SRINAGAR • SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025 • Vol-20 • Issue No: 99 • Rs 2/- • (Air Surcharges for Delhi/Jammu 50 Paisa)

Kashmir Convener**



Russia assured full support to India in its fight **P/02** against all manifestations of terrorism: MoS Defence



CBI Raids 42 Locations, Arrests Five For Sale Of Illegal SIM Cards Used In **Digital Arrest Scams**



JD Vance: India-Pak conflict ' none of our business'

P/02

Trump triumphs: India-Pak agree to ceasefire DGMOs to talk again on May 12, says Foreign Secy

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: After the intervention of the United States President Donald Trump, India and Pakistan on Saturday agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after four days of escalating skirmishes.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri while addressing the media here said, "Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called Indian DGMO at 15:35 hours earlier this afternoon.

It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time. Today, instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to this understanding. The Directors General of Military Operations will talk again on the 12th of May at 1200 hours."

Just before the Foreign Secretary's ceasefire announcement, President Trump posted on social media: "After a long night of talks mediated by the



United States, I ampleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE."

"Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter," he wrote.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar wrote on X: "India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action. India has consistently

maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so.'

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio highlighted Washington's intensive diplomatic efforts over the past two days."Over the past 48 hours, @VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers >>SEE ON P-7

Any escalation from Pak will get befitting response: **Armed Forces** Reject Pak's false propaganda that

Indian armed forces targeted mosques

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Soon after India and Pakistan announced "immediate ceasefire," the armed forces on Saturday said that they would adhere to the understanding and reiterated that they are ready to deal with any situation and any escalation from Pakistan would get a befitting response.

Addressing a special tri-services press conference here, Commodore Raghu R Nair, along with Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "While we adhere to the understanding, the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy >>SEE ON P-7

India will maintain firm, uncompromising stance against terrorism: Jaishankar

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan have worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday and noted that India will continue its firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism.

"India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action. India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so." he said in a post on X.

The minister's remarks came after DGMOs of India and Pakistan agreed that both sides

would stop all firing and military action. Earlier, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told the media that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations contacted his Indian counterpart on Saturday afternoon.

"Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called Indian DGMO at 15:35 hours earlier this afternoon. It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time," he said.

"Today, instructions have been given on

both sides to give effect to this understanding. The Directors General of Military Operations will talk again on the 12th of May at 1200 hours," he added.

Pakistan Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also confirmed the ceasefire. "Pakistan



and India have agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect. Pakistan has always strived for peace and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said in a post on X.US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that both countries had agreed to start

>>SEE ON P-7

UN welcomes India, Pakistan ceasefire announcement

KC News Network

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Saturday welcomed "all efforts to deescalate the conflict", as India and Pakistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire.



dangerously escalating the ongoing conflict. Earlier, US President Donald Trump said India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington.

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

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that over the past 48 hours, Vice President JD Vance and he engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, "including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Aiit Doval and Asim Malik."



Indian Army Shoots Down Pakistani Kamikaze Drones Over Amritsar border belt, Indian gunners successfully

brought down the drones mid-air. Officials confirmed that no civilian casualties or property damage occurred, with the wreckage falling safely in open fields".

Officials told Kashmir Convener that Preliminary analysis suggests that the drones were loaded with highexplosive payloads, designed to cause mass casualties and panic among the civilian population-a move that marks a dangerous escalation in Pakistan's asymmetric warfare tactics. "This was a deliberate attempt to

target civilians under the guise of crossborder tension. Our forces responded targeting densely populated civiliar with clinical precision, neutralising the (IB) in J&K, Ladakh. threat before it could inflict harm," a senior defence official stated. The successful interception highlights the operational readiness and effectiveness of India's layered air-defence system, which combines ground-based radars, electro-optical surveillance, and automated command-

J&K leaders welcome Indo-Pak ceasefire

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The leaders associated with the different political parties in Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the ceasefire pact between India and Pakistan.

President of National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has welcomed the complete and immediate ceasefire agreed upon by India and Pakistan, emphasising the urgent need to end hostilities, as they have been taking a toll on the people living along the Line of Control (LOC) and International Border

"We are monitoring but we welcome all efforts to deescalate the conflict," Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, told PTI here.

The US-brokered ceasefire came hours after India and Pakistan attacked each other's military facilities,

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

"We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence, and states manship in choosing the path of peace," Rubio said."India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action," >>SEE ON P-7 KC News Network

AMRITSAR: In a swift and decisive response, the Indian Army's Air Defence units today neutralised multiple kamikaze drones launched by Pakistan in the early hours of the morning.

According to defence sources, the drones-identified as Byker YIHA III models-were fired across the International Border around 5:00 AM, areas in and around Amritsar, Punjab.

Defence sources told Kashmir Convener that the Army's Air Defence network, operating on high alert following recent cross-border escalations, detected and tracked the incoming drones within seconds of their incursion into Indian airspace.

"Using quick-reaction air-defence and-control systems. guns strategically deployed along the

In a statement Dr. Faroog expressed his support for the ceasefire, acknowledging the significant impact the ongoing situation has had on the people and their property in the region. He stated, "Our people along the LOC and IB have borne the brunt of the



Cooperation of public in maintaining peace crucial: Govt KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The government of Jammu

& Kashmir appreciates all its citizens for their continued resilience and trust in the face of recent developments. All the necessary measures are being taken and the government is fully prepared and equipped to handle any situation and there is no cause for alarm. The general public is requested to

stay calm and not panic. Please follow SOPs issued by NDMA and Government The Government is fully prepared to deal with any kind of exigency and is

in this regard. Misinformation and unverified claims continuously monitoring the situation. Health department has fully activated its emergency protocols and is fully prepared to handle any medical exigencies. The cooperation of the public in maincirculating on social media can cause unnecessary panic. The residents are strongly advised to avoid engaging with or spreading rumours. Trust only credible taining peace and discipline during these news channels and government comtimes is crucial.

Public in general and media persons in particular are

>>SEE ON P-7

CM Omar Visits Family Of Martyred Officer Raj Kumar Visits several areas in Jammu struck by shelling

>>SEE ON P-7

KC News Network

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

Expressing profound grief over the loss, the Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, acknowledging the officer's outstanding dedication and supreme sacrifice. "His service and sacrifice will never

be forgotten. The Government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief," CM Omar Abdullah said during the visit. Dr. Thapa was stationed in Rajouri town when he was

fatally struck by Pakistani shelling. His untimely demise has sent shockwaves through the administrative and civil community.

>>SEE ON P-7

ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives recently, terming it a gesture of support and solidarity. In a post on X, the Office of Chief Minister J&K,

wrote: "Deeply pained by the loss of innocent lives due to recent shelling from Pakistan. My Government is taking every possible measure to minimise the hardship of our people."

The Chief Minister visited the bereaved family of ADC Rajouri, Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life due to shelling by Pakistan."Paid my heartfelt condolences



LoC Residents Welcome US-Mediated Ceasefire



Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: Border residents in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday welcomed the announcement of a full and immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan, made by the United States President Donald Trump.

People living along the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez, Poonch, Rajouri, Uri and Karnah, speaking to the news agency-Kashmir

News Observer (KNO), said war has never brought solutions but only losses. They expressed hope that this ceasefire would bring

stability to their lives. After a night of talks mediated by the United States, Trump announced on a social media platform, Truth Social, that both countries had agreed to cease hostilities.Earlier, the Indian Air Force

>>SEE ON P-7

J&K Has Adequate Supply Of **Essential Commodities: Sharma**

KC News Network

munications for accurate information.

JAMMU: In view of the prevailing situation, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Transport; Science and Technology; Information Technology; Youth Services; Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, has appealed to the public to remain calm and avoid panic.

He assured that there is no shortage of essential commodities, including food grains, petroleum products and LPG across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister informed that sufficient stocks are available at all distribution points and necessary arrangements are in place to maintain regular supplies. "There is absolutely no need to panic. We have adequate reserves, and my team of dedicated officers is constantly monitoring the situation and taking timely decisions to ensure uninterrupted supply," the Minister stated.

He also expressed gratitude to Trader Associations and Federations for their cooperation in ensuring that the supply chain remains unaffected. "Their support has been crucial in maintaining



normalcy in availability of various commodities,' he added.On the transport front, the Minister informed that the Managing Director of RTC along with RTOs and ARTOs are working tirelessly to provide transportation to those who need to travel. He emphasized that fare regulations are being strictly enforced and action is being taken against operators found overcharging passengers.

lah-led government on Friday announced an

>>SEE ON P-7

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Chief Minister Omar Abdul-

'Cross-border shelling' CM Omar announces Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia relief

for NoKs of deceased

SUNDAY| MAY -11 - 2025

CDS Meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Apprises Him Of Current Situation

NEW DELHI: As military confronta between India and Pakistan continued to escalate, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday and apprised him of the current situation, sources said.

'The CDS met the defence minister at the latter's residence this morning, during which he apprised him of the current situation " a source said

India on Friday said Pakistan launched between 300 and 400 Turkish drones across 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek in its failed attempt to target Indian military installations on Thursday night.

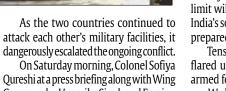
On Saturday morning, the Indian Army said, "Pakistan's blatant escalation with drone strikes and other munitions continues along our western borders." The military confrontation between the two nucleararmed neighbours escalated in the past few days with both the military and civil authorities in India remaining on high alert.

Rajnath Singh on Friday took a comprehensive review of the security scenario with the top military leadership, a day after Pakistan's attempts to target



Indian military installations were repelled. Every aspect of the evolving security situation was discussed at the meeting, it was learnt.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.



Qureshi at a press briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, "The Pakistan military is observed to be moving their troops to the border areas." Pakistan, she said, launched a high-speed missile in

Punjab besides attacking medical facilities in Srinagar, Avantipura and Udhampur.

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

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

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

Rajnath Singh on Thursday said no limit will become an obstacle to protect India's sovereignty and the nation is fully prepared for such responses.

Tensions between India and Pakistan flared up significantly after the Indian armed forces early

Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting nine terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Russia assured full support to India in its fight against all manifestations of terrorism: MoS Defence

MOSCOW: Russia has assured full support to India in its fight against all manifestations of terrorism and promised to promptly fulfil military orders in the pipeline, visiting Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said on Saturday.

