in wearing the Indian jersey. He was never one to shy away from a challenge, whether it was captaining India to their first-ever Test series win in Australia in 2018 or leading India to the final of the ICC World Test Championship in 2021.

Kohli’s leadership was not just about tactics; it was about instilling a winning mentality. The Indian team, under his leadership, became ruthless in testing conditions, with victories in Australia, England, and West Indies. His approach to leadership emphasized personal responsibility and accountability, which reflected in the way his team performed on the field.

## Test Cricket: Kohli’s Testament to Toughness

The essence of Test cricket is about patience, technique, and temperament. It is the ultimate test of a player’s character. Kohli, over the years, has proved time and again that he has what it takes to thrive in this toughest of formats. His dedication to Test cricket has always been evident. Unlike some cricketers who gravitate toward the lucrative T20 leagues and One Day Internationals, Kohli’s commitment to Tests was unwavering. His presence in the format ensured that India always had a dependable player at the crease, ready to absorb pressure and turn the tide when needed.

Kohli’s most significant contributions came in the form of crucial hundreds during pivotal moments. His knock at Adelaide in 2014, where he scored a magnificent century amidst India’s collapse, is one of the finest examples of his skill and temperament. Similarly, his hundreds against the likes of South Africa, England, and New Zealand further cemented his position as one of the greatest Test batsmen of all time.

But it’s not just about runs. Kohli’s approach to Test cricket was also about being an all-round player. He believed in playing the longer format with intensity and purpose. His mentality was clear—Test cricket was the purest form of the game, and his goal was always to contribute as much to it as possible. The fact that he chose to retire from the format on his own terms only highlights his respect and love for the format.

## Kohli’s Influence Beyond Stats

As Kohli walks away from Test cricket, it’s easy to get lost in his achievements—the runs, the hundreds, the records. But what will truly define Kohli’s legacy is his influence on the

culture of Indian cricket. When Kohli took charge of the Indian team, he revolutionized the way cricketers in the country approached the game. His obsession with fitness, commitment to hard work, and attention to detail raised the bar for everyone who wanted to play for India. His impact on the Indian youth is unparalleled, with millions of aspiring cricketers taking inspiration from his relentless attitude and aggressive style.

Kohli is not just a cricketer; he is a brand, a role model, and an ambassador for the sport. He has shown that you don’t just have to be a good cricketer to succeed—you have to be dedicated, focused, and relentless in your pursuit of greatness. His mental toughness and work ethic have set new standards for future generations of cricketers.

## Farewell to a Legend

Virat Kohli’s departure from Test cricket marks the end of an era. His influence, both as a batsman and a leader, will be remembered for decades to come. As a player, Kohli gave everything to the game. He played with an intensity and drive that very few could match, and his legacy will inspire cricketers for generations.

The cricketing world will miss his fiery passion, his sharp cricketing mind, and his larger-than-life persona. But what remains behind is the lasting imprint of a player who not only redefined the modern era of cricket but also ensured that India would be remembered as one of the greatest Test sides in history.

Kohli may be stepping away from Test cricket, but his influence will continue to guide Indian cricket. His journey is a testament to what hard work, dedication, and a love for the game can achieve. Kohli’s legacy is not just in the records he leaves behind, but in the spirit he imbued into the Indian cricket team and the millions who watched him play. He made the game better, and for that, we will forever be grateful.

Happy Test retirement, Virat Kohli. You leave behind a legacy that will inspire, challenge, and elevate Indian cricket for generations to come.

# ”Practicing What They Preach? Government Teachers’ Credibility Under Scrutiny”



INAYAT HUSSAIN BHAT

Growing controversy has sparked debate in the education sector, with critics accusing government teachers of neglecting their duties while drawing hefty salaries from the government. What’s fueling the outrage is the revelation that many of these teachers are sending their own children to private schools, raising questions about their faith in the very system they’re supposed to uphold.

It’s a case of “do as I say, not as I do” for many government teachers. While they expect poor parents to send their children to government schools, they themselves opt for private schools for their own kids. This double standard has

sparked widespread criticism, with many questioning the logic behind sending their own children to private schools while expecting others to settle for government schools.

“If government teachers can’t trust their own system enough to send their children to government schools, why should poor parents?” asks a concerned citizen. “It’s hypocrisy at its worst.”

The criticism is not just about the teachers’ personal choices but also about the quality of education they’re providing. Many government schools struggle with inadequate infrastructure, lack of resources, and insufficient training for teachers. The result is a subpar education that leaves students at a disadvantage.

The government needs to take a closer look at the education system and hold teachers accountable for their actions. It’s time for government teachers to practice what they preach and demonstrate their commitment to the system.

# Gurudev Swami Mirza Kak Ji: A sublime soul

## A Spiritual Saint-Poet of Kashmir

BY RAJINDER PREMI

Kashmir through its recorded history has been the land of saints, scholars and mystics. After Lal Ded, Sahzanand and Roopa Bhawani, the Valley was again blessed with the birth of one more saint-poet Mirza Kak, who continued the Vakh parampara in Kashmir. Vakhs are the quintessence of spiritual and religious sayings and utterances of mystics and saints.

Kashmir has been a sacred land where tirthas, sacred springs and places of worship are found in abundance. One such tirtha is dedicated to goddess Hingla Devi in Brang Pargana. According to Brangesh Samhita, the Brang Pargana has been named after Brangesh Muni, the author of this Samhita. The Brangi river, which runs through this pargana, also bears his name. The village has thus got the name of Hin-

galagund which later got abridged to Hangalgund. In this village near Koker-nag lived a pious Brahmin named Lassa Pandit. He had two sons - Bhulla Pandit and Mirza Pandit.

## Aversion Towards Worldly

Bhulla Pandit got married and lived a householder’s life, while Mirza Pandit remained a bachelor throughout his life. From the early childhood, Mirza Pandit remained engrossed in Bhakti and prayers. He developed aversion towards worldly pleasure and led a very simple life. For this, he was nicknamed as a simpleton. Mirza Pandit, when a grown-up boy, was adopted by his mother’s sister who lived in village Acchan in Pulwama Tehsil. He used to help her in domestic chores and also worked with his adopted father in his fields. Some time after Mirza Pandit’s father died, his mother also passed away. Mirza Pandit returned to Hangalgund and continued to live there with his elder brother, Bhulla Pandit.

One incident relating to Mirza Kak’s life merits

mention here. One day after his father’s death, when he got busy in the fields, his mother forgot to send him his mid-day meals. With scorching heat from above and hard labour in the fields, Mirza Kak felt pangs of hunger. He waited for some time under the shade of a tree, where he fell asleep. The Divine Mother of the Universe, realising the pangs of hunger of Her true Bhakta, appeared before Mirza Kak with a large plate of sweet Kheer and offered it to him with Her own benevolent hands. Mirza Kak mistook her as his own mother and partook of the Divine Kheer. The Mother disappeared and Mirza Kak set to work again. Some time later, his mother arrived there greatly lamenting her forgetfulness. Mirza Kak took no notice of this and remained busy with his work. This indifference of her son was misunderstood by his mother as a silent protest for having been kept hungry. She begged for pardon for her mistake and requested that he should partake of the meal which

she had brought, after much delay though, Mirza Kak was greatly surprised and told her that he had already eaten to his fill the Kheer served to him earlier. His mother was surprised to know this. She affirmed that she had not brought anything for him to eat earlier. Realising this, Mirza Kak understood that it was the Divine Mother, Who had fed him with Kheer earlier.

## Miracles Recounted

There are many such stories recounted about the miracles he did or experienced. Lalleshwari (Lal Ded) is reported to have appeared before him in the guise of a virgin and showered her blessings on him. Since then he began reciting Vakhs. It was the Pathan (Durrani) rule in Kashmir then and forced and unpaid labour was exacted from the Kashmiri Pandits. A Pathan soldier forced Mirza Kak to carry a load of rice from the village to Srinagar and to bring a receipt for its delivery. On his way to Srinagar near Achhabal, the Divine Mother appeared

before him and took off the load and sent him back to the village with a proper receipt of delivery. When it was handed over to the Pathan, he thought it was a fraud being played on him. He got the receipt verified and from that moment became a disciple of Mirza Kak. A yearly pension was sanctioned by the Pathan rulers to Mirza Kak, which lapsed in 1949 when the government led by the National Conference withdrew the grants. A kardar from Srinagar, a great spiritual saint, gave Guru Dakhshina to Mirza Kak under instructions of Shri Sharika Bagwati.

Mahatma Parmanand of Oma Nagri along with his disciples came to Hangalgund to meet Mirza Kak. Many used to come to seek his help and blessings. The stones of his miracles are a legion.

Mirza Kak was born on the first day of the dark fortnight of Posh 1805-Bikrami. He attained Nirvana on the second day of dark fortnight of Jesht 1891. Hundreds of his Vakhs are available in print.





# DC Poonch visits shelling hit areas in Mandi and Haveli, assesses damage to property

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday undertook a visit to shelling affected areas of Tehsil Mandi and Haveli to assess the situation on the ground and review the relief and rehabilitation measures initiated by the local administration. Accompanied by a team of officers, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the status of basic supplies and public services. He instructed concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted availability of the essential supplies and services for residents in the affected areas.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited village Baila in Tehsil Mandi to meet the family of a person who lost his life in Poonch city in the cross border shelling. He offered condolences to the bereaved, and assured them of all possible support from the district administration. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited affected areas in Block Nangali of Tehsil Haveli to assess the damage to property. He also met the family of a person who fell to cross border shelling at village Kojra. He interacted with the affected families and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to providing necessary assistance and standing by them in this difficult time.