Seth, who represented India at the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War, called on Russian Deputy Defence Minister Col Gen Alexander Fomin to discuss deepening military and technical cooperation.

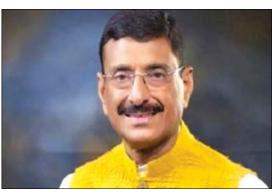
"Russia assured that it will support us in our battle against all manifestations of terrorism and said the cooperation between the two nations will continue to advance based on existing agreements," Seth told PTI before leaving for New Delhi.

Russia promised to promptly fulfil military orders in the pipeline, he said.

Both sides agreed to enhance ties through existing frameworks and regular consultations. During the meeting, he thanked Russia for its support against cross-border terrorism.

During the visit, Seth laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

He also addressed the members of the Indian



community in Moscow on Friday.

"The colder the weather in Russia, the warmer the friendship with India," he said, observing that the month of May is supposed to be pleasantly warm, but this year it was unusually cold.

NEWS 02

Seth said he was highly impressed by Russian President Vladimir Putin's humble nature.

"I had an opportunity to meet President Putin thrice. He very warmly greeted me and impressed me with his humble nature," he said.

Seth was chosen to represent India at the Victory Day parade as Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Defence Minister Rajnath Singh could not travel abroad in view of escalating tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack

JD Vance: India-Pak conflict 'none of our business'

WASHINGTON: As tensions between India and Pakistan continue to escalate, US Vice President JD Vance has reiterated America's policy of non-intervention, declaring that the conflict is "fundamentally none of our business."

His remarks, made in a recent interview with an US news channel, come amid growing concerns over the potential for the situation to spiral into a larger regional war or even a nuclear conflict.

"What we can do is try to encourage these folks to deescalate a little bit, but we're not going to get involved in the middle of war that's fundamentally none of our



diplomatic channels in an effort business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control to help reduce tensions. "We it," Vance stated, emphasising can't tell the Indians to lay down that the US will not intervene their arms. We can't tell the directly in the conflict despite Pakistanis to lay down their its global significance. arms. And so, we're going to While acknowledging the continue to pursue this thing through diplomatic channels,"

gravity of the situation, Vance stressed that the US would he added. continue to engage through



the years, remains a key point of concern for global leaders. With both India and Pakistan possessing nuclear capabilities, the international community has repeatedly voiced the need for dialogue to avoid catastrophic consequences.

Amidst the rising tensions,

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Vance expressed hope that the Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan on Saturday evoked its "close and balanced relations" with both India and Pakistan and discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions and end ongoing military confrontations between them.

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, a statement from the Saudi Foreign Office said. The discussions focused on efforts to de-escalate tensions

and end ongoing military confrontations, it said, adding, Faisal affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to the security and stability of the region and its close and balanced relations with both friendly countries. The Saudi statement came as the Indian and Pakistani militaries targetted



Saudi Foreign Minister speaks with EAM Jaishankar,

each other's installations using missiles in the last more than 12 hours, further escalating the already tense conflict situation.

Earlier on Saturday, a brief statement from the Foreign Ministry said that upon the directives of the Saudi leadership, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir visited India and Pakistan on May 8 and 9 as part of the Kingdom's "ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions, end current military confrontations, and promote the resolution of all disputes through dialogue and diplomatic channels".Al-Jubeir travelled to New Delhi on Thursday on an unannounced visit and discussed with Jaishankar the situation that has developed since India's military strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir early Wednesday prompted by

the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.Fine dining reservationsOn Friday, the Saudi ministervisited Islamabad, where he held talks with Pakistan's top leadership.Tensions between India and Pakistan increased after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.Pakistan launched a fresh wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India – from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat - for the second night on Friday, with the Indian defence ministry saying the enemy's attempts to hit vital installations, including airports and air bases, were successfully thwarted.

Monsoon Likely To Reach Kerala On May 27: IMD



Arrests Five For Sale Of Illegal SIM Cards Used In Digital Arrest Scams NEW DELHI: The CBI on Saturday carried out searches

the spokesperson said.

CBI Raids 42 Locations,

at 42 locations across eight states and arrested five people in for the illegal sale of SIIVI cards allegediv



Government of Jammu & Kashmir General Manager **District Industries Centre Pulwama** Email-ID:dicpulwama@gmail.com, Phone No.01933-241309 **Public Notice** The unit M/s Divine Industries at IGC Lassipora Pulwama stands formally registered with D.I.C. Pulwama under No. 01/005/11/02398/PMT/MSME dated: 27.02.2017

Faisal held two phone calls, with Minister of External Affairs India S Jaishankar and Pakistan's

NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on May 27, earlier than the usual date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department(IMD) said on Sunday.

If the monsoon arrives in Kerala as expected, it will be the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began on May 23, according to IMD data.

Typically, the southwest

monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15.

The IMD had in April forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the

Indian subcontinent.

as part of the ongoing Operation Chakra V, aimed at curbing cybercrimes and digital arrestrelated frauds, they said. Raids were carried out at the

premises of various point-of-sale agents of telecom operators in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, a CBI spokesperson said.

used in digital arrest scam cases,

The searches were conducted

officials said.

These agents were allegedly working in connivance with cybercriminals and unidentified executives of telecom service providers to issue SIM cards

used in offences such as digital including middlemen involved arrest scams, impersonation, in distribution of unauthorised fraudulent advertisements. SIM Cards and seizure of movable investment frauds and UPI frauds. property acquired from crime proceeds," the spokesperson said. "The searches led to seizure of Five people were arrested

from four states for their alleged incriminating documents/articles role in unauthorised SIM card such as mobile phones, electronic devices.copies of KYC documents issuance in violation of KYC and identification of individuals norms, the agency said.

for the line of activity "Mfg. of Readymade Garments", as a partnership concern of 1. Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Wani S/o Ab. Ahad Wani R/o Bamnoo, Pulwama 2. Mr. Nazir Ahmad Dar S/o Gh. Mohd. Dar R/o Sirhama, Bijbehara. Now, the partners of the said unit have submitted an application before office of the undersigned wherein they have requested for change of constitution by retirement of one existing partner namely Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Wani S/o Ab. Ahad Wani R/o Bamnoo, Pulwama from the partnership business.

Any person (s) or any organization/department having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager DIC Pulwama within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained. NO: DICPL/D-08/25/Dev/313

Dated; 9-05-2025

DIPK-1321/25

Sd/-General Manger, **District Industries Centre**, Pulwama

Russia celebrates 80th anniversary Victory Day parade amid ongoing conflict with Ukraine

Russia celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two on Friday with a major military parade that was conducted smoothly, with no interruptions from Ukraine, despite the two nations being embroiled in a devastating conflict.

The ceremony saw President Vladimir Putin—the longest serving head of the Kremlin since Joseph Stalin–stand beside Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio, and numerous other high-profile faces.

Commonly called Victory Day, May 9 marks one of Russia's biggest secular festivals, conducted with immense pomp and splendour to project Moscow's status as a formidable global power, amid its ongoing conflict with Kyiv, which is wellpast its third year.

"It's again showing that Russia is not isolated, that Russia is seen as a very legitimate victorious nation that is among victors in World War II," said Alexander Gabuev, director of Carnegie



two apart.

celebrations,

national unity at a time when the country's

conflict with Ukraine openly bleeds both

sides, and the West tries to prise the

Putin praised the grand scale of the

of the soldiers (1,500 of them) who had

Addressing crowds at the Red Square,

with a special mention for a section

Russia Eurasia Center, as per an Associated Press report.

The report added that the Soviet Union lost 27 million people in a phase of WWII that it calls the Great Patriotic War (1941-45), an enormous sacrifice that left a deep scar in the national psyche. Putin capitalised on this collective historical sentiment, attempting to encourage

fought against Ukraine, praising "their spiritual force that always has brought us victory".

"We highly appreciate the contribution of the soldiers of the Allied armies, the members of the resistance, the courageous people of China, and all those who fought for a peaceful future to our common struggle," he added, more generally.

More than 11,500 troops had been organised into ranks on Red Square. The time's parade also saw Russia's dronesthe biggest technological innovation of the conflict-

being paraded for the first time, as well as tanks and intercontinental Yars missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, a Reuters report stated.

Despite the two nations attacking each other several times this week, Russia's prestigious ceremony saw no interruptions from Ukraine, which respected the 72-hour ceasefire from May 7-9, unilaterally declared by Putin last month.

Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir **Directorate of Horticulture,** Kashmir, Rajbagh, Srinagar Telephone: 0194-2311484 Fax: 0194-2311287

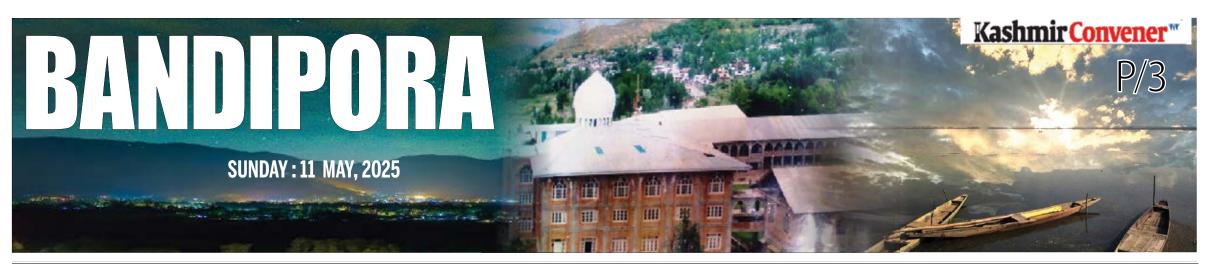
Abbreviated Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir. sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 2/- are invited from interested persons for auction of fruit crop of departmental orchards and farms of the Horticulture Department, Kashmir Division for the year 2025. Interested persons in this regard can obtain the detailed tender notice, prescribed tender form, and a list of orchards/farms from the Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir, Rajbagh, Srinagar. These documents will be available upto20thof May 2025, on all working days, between 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM, upon submission of a proper application along with with Photostat copy of the aadhar card of applicant and payment of Rs.200/-.

Properly sealed tenders are to be deposited in the Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir, by or before 21st of May, 2025upto4:30 P.M. The auction Committee shall open the tenders at the Horticulture Complex Rajbagh Srinagar on 22nd of May, 2025, at 11:00 AM, in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present in the auction proceedings. In case of a holiday, unavoidable circumstances, or preoccupation of the Chairman, Auction Committee, on the fixed date(s), the Department reserves the right to change the auction date(s), including the opening of tenders. The changes if any will be notified in the press.

DIPK-1322/25

Sd/- (A. H. Bhat) Joint Director (H)



MLA Nazir Gurezi, Dr Owais Ahmad **Visit Relief Centres in Bandipora**

BANDIPORA: Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control, Dr. Owais Ahmad, Commissioner SMC and mentor for District Bandipora, along with former MLA Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, visited several relief centres set up for displaced residents from the Gurez Valley owing to cease fire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC).

During their visit, the duo interacted with families temporarily relocated due to the escalating border situation. They assessed the facilities at the centres and instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted provision of food, clean



drinking water, medical care, and other essential services.

An official confirmed that the administration has established ten fully-equipped rehabilitation centres across Bandipora district to shelter and support affected civilians. The centres are being monitored continuously, with inter-departmental coordination to streamline relief efforts.

Displaced families expressed appreciation for the swift and well-organized response, acknowledging the administration's efforts in providing timely care and safe shelter during the crisis.

Passengers say cab drivers hiked prices amid border tensions, seek govt action Srinagar: Passengers in Jammu and Kashmir faced difficulties in

the last few days due to increased fare demands by some cab drivers, given the border tensions between India and Pakistan.

Many travellers said they were forced to pay higher charges on the national highway and other key routes, with no authorities stepping in to address the issue.

Passengers from various parts of the valley travelling between Jammu and Srinagar shared their concerns with the news agency–Kashmir News Observer(KNO), revealing that fares have more than doubled, and they feel helpless against the exploitation.



Mateen Wani, a passenger from Shopian, recounted that a Tavera driver from his area forced him and a few students to pay Rs 16,500 from Jammu to Srinagar on Friday. Similar reports have emerged from travellers heading to Rajouri, Kishtwar and other destinations, who said they are being subjected to the same inflated charges.

Gulzar Ahmad, another passenger, said, "While the border situation is tense, some drivers are taking undue advantage of it by charging extra for rides. The fare from Jammu to Srinagar is now more than double the normal rate." He added that most passengers paid these inflated charges because many drivers were unwilling to visit Kashmir amid the current circumstances.

Passengers sought the government's intervention, saying no one should be allowed to exploit the situation and that strict action must be taken against those charging excess fares. They urged authorities to ensure that travellers can reach their destinations without facing additional financial burdens or harassment during such hard times-(KNO)

Pakistan violated understanding on stopping military actions, armed forces responding: India

NEW DELHI: Hours after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding on stopping military actions, the arrangement came under severe pressure with New Delhi blaming Islamabad of breaching it.

In a media briefing close to midnight, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take "appropriate steps" to address these violations and deal with the situation with "seriousness and responsibility".

-This came around five hours after the foreign secretary announced that India and Pakistan had reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect.

In a short announcement, Misri told the media at 6 pm that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries agreed on the understanding during a call this afternoon

Aseem stands up with affected border residents, provides relief

Srinagar, May 10: The Aseem Foundation, a Pune-based NGO, once again demonstrated its commitment to the people affected by cross-border shelling by reaching out to them and providing



relief in times of crisis.

"We are among them; we can feel their pain. We stand with them during these challenging times. We will not let them down in any way. No matter how far we are, our love, support, and efforts for the well-being of the people of Kashmir, especially the border residents, will never diminish," said President Sarang Gosavi in a statement issued to Kashmir Convener.

He stated that from day one, our volunteers have been on the ground, reaching out to the people affected by shelling and providing them with relief and essentials so that they do not face further inconvenience.

He expressed hope that peace will prevail soon so that people can return to their homes and live as they did over the past five vears, filled with happiness.

Sarang noted that in recent days, our volunteers across Jammu and Kashmir have reached all the affected families, helping them during this challenging period.

Aseem a border organization has been working in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the past 20 years.

Kashmir fruit growers union urges dealers to keep prices affordable

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ensure essential food items remain ac-

cessible and affordable for the public.

lective interests of all fruit and vegetable

growers' associations in Kashmir, said it

is the collective responsibility to address

the current hardships faced by residents

In its official statement, the union

said, "The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers

all fruit and vegetable growers' associa-

tions of the valley, humbly requests all

wholesale and retail dealers to make

fruits and vegetables available to the

general public at reasonable and afford-

able prices on humanitarian grounds,

considering the current situation and

The statement came in the wake of

the rising tensions between India and

Pakistan over the last few days. How-

ever, both nations announced a ceasefire

on Saturday late afternoon. The statement

was issued before the ceasefire announce-

our duties towards society."

amid ongoing tensions.

The union, which represents the col-

Speaking to the news agency-Kash-**SRINAGAR** : The Kashmir Valley Fruit mir News Observer (KNO), the president of the union, Basheer Ahmad Basheer, Growers Cum Dealers Union has called upon all wholesale and retail fruit and said fruits and vegetables are daily esvegetable dealers across the region to

ment

Cum Dealers Union, Srinagar, which is an elected umbrella body representing

> sentials and must be made accessible to everyone. He urged dealers to moderate their prices and make efforts to sell these items at discounted rates, helping to stabilise supply and prevent hoarding or exploitation during this critical pe-

> "Let us come together as a community and fulfil our duty," Basheer appealed. "Dealers involved in the sale of essential

commodities should stand united, sell at reasonable prices, and ensure that the common people do not face shortages or inflated costs. This is a time to prioritise public welfare and prevent any

undue advantage being taken of the

He further said that all traders deal-

ing with essential items should cooper-

ate and share the responsibility of pro-

viding affordable supplies to the public.

"We must all do our part to ensure that

no one is deprived of basic necessities

during these difficult days," he added-

current situation.'

(KNO)



riod.

Indian Army Conducts Traffic Awareness Lecture for Youth in Doda's **Bhart Area**

Doda: In a proactive step to address the rising number of traffic accidents in Doda district, the Indian Army on Saturday organised a lecture on traffic awareness for local youth and drivers at Bhart. The initiative aimed to educate the public, especially two-wheeler and four-wheeler drivers, about safe driving practices and traffic discipline.

The session witnessed participation from nearly 80 locals from Bhart, Barnu, Gujjar Basti, and Bhalra. Army personnel sensitised attendees to the critical importance of obeying road rules, avoiding over-speeding, and the dangers of drunk and drug-influenced driving. Emphasis was also placed on preventive vehicle maintenance and ensuring roadworthiness to prevent mechanical failures that often lead to fatal accidents.

Soldiers conducted on-the-spot awareness drives along the roads, handing out motivational pamphlets and engaging directly with motorists to reinforce safe driving behaviour. Special focus was placed on educating young riders, who are often vulnerable due to limited traffic knowledge.

The event drew appreciation from the Drivers Association Doda and local administrative representatives, who lauded the Army's sustained efforts in promoting community welfare beyond the call of duty. Organisers hope the lecture will contribute to long-term behavioural change and help reduce road mishaps in the region.



Lieutenant Governor Interacts With Community & Religious Leaders

It is our collective responsibility to safeguard the social harmony and boost the morale of our Brave soldiers: LG Sinha

Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah, reaffirmed the commitment of the government to the safety of the people and protecting social harmony

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with community and religious leaders, civil society members and heads of Industry and Trade organisations at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor called for unified efforts to strengthen national unity and thwart Adversary's conspiracy to divide the people on religious and sectarian lines.

"Jammu and Kashmir is more than just a geographical area; it is a vibrant centre of social unity, harmony, peace, and brotherhood. The enemy is making desperate attempts to create a divide among our people and it had attacked our sacred places. We must rise above religious and sectarian divides and come out as a formidable united force to thwart this conspiracy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said, it is our collective responsibility to safeguard the social harmony and to work together to ensure the resilience and high morale of our society.

"Since ages, our nation has followed the principles of coexistence and it has enriched the great diversity of India, which has been a home to all major religions known to humankind. We must protect these values and give a befitting reply to the enemy by strengthening our brotherhood," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is resolved to take strong action against terrorists and those aiding and abetting terrorism.

"Operation Sindoor" has avenged the brutal killing of innocent people in Pahalgam. India's action was a focused and measured response, showcasing remarkable sensitivity and restraint by targeting 9 terrorist hideouts in different parts of Pakistan.

Since the night of 7th and 8th May. Pakistan has been relentlessly attacking innocent citizens of India. For three consecutive nights, civilian areas, key installations, and military establishments of India are being continuously targeted. Many innocent civilians have lost their lives and many injured, especially in border districts like Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu,

Kupwara and Baramulla.

"We don't want War. But, we will not remain silent on the killings of our civilians. Our forces are giving a befitting reply to the enemy. Your unity and steadfast devotion towards the motherland will be their shield and strength and will boost their morale. Let us wholeheartedly salute our valiant soldiers who stand guard at our borders. Let our brave sons of Maa Bharti know that the entire nation stands strong with them,'



the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the prominent citizens and civil society members to counter fake narrative and propaganda being created by the adversaries.

Shri Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister, reaffirmed the commitment of the government to the safety of the people and protecting social harmony. We will not let the enemy divide us, he said.

While assuring seamless supply of essential commodities, the Chief Minister also called upon the members of civil society and business community to report any instances of black-marketing.

Moulvi Riyaz ul Haq, Imaam o Khateeb, Asari Sharief Hazratbal, while speaking on the occasion, said, this challenging time underscores the vital message: unity, peace, and brotherhood. I pray for peace and prosperity of our nation and safety of its people, he said.

S. Paramjit Singh, President, Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Baramulla strongly condemned the unprovoked shelling by Pakistan on Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch. He appealed to the Government of India to take up this calculated and deliberate action by the neighbouring country to international forum and diplomatic level.

"This country is ours and we are of this country," affirmed by S. Gurmeet Singh Bali, Secretary, GPC Srinagar.

The decision by India and Pakistan on stopping military actions was first made public by US President Donald Trump in a social media post, while claiming that the talks between the two sides were mediated by America.

Top government sources, however, clearly said the outcome was the result of direct engagement between Indian and Pakistani sides and that Islamabad agreed to it with "no pre conditions, no post conditions and no links to other issues".

In the late night press conference, the foreign secretary said Pakistan violated the understanding and that the armed forces had been given instructions to deal strongly with any instances of repetition of the violations of the border along the International Border as well as the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"For the last few hours, there have been repeated violations of the understanding arrived at earlier this evening between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan," he said.