To ensure a timely relief process, the DC directed the Mandi and Haveli Tehsildars to immediately start the assessment of damages to private

property and submit detailed reports. He emphasized the importance of swift reporting so that relief and compensation measures can be initiated promptly.

The visit reflects the district administration's prompt and empathetic response to the situation and its ongoing efforts to address the needs of the affected population. Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday undertook a visit to shelling affected areas of Tehsil Mandi and Haveli to assess the situation on the ground and review the relief and rehabilitation measures initiated by the local administration. Accompanied by a team of officers, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the status of basic supplies and public services. He instructed concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted availability of the essential supplies and services for residents in the

affected areas. During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited village Baila in Tehsil Mandi to meet the family of a person who lost his life in Poonch city in the cross border shelling. He offered condolences to the bereaved, and assured them of all possible support from the district administration. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited affected areas in Block Nangali of Tehsil Haveli to assess the damage to property. He also met the family of a person who fell to cross border shelling at village Kojra. He interacted with the affected families and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to providing necessary assistance and standing by them in this difficult time.

## Satish Sharma visits shelling affected villages; assures relief to victims

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 12: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today visited several villages affected by recent cross border shelling to assess the damage and extend support to the affected families.

During the visit, the Minister met with the residents whose homes and livelihoods have been severely impacted.

A preliminary assessment indicated that numerous households have suffered losses, including



damage to residential structures and loss of livestock.

The villages visited by the Minister included Kot Maira, Chaprial, Pahariwala, Panjtoot, Narayana, Dhalleri and other adjoining

areas. The Minister expressed deep concern over the situation and assured all affected families that the government stands with them in this time of crisis. He directed the local

authorities to expedite relief and rehabilitation measures, ensuring timely assistance to the victims.

"The safety and well being of citizens is our top priority. We will take all necessary steps to provide immediate relief and long term support to the affected families," said the Minister.

He added that the administration is conducting a detailed survey to determine the full extent of damage. He said that further announcements regarding compensation and assistance packages will follow accordingly.

## DC Kishtwar flags off 31 Hajj Pilgrims

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today flagged off a batch of 31 Hajj pilgrims including 10 Women and 21 Men here from the Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Kishtwar for their onward journey to holy pilgrimage.

While interacting with the pilgrims, the DC congratulated them on getting the opportunity to perform the holy Hajj. He wished them a safe and secure pilgrimage and urged them to pray for the peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and the well-being of its people.

The group of pilgrims, who departed on buses, will board an international flight to Jeddah from Srinagar International Airport tomorrow.



Earlier, the DC reviewed the arrangements made to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. He also inquired about the facilities being provided to the pilgrims. Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh; ACR Idrees Lone; EO Waqf Board Firdoos Bhawani; Imam

Sahib Jamia Masjid, Hajj Incharge District Ayaz Ahmed; Principal of Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Mehmoob Qazi, media personnel, and other concerned officials were present on the occasion to see off the Hajj pilgrims.

## DDC Reasi reviews implementation of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 13: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) and discuss the draft Village Development Plans (VDPs) for the declaration of selected villages as Adarsh Grams. During the meeting, extensive discussions were held on the 50 socio-economic monitoring indicators related to the 7 villages identified under the scheme in different blocks of Reasi. District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Sachin Sharma gave a detailed presentation highlighting the status of these indicators and the road ahead. PMAGY aims at integrated development of villages having more than 50% Scheduled Caste



(SC) population, with the goal of ensuring holistic growth and upliftment of marginalized communities.

The DDC Reasi stressed the importance of conducting a thorough exercise to ensure data collected in the house-to-house survey is accurate which will help in identification of lagging indicators, and effective planning. She reviewed various data formats submitted for each village and deliberated on the convergence and gap-filling strategies necessary for achieving the targets.

DDC Ms. Malik emphasized that this exercise must reflect the ground realities so that the benefits genuinely reach in these villages. She directed concerned officials to pool resources from various departments to bridge the identified gaps efficiently. She further called for coordinated efforts across departments so that actual field data from BDOs and concerned HODs is crucial for ensuring proper convergence on the ground.

Further discussions were also held regarding the inclusion of another village Kanha, Pouni identified by the Village Level Convergence Committee (VLCC), for consideration under the scheme. The meeting marked a significant step towards inclusive and targeted development in Reasi district, aligning with the core vision of PMAGY. CPO Narinder Kumar, DSWO, CEO, CMO, DIO, XENs and other officials were present during the meeting.

### OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE

SHABIR AHMAD BHAT & ASSOCIATES LIC NO.535/13

In the case of:

1, Abaas Ramzan Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar  
2, Ghulam Nabi Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar 3, Ghulam Qadir Ganie S/O Abdul Sattar Ganie 4, Bashir Ahmad Dar S/O late Abdul Samad Dar 5, Haji Ghulam Mohd Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar 6, Abdul Rahman Ganie S/O Mohd Ismail Ganie 7, Fayaz Ahmad Mir S/O Mohd Sultan Mir 8, Bashir Ahmad Lone S/O Ghulam Hassan Lone 9, Barkat Hassan Lone S/O Ghulam Hassan Lone R/O

All Residents, PALPORA Tehsil: Qaziabad Kralgund (Caveator) Versus

Public at Large

"In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A CPC The caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court of Additional District Judge at Handwara on some frivolous grounds or distorted facts/misrepresented facts and may succeed in obtaining some interim relief/order and an irreparable loss would be caused to the caveator and it would be proper that the caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the hon'ble court before passing any order."

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### LOSS OF DRIVING LICENSE

I HAVE LOST MY DRIVING LICENSE  
BEARING REGISTRATION NUMBER  
LA0120210000164. NOW I WANT TO APPLY  
FOR ITS DUPLICATE. ANYBODY HAVING  
ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT ARTO  
KARGIL WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 7 DAYS.  
NAME : MOHAMMAD ALI  
S/O MOHAMMAD HASSAN  
R/O FARKA SHILIKCHEY

### PUBLIC NOTICE

M name has been wrongly written as SADIYA BEGUM W/O ABDUL AZIZ LONE R/O CHANDKOOT in aadhar card bearing aadhar card no 775742407183 while my correct name is SARAH BEGUM W/O ABDUL AZIZ LONE which needs to be correct if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... SARAH BEGUM W/O ABDUL AZIZ LONE  
R/O CHANDKOOT TEHSIL... KREERI

## GOVT RAILWAYS POLICE KATRA

Crime Section

### Look Out Notice

As reported by SHO P/S GRP Katra vide Letter No. PSRK/25/209/5-1 datet 10 05 -2o25 that today on 10.05.25 at above 06:20 hrs an information was recived through reliable sources that one unidentified dead body has been found inside passenger shed gate of railway station Katra. Upon this information police of P/S Katra rushed to the spot and took unidentified Male dead body into Police possession to this effect an inquest proceeding has been initiated Vide DDR No 27 Deated 10.05.25 P/S GRP Katra .the dead body has been shifted to Mortuary Room Of CHC Katra For identification and other Medico Legal Formalities the photograph as well as the descriptive roll of deceased is tabled under.

Name/Parentage/Residence Unknown  
Age 55-60  
Sex Male  
Color Whitish  
Cloths Check shirt and army color Trouser  
Height 5feet 5inch

The pahotoersph and description roll of unidentified dead body is above mentioned table is for information of Police establishment /Public in genral for identification and any person having information related with his identification as well as kegal hire same may be shared on below telephone Numbers and other adress. Futhier also required if any missing report afore said un-identified dead body have been entered in your rspective police units /Jurisdiction the information thereof may e kindly be shered on below email/Telephone numbers .

Email ssprlyskatra@jkpolice .gov.in  
Fax 01991-232001  
Phone No 01991-232001  
liaise line ssprlyskatra@jkpolice .gov.in  
PCR GRP Katra Phone No 9469503575

DIPK No 1356/25  
Send Date: May 13 2025

Sr Superintendent of Police  
Railways Katra



## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Block Medical Officer, Sallar (Medical Director SANJY-2025, Pahalgam Axis)

No. MD-Yatra/2025/PGM/115-20 Date: 12/05/2025

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

It is for the information of all concerned that the following tenders have been re-tendered due to poor response:

- NIT No. BMO/SANJY/2025/57-61 dated 26/04/2025— Supply of Commercial Gas for SANJY-2025
- NIT No. MD/YATRA/2025/92-96 dated 05/05/2025 – Hiring of Hotel Accommodation for staff deployed for yatra-2025 (Pahalgam Side)

All interested bidders are once again invited to participate in the tendering process and submit their bids well before the cut-off time.

The terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

For further details, submission and necessary dates, kindly visit the official e-tendering portal:

<https://jktenders.gov.in>

Sd/-

Block Medical Officer, Sallar  
Medical Director SANJY  
Pahalgam Axis

DIPK-1367/25  
Send Date: May 13, 2025  
Pub Date: May 14, 2025







# Acute Water Crisis Sparks Protest in Khanpura Magam, Locals Appeal for Immediate Action

DR.AB QAYOOM

RHandwara, May, 13: Residents of Khanpura Magam in Handwara sub-district staged a strong protest on Tuesday against the acute water crisis that has gripped the area for years. The aggrieved locals took to the streets, expressing deep resentment over what they termed as official apathy and unfulfilled promises by elected representatives and concerned departments. According to the protesting villagers, despite repeated pleas to the authorities,

their grievances have gone unheard. "We have been facing water scarcity for several years now. All assurances made by officials and political leaders have proved hollow," said one protester. The locals alleged that during the financial year 2022-23, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Division Handwara initiated the construction of a water storage tank under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), officially named WSS-Khanpura. As per official records, the work order for the project was issued on January 14, 2023, with a total sanctioned cost



of 61.852 lakh. However, over a year later, the construction remains incomplete, with the work passing through different contractors including Wani Brothers, causing prolonged delays. "The work is still ongoing with no visible signs of completion. Despite voting and supporting our representatives for the sake of development, our basic needs remain unaddressed. It's extremely unfortunate," lamented a local resident. In their protest, the villagers appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's

Administration and District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, to intervene personally and ensure the immediate completion of the project, restoring adequate water supply to the area. Speaking to HEADLINESTODAY, Executive Engineer PHE Handwara, Bilal Ahmad, acknowledged the issue and assured the public that the matter would be resolved within a week. The residents, however, remain cautiously optimistic, hoping that this latest assurance will translate into tangible action.

## DC Kulgam visits Altaf Memorial GDC Kilam, GHSS Kilam

Assesses their functioning, infrastructure, academic environment & staff availability

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Altaf Memorial Government Degree College Kilam and Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Kilam to take firsthand assessment of their overall functioning. During the visit, DC took stock of the existing infrastructure, academic environment, and staff availability. He also conducted an interactive session with students at both the institutions to gain insights into their academic needs, challenges, and aspirations. Emphasizing the importance of quality education, DC assured that all necessary measures would be taken to further strengthen the educational setup.



He urged the teaching staff to maintain high standards of education and work collectively for the holistic development of students. He also urged students to make the best use of facilities, resources and time for a bright and successful future. On the occasion students also put forth several demands aimed at enhancing academic

excellence and improving facilities at these institutions. DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmad Giri; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Education Officer, Tehsildar and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Altaf Memorial Government Degree College Kilam and Gov-

ernment Higher Secondary School (HSS) Kilam to take firsthand assessment of their overall functioning. During the visit, DC took stock of the existing infrastructure, academic environment, and staff availability. He also conducted an interactive session with students at both the institutions to gain insights into their academic needs, challenges, and aspirations. Emphasizing the importance of quality education, DC assured that all necessary measures would be taken to further strengthen the educational setup. He urged the teaching staff to maintain high standards of education and work collectively for the holistic development of students. He also urged students to make the best use of facilities, resources and time for a bright and successful future

## Randomization Process for Tent & Shop Allotment for SANJY 2025 via Baltal Conducted in Ganderbal

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 13: In a step towards ensuring fair and transparent arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, the randomization process for allocation of tents and shops along the Baltal route was conducted today at the V.C Room of the DC Office Ganderbal. The process was supervised by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Fahim Bihagi, District Informatics Officer NIC, and representatives of tent and shop owners. Randomization was carried out for multiple key locations along the Yatra route, including Baltal, Domail, Railpathri, Barimarg, Sangam, and outside Baltal. This process



ensures equal opportunities for all applicants and reinforces the district administration's commitment to a transparent and efficient system. All the stakeholders expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the process and the DC reiterated the administration's dedication to organizing a well-coordinated and safe pilgrimage experience for all devotees. Randomization was carried out for multiple

key locations along the Yatra route, including Baltal, Domail, Railpathri, Barimarg, Sangam, and outside Baltal. This process ensures equal opportunities for all applicants and reinforces the district administration's commitment to a transparent and efficient system. All the stakeholders expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the process and the DC reiterated the administration's dedication to organizing.

## DC Kulgam visits GM Nazim Memorial Hospital at Kilam; reviews facilities, staff availability

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Ghulam Mustafa Nazim Memorial Hospital at Kilam to take stock of healthcare facilities and staff availability. During the visit, DC inspected various sections of the hospital, and reviewed the availability of essential services, medical equipment and manpower. He interacted with the staff and patients to assess the quality of healthcare facilities. Khan emphasized the importance of providing timely and efficient medical care to the public and assured that necessary steps will be taken to address any gaps in infrastructure or services. He also directed the concerned officials to ensure round-the-clock healthcare delivery, and maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the hospital premises. The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmad Giri; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Tehsildar and other concerned officers.

## DC G'bl reviews preparations for Kheer Bhawani Mela Emphasizes on timely completion of arrangements

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today directed all the concerned departments to ensure upgraded and timely completion of all preparations for smooth celebration of annual Kheer Bhawani Mela 2025 at Tulamulla Ganderbal. The DC gave these directions during a review meeting held here in the V.C Room to review the status of preparations for the Mela. He issued specific instructions for ensuring uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, availability of adequate transport, sanitation and mobile toilet facilities and overall cleanliness in and around the temple premises. DC reviewed the status of ongoing preparations like installation of street lights and drinking water facilities, provisions for mobile toilets, macadamization of roads,



cleanliness, and setting up of stalls. Directives were issued to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, adequate transport facilities, toilet facilities, provision of sanitation in and around the temple premises. Assistant Commissioner Panchayat was directed to make arrangements for mobile toilets as per requirement with deployment of sufficient manpower for maintenance of these toilets. Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal, was instructed

to oversee proper sanitation along the temple approach road and install dustbins at key locations. Executive Engineer R&B was tasked with initiating macadamization work on all roads leading to the Kheer Bhawani Temple wherever required. While interacting with the officers, DC said that the district administration is committed to ensuring a safe, convenient, and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees participating in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela.

## OSC Shopian organises awareness programme at Pehlipora Keller

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 13: One Stop Centre (OSC) Shopian organized a comprehensive awareness programme at Pehlipora Keller, Shopian, focusing on the services offered by OSC and the 181 Women Helpline. The event aimed to sensitize the local community, particularly women, about the support mechanisms available to victims of violence and abuse. During the programme, participants were informed about the wide range of assistance provided by OSC including legal aid, psychological counseling, temporary shelter, and police facilitation. Special emphasis was laid on the significance of the 181 Helpline, a toll-free number dedicated to addressing women's issues and ensuring timely intervention. Notably, several cases were registered on the spot, reflecting the immediate impact and relevance of the initiative. The programme underscored the commitment of OSC Shopian towards creating a safer and more responsive environment for women, empowering them to seek help and assert their rights with confidence. The programme underscored the commitment of OSC Shopian towards creating a safer and more responsive environment for women, empowering them to seek help and assert their rights with confidence.

## Empowering Local Enterprises: RAMP district-level awareness workshop held at Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 13: Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) - Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and District Industries Centre (DIC) Kupwara organized a district-level RAMP awareness workshop at Town Hall, Kupwara. The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts to build awareness and strengthen the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program in the Union Territory. Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKT-

PO) is conducting a series of workshops to strengthen the outreach and capacity-building of local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and budding entrepreneurs. These workshops are strategically designed to raise awareness about the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program, a Government of India initiative that empowers MSMEs through a multifaceted support system. The RAMP program focuses on enhancing market linkages, promoting digital financing solutions, advancing skill development, fostering cluster-based growth, and implementing critical business reforms. The SPIU team during the sessions outlined detailed implementation strategies and responded to participants' questions to facilitate smooth



execution of the RAMP initiatives. This interactive approach ensures that implementing agencies/stakeholders are well-

informed and equipped to effectively leverage the benefits of the RAMP initiatives, thereby fostering a more resilient

and competitive MSME ecosystem in the region. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from

a wide range of stakeholders including officers from DIC Kupwara, representatives from ITI, JKEDI, Handloom & Handicrafts department, Lead Bank Kupwara, officials from JKTPO, members of industrial associations, MSME unit holders, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and other local entrepreneurs. The event aimed to familiarize local stakeholders with the objectives, components, and benefits of the RAMP program, while also facilitating dialogue between departments and MSMEs for improved support and outreach. Detailed sessions were conducted on various schemes and interventions under RAMP that promote capacity building, access to credit, marketing support, skilling, and technology adoption. Speaking at the event, repre-

sentatives from SPIU/ JKTPO emphasized the UT Government's commitment to making the MSME sector more resilient, competitive, and growth-oriented. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from a wide range of stakeholders including officers from DIC Kupwara, representatives from ITI, JKEDI, Handloom & Handicrafts department, Lead Bank Kupwara, officials from JKTPO, members of industrial associations, MSME unit holders, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and other local entrepreneurs. The event aimed to familiarize local stakeholders with the objectives, components, and benefits of the RAMP program, while also facilitating dialogue between departments and MSMEs for improved support and outreach.





## 33 Hajj Pilgrims flagged off from Ramban

HT News Network



RAMBAN, MAY 13: Amid elaborate arrangements by the District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, a batch of 33 Hajj pilgrims, including 11 females were today flagged off from Ramban to Srinagar for their onward journey to the Holy Pilgrimage.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo congratulated the Hajj pilgrims for getting the opportunity to embark on the sacred journey. He extended his best wishes to pilgrims for a safe and secure pilgrimage and earnestly appealed to them to pray for the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Tehsildar Deep Kumar, ARTO Kuldeep Singh, religious leaders and other officers, prominent citizens and relatives were also present on the occasion.

## Chief Secretary pays tributes to martyr ADDC Rajouri

HT News Network



RAJOURI, MAY 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today offered high tributes to Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who attained martyrdom during the recent cross border shelling incident.

Expressing profound grief over the tragic loss, Chief Secretary said, "Officers must carry forward their responsibilities with the same dedication and sense of duty as exemplified by Dr. Thapa." He lauded the ADDC's courage and integrity, calling his martyrdom a loss not only to the administrative machinery but also to the entire Union Territory. The Chief Secretary said this while chairing a condolence meeting organised by the district administration Rajouri to pay homage to Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa.