"This is a breach of the understanding arrived at earlier today," Misri said.

"The armed forces are giving an adequate and appropriate response to these violations and we take very very serious note of these violations," he added.

The armed forces are maintaining a strong vigil on the situation, the foreign secretary said.

"We call upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with seriousness and responsibility," he added.

"The armed forces are maintaining a strong vigil on the situation. They have been given instructions to deal strongly with any instances of repetition of the violations of the border along the International Border as well as the Line of Control," he said.

In his evening briefing, Misri said, "Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan called the Director General of Military Operations of India at 1535 hours IST earlier today."

"It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time today," he said.

The foreign secretary said instructions had been given on both sides to give effect to the understanding and that the DGMOs of the two sides would talk again at 1200 noon on May 12.

Minutes before Misri's remarks, Trump announced the understanding in a post on Truth Social.

"After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE," he said.

"Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump added. The understanding on stopping military actions came hours after their militaries targeted each other's installations that marked the most severe confrontations following India's Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) early on May 7.

SUNDAY | 11 MAY 2025

Teaching As Social Service

Bv: Mukhtar Ahmad Oureshi

As I sit and think about what being a teacher really is, one refrain rings louder than all the rest, teaching isn't a profession it is a social service. It is a passion for influencing minds, hearts and futures. With every step into a classroom every teacher is not simply imparting information they are creating a society.

In my world, so many professions do good for the public. Physicians heal, lawyers defend justice and engineers

they believed in a child when no one else would. That belief is a turning point in the life of the child.

One of my own mentors always said, "Teaching is the only profession that creates all other professions." What a profound truth! Without teachers, there would be no doctors, engineers, writers, or leaders. We are the foundation upon which every society is built. We are the quiet revolutionaries changing the world, one child at a time.

But for all this high-minded work, teaching is usually devalued. The sacrifices teachers make the long hours, the and student focus is a daily struggle, committed teachers extend their call of duty to instruct, encourage, and guide their students. Whether it's managing afterschool clubs, coming in early to assist a struggling student, or simply being a listening ear, these gestures extend far beyond a job title. They are acts of service.

OPED | 04

Teaching also requires profound emotional strength. We take in our students' pain, carry their stories and continue to try to fill their days with hope and learning. We bask in their joys as our own and their failures are personal. It's a



construct infrastructure. Teachers, though? We construct humans. We ignite curiosity, support creativity, raise dreams and sometimes we are the only people who encourage a child who might ever get in their lives. That, to me, is a kind of holy service.

As a teacher myself, I have seen firsthand how education transforms lives not just academically but emotionally and morally. I have taught students from diverse backgrounds, some of whom arrived at school carrying invisible burdens of poverty, conflict or broken homes. For them, school was not just a place to learn mathematics or language it was a heaven, a space where they felt safe, seen and heard.

That is the invisible, yet profoundly necessary, function of a teacher, to offer hope. Hope that things can change. Hope that they have a voice. Hope that their aspirations are within reach.

We should never forget, teaching is not just in blackboards or books. A teacher who is able to listen with empathy, who sees the kid sitting quietly in the back, who is able to celebrate small wins such as better handwriting or saying a whole sentence in the classroom that teacher is doing an act of social service as important as any grand scale reform.

We should never forget, teaching is not just in blackboards or books. A teacher who is able to listen with empathy, who sees the kid sitting quietly in the back, who is able to celebrate small wins such as better handwriting or saying a whole sentence in the classroom that teacher is doing an act of social service as important as any grand scale reform.

emotional investment, the continuous learning and adapting are not recognized. But we do it anyway. Why? Because we are motivated by something more profound than pay or prestige. We are motivated by purpose. In the countryside, where quality education is lacking, a teacher can be a ray of hope for an entire community. I've seen it firsthand in my own district, where teachers trek miles to teach in isolated schools, grade in temporary classrooms and use their own money to buy simple supplies just because they want each child to have an opportunity. Even in city environments, where temptations abound

profoundly human vocation, full of struggle and grace.

But this is the wonderful thing, the rewards of teaching are not tangible, but long lasting. The note from a student years after thanking you for the guidance you provided, the grin of a child finally comprehending a troublesome concept, the parent who tells you their child now enjoys school all of these remind us that our work counts. These are the things that inspire our passion and reaffirm our commitment.

I used to have a boy who had lost his father and lost his voice in class. I would greet him every day with a soft smile, leave him alone and rejoice over the smallest movements. Gradually, he opened up. Months later, he delivered a speech on Teacher's Day, thanking his teachers for making him feel important. That day, I knew the real extent of our impact.

In a world where material success so often takes center stage, teaching reminds us of the strength of human relationship and service. It reminds us of the importance of humility, patience, and unwavering compassion. It reminds us that even amidst adversity, we can make a difference not by great deeds, but by steady, loving presence.

In my own classroom, I have marked moments that are small but rich in meaning, a quiet girl raising her hand to read, a boy who used to be afraid of school now showing up early with a smile, a student communicating their feelings through pictures because they don't yet have words. These are victories. These are why we teach.

There's a reason why the greatest teachers are remembered for life. Not because they taught an intricate equation or an obscure rule of grammar, but because they cared. Because

So, to all the teachers out there reading this, know that your labour is holy. You are not merely teaching subjects you are shaping society. You are building the foundation of a more considerate, better-informed, and compassionate world. And that is the ultimate social service.

Let us proudly wear this badge, understanding that in each lesson we teach, each life we touch, and each dream we foster, we are serving humanity at its best.

(The columnist is a teacher by profession)



IMF 'reimbursing' Pak for ordnance it is using to devastate border areas: CM

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday hit out at the IMF for granting a billion dollar loan to Pakistan, saying the global financial organisation was "essentially reimbursing" Islamabad for the ammunition used to devastate border areas of the Union territory.

The International Monetary Fund on Friday approved the disbursement of around USD 1 billion to Pakistan under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

"I'm not sure how the 'International Community'



thinks the current tension in the subcontinent will be

continuing these initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner

further highlighted that control

rooms at the district and sub-

divisional levels, along with the

Police Control Room, are fully

operational to provide assistance

and urged everyone to remain

organizations, including Majlis-e-

Shoura, Sanatan Dharma Sabha

Beopar Mandal, Chamber of

Commerce and other prominent

citizens, expressed their gratitude

to the district administration

for organising the meeting and

fostering a spirit of cooperation

attended by SSP Kishtwar Naresh

Singh; ADC Kishtwar Pawan

Kotwal; CPO Shahnawaz Bali;

ACR Idrees Lone and other senior

The meeting was also

prepared for any situation.

The SSPKishtwar also advised

The participants from various

to the public.

and unity.

officers.

de-escalated when the IMF essentially reimburses Pakistan for all the ordnance it is using to devastate Poonch, Rajouri, Uri, Tangdhar & so many other places," Abdullah said in a post on X.

India abstained from the vote at the IMF, pointing out that rewarding continued sponsorship of crossborder terrorism sends a dangerous message to the global community, exposes funding agencies and donors to reputational risks, and makes a mockery of global values.

Distt admin convenes Civil Defence meeting in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The district administration today convened a meeting on Civil Defence and maintenance of proper law and order in Kishtwar.

circumstances. The officials from to cooperate and adhere to all key departments including Food, Standard Operating Procedures Transport and Health briefed the (SOPs). He also appreciated the participants about the availability ongoing community services, of adequate stock of essential particularly those led by the youth and stressed the importance of



The meeting, which was attended by representatives from various religious and community organisations, aimed to promote communal harmony and assess preparedness in the district.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Aijaz Asad, Secretary, Rural Development Department who is also Mentor for District Kishtwar. Deputy Commissioner

Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, was present in the meeting.

During the session, the district administration noted the suggestions of the participating organisations and assured all possible administrative support during the prevailing

commodities such as ration, LPG, fuel and medicines. Speaking on the occasion, Aijaz Asad lauded Kishtwar's legacy of peace and brotherhood. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to maintaining communal harmony and encouraged citizens to volunteer for community welfare efforts. He further assured that sufficient stock of all essential items is being maintained and will continue to be replenished as needed

DCKishtwaremphasized that there is no need to panic or fall prey to rumors. He informed that mock drills and preparedness activities will continue across the district. He urged the public Sakeena Itoo condoles sad demise of ADDC Rajouri Remembers late Dr. Thapa's exceptional

service during Budhal tragedy



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

Remembering the late officer's unwavering dedication to public service, Sakeena Itoo recalled his exceptional efforts during the Budhal tragedy, highlighting that his swift and compassionate response brought solace to many affected families.

The Minister said that Late Dr. Thapa used to update about the situation even during the night hours and was active on the ground for the relief of common masses. "He was a symbol of sincerity and responsibility, particularly during times of crisis. His humane approach during the Budhal tragedy left an

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

No Need to Panic; J&K has adequate supply of essential commodities: Satish Sharma

JAMMU: In view of the prevailing situation, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Transport;

Science and Technology; Information Technology; Youth Services; Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, has appealed to the public to remain calm and avoid panic.

He assured that there is no shortage of essential commodities, including food grains, petroleum products and LPG across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister informed that sufficient stocks are available at all distribution points and necessary arrangements are in place to maintain regular supplies.

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

ensure uninterrupted supply," the Minister stated. He also expressed gratitude to Trader Associations and

Federations for their cooperation

transportation to those who need to travel.

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

Satish Sharma further urged the public to stay vigilant and not believe in rumors.

"Vehicles are plying across the UT in accordance with advisories issued by the authorities. I request everyone to avoid panic

besides urging the members of the business community not to indulge in hoarding or overpricing," asserted the Minister.The Minister extended his best wishes for the safety and well-being of all citizens and reiterated the importance of adhering to official guidelines. "Let us stand together, remain calm and follow all advisories to ensure the safety and stability of our society," he appealed.

Jamia Millia Islamia reschedules exams for J&K students

along with RTOs and ARTOs are

working tirelessly to provide

SRINAGAR: On the request

of Jammu and Kashmir Government and in view of the prevailing situation, Jamia Millia Islamia (IMI) has announced rescheduling the Admission Tests for the students of Jammu and Kashmir being held on May 10-11, 2025

Minister for Education J&K Government, Ms. Sakina Itoo informed about the development through a tweet on social networking site 'X,' "Considering the ongoing

situation Jamia Millia Islamia will reschedule the admission

understanding the current challenges faced by the students of J&K".

The admission tests of Jamia Millia Islamia for the session 2025-26 commenced on 26th April, 2025 and are scheduled to be completed by 31st May, 2025. The admission tests of a few programs are scheduled

test for students from Jammu

the J&K Government. I thank the university administration



and Kashmir at the request of

will be held on given dates and time (May 10-11, 2025).

LoC residents welcome **US-mediated ceasefire**

Sajid Raina

Srinagar: Border residents in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday welcomed the announcement of a full and immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan, made by the United States President Donald Trump.

People living along the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez, Poonch, Rajouri, Uri and Karnah, speaking to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said war has never brought solutions but only losses. They expressed hope that this ceasefire would bring stability to their lives.

After a night of talks mediated by the United States, Trump announced on a social media platform, Truth Social, that both countries had agreed to cease hostilities.

Earlier, the Indian Air Force (IAF) had carried out strikes

DC Reasi holds consultative meeting with prominent citizens to strengthen disaster response preparedness

REASI:DeputyCommissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a consultative meeting with prominent citizens of the services district to review public concerns and enhance community coordination in disaster response

and preparedness. During the meeting participants raised various issues, including instances of non-compliance by certain shopkeepers during a recent power blackout. In response, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the critical importance of

Hall, Pulwama.

district.

prioritize personal safety of community participation, DC Nidhi Malik encouraged citizens during blackouts or shelling by to volunteer for emergency remaining indoors and avoiding unnecessary movement. Citizens



The initiative received an were also cautioned to steer clear tointensifyawarenesscampaigns about emergency protocols and the importance of public cooperation in maintaining safety and order.

Assuring the public of the administration's preparedness, Ms. Malik confirmed that adequate food supplies and essential services will be maintained throughout any emergency situation.

She also appealed to the public to remain vigilant and to promptly report any suspicious activity or unidentified Dy CM condoles demise of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa



JAMMU: Deputy Chief that Dr. Thapa was known for Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited the bereaved family of Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, ADDC Rajouri, at Roopnagar.

his dedication, competence, unwavering professional and people friendly approach. He asserted that the

on 10th and 11th May, 2025. However, for the remaining students, the admission tests for



on eight military sites in Pakistan, including radar units and ammunition depots, in response to Pakistani military attacks on Indian installations and civilian areas.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said Indian forces had thwarted infiltration attempts at more than 26 locations and that Pakistan had used drones and long-range weapons along the western borders. In Gurez, 62-year-old Mohammad Ramzan said, "We don't want war. It brings damage to both sides. We want our children to study in peace and our families to live without fear."

People in Poonch said the ceasefire brings hope to families who have seen loved ones die in cross-border shelling.

Shakeela Begum, whose husband was killed in a shelling incident in 2019, said, "We have suffered a lot. War only takes lives. We want both governments to think about the people living at the borders.'

In Rajouri, Javed Iqbal, a government school teacher, said, "Every time tension rises, we prepare for loss. Education, farming, trade, everything stops. Ceasefire helps us move forward."

From Uri, 60-year-old Ghulam Ahmad said, "When there is peace, we work, children go to school, life continues. When there is war, there is fear, loss, and silence."

In Karnah, Shabir Lone, a farmer Sarpanch, said, "People living in Delhi or Islamabad may not feel the impact of shelling, but we do. We want the peace to continue. War only creates more problems." Residents along the LoC said they have witnessed multiple ceasefire violations in the past and appealed to both governments to uphold this agreement. They called for longterm peace and communication between the two nations to prevent further escalation.

"We are tired of counting dead bodies," said a resident from Poonch. "Now we want to count school days, harvests and celebrations."



adhering to Standard Operating enthusiastic response, with Procedures (SOPs) during several individuals coming forward to assist in blood emergencies to ensure public safety and efficient disaster donation drives and other management. essential voluntary services.

Highlighting the crucial role She urged residents to

of any suspicious or unfamiliar objects and to immediately alert security personnel if such items are found.

The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned departments

individuals to the authorities to help preserve communal harmony.ADC Reasi, Rakesh Kumar, and Tehsildar Reasi, Suresh Singh were also present at the meeting

The Dy CM expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life due to shelling by Pakistan in Rajouri district. Surinder Choudhary said

government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief and prayed the God to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss.

JKTPO conducts RAMP Awareness Workshop to strengthen MSME ecosystem

PULWAMA: A district-level development, and business awareness workshop on the reforms. The SPIU team presented Raising and Accelerating MSME detailed implementation Performance (RAMP) program procedures and addressed queries was organized today at the Town to ensure effective execution of RAMP initiatives.

The workshop was a collaborative effort of Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), the State **Programme Implementation Unit** (SPIU) - Grant Thornton, and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Pulwama. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from

Micro, Small and Medium The session was presided Enterprises (MSMEs), artisans, over by Waseem Ahmad Malik, General Manager, DIC Pulwama, and key stakeholders from the who emphasized the importance JKTPO, under the supervision of a collaborative approach for of the Department of Industries successful implementation of the and Commerce, J&K, is conducting RAMP scheme. "It is imperative workshops to enhance the that all implementing agencies outreach and capacity-building work in synergy with MSMEs to of local MSMEs and entrepreneurs. strengthen the entrepreneurial These workshops aim to ecosystem in Pulwama. We must extend consistent handholding raise awareness about the RAMP program, which supports to our entrepreneurs to ensure MSMEs through market linkages, sustainable growth and selfdigital financing, skilling, cluster reliance," he said

The workshop featured participation from a diverse array of departments and institutions including the Assistant Commissioner Development. Pulwama, Dr. Peerzada Farhat, Manager SIDCO, DGM SICOP,

Principal ITI Pulwama and representatives from IKEDI. ITI, Handloom and Handicrafts Department, Lead Bank, Horticulture and Agriculture Departments, and other district officials.

Various sessions were conducted to create awareness among MSMEs about the benefits, components, and application procedures under the RAMP program. These included discussions on capacity building, access to finance, consultancy support, and marketing assistance.

The workshop also provided a platform for direct interaction between entrepreneurs and government departments, enabling grievance redressal and identification of potential interventions.

District Administration Rajouri pays heartfelt tribute to Martyr ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa

RAJOURI: The District Administration Rajouri today paid a solemn and heartfelt tribute to Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner(ADDC)Rajouri, who attained martyrdom during cross-border shelling, laying down his life in the line of duty while serving the nation with unwavering commitment.

In a poignant message, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, lauded the extraordinary dedication and bravery of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa. "His supreme sacrifice during the tragic incident at Badhaal will be remembered forever. He was a beacon of courage and

devotion, serving the people of Rajouri till his last breath," the DC remarked.

the people of Rajouri. "He was not just an able

administrator, but a true hero Dr. Thapa, a 2001 batch in service-a symbol of sincerity officer of the Jammu and Kashmir



Administrative Service (JKAS), was known for his integrity, humility, and deep sense of responsibility. His passing is a tremendous loss to the administrative fraternity and

and dedication," DC Abhishek Sharma added while extending condolences to the bereaved family. The District Administration, along with officials from various departments, observed a

moment of silence and resolved to carry forward the legacy of selfless service exemplified by the late officer.

His memory will continue to inspire generations of civil servants to uphold the highest values of duty, service, and sacrifice.

Reasi Administration observes two-minute silence to pay tribute to ADDC Rajouri and others who lost their lives

REASI: The officers and officials of District Administration Reasi, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malikobserved a two-minute silence today in memory of Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa, Additional District Development Commissioner(ADDC)Rajouri, and others who lost their lives due to cross-border shelling. The solemn tribute was held at the DC Office



Complex, Reasi, where heartfelt homage was paid to Dr. Thappa for his unwavering dedication and selfless service. Addressing the



The entire District Administration stands united in

grief, honoring the legacy and sacrifice of Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa and others who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Kishtwar admin discusses implementation of Skill Development **Program under Power Projects R&R Plan**

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

Rattle Hydroelectric Power Projects in District Kishtwar. The meeting featured a detailed, point-wise discussion on the minutes issued by the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction (DMRRR) Department, with a particular focus on preparing a roadmap and strategies the implementation of the skill development program in the district. The DC issued key directives to the members of the Project Management Unit (PMU), outlining a structured roadmap for the effective and timely execution of the skill development initiatives.

Recognizing The Warning Signs Of Kidney Trouble

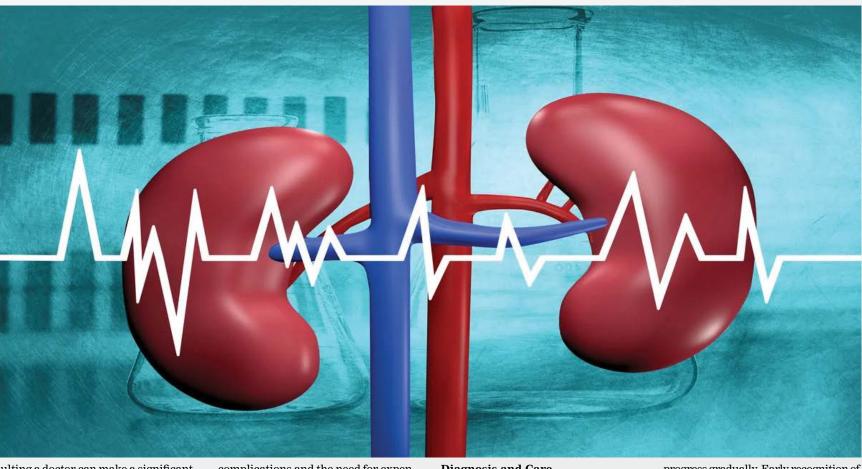


DR VIPIN SISODIA

idneys play a vital role in maintaining overall health by filtering waste products, balancing fluids, regulating blood pressure, and supporting red blood cell production. However, kidney problems often go unnoticed until they become severe. In India, kidney diseases are a growing concern, with Chronic Kidney Disease affecting nearly 15-17% of the population, according to recent studies. Factors such as uncontrolled diabetes, high blood pressure, poor hydration, and indiscriminate use of over-thecounter painkillers contribute significantly to rising kidney issues in both urban and rural populations. **Common Warning Signs to** Watch For

Kidney problems often begin silently, but the body gives early hints when the kidneys are under stress or beginning to fail. Common warning signs include swelling in the hands, feet, or face due to fluid retention, and noticeable changes in urination patterns such as frequent urination at night, reduced urine output, or foamy, darkcolored urine. Many individuals experience persistent fatigue or weakness as waste builds up in the blood, along with loss of appetite, nausea, and vomiting—especially in the mornings.