The meeting commenced with officers observing a moment of silence as a mark of respect for the departed soul.

A heartfelt tribute was paid to Dr. Thapa for his supreme sacrifice and unwavering commitment to duty. His service to the nation and the district of Rajouri was remembered with deep reverence by all present.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma highlighted the invaluable contributions of Dr. Thapa during his tenure as ADDC. He recalled Dr. Thapa's leadership in key development projects, his people-centric approach and his unflinching commitment to public welfare.

## Tara Chand demanded 10 marla plot and Rs.5 lacs each to the residents of Border areas.

HT News Network

Akhnoor-Chhamb, May 13, (KNS): Working President Pradesh Congress Committee and Former Dy. Chief Minister Tara Chand demanded immediate relief to residents of Border villages who have been directly affected by heavy cross border shelling and continuous strike by PAK drones. He was accompanied by Sr. Congress leaders Bodh Raj Bhagat, S. Nirmal Singh Mehta, Ricky Dalotra, Bodh Raj Sharma, Block President Raj Kumar Sharma, Devinder Singh Bittu, Ex. Sarpanch Gautam Sharma, Vijay Singh Chib, Madan Lal Sharma and others visited borders migrant camps and villages in forward areas like Danna Chapri, Jalada, Gulaba, PHC Dori, Higher Secondary Dager, Baba Mahimal Sarain Dager, Bali, Kharra, Sajwal, Dhaleri, Naraina, kot Mehra, Badwal, Gigrial, Hamirpur, Sainth, Gard and Deriyan. He expressed grief over the loss of innocent lives and the injuries sustained by many others in shelling incidents. He demanded 10 marla plots and Rs. 5 lacs to be sanctioned in favour of families which fall within fire range of Pakistan. He said most of the forward areas are vacant and people are facing the miseries in these camps due to non availability Basic amenities like water, electricity, Gas cylinders and ration. He said Govt. distributed few items with Gas Cylinders to these families in pick and choose manner. He urged to the Central as well as UT Governments to provide immediate financial assistance to border land owners who have lost their crop due to tension on borders even their domestic animals are either died or crossover to Pakistan.

## Sufficient stocks of essential commodities available in District Poonch Hospitals fully operational with availability of adequate medicines

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 13: The District Administration Poonch today said that all essential services, including healthcare and supplies are functioning smoothly and that the needs of residents are being met efficiently.

"Hospitals across the district are fully operational with sufficient stocks of essential medicines and drugs. Ambulance services are readily available to ensure timely medical support. Banking services are functioning seamlessly, with all ATMs having sufficient cash to meet public needs" the District administration authorities said. Regarding stock and supply position of essentials, the authorities said that, there is adequate availability of all necessary commodities in the district, including food grains, petrol, diesel, and LPG. "The supply chain is stable, and no shortages have been reported from any region" they added. It was further informed that the Power and Water Supply departments have success-



fully restored major supply lines. Regular electricity and clean drinking water are being provided, with prompt resumption of services in previously affected areas, the stakeholder officers said.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal assured the public that the administration is fully committed to the welfare of the residents adding that the departments are working in close coordination

to ensure uninterrupted support and assistance.

Meanwhile, the Revenue authorities have started assessing damages and losses in the cross border shelling affected areas. "Based on these assessments, appropriate relief measures will be provided to support impacted families" the authorities assured. The District Administration has appealed to all residents to stay calm, adhere to

official advisories and contact the helpline numbers - District Emergency Operation Cell (DEOC) Poonch: 01965-220888, Joint Control Room (PCR): 9086253188 / 01965-220258, for any assistance. "Hospitals across the district are fully operational with sufficient stocks of essential medicines and drugs. Ambulance services are readily available to ensure timely medical support. Banking services are functioning seamlessly, with all ATMs having sufficient cash to meet public needs" the District administration authorities said.

Regarding stock and supply position of essentials, the authorities said that, there is adequate availability of all necessary commodities in the district, including food grains, petrol, diesel, and LPG. "The supply chain is stable, and no shortages have been reported from any region" they added. It was further informed that the Power and Water Supply departments have successfully restored major supply lines. Regular electricity and clean drinking water are being provided, with prompt resumption of services in previously affected areas.

## DDC Reasi reviews progress of Road Projects under R&B, PMGSY

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 13: District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting today to review the physical and financial progress achieved in the construction of road projects under the R&B and PMGSY sectors in the district.

The meeting was attended by the officers from the Public Works Department (PWD) and PMGSY. The officers gave presentations on the status of ongoing projects, covering timelines, budget utilization, and the challenges affecting implementation. Among the key issues discussed were delays related to land compensation matters and forest



clearances.

DDC Nidhi Malik stressed the importance of timely completion of road infrastructure for improved connectivity and overall development in the district. She directed the concerned officers to adhere strictly to project deadlines while

maintaining high-quality standards during execution. She instructed the XENs to closely coordinate with the SDMs in their jurisdictions, ensuring regular progress reviews on the ground. This will allow for the early initiation of all pending works in their respective divisions.

Moreover, she emphasized the need for strict action against non-performing contractors.

The DDC emphasized that piecemeal tendering should be avoided, and directed that tenders must be floated for the full extent of the approved project cost as per the DPR. This, she noted, is essential to prevent cost escalations and time overruns during execution.

The meeting was attended by SE R&B Romesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, XENs R&B and PMGSY of Reasi/ Mahore/Katra division, AEEs and other officers. The DDC emphasized that piecemeal tendering should be avoided, and directed that tenders must be floated for the full extent of the approved project cost as per the DPR.

## J&K administration salutes the Martyrdom of ADDC Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 13: Jammu and Kashmir administration expresses deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the martyrdom of Shri Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who laid down his life during cross-border shelling while serving the nation with unwavering dedication.

Shri Thapa was a highly respected and committed officer known for his integrity, discipline, and people-centric approach. His contribution during the Budhal crisis in Rajouri stands out as a shining example of administrative courage and responsiveness. Amid heightened tensions and difficult terrain, he played a crucial role in coordinating relief, maintaining peace, and ensuring the safety of civilians. His leadership in those testing times earned him immense respect



across all sections of society.

His martyrdom is an irreparable loss not only to the civil administration but to the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K administration stands in solidarity with the family of Martyr Thapa in this hour of grief and honours his sacrifice with deep reverence.

The memory of his service and sacrifice will continue to inspire generations of public servants and citizens alike.

## District administration Jammu assesses cross-border shelling impact in Marh and Pargwal

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 13: In the aftermath of recent cross-border shelling, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya conducted a comprehensive tour of the affected areas in Tehsil Marh and Pargwal to assess the damage and coordinate relief efforts. He was accompanied by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh and Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Sher Singh. During the visit, the DC evaluated the extent of loss of livestock and property, ensuring that relief and State Disaster Response Fund cases are processed promptly. He also reviewed the condition and requirements of community and individual bunkers, including those necessary for government offices, to enhance civilian safety in these vulnerable regions. The DC's itinerary included



a visit to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Marh to oversee medical facilities and ensure readiness to handle any emergencies arising from the shelling incidents. The SDM Marh Athar Amn, SP Rural Brijesh Kumar, Tehsildar Marh Ram Krishan Rathore, Tehsildar Pargwal Manjeet Singh and Block Medical Officer Marh besides others also accompanied the DC during his visit.

## Arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 reviewed in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 13: A review meeting to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 was held today at the DC Office Samba under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi Thakur, with ADC Jagadish Singh also present.

The meeting focused on the readiness of lodgment centres, availability of drinking water, power supply, sanitation, health services, and traffic management.

ADDC Champa Devi Thakur urged departments to coordinate effectively and ensure that all necessary facilities are in place well



before the Yatra begins.

DC Rajesh Sharma, while overseeing the preparations, has directed officials to work with dedication to ensure a smooth and safe experience for pilgrims.

The importance of installing digital screens, banners, and directional signboards was also highlighted to strengthen information flow and feedback during the Yatra. The meeting was attended by ACR, CPO,

CMO, XENs, CEO, DIO, and officers from various other departments. A review meeting to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 was held today at the DC Office Samba under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

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# Chinese Foreign Ministry official meets Indian envoy amid India, Pakistan confrontation

## HT News Network

BEIJING, May 13: China's senior foreign ministry official in-charge of Asian affairs Liu Jinsong met Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat amid India-Pakistan military conflict and exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Liu, who is the Director General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, met Rawat on Monday, a brief press release from the ministry said.

India carried out precision strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.



The brief press release from the foreign ministry said the two sides exchanged views on China-India relations and issues of common concern. This is also what the international community hopes to see, he said. China supports and welcomes this latest development, he added. China hopes that India and Pakistan will cement and continue the ceasefire momentum,

avoid further conflict, properly handle differences through dialogue and negotiation, and return to the track of political settlement, he said. China is ready to stay in communication with India and Pakistan and play a constructive role in realising a full and lasting ceasefire between the two countries and keeping the region peaceful and stable, he said.

China on Monday welcomed the understanding between India and Pakistan saying that it is in the fundamental and long-term interest of both countries, and is conducive to regional peace and stability. The Indian Embassy in Beijing had earlier cautioned state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media. (PTI) China hopes that India and Pakistan will cement and continue the ceasefire momentum, avoid further conflict, properly handle differences through dialogue and negotiation, and return to the track of political settlement, he said.

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## Germany bans largest 'Reich citizen' group, raids leaders' homes

### HT News Network

BERLIN, May 13: The German Government has banned the largest 'Reich citizen' group, an extremist far-right organisation that calls itself the 'Kingdom of Germany' and seeks to undermine the country's democratic order. Since early Tuesday morning, hundreds of security forces in several states have been searching the association's properties and the homes of leading members. "The members of this association have created a 'counter-state' in our country and built up economic criminal structures," Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said, adding that the members of the group underpinned their supposed claim to power with antisemitic conspiracy narratives — a behaviour that the country cannot tolerate.

## Hamas to free Israeli-American hostage in bid to secure ceasefire, reopen crossings

### HT News Network

GAZA, May 13: Hamas said on Sunday it will release Israeli-U.S. hostage Edan Alexander from the Gaza Strip as part of efforts to secure a ceasefire and reopen border crossings for aid delivery.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official and head of the group's negotiating team, said in a statement that Hamas had been in contact with the U.S. administration in recent days and had shown "great positivity" toward mediation efforts.

"As part of efforts to achieve a ceasefire, open crossings, and allow human-



itarian aid into Gaza, the movement will release Edan Alexander," al-Hayya said.

He added that Hamas is prepared to begin intensive negotiations immediately and engage seriously in talks aimed at ending the war, reaching a

prisoner exchange deal, and establishing an independent, professional body to govern the Gaza Strip.

Suhail al-Hindi, a senior official of Hamas, told Xinhua that the release would be within 48 hours.

Alexander, 18, is believed to be the last living American hostage held in Gaza. A temporary ceasefire was reached in January, allowing for the release of some hostages and the entry of humanitarian aid during an initial six-week phase. However, talks collapsed after the first phase ended on March 1, halting both the prisoner exchange and aid deliveries. (UNI)

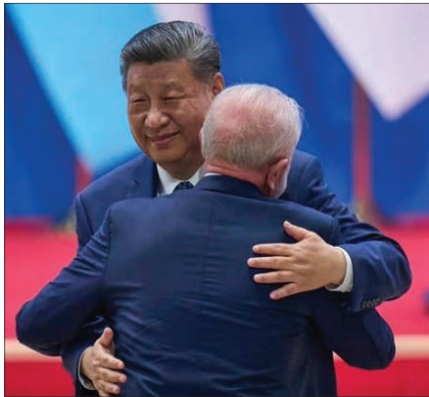
## China presents united front with Latin America, aiming to counter Trump's trade war

### HT News Network

TAIPEI (Taiwan), May 13: China is moving to strengthen its alliances with other countries as a counterweight to President Donald Trump's trade war, presenting a united front with Latin American leaders at an event Tuesday in Beijing.

China's leaders have positioned the world's second-largest economy as a reliable trade and development partner, in contrast to the uncertainty and instability from Trump's tariff hikes and other policies. On Monday, Beijing and Washington announced a breakthrough on tariffs after weekend talks in Geneva, Switzerland, where they agreed to cut sky-high tariffs on both sides for 90 days to allow for negotiations. Having moved to defuse antagonisms with the US, Chinese President Xi Jinping said China stands ready to "join hands" with Latin countries "in the face of seething undercurrents of pure political and bloc confrontation and the surging tide of unilateralism and protectionism."

"There are no winners in tariff wars or trade wars," Xi said, reiterating a phrase China has used repeatedly when referring to Trump's policies. He was speaking to the China-CELAC, or Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Forum, which began in 2015. The presidents of Brazil, Chile and Colombia were among the Latin American and Caribbean officials attending. Xi announced five programmes, focused



on political exchanges, economic development, cultural and academic exchanges and global security to build closer ties between China and Latin American nations. He promised to boost imports from the region and to encourage Chinese companies to increase their investments there. He announced a new 66 billion yuan (\$9.2 billion) credit line to support Latin American and Caribbean financing. China also plans to expand cooperation in clean energy, 5G telecommunications, the digital economy, artificial intelligence and global security. China's trade with the region has been growing rapidly, exceeding \$500 billion for the first time last year. Much of that growth has come from increased Chinese imports of farm goods including soybeans and beef, and energy imports such as crude oil, iron ore and critical minerals.

## China denies reports of sending cargo plane with military supplies to Pakistan

### HT News Network

BEIJING, May 13: The Chinese military on Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAF) has denied that its Xi'an Y-20 military transport aircraft has taken supplies to Pakistan.

After seeing a large amount of information on the internet about a "Y-20 transporting relief supplies to Pakistan", the Air Force said in a statement that such claims were untrue, a report on the official website of the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Monday.

The PLAF also posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word "rumour".

"The internet is not beyond the law! Those who produce and spread military-related rumours will be held legally responsible!" the report added.

The denial by the PLA, which shares close ties with its Pakistan counterpart, was regarded as significant, coming two days after an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions and Islamabad's requirement for immediate replenishments.

According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute



(SIPRI), China has emerged as the largest weapons supplier to Pakistan, accounting for 81 per cent of arms procurement of China's all-weather ally from 2020 to 2024. The procurement included the latest jet fighters, radars, naval ships, submarines and missiles.

Both countries jointly manufacture J-17 aircraft, the mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Considering the large-scale use of Chinese weapons supplies by Pakistan and the all-weather relationship between the two countries, the Chinese official media showed considerable interest during the last few days in the India-Pakistan military confrontation, regurgitating some of Pakistan's claims, including the downing of planes.

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

## UNICEF office ceases operations in Azerbaijan Chief of Communicationn

### HT News Network

BAKU, May 13: The office of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Azerbaijan will cease operations, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Chief of Communication Iryna Mazur said on Tuesday.

"The office of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Azerbaijan will cease its activities. The process will be carried out in stages over the coming months. UNICEF will continue to cooperate with partners in Azerbaijan through its regional office and headquarters," Mazur said.

UNICEF has cooperated with the Azerbaijani government since 1993. (UNI)

## Russia not accepting biased conclusions on MH17 case Kremlin

### HT News Network

MOSCOW, May 13: Russia does not accept biased conclusions made regarding the MH17 crash case, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday. On Monday, the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Council named Russia as responsible for the downing of flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine in 2014. The Dutch cabinet said that the issue of compensation will be considered in the near future.

"Our position is well known. You know that Russia was not a country that took part in the investigation of this incident. Therefore, we do not accept any biased conclusions," Peskov told reporters. (UNI)

## Six Russian civilians killed in Kiev's attacks during victory day ceasefire: Moscow

### HT News Network



MOSCOW, May 13: A total of 23 civilians were injured and six of them died in Ukrainian attacks during a three-day Victory Day ceasefire declared by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Foreign Ministry's ambassador-at-large for crimes committed by Kiev, Rodion Miroshnik, said in a report obtained by Sputnik.

"During the three-day ceasefire, the strikes of the Ukrainian armed units damaged residential buildings, medical transport, civilian cars, commercial objects. There were also victims among civilians. Twenty-three civilians were injured, six of them died," Miroshnik said.

The most appalling cases took place in the Kursk Region, where the Ukrainian forces used heavy armament such as HIMARS rocket launchers and aircraft bombs.

In the Belgorod Region on May 9, Ukrainian forces attacked the building of the local administration with a drone. As a result, Deputy Governor of the Belgorod Region Aleksander Lorents and an officer of the Russian Federal National Guard were injured.

Overall, from May 5 11, 21 people were killed, another 70 injured in the Ukrainian forces' attacks, Miroshnik said. The Ukrainian armed units fired no less than 2,636 munitions, including 122mm multiple launch rocket systems, 152mm and 155mm artillery shells, including those with cluster warheads, as well as grenades, mines and drones.

"The vast majority of the weapons used by the Ukrainian armed forces to attack civilians is produced by the West," Miroshnik added.

Ahead of Victory Day, President Putin declared a ceasefire from midnight Moscow time on May 8 to midnight Moscow time on May 11 (21:00 GMT on May 7 to 21:00 GMT on May 10). (UNI)

# Keir Starmer gets tough on migration, doubles UK citizenship wait times

## HT News Network

LONDON, May 13: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday unveiled a tough new set of policy measures, including doubling the wait time for migrants seeking citizenship from five to 10 years, to ensure immigration figures fall significantly over the next five years.

Addressing a press conference from Downing Street ahead of the Labour Party government's much-anticipated Immigration White Paper being tabled in Parliament, Starmer blamed the previous Conservative Party administration for leaving behind a "mess" of an "open borders experiment".

He went on to pledge that his government's tighter measures will create an immigration

system that is "controlled, selective and fair". "Make no mistake, this plan means migration will fall. That is a promise," said Starmer. "Every area of the immigration system — work, family and study — will be tightened up so we have more control. Fair rules must be followed," he said, with reference to the White Paper.

The new system will end the current mechanism of automatic settlement and citizenship for anyone, including Indians, living in the UK for five years. Instead, all migrants must spend a decade in the UK before applying for permanent residency, unless they can show a "real and lasting contribution to the economy and society".

Under this new framework to be rolled out, "high-skilled and high-contributing" individuals, such as "nurses, doctors, engineers



and AI leaders", who contribute to the UK economy, will be fast-tracked.

The new rules will also toughen language requirements across every immigration route to ensure a higher standard of English. For the first time, this will also extend to all adult dependents of foreigners, by requiring them to demonstrate a basic understanding of English — "helping individuals integrate into their local community, find employment and reducing the risk of exploitation and abuse", Downing Street said.

The full package of the White Paper reforms will be laid out by UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in the House of Commons and is also expected to include a crackdown on overseas care worker numbers.