Itchy or dry skin, caused by imbalanced minerals, and shortness of breath or difficulty concentrating, linked to anemia from kidney dysfunction, are also key indicators. Recognizing these symptoms early and con-



sulting a doctor can make a significant difference in managing kidney health and preventing further complications. **Risk Factors for Kidney Problems in India**

India has one of the highest burdens of kidney disease globally. With over 200,000 new patients developing kidney failure each year, many are forced to rely on dialysis or transplantation. Unfortunately, due to low awareness and delayed diagnosis, many patients reach hospitals at advanced stages. Early detection through recognizing warning signs can prevent serious complications and the need for expensive treatments like dialysis.

Certain groups in India are at higher risk of developing kidney diseases, particularly those with diabetes (a major contributor to Chronic Kidney Disease in nearly 40% of cases) and high blood pressure. Additionally, consuming high-sodium diets, using herbal or unregulated medications, and chronic dehydration due to hot climates, especially in northern and central India, further exacerbate the risk.

The Role of Timely

Diagnosis and Care

Early-stage kidney disease can often be managed or even reversed with dietary changes, medication, and proper hydration. Routine blood tests (serum creatinine), urine analysis, and kidney function tests are essential for early detection. Ultrasound and imaging also help to assess structural problems like stones or obstructive uropathy and other reversible causes. Individuals with risk factors should undergo regular screening, even in the absence of symptoms.

Kidney diseases are silent killers that

progress gradually. Early recognition of symptoms and timely consultation with a nephrologist or urologist can prevent long-term damage and improve quality of life. With increasing awareness and preventive health check-ups, more people can avoid the serious consequences of untreated kidney problems. Paying attention to your body's early signals can be the first step toward protecting your kidney health and ensuring a healthier future.

> Consultant - Urology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida

Solution To Water Crisis Confluence Of Traditional Knowledge And Modern Technology

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

he water crisis is one of the most serious issues in today's world. Increasing population, uncontrolled industrialization, and cli-

Traditional water conservation systems are not given much importance in government schemes. Many industries release wastewater into rivers and ponds, contaminating water sources.

Traditional water conservation systems should be given legal status. Partnerships between scientific insti06

mate change have severely impacted the availability of water. To deal with this crisis, we need a combination of traditional water conservation techniques and modern science and technology. Water conservation means managing water resources wisely so that there is no shortage of water in the future. India has only 4% of the world's fresh water, but 18% of its population is facing a water crisis. To solve this problem, participation of government and communities is necessary. Schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Neeru-Chettu in Andhra Pradesh have helped in increasing the availability of water.

Local communities can make better use of water by adopting their traditional knowledge and new technological measures. Hiware Bazaar model of Maharashtra: Groundwater level was increased in this village using traditional and modern techniques. Water availability increased here by rainwater harvesting and cleaning of wells. Johad system of Rajasthan: Construction of small ponds (johads) improved the groundwater level and reduced the problem of drought. Chal-Khal system of Uttarakhand: These small reservoirs store rainwater and help in groundwater recharge. Adoption of traditional methods and new technologies is necessary for efficient use of water. Zabo agricultural system of Nagaland: This method collects rainwater and uses it for farming, which reduces the impact of drought. Tanks of Rajasthan are small water reservoirs built for rainwater harvesting, in which modern filtration technology is also being added now. Aeri (pond) system in Tamil Nadu: This system stores rainwater and helps in irrigation and drinking water supply.

For water conservation, it is important to maintain a balance between forests, rivers, ponds, and soil. Oran (sacred forest) areas in Rajasthan pro-



tect water sources and biodiversity, preventing desertification. Under the waterfall restoration project of Meghalaya, forests and catchment areas are being revived, thereby conserving water sources. The Narmada Seva Yatra initiative in Madhya Pradesh aims to promote water conservation and environmental improvement by planting trees along the Narmada River. Pani Panchayats of Maharashtra and Gram Sabhas of Jharkhand are ensuring equitable use of water resources.

Climate change and erratic rainfall can increase water scarcity. In such a situation, traditional water conserva-

tion systems can prove to be helpful. Drought relief work in Bundelkhand: Reconstruction of ponds and rainwater harvesting is reducing water problems in the region. In Ladakh, artificial glaciers are created in winter so that water is available from them in summer. However, this method is facing challenges due to rising temperatures. In Gujarat, drip irrigation and multi-cropping are adopted for water conservation in the Wadi system. Climate change, industrial pollution, uneven water distribution, and ignoring traditional systems in government schemes are the major obstacles.

Communities should be empowered

to manage water resources so that they can use water sustainably. Pani Panchayats in Maharashtra: These panchayats ensure equitable distribution of water to farmers. In Jharkhand, under the Gram Sabha Act, village assemblies are managing small reservoirs. Pani Panchayat in Odisha: This scheme promotes water management with community participation. Cities are given more water, leading to shortages in rural areas. For example, water for Chennai is taken from nearby villages, causing problems for farmers. Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly, reducing the flow of rivers like the Ganga and increasing the water crisis.

tutions, government agencies, and local communities should be strengthened. IIT Madras is providing technical assistance for rainwater harvesting in rural areas. Participation of local people should be increased in water management plans. Conservation plans should be made by linking water, forest, and land together. Strategies to reduce the effects of climate change should be made by combining modern technologies and traditional knowledge. Urban water recycling: Systems should be developed to reuse wastewater in cities.

Water conservation is not possible only through government efforts, but the participation of communities is also very important in this. Water resources can be efficiently managed by combining traditional knowledge and modern technology. Water conservation can be made more effective by linking AI-based monitoring systems with schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and MNREGA. This will help in dealing with the water crisis and ensure water security for the future. Water conservation can be made effective by adopting legal recognition, scientific cooperation, local participation, water recycling, and climate adaptation measures

To tackle the water crisis, we need to strike a balance between the learnings of the past and the technologies of the future. Traditional water conservation systems give us knowledge of sustainability and local adaptation, while modern technologies can help in efficient management of water resources. If we work by combining both, a sustainable solution to the water crisis can be achieved.

"Drop by drop the pot fills"—even" a small effort towards water conservation can bring a big change in the future.

> Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist

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NEWS|07

Continued From P1...

Trump triumphs

Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik," Rubio, as per KNO wrote on X.

"I am pleased to announce that the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues," he added.

It may be recalled that the crisis began on May when India launched strikes on "terrorist infrastructure" in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, following an attack two weeks earlier that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists, at Pahalgam in South Kashmir.

Any escalation

remain fully prepared and ever vigilant and committed to defend the sovereignty and integrity of our motherland."

"Every misadventure by Pakistan has been met with strength and every future escalation will invite a decisive and befitting response," he added.

Col Sofiya Qureshi rejected "Pakistan's false propaganda" that Indian armed forces have targeted mosques. "India is a secular nation and the Indian armed forces are a reflection of our constitutional values. We hold every places of worship of all faiths in the highest regard."

"The Indian operation was aimed at terrorist camps and facilities used for anti-India activities," she added.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said that Pakistan has suffered significant and unsustainable losses in recent days, following its unprovoked attack on Indian installations. She added that the damage affected Pakistan's capabilities both in land and air.

"Pakistan has suffered very heavy and unsustainable losses after it has given us an unprovoked attack on our installations. It has suffered losses both in land and air."

The IAF officer said that several crucial Pakistan air bases have suffered extensive damage including Sargodha and Jacobabad.

"Across the LoC, extensive and precise damage to military infrastructure and command control centres and logistic installations have led to breakdown of the Pakistani morale," she said.

Earlier Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh while addressing the media had rejected Pakistan's claims that it had destroyed the Sirsa and Suratgarh airbases and neutralized India's S-400 air defence system at Adampur.

They described the claims of Pakistan as baseless and part of a misinformation campaign aimed at misleading the global community.

The officers played the live videos of the Sirsa, Suratgarh airbases during the press conference where normal activities were going on.

"Pakistan has launched multiple long-range weapon attacks, including high-speed missile strikes on airbases in Punjab, and carried out air intrusions and heavy calibre firing along the Line of Control," they said. "However, the Indian armed forces successfully neutralized these threats with precision and professionalism."

They, as per KNO, confirmed that India faced missile attacks on several airbases in Punjab and reported damage to civil infrastructure, including medical care centres and schools in Srinagar, Udhampur, and Awantipora airbases. "Despite these provocations, Indian forces launched calibrated counter-attacks targeting Pakistani military installations, including the Sialkot Aviation Base," they added. deteriorating situation between the two neighboring countries. This measure will greatly alleviate the suffering of our people who have been caught in the crossfire."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President and former chief minister of J&K state, Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the ceasefire, saying that military solution is no solution as there should be a political intervention to resolve the issues.

"US President's intervention resulting in an immediate ceasefire between India & Pakistan is a welcome step. I hope both countries will work towards an everlasting peace for this region," Mehbooba wrote on X.

"Ultimately, a military solution is no solution; there should be a political intervention to resolve the issues. India being a largest democratic country should work like an elder brother with the other countries to restore peace and ensure a peaceful environment to the people," she said in a video posted on her X handle.

Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone in a post on X, said that there is a sense of relief all around.

"The announcement of the ceasefire by the Union Government is a welcome step. There is a sense of relief all around. The inhabitants of the border areas in J and K have had a harrowing time. Hope they are able to resume their lives and hope we as a society come to their aid and help them rebuild their homes," Lone wrote on X.

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Molvi Umar Farooq said that the possibility of talks among the two as stated by US Secretary Marco Rubio on broad set of issues is a welcome outcome.

"Alhumdulilah. Better sense has prevailed and India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire . It's a huge relief for all, especially those living on both sides of the LOC where precious lives were lost and shelter and livelihoods destroyed. The possibility of talks among the two as stated by US secretary Marco Rubio on broad set of issues, is a welcome outcome. Talks is the means to peace and stability. Glad that leadership on both sides agreed to this," Mirwaiz wrote.

Apni Party President and former minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari welcomed the announcement and congratulated the entire nation.