"Public services were stretched, housing costs soared, and employers swapped skills investment for cheap overseas labour. In sectors like engineering, apprenticeships

almost halved while work visas doubled and communities were asked to absorb record numbers," Downing Street said.

"Backdoor routes to settlement will be closed, enforcement will be stepped up as we end abuse of the system," the statement added. Starmer has been under considerable pressure to cut migrant numbers after the anti-immigration Reform party's recent surge in local polls. However, he was firm on not setting an annual cap on numbers allowed into the country.

"I don't think it is sensible to put a hard-edged cap on it. That has been done in one form or another for the best part of 10 years by different prime ministers. The only thing that links those prime ministers and the various caps or quotas or limits they put in place is every single one of them failed," he said. (PTI)





# CBSE announces Class 12 result; pass percentage 88.39 per cent

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday declared the results for the Class 12 examinations, in which girls once again outperformed boys.

The pass percentage stood at 88.39 per cent, up by 0.41 per cent compared to the previous year.

Over 16.9 lakh students had been eagerly awaiting their final scores.

Girls outperformed boys by over 5 percentage points. The pass percentage of girls was 91.64 per cent, while for boys, 85.70 per cent.

Students can now access their results online via DigiLocker, the UMANG app, and the official CBSE websites.

A total of 17,04,367 students had registered for the exam, out of which 16,92,794 appeared, and 14,96,307 were declared



passed.

The CBSE Result 2025 mark sheets can be accessed using login credentials such as the examinee's roll number, admit card ID, school code, and date of birth.

The Vijaywada region recorded the highest pass percentage at 99.60 per cent, followed by Trivan-

drum at 99.32 per cent and Chennai at 97.39 per cent.

Other regions which scored well are Chandigarh (91.61 per cent), Panchkula (91.17 per cent), Pune (90.93 per cent), and Ajmer (90.40 per cent).

Bhubaneswar (83.64 per cent), Guwahati (83.62 per cent), Dehradun (83.45

per cent), Patna (82.86 per cent), and Bhopal (82.46 per cent) performed in the mid-range.

From this session, the CBSE has introduced a Relative Grading system to reduce academic pressure and unhealthy competition. The new system evaluates students relative to their peers.

To pass the examination, students must score at least 33 per cent in both theory and practical papers. Students who fall short by one or two marks may be awarded grace marks.

The CBSE will announce the Class 10 results today at 1.00 p.m.

Following the result declaration, students who are not satisfied with their scores can apply for re-evaluation.

Last year, the overall pass percentage scored by class 12 was 87.98 per cent, and for class 10 it was 93.60 per cent.

# CBSE Class 10 results declared; girls outperformed boys once again

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the Class 10 Board exam results for 2025 on Tuesday. This year, an impressive 93.66 per cent of students passed the examination. Over 23 lakh students appeared for the exam, which was held at 7,837 centres across 26,675 affiliated schools.

Girls outperformed boys once again, achieving a pass percentage of 95 per cent.

Among the regions, Thiruvananthapuram, Vijayawada, and Bengaluru ranked highest in performance, while Delhi was placed seventh and Guwahati ranked at the bottom.

Students can access their results through the official CBSE websites — cbse.gov.in, cbseresults.nic.in, and results.cbse.nic.in.

Results are also avail-



able via DigiLocker, the UMANG app, and IVRS.

The CBSE has sent DigiLocker login details via SMS to students' registered mobile numbers, allowing them to download digitally verified copies of their mark sheets and certificates.

To check their results, students must use their roll number, admit card ID, school code, and date of birth. A minimum of 33 per cent in both theory

and practical exams is required to pass. In borderline cases, students may be awarded grace marks.

Earlier in the day, the CBSE also released Class 12th Board results. The pass percentage stood at 88.39 per cent, up by 0.41 per cent compared to the previous year.

The CBSE will hold supplementary examinations for both Classes 10 and 12 in the first or second week

of July 2025. These exams will follow the same syllabus used for the main Board exams conducted earlier this year.

In a significant change, CBSE introduced a Relative Grading system from the 2024-25 academic session. Unlike the previous fixed grading system, this method ranks students in comparison to their peers, reducing academic stress and competition.

This year, over 42 lakh students appeared for CBSE Board exams held between February 15 and April 4. Class 10 exams ended on March 18, while Class 12 concluded on April 4.

CBSE is India's largest school examination Board and the second-largest public examination system in the country after general elections.

Its schools operate in countries from Japan to Ghana and offer a wide range of 204 subjects across Classes 10 and 12.

# Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews security with top officials, chiefs of forces

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined the new normal in the country's tough anti-terror policy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday reviewed the security situation with top officials and chiefs of forces.

The discussions revolved around maintaining high vigil despite the understanding on ceasefire arrived during 'Operation Sindoor', said an official source.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the security situation along the western border during the meeting at South Block.

The high-level security meeting was attended by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Defence Secretary Rajesh



Kumar Singh and Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari.

The Defence Minister also congratulated the armed forces for the operation that struck terror hubs and eliminated 100 terrorists in Pakistan and also destroyed its Defence facilities when it 'attacked India instead of joining our war against terror.'

On Monday evening, Rajnath Singh hailed PM Modi's address to the nation and the world for delivering a firm message against terrorism.

In a message on social media platform X, the

Defence Minister said, "In his address to the nation today, Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi has put India's policy against terrorism before the whole world with great clarity and firmness. His address is not only an expression of India's sentiment, but it is also a presentation of our country's military, diplomatic and moral strength."

Rajnath Singh said, "The Prime Minister has also made it clear that if there will be any talks with Pakistan in the future, then the talks will be only on terrorism and POK. He has also openly praised

the valour and courage of the Indian forces during #OperationSindoor. The whole country is proud of the Indian forces. I thank the Prime Minister for his strong leadership."

Earlier on Sunday, Rajnath Singh congratulated the armed forces for the success of the operation and said, "Operation Sindoor was not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social and strategic will power."

He was virtually addressing the inaugural ceremony of #BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility Centre in Lucknow.

# India was thinking in same direction: Oppn leaders praise 'Operation Sindoor', PM Modi's message to Pak

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Tuesday praised 'Operation Sindoor' and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong message to Pakistan on Monday night.

In a show of unity, RJD leader Manoj Jha welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation following the success of 'Operation Sindoor', acknowledging the gravity of the moment and the national sentiment surrounding the cross-border operation against terror.

RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha stated, "This is important. The Prime Minister is the leader of our nation, and he represents all of us. After the events at Pahalgam, the entire country was thinking in the same direction."

He further noted that the Prime Minister's sen-



timents were in line with the collective emotions of the people, saying, "When 'Operation Sindoor' was launched, the entire country shared the same thought. The briefings by our forces and the communication were consistent and powerful, a message that resonated globally."

Samajwadi Party MP Mohibullah Nadvi echoed similar sentiments, describing the Prime Minister's remarks

as "from the heart and mind", but suggested a more formal approach.

"It would have been better if a special session of Parliament had been convened, allowing the Prime Minister to address all parties directly, facilitating dialogue and consensus," Nadvi said.

The Prime Minister's national address, delivered on Monday evening, came in the wake of India's successful counter-terror operation and

a tactical ceasefire understanding with Pakistan. In his speech, PM Modi laid out a three-pronged anti-terror doctrine, marking a shift in India's security posture.

He reiterated that India will no longer tolerate Nuclear blackmail, declaring, "Terrorists and those who shelter them, whether within or outside a country, will be treated the same."

He made it clear that India's fight against terrorism is global, and that Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) remains the only outstanding issue for dialogue with Islamabad.

PM Modi's strong tone and clarity were seen as reflective of India's evolving 'new normal', where decisive retaliation, pre-emptive action, and global pursuit of terror threats are central to national security.

# Ban on 4PM YouTube channel lifted, Supreme Court told

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court was apprised on Tuesday that the Union government has withdrawn its directive to block the YouTube channel 4PM News Network.

A bench of Justices B. R. Gavai and A. G. Masih was hearing a plea filed by journalist Sanjay Sharma challenging the Centre's directive to block his news channel on YouTube on the grounds of "national security" and "public order".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on the petitioner's behalf, submitted that since the blocking order has been withdrawn by the authorities, the prayer for interim relief has turned infructuous.

However, Sibal pressed the prayer contained in the petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Information Technology (IT) Blocking Rules, 2009.



In view of the submission, the Apex Court ordered tagging the instant petition with the pending batch of pleas raising similar issues. Last week, the Justice Gavai-led Bench issued notice on the plea filed by the editor of the digital news platform and sought responses from the Union government, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, and YouTube.

When a prayer for inter-

im relief was pressed, the Top Court had said that it was not inclined to pass any stay order without hearing from the government. In his writ petition filed before the Apex Court, journalist Sanjay Sharma said that non-furnishing of the blocking order or underlying complaint violated statutory and constitutional safeguards.

"Rules 8, 9, and 16 of the

Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, which permit blocking without notice or hearing, are violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and 21 of the Constitution, as they oust the principles of natural justice and enable a shadow regime of censorship devoid of transparency or accountability," stated the petition filed through Talha Abdul Rahman.

Further, it said that the Constitution does not permit the blanket removal of content without an opportunity to be heard.

"National security" and "public order" are not talismanic invocations to insulate executive action from scrutiny. They are constitutionally recognised grounds under Article 19(2), but are subject to the test of reasonableness and proportionality," the plea said.

## AGENCIES

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Tuesday, in an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Saamana' criticised the ceasefire between India and Pakistan and stated that "no one will give us an Akhand Hindu Rashtra. We will have to fight and win it."

In the scathing editorial in 'Saamana', the Thackeray camp said, "The nation lost the opportunity to fulfil Veer Savarkar's dream of an 'Akhand Hindustan (unified Hindu nation)'. The Indian Army sacrificed its heroes in the war, civilians lost their lives, but what did they get?"

"Prime Minister Modi announced that 'If Pakistan fires again, you (the armed forces) should fire a bullet', meaning a bomb. Why were the Pakistanis left alive to fire bullets? The soul of Veer Savarkar must also be asking this question. PM



Modi, Eknath Shinde and others have lost the right to do politics in Savarkar's name," the editorial said. "Now the Bhakts (BJP supporters) have spread such news, citing sources, that Prime Minister Modi has demanded Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir from Pakistan."

"They are stating that PM Modi said, 'Our goal is to get back Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. First give us PoK, only then can we talk

to Pakistan.' But there are no details," the editorial stated.

"The Indian Army had started preparations to pay homage to Veer Savarkar by getting back Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. If the war had lasted for four more days, India would have landed on Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, but President Trump destroyed it," claimed the editorial.

"People from the BJP and Mindhe (Eknath Shinde) faction say that the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray has abandoned the idea of Veer Savarkar. They should now burn the effigies of President Trump in front of the American Embassy."

"Veer Savarkar had presented the concept of a one and indivisible India from Kashmir to Rameswaram, from Sindh to Assam. Veer Savarkar's dream was clear and pure. Prime Minister Modi and his 'Mindhe' people are

using Veer Savarkar's name for politics.

"Fake Savarkar devotees silenced the guns in the hands of the Army fighting for a united India," alleged the Shiv Sena (UBT).

"No one will give us an Akhand Hindu Rashtra. We will have to fight and win it. Hindu Rashtra is a part of Hindutva. Veer Savarkar had said that Hindutva and Hindu Rashtra believe in 'Asindhu Sindhu Paryanta Yasya Bharat Bhumika' (From the Indus River to Sindhu ocean, extends the land of Bharat)." Further Savarkar added 'Pitrubhva: Punyabhushchaiva sa vai Hinduriti smrita' (He is considered a Hindu who regards the land from the Indus River to the Indian Ocean as his fatherland and holy land)".

"Savarkar defined that whoever considers this Bharat, which stretches from the Indus to the sea, as his fatherland and holy land, is a Hindu."



## Molecular profiling key to reduce radiation for women with endometrial cancer: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Molecular profiling can safely reduce radiotherapy for women with early-stage endometrial cancer while identifying those who would benefit from more intensive treatment, according to a study that marks a significant step forward in personalised cancer treatment.

Endometrial cancer is a type of gynaecological cancer, most often affecting women after menopause.

For women with high-intermediate-risk disease, adjuvant radiotherapy -- particularly vaginal brachytherapy (a form of internal radiotherapy delivered directly to the vaginal area) -- is commonly used after surgery to reduce the risk of recurrence.

However, patients don't need it equally, and some may receive more treat-



ment than necessary, exposing them to potential side effects without added benefit.

The study showed that molecular profiling -- a method that examines the genetic and biological features of a tumour can guide clinical decisions. It helps identify which patients are most likely to benefit from radiotherapy, and which can safely avoid it.

The team enrolled 592 women across eight European countries with (high-) intermediate-risk endometrial cancer.

The results, presented at the ongoing ESTRO

2025, the annual congress of the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) in Vienna, Austria, highlights that molecular profiling helps tailor radiotherapy decisions based on individual tumour characteristics.

Nearly half of the patients in the trial safely avoided radiation without compromising cancer control.

"By using molecular profiling, we can tailor treatment to each patient's individual risk," said Dr. Anne Sophie V.M. van den Heerik, lead investigator from The Leiden Univer-

sity Medical Center, The Netherlands.

"This approach allows us to safely reduce radiotherapy for many women while ensuring that those who need it receive the most effective therapy. It's a major step towards more personalized and less invasive cancer treatment," Heerik said.

Further, patients with an unfavourable molecular profile received a more intensive radiation approach, pelvic radiotherapy, instead of vaginal brachytherapy. The results suggest better locoregional control, with a recurrence rate of 8.4 per cent compared to 30.5 per cent in those who received standard treatment without molecular profiling.

The findings demonstrate that nearly half of patients can be safely spared radiotherapy while maintaining excellent survival rates.

## Spanking children can impact academic outcomes, impair social-emotional development: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Physically punishing children can lead to negative outcomes such as poor health, lower academic performance, and impaired social-emotional development, according to a study on Monday.

The analysis, published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*, showed that physical punishment was significantly associated with worse parent-child relationships, being a victim of violence, perpetrating violence (including intimate partner violence in adulthood), approving violence, physical health problems, mental health problems, substance use, poor academic outcomes, impaired language skills.

It also led to impaired executive function, social-emotional skills, overall behavioural problems, internalising behaviour problems (e.g., depression and withdrawal), exter-



nalising behaviours (e.g., aggression and destruction), impaired early child development, and quality of sleep.

Researchers at the New York University-Steinhardt, US, no positive outcomes associated with corporal punishment.

"The consistency and strength of these findings suggest that physical punishment is universally harmful to children and adolescents," lead author Jorge Cuartas, Assistant

Professor of Applied Psychology at NYU.

"Moving forward, more research is needed to identify effective strategies for preventing physical punishment on a global scale and ensuring that children are protected from all forms of violence to support their healthy development," Cuartas added.

In 2006, the UN Secretary-General called for a ban on corporal punishment -- acts of physical force to inflict pain that

includes smacking, shaking, and spanking -- for children.

To date, 65 countries worldwide have instituted full or partial bans on the practice. Most of the bans were established in high-income countries (having a gross national income of at least \$14,000 per capita) bolstered by the UN's call, and research finding detrimental outcomes in wealthier nations.

The researchers analysed 195 studies related to corporal punishment published between 2002 and 2024.

The studies covered 92 low- and middle-income and 19 outcomes related to parent-child relationships, mental and physical health, violent behaviour, attitudes toward violence, substance use, cognitive function, social-emotional skills, sleep, motor skills, and the likelihood of being a child labourer.

## Study finds everyday habits boost mental well-being

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY

Simple, everyday behaviours like chatting with friends, spending time in nature, and mentally engaging activities can significantly improve mental health, according to research.

The study, which surveyed over 600 adults in Western Australia, found that people who engaged in daily conversations with others scored 10 points higher on a standard mental well-being scale than those who rarely did, Xinhua news agency reported.

Daily exposure to nature was linked to a five-point increase, while regular social catchups, physical activity, spiritual practice, and helping others also contributed to improved mental well-being, according to Australia's Curtin University researchers.

The findings, published in the British journal of



SSM-Mental Health, highlight the power of accessible, low-cost actions in maintaining mental well-being, said the study's lead researcher, Prof. Christina Pollard from Curtin's School of Population Health.

"These aren't expensive programmes or clinical interventions -- they're behaviours that are already part of many people's lives and can be easily encouraged through

public health messaging," Pollard said.

"Regular connection with others, even a daily chat, can make a measurable difference to how people feel. Similarly, spending time outdoors or doing something that requires thinking and concentrating, like doing crosswords, reading, or learning a new language, provides an important mental reset," she said.

The research evalu-

ated 15 behaviours and found mental well-being increased consistently with the frequency of participation in these behaviours.

Awareness of the campaign was high, with 86 per cent of participants recognising it, while nearly all agreed that mental health should be prioritised alongside physical health.

The results support sustained investment in community-wide mental health initiatives that go beyond raising awareness, Pollard said.

"This research confirms that when people are supported and encouraged to engage in mentally healthy behaviours, the benefits can be felt across the community," Professor Pollard said.

"It's about prevention, not just treatment -- helping people stay mentally well before they reach crisis point," she added.

## Jitendra Singh urges ANRF to help medical colleges boost clinical innovation

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday chaired a comprehensive review of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

He urged the newly constituted Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), to help medical colleges boost clinical innovation in the country.

"Explore the possibility of helping medical colleges establish their own medical research parks -- a move that could boost clinical innovation and local biotech entrepreneurship," Singh asked the ANRF.

The Minister reviewed ANRF's plan to create a "cloud of research and innovation infrastructure," a digital platform that would offer deep-



tech startups and academic institutions access to underused scientific equipment and facilities across the country.

This move is expected to democratise research capabilities, especially for smaller players who often lack access to high-end lab tools.

The Minister also called for bold new directions in science-driven growth, including AI-led innovations, focussing on ANRF's "AI-for-Science".

The programme aims to leverage artificial intelligence to accelerate discoveries in physics, chemistry, and biology by using machine learning to model complex scientific equations.

Singh also revisited the concept of "deep science-to-deep tech acceleration," urging the ANRF to focus on converting academic research -- such as publications and patents -- into commercial technologies. He emphasised

the need for partnerships with top-tier industry players and the creation of venture-builder models to ensure that discoveries don't remain confined to laboratories.

"Prioritise key areas of national relevance, including climate forecasting, material science, aerospace, biochemistry, and drug development," Singh asked the ANRF.

"The time has come for India to move from isolated innovation to a more integrated, impact-driven ecosystem that links research, startups, and industry," he added.

The Minister further underscored the importance of building an indigenous "India AI Open Stack" -- a foundational AI architecture embedded with science and engineering models tailored for Indian researchers. This, he noted, could position India as a global frontrunner in AI-driven scientific applications.

## Drink black tea, eat berries, apples to age healthy

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Want to age healthy? Higher intakes of black tea, berries, citrus fruits, and apples may help, according to global research.