"I welcome the ceasefire announcement and congratulate the entire nation, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Home Minister, Hon'ble Defence Minister, National Security Advisor (NSA) and other dignitaries of the country for the resolve they have shown during these challenging times. The tough decisions and decisive actions taken against terrorism and terrorist activities on Indian soil are commendable. A strong message has been successfully delivered to the perpetrators and handlers of the heinous massacre at Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow on 22 April, which claimed the lives of 26 tourists and a local pony ride operator, and left 16 others injured. This horrific act of violence has shaken us to the core and left a deep scar on our collective consciousness. May those who lost their lives in this barbaric tragedy rest in eternal peace," Altaf Bukhari wrote.

CPI (M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Muhammad Yousf Tarigami in a post on X, said, "India and Pakistan have reached an agreement today to cease firing and halt military operations, bringing a big relief to people on both sides."

President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, hailing it as a crucial development that offers a ray of hope for peace and stability in the region. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a social media post.

The announcement came days after India carried out Operation Sindoor striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir to avenge the Pahalgam attack. Since the operation, Pakistan targetted various Indian military installations without success.

CM Omar

marking a sad and solemn moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

The Chief Minister reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives and well-being of its citizens amidst ongoing hostilities.

CM Omar announces

to the family of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS, ADDC Rajouri who lost his life in the line of duty today due to shelling by Pakistan. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The Government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief," the CM's office wrote.

Earlier, Omar Abdullah described the loss as devastating and expressed his shock and sadness. "Devastating news from Rajouri. We have lost a dedicated officer of the J&K Administration Services. Just yesterday, he was accompanying the Deputy CM around the district and attended an online meeting I chaired. Today, his residence was hit by Pakistani shelling. I have no words to express my shock and sadness at this terrible loss of life. May his soul rest in peace," the Chief Minister's office stated.

He also visited Rehari and Roopnagar areas in Jammu to assess the damage caused by recent shelling. "Visited Rehari and Roopnagar in Jammu today to see the damage caused by shelling. The pain and disruption faced by residents is deeply concerning. We stand with every affected family and will ensure all necessary support is provided without delay," the post added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, later held an interaction with civil society members.

"After returning from Jammu today afternoon, I, along-with Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, held an interaction with Civil Society members. Grateful for their insights and concerns. I urged the members to act as ambassadors of trust—reaching out to people with the message that the government is fully alert and committed to safeguarding every citizen. Together, we shall prevail," the CM's office said

J&K Has

Satish Sharma further urged the public to stay vigilant and not believe in rumors. "Vehicles are plying across the UT in accordance with advisories issued by the authorities. I request everyone to avoid panic besides urging the members of the business community not to indulge in hoarding or overpricing," asserted the Minister.

The Minister extended his best wishes for the safety and well-being of all citizens and reiterated the importance of adhering to official guidelines. "Let us stand together, remain calm and follow all advisories to ensure the safety and stability of our society," he appealed.

citizen and stands united with its people in these testing times.

Stay vigilant, stay informed, and let's work together to uphold security and stability of our great nation

Pakistan's Hostile Actions Effectively Countered: India

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

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

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

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

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

Radar sites at Pasrur and the Sialkot aviation base were also targeted using precision munitions, she said, adding that India has ensured minimum collateral damage while carrying out these responses. Singh said the Pakistani military is continuing with its "provocations", carrying out "aggressive actions" and employing multiple threat vectors all along the western border. Pakistan employed unmanned combat aerial vehicles, drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions and fighter aircraft to target civilian areas and military infrastructure, she said.

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

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

The helicopter pilot said Pakistan also attempted to execute a continued malicious misinformation

hopes to see," said the spokesperson, adding that China is willing to continue to play a constructive role to this end.

Indian envoy meets Nepal PM Oli, briefs on latest of Indo-Pak confrontation

KATHMANDU: India's Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava called on Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday and briefed him about the latest development related to the India-Pakistan tension in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly following India's Operation Sindoor on early Wednesday in response to the Pahalgam attack on April 22 that had cross-border linkages and Pakistan's subsequent unsuccessful attempt to attack 15 Indian cities.

"Ambassador Srivastava briefed Prime Minister Oli regarding the recent tensions and the scenario developed between India and Pakistan due to a terrorist attack at Pahalgam in India on April 22," a statement issued by the Prime Minister's

office said after the meeting at his official residence at Baluwatar.

The Indian Ambassador made it clear that "India has only carried out a retaliatory attack,

but the propaganda that it carried out a 'jet attack' was not the reality," it said.

Srivastava thanked Nepal government for the statement Nepal made public on Thursday regarding the incident, said the PM Oli's Secretariat.

Saying Nepal is always in favour of world peace, the Prime Minister condemned the terrorist attack as per Nepal's principled stance against all types of terrorism.

He made it clear that Nepal would not allow its territory to be used against its neighbouring countries.

Chinese-Australian researchers discover fossils of 400 million year old fish

BEIJING/CANBERRA, May 10: A team of Chinese and Australian researchers has for the first time discovered fossils of Palaeospondylus, a small, eel-like fish that lived millions of years ago.

The fossils were found in an area located outside Scotland, according to the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dating the fossils to approximately 400 million years ago, the research team has pushed the chronological record of this species back by about 10 million years.

Using CT scanning and 3D reconstruction, the team fully restored the neurocranial structures of Palaeospondylus, providing critical evidence for unraveling its evolutionary position. Palaeospondylus was a small, enigmatic early vertebrate.

The study, published as a cover article in the academic journal National Science Review, was highlighted in an accompanying commentary. "They make progress with interpreting its anatomy, and are able to disprove some previous hypotheses about its relationships," and the interpretation "represents a huge improvement on our previous understanding," the commentary noted.

First documented in 1890, this tiny, eel-like fish measuring just a few centimeters, has long baffled

"Pakistan made at least 26 infiltration attempts through Indian airspace, using both military aircraft and, alarmingly, civilian airlines for strategic operations," they said.

Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh condemned Pakistan's use of social media to spread false narratives. "Pakistan is indulging in a deliberate disinformation campaign. Their claims about inflicting damage on key Indian assets are nothing but lies," added the officials.

Artillery shelling by Pakistan has been reported in border regions including Kupwara, Baramulla, and Rajouri, prompting strong and proportionate responses from the Indian Army

India will

talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. "Over the past 48 hours, VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik. I am pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence, and statesmanship in choosing the path of peace," he said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, Misri emphasised that the actions being undertaken by Pakistan against India are "escalatory" and "provocative" in nature and are being responded to effectively. He made the remarks at a media briefing on Saturday morning, where proofs of Pakistan's escalatory were provided alongside exposing the lies being peddled by the neighbouring country.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in reply to the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22. The terror attack had killed 26 people. India had struck nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan sought to up the ante with a series of unprovoked escalations using artillery guns and drones.

J&K leaders

In a statement, Hakeem Yaseen congratulated the armed forces of both nations and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those living along the Line of Control (LoC), for the successful implementation of the ceasefire.

He described the move as a "significant and positive step" towards de-escalating tensions and fostering mutual trust between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our brave armed forces and to our people on the successful achievement of a ceasefire between both countries. This is a significant step towards peace, stability, and mutual understanding," Yaseen said.

He stressed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those residing in border areas, have long borne the brunt of hostilities, often paying with their lives, property, and psychological wellbeing. "The ceasefire brings much-needed relief to the innocent civilians who have been living in constant fear and uncertainty due to frequent cross-border shelling," he added.

Senior leader of Awami Ittehad Party and spokesperson Firdous Baba termed the India-Pakistan ceasefire announced from tonight as a historic step towards peace and prosperity in the region.

He hailed the exemplary acumen shown by the Government of India in ensuring that the situation returns back to normal. Baba said the Pahalgam massacre of innocent tourists had already shattered the nation and humanity and the growing escalation between India and Pakistan had made the situation worrisome with loss of precious lives.

Pertinently, after days of fighting, India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire"

Indian Army

The incident comes just days after Operation Sindoor, during which Indian forces struck nine terrorist camps across Pakistan and PoK, prompting retaliatory attempts by Pakistan, including missile and drone attacks.

As tensions remain high, Indian security forces are maintaining heightened alert across border areas, with airspace surveillance and counter-drone mechanisms further reinforced.

UN welcomes

LoC Residents

(IAF) had carried out strikes on eight military sites in Pakistan, including radar units and ammunition depots, in response to Pakistani military attacks on Indian installations and civilian areas.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said Indian forces had thwarted infiltration attempts at more than 26 locations and that Pakistan had used drones and long-range weapons along the western borders.

In Gurez, 62-year-old Mohammad Ramzan said, "We don't want war. It brings damage to both sides. We want our children to study in peace and our families to live without fear."

People in Poonch said the ceasefire brings hope to families who have seen loved ones die in crossborder shelling.

Shakeela Begum, whose husband was killed in a shelling incident in 2019, said, "We have suffered a lot. War only takes lives. We want both governments to think about the people living at the borders."

In Rajouri, Javed Iqbal, a government school teacher, said, "Every time tension rises, we prepare for loss. Education, farming, trade, everything stops. Ceasefire helps us move forward."

From Uri, 60-year-old Ghulam Ahmad said, "When there is peace, we work, children go to school, life continues. When there is war, there is fear, loss, and silence."

In Karnah, Shabir Lone, a farmer Sarpanch, said, "People living in Delhi or Islamabad may not feel the impact of shelling, but we do. We want the peace to continue. War only creates more problems."

Residents along the LoC said they have witnessed multiple ceasefire violations in the past and appealed to both governments to uphold this agreement. They called for long-term peace and communication between the two nations to prevent further escalation.

"We are tired of counting dead bodies," said a resident from Poonch. "Now we want to count school days, harvests and celebrations."

Cooperation of

requested to be responsible in sharing information and follow the guidelines issued by government in this regard.

Further updates will be shared through official government channels only. The Government reaffirms its commitment to the safety and security of every

campaign with claims of destroying the Indian S-400 system at Adampur, destruction of airfields at Suratgarh and Sirsa, the BrahMos base at Nagrota and artillery-gun positions at Dehrangyari and the Chandigarh Forward Ammunition Depot.

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

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

Qureshi said Pakistan attempted multiple air intrusions using drones and conducted shelling using heavy-calibre artillery guns along the LoC, targeting civilian infrastructure and killing some civilians.

Heavy exchange of artillery mortars and small-arm fire in the Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor sectors continues and the Indian Army has responded effectively and proportionately, causing extensive damage to the Pakistan Army, she noted.

China strongly urges India, Pakistan to exercise calm and restraint: FM spokesperson

BEIJING: China strongly urges India and Pakistan to act in the larger interest of peace and stability and exercise calm and restraint, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Saturday.