Researchers from Edith Cowan University (Australia), Queen's University Belfast (UK), and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (US), found that foods rich in flavonoids could help to lower the risk of key components of unhealthy ageing, including frailty, impaired physical function and poor mental health.

"The goal of medical research is not just to help people live longer but to ensure they stay healthy for as long as possible," said Dr Nicola Bondonno, Adjunct Lecturer at Edith Cowan.

Previous studies have showed people who have a higher flavonoid intake tend to live longer, and



they are also less likely to get any of the major chronic diseases such as dementia, diabetes, or heart disease.

"Our research shows that people who consume more flavonoids tend to age better," Bondonno said.

The study, which analysed data from 62,743 women and 23,687 men over 24 years, found that

women with the highest flavonoid intakes had a 15 per cent lower risk of frailty, a 12 per cent lower risk of impaired physical function, and a 12 per cent lower risk of poor mental health compared to those with the lowest intakes.

While fewer associations were observed in men, higher flavonoid intake was still linked to a lower risk of poor mental health.

"Flavonoids are well known for reducing oxidative stress and inflammation, supporting blood vessel health, and even helping to maintain skeletal muscle mass -- all of which are important for preventing frailty and maintaining physical function and mental health as we age," said Professor Aedin Cassidy from Queens.

Further, the study showed that participants who increased their intake of flavonoid-rich food by three servings a day had a 6 per cent to 11 per cent lower risk across all three ageing outcomes in females, and a 15 per cent lower risk of poor mental health in males.

"Overall, these findings underscore the potential for simple dietary modifications to impact the overall quality of life and contribute to the optimisation of healthy ageing," added Professor Eric Rimm from Harvard.

## Ayush manufacturing sector grew 8x in last 10 years, huge potential for economy, export: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Ayush manufacturing sector grew eight times in the last decade, and the sector has huge potential for boosting the economy and export, said Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush.

He was speaking at the stakeholder consultation meeting along with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the national capital. The meeting aimed to promote the cultivation and use of medicinal plants across the country, observing participation from other ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, National Plant Medicinal Board (NPMB), State Horticulture Missions (SHMs), ICAR, State Medicinal Plant Boards, progressive farmers and leading private players from Medicinal Plant



industry.

"There is a huge possibility of growth in Ayush sector. The Ayush manufacturing sector has grown by 8 times in the last 10 years and has vast export potential. The sector has enormous economic opportunities, and especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, the demand for Ayush products including medicinal plants has grown immensely," said Kotecha.

Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, of the Agriculture Ministry, highlighted the scope of the Ayush sector in increasing the domestic production of medicinal plants as inter-state trade and export of medicinal

plants.

"We need better convergence between the Ministry of Ayush and Agriculture departments and collaboration with State Medicinal Plant Boards, to promote medicinal plants at the national level," he said. Chaturvedi stressed that there is a need for a mission-mode programme for medicinal plant cultivation, identifying good practices of cultivation, efficient techniques, etc., which will help in the upliftment of the sector.

The meeting focussed on exploring avenues for developing region-specific medicinal plant clusters; facilitating partnerships between farmers

and industry players for assured procurement and end-to-end value chain development; discussing the establishment of dedicated mandis and marketing platforms to ensure fair prices for farmers; and promoting research, training, and extension services to build capacity among stakeholders.

The participants and stakeholders also suggested identifying crop-specific areas for the establishment of clusters dedicated to medicinal plants.

These clusters would focus on area expansion, production, industry partnerships, farmer training, and marketing through setting up specialised mandis for these crops ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers.

The experts also emphasised the need to identify policy interventions and financial incentives to encourage farmers to take up the cultivation of medicinal plants.



**News in Brief****Djokovic & Murray split after six months****AGENCIES**

MELBOURNE, MAY 13

Andy Murray will no longer be working as Novak Djokovic's coach.

The decision, said to be by mutual agreement, means Murray will not be by Djokovic's side when he chases an eighth Wimbledon title in July.

Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam champion, joined forces with Murray in November. Under Murray, the Serb reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open, ultimately retiring injured after losing the first set.

The 37-year-old has had a difficult season by his high standards, losing his first match in four of his past five tournaments, as well as being beaten in the Miami Open final by 19-year-old Jakub Mensik. the BBC reported.

"Thank you, coach Andy, for all the hard work, fun and support over last six months on and off the court - really enjoyed our friendship together," Djokovic said.

"Thanks to Novak for the unbelievable opportunity to work together, and thanks to his team for all their hard work over the past six months," Murray added.

**Barcelona on brink of sealing La Liga title****AGENCIES**

MADRID, MAY 13 (UNI)

FC Barcelona could be crowned La Liga champion on Wednesday night without kicking a ball in the wake of Sunday's 4-3 win at home to Real Madrid.

The win left Barca seven points clear of Madrid at the top of the table with just three games left to play and nine points still available, meaning that if Madrid fails to win at home to Mallorca, Barca will be champion.

Although a draw would leave Madrid six points behind Barcelona with two games to play, teams that are level on points are separated by head-to-head goal difference, which Barca has in its favor after winning both this season's league matches against Madrid.

The match in the Bernabeu is likely to be played in a strange atmosphere after it was confirmed that Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will leave the club at the end of the season to take charge of the Brazil national team, while Sunday's fourth defeat of the season is also likely to affect the fans.

**Aus announce squad for WTC Final against SA****AGENCIES**

MELBOURNE, MAY 13 (UNI)

Australia on Tuesday named a formidable 15-member squad for the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final against South Africa, with skipper Pat Cummins, pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood, and allrounder Cameron Green returning from injury layoffs.

The one-off Test, scheduled to be held at Lord's from June 11, will see the defending champions field a near full-strength lineup, aiming to retain the WTC mace they won against India at The Oval in 2023.

Cummins and Hazlewood, who missed the recent series in Sri Lanka due to injury, bolster a pace attack also comprising Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland. Green, back after a year-long absence



due to back surgery, is expected to compete for a spot in the playing XI alongside fellow allrounder Beau Webster.

The experienced batting unit features Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head and wicket-keeper Alex Carey. Josh Inglis has also been included as a backup keeper, while young batsman Sam Konstas finds a place in the squad. Left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann joins

Nathan Lyon to provide spin options.

Brendan Doggett has been named as the travelling reserve.

"This is a well-balanced and experienced squad, and we're fortunate to have Pat, Josh and Cam back fit and firing," said Australia's selection chair George Bailey. "The group is excited by the opportunity to defend the WTC title and face a strong South African side at Lord's."

**Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team set to play four nations tournament in Argentina****AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 (UNI)

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team is all set to embark on an exciting tour of Argentina for a friendly Four Nations Tournament, scheduled from May 25 to June 2.

The team will travel to Rosario, Argentina, where they will play six friendly matches against Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile.

The tournament will begin on May 25, with India playing back-to-back matches against Chile and Uruguay on May 25 and 26, respectively. After a rest day, they will face hosts Argentina on May 28.

The team will then follow the same sequence



in the return leg, taking on Chile on May 30, Uruguay

on June 1, and Argentina on June 2. This tour is a crucial part of the team's prepa-

rations for the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup, scheduled to take place in Santiago, Chile, in December 2025.

Speaking about the importance of the friendly matches, Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team Coach Tushar Khandker said, "We are preparing for the Junior World Cup later this year, and since the tour to Rosario is a Four Nations tournament, we are looking to identify the best of the best from this squad with the World Cup in mind. Our aim is to gain as much experience as possible and assess where we stand based on past performances to understand how much we have improved."

**Lungi Ngidi's return boosts South Africa's WTC25 Final squad****AGENCIES**

CAPE TOWN, MAY 13 (UNI)

South Africa's squad for the World Test Championship finale has been further strengthened by the return of speedster Lungi Ngidi, who missed out on the home summer assignments due to a groin injury.

The pacer, who has since fully recovered, has featured for South Africa in white-ball cricket earlier in 2025, and also featured in global T20 leagues.

Temba Bavuma leads South Africa's charge in their first-ever WTC Final starting June 11 at Lord's, having qualified for the Ultimate Test after finishing first in the WTC Standings with a point percentage of 69.44.



The Proteas have largely kept faith in their trusted core, making only two changes to the 16-player squad that faced Pakistan. Youngster Kwena Maphaka misses out at the expense of the returning Ngidi, while top-order batter Matthew Breetzke also drops out.

Tony de Zorzi, Ryan Rickelton and Aiden

Markram make up the top order batting options, whereas rising star Tristan Stubbs, David Bedingham and Bavuma will hold fort in the middle order. Kyle Verreynne will be an electric presence behind the stumps and lower down the order, and all-rounders Wiaan Mulder and Marco Jansen can also contribute with the bat.

**Mandhana closes in on No 1 ranking after dominant run****AGENCIES**

DUBAI, MAY 13 (UNI)

India batter Smriti Mandhana has been rewarded for her good recent form by making ground on South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt to become the top-ranked batter on the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.

Mandhana was in excellent touch during the recent tri-series India won against Sri Lanka and South Africa, with the left-hander amassing 264 runs



across five innings to finish as the second leading run-

scorer at the event. It saw Mandhana

improve one spot to second overall on the updated rankings for ODI batters, with the gap on Wolvaardt now reduced to just 11 rating points after the South African skipper managed just 86 runs during the tri-series.

Mandhana has previously had the No.1 ranking for ODI batters, but the 28-year-old has not held the premier position in 50-over cricket since 2019 despite consistently sitting inside the top 10 during that time.

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