The spokesperson made the remarks when asked to comment on the escalating tension between India and Pakistan, media reports said.

According to reports, Pakistan said India hit targets including the Nur Khan air base on the early morning of May 10.

Pakistan has vowed to resolutely strike back and launched "Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos."

Noting that China is closely following the ongoing situation between India and Pakistan and is deeply concerned about the escalation, the spokesperson said China strongly

urges both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, exercise calm and restraint,

return to the track of political settlement through peaceful means, and refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions.

"This will be important for the fundamental interest of both India and Pakistan, and for a stable and peaceful region.

This is also what the international community



scientists. Over 1,000 specimens from Scotland revealed skeletal features starkly different from other fish.

For over a century, researchers variously classified it into nearly every major fish group, from jawless hagfish to lobe-finned fish larvae, and yet its phylogenetic position remained unresolved, earning it the title of "one of the most mysterious early vertebrates."

The newly discovered fossils, named Palaeospondylus australis, were found in Cravens Peak Beds, Georgina Basin, western Queensland, Australia, within Early Devonian Emsian epoch strata, believed to be roughly 400 million years old. These fossils coexisted with jawless fish, armored placoderms, early sharks, spiny fish and diverse bony fish.

Scientists revealed three-dimensionally preserved brain structures and mineralized tissues via these fragmentary fossils.

High-resolution CT scans and 3D techniques allowed the team to reconstruct the complete brain cavity, including semicircular canals and nerve canals, which are key morphological evidence for determining its evolutionary lineage, said Lu Jing, leader of the research team.

Phylogenetic analysis based on this data suggests Palaeospondylus likely belongs to the cartilaginous fish lineage rather than the tetrapod stem group as previously hypothesized, said Lu with the IVPP.

Also, the team developed a novel cross-platform volumetric data reconstruction method, enabling efficient restoration and cross-verification. This technique significantly enhances the processing and visualisation of paleontological CT data, paving the way for more in-depth morphological analyses and shared validation workflows, and is expected to play a transformative role in future research, Lu said.

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Virat Kohli Tells BCCI That He Wants To Retire From Test Cricket

irat Kohli has communicated his desire to retire from Test cricket to the BCCI ahead of the big five-match series in England starting June 20, for which he is expected to be a part of the squad. ESPNcricinfo understands that Kohli has been having these conversations with officials of the BCCI for the past month or so.

If Kohlidoesn't change his mind, he will bring the curtain down on a glorious career that has spanned 14 years and included 123 Tests - 68 of them as captain - in which he has 9230 runs at an average of 46.85.

But it hasn't been a particularly fruitful time in the format for Kohli of late. When he scored 100 not out in the Perth Test in November 2024, it was his first century in Tests since July 2023 (against West Indies in Port of Spain), and his average, 55.10 at its peak after he scored his career best of 254 not out vs South Africa in Pune in 2019, has been 32.56 over the last 24 months.

Despite that, it's understood that the team management and selectors expect his experience to be crucial on the tour, where India will also be playing under a new captain - Shubman Gill is the frontrunner to take over from Rohit Sharmafollowing his retirement from Test cricket earlier this week

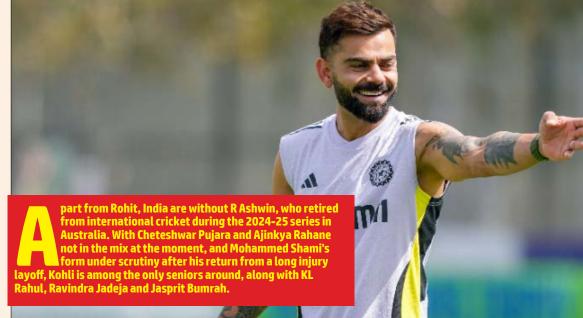
Kohli, as well as Rohit, were included in the highest category(A+) in the latest BCCI contracts, which is usually meant for players who play all three international formats. Both Kohli and Rohit had retired from T20Is after India won the World Cup last year and, if Kohli does retire from Tests, they will only be available for ODI cricket going forward.

durashine

Apart from Rohit, India are without R Ashwin, who retired from international cricket during the 2024-25 series in Australia. With Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane not in the mix at the moment, and Mohammed Shami's form under

India's most successful Test captain of all time -MS Dhoni with 27 from 60 and Sourav Ganguly with 21 from 49 rank below him - and also places him at No. 4 on the overall list of captains with the most Test wins, behind Graeme Smith (53

average of 59.30 with two centuries. That it came after he had scored just 134 runs in ten innings on the previous tour, in 2014, made the performance that much more special. That year, 2018, was also his best in terms of aggregate for a year, when



scrutiny after his return from a long injury layoff, Kohli is among the only seniors around, along with KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah. Before Rohit replaced Kohli as India's Test

captain, India had won 40 of the 68 games in which Kohli led, losing just 17. The 40 wins makes Kohli from 109), Ricky Ponting (48 from 77) and Steve Waugh (41 from 57).

It was in England that Kohli had recorded one of his greatest highs as a Test batter, on the 2018 tour. He was the top run-getter across the two sides in the five Tests, aggregating 583 at an

he scored 1322 runs. During his golden run, he averaged 75.93 in 2016, 75.64 in 2017, 55.08 in 2018, and 68.00 in 2019. During that period between 2016 and 2018, Kohli scored 3596 runs in 35 Tests at an average of 66.59, with 14 hundreds and eight fifties in 58 innings.

Kohli, as well as Rohit, were included in the highest category (A+) in the latest BCCI contracts, which is usually meant for players who play all three international formats. Both Kohli and Rohit had retired from T20Is after India won the World Cup last year and, if Kohli does retire from Tests, they will only be available for ODI cricket going forward.



UAE Women retire out all 10 batters in 163-run win

n a bizarre turn of events in a Women's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier game between UAE and Qatar in Bangkok, UAE retired all 10 of their batters out with the score of 192 for 0 after 16 overs. It was the first instance of a team dismissing itself by retiring

out all 10 batters, in a men's or women's T20. UAE then went on to roll Qatar over for just 29 in an innings that featured seven ducks to seal a massive 163-run win in a match that lasted just over 27.1 overs.

Since the UAE team also had eight ducks, the game saw a record 15 ducks registered, easily the most in a women's T20.

Opting to bat, the UAE openers Esha Oza, also the captain, and Theertha Satish were cruising along in their century partnership, with Oza on 113 and Satish on 74 when they decided to effectively declare - which is not allowed in T20Is - by retiring out all 10 batters. Once Oza and Satish walked off with the score on 192, a different pair of batters kept coming to the crease and then walking off to show they were being retired out, until UAE were considered 192 all out.

Oza had brought up a 51-ball century - her third in T20Is - and Satish had also raced to her fifty off 31 balls as they took the team past 150 in 14 overs. Oza struck 14 fours and five sixes while Satish collected 11 fours, and it was when Oza had smashed three fours in four balls to end the 16th over - with the team's run rate reading 12 - that they decided to walk off. UAE's 192, as a result, became the highest all out score in a women's T20I.

Qatar, in reply, lasted just 11.1 overs as only three batters were able to score, and only one of them went past 5. Opener Rizpha Bano Emmanuel top-scored with 20 and saw four wickets fall in front of her in five overs as left-arm spinner Michelle Botha finished with 3 for 11. Once Emmanuel was run-out in the eighth over on 26 for 5, Qatar lasted only 20 more balls and added just three more runs to the total.



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India Bag Five Medals In Compound Section; Madhura Shines With Maiden **World Cup Gold**











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apping a dream comeback, MadhuraDhamangaonkar clinched her maiden individual World Cup gold to headline India's glittering medal collection in the compound section -- two gold, one silver and two bronze at the Archery Stage 2 showpiece here on Saturday.

Unranked for being in the sidelines for three years, Madhura produced a sensational upturn in the final, edging out USA's Carson Krahe 139-138 to seal the top podium.

The 24-year-old from Amravati, Maharashtra, had earlier bagged a team silver and a mixed team bronze, completing a fine threemedal haul.

However, Madhura's individual final was a roller-coaster affair.

She opened with a perfect 30, including two Xs, but faltered with two 8s in the second end and a costly 7 in the third, trailing 81-85.

Krahe, ranked 52nd and a World Cup team bronze medallist last year, capitalised with a perfect 30 in the third end.

Undeterred, Madhura showed nerves of steel, shooting a near-flawless 29 in the fourth to level the match at 110-all.

In the decisive final end, she fired two Xs and a 9, while Krahe managed only 28, sealing Madhura's dramatic one-point win.

Earlier, India's medal tally began with a gold in the men's team event, where the trio of multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale, and Rishabh Yadav defeated Mexico 232-228 in a tense final.

The top-seeded Indian team started strong with a 59 to Mexico's 57, but saw the match level at 115-115 by the halfway mark.

India regained control with a 58 in the third end and sealed the victory with a brilliant 59 in the final end, as Mexico managed only 56.

The 22-year-old Yadav went on to claim his maiden individual World Cup medal, defeating South Korea's Kim Jongho 145-145 (10*-10) in a dramatic shoot-off for bronze.

Having led after the first end, Yadav lost the next two but bounced back with a perfect 30 to level scores at 115-115.

Both archers shot flawless 30s in the final end, but Yadav's arrow was closer to the centre in the shoot-off. Yadav earlier lost to world No. 1 and multiple world champion Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands 144-147.

Madhura, who topped Indian qualifiers to earn the third seeding, began her individual campaign by knocking out Turkey's world No. 13 Hazal Burun -- a double World Cup team medallist -- with a composed 143-141 win built on two flawless opening ends.

In the women's team final, Madhura partnered with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Chikitha Taniparthi to take silver after a 221-234 loss to a strong Mexican outfit.

Despite the one-sided result, the Indian team showed promise throughout the tournament.

Madhura added to her tally with a mixed team bronze alongside Verma, beating Malaysia 144-142 in a low-scoring playoff.

These results highlight India's growing depth and consistency in compound archery on the world stage.

With compound archery set to make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games with a single mixed team event, India will be eyeing its first Olympic medal in the sport.

Recurve events are scheduled for the final day of Stage 2 on Sunday, with India in the hunt for three more medals.

The Indian men's team will compete in the bronze playoff, while Parth Salunkhe and Deepika Kumari begin their campaigns from the semifinals.

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