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7 WHAT IS AKASH MISSILE SYSTEM AND WHY IT'S KEY TO INDIA'S BORDER SECURITY AGAINST DRONES



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PAK DRONE HITS RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN PUNJAB

■ Drones sighted in Jammu, Samba; blasts heard, sirens sounded

TDG NETWORK
FIROZPUR/JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Escalating the tensions even further, one Pakistani drone hit a residential area in Firozpur, Punjab on Friday, injuring three people. Three people suffered burn injuries and were immediately rushed to the hospital, SSP Ferozepur, Bhupinder Singh Sidhu said. “We received information about 3 people being injured. They have burn injuries. Doctors will treat them. Most of the drones have been neutralised by the army,” Bhupinder Singh Sidhu said. Indian Air Defence have



India's air defence system intercepts objects in the sky during a blackout following multiple blasts in the city of Jammu on Friday. ANI

intercepted most of the drones in the Firozpur area. Drone attacks on Srinagar airport and Awantipora air base were thwarted late on Friday, while blasts were heard in Jammu and parts of the south Kashmir region, officials said. The attack came a day after India thwarted attempts by the Pakistan military to hit Indian military installations using drones and missiles. The sky was lit up in

Baramulla district as the Indian military shot down Pakistani drones. Blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the Jammu region and south Kashmir as many parts of the Union Territory plunged into darkness, officials said. Defence officials said drones were sighted also in Jammu, Samba and neighbouring Pathankot district in Punjab, and they were being engaged. In Srinagar, mosque loud-

speakers were used to convey to locals to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure. Officials said the drones were also engaged in Udhampur and Nagrota of Jammu and Punjab. Heavy cross-border shelling was underway along the International Border in Suchetgarh and Ramgarh sectors of Jammu and Samba districts. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on



A vehicle passes on a deserted road near the closed shops after shelling by Pakistani armed forces, in Uri on Friday. ANI

X, “Intermittent sounds of blasts, probably heavy artillery, can now be heard from where I am.” He also posted a picture of the city in darkness, captioning the post as, “Blackout in Jammu now. Sirens can be heard across the city.” In another post, he said, “It’s my earnest appeal to everyone in and around Jammu please stay off the streets, stay at home or at the nearest place you can

comfortably stay at for the next few hours. Ignore rumours, don’t spread unsubstantiated or unverified stories and we will get through this together.” On Thursday evening, Indian air defence units intercepted at least eight missiles fired by Pakistan towards the border areas of Jammu, including the strategically important Jammu airport, defence sources had said. Likening the attack to

J&K woman killed in heavy Pak shelling from across LoC

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

A woman was killed and two of her family members injured in heavy shelling by Pakistani troops from across the Line of Control (LoC) targeting Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla and Kupwara districts, officials said on Friday. They said the Indian Army has responded proportionately to the Pakistani aggression. Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the LoC and resorted to heavy shelling in the civilian areas of the Uri sector in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district on Thursday night, officials said. Multiple areas of Uri, including Silikot, Boniyar, Kamalkote, Mohra and Gingle, were targeted with heavy shelling that damaged several structures and forced

people to flee, they added. According to them, three members of a family were injured when a shell hit their car near Mohra while they were trying to move to safety. They were rushed to a hospital where a woman, identified as Nargis Begum, succumbed to injuries, the officials said. Later on Friday, Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire in Gouhalan and Chotali, Tourn Post of the Uri sector and in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district, the officials said. “Heavy ceasefire violations have started in Chotali, Tourn Post, and Gouhalan areas of Uri and Toli Post Taad in Karnah area, and TMG Nowgam sector in Qalamabad area of the Kupwara district. Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked heavy firing at Indian posts and civilian areas,” an official said.

Sirens sounded in Tricity, schools, colleges shut

NEERAJ MOHAN/TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In the wake of this rising conflict, all schools, colleges, and educational institutions in Chandigarh — the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana — have been ordered shut until May 12. The entire Tricity region (Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali) has been placed on high alert. The Chandigarh administration has announced that all markets and shopping malls in the city must close by 7 p.m. Additionally, a complete ban has been imposed on fireworks and crackers. In Panchkula, the district administration has decided that all shops must shut by 6 p.m., although essential services like medical stores will remain open. In Mohali, all markets are to close by 8 p.m.

An alert was issued in areas near the Chandigarh airport on Friday, including Mohali, Panchkula and Ambala. People were told to stay indoors, away from windows and doors, and not step out unless absolutely necessary. The warning came after Pakistan attempted to target Indian military locations on Thursday night. The Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) has suspended its bus services to Jammu and Katra. College students from Chandigarh and surrounding areas have started returning home, leading to heavy crowds at Chandigarh’s 43 bus stands on Friday. Meanwhile, many city streets have fallen silent. Following repeated drone alerts from Pakistan across several regions in Punjab last night, most students living in major college and



Residents arrive at the ISBT bus stand in Sector 43 to go back to their city after the alert amid rising tension between India and Pakistan, in Chandigarh on Friday. ANI

Pradesh study at private institutions around Chandigarh. Many are now returning home. Hostels along Landran Road, which houses several colleges and universities, have emptied

out. Most students report that their exams have been postponed, and they’ve been told they may go home; new exam dates will be announced soon.

State fully alert: Haryana CM amid rising Indo-Pak tensions

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday said the state was fully alert and taking all necessary precautions in view of the rising tensions between India and Pakistan following attempted air strikes by Pakistan on Indian military bases. He lauded the Indian armed forces for their swift and strong response, saying, “I salute all the soldiers who are foiling Pakistan’s nefarious intentions.” Saini, emphasized that Haryana shares a sensitive geographical location with border states like Punjab and Rajasthan, and hence the state government is keeping a close watch on all developments. “We are sending our patriotic

youth to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the armed forces in this crucial time,” he said. Referring to the Ambala air base, which had previously been targeted in the 1965 and 1971 wars, the Chief Minister said the area is now under high alert. Urging people to remain calm but alert, Saini said, “We have told people not to panic. They just need to stay alert and follow the government’s instructions. There is no need for panic buying of food or fuel.” He reassured the public that all essential supplies are stable and being monitored. Meanwhile, the alert has been sounded in Haryana’s Ambala and Panchkula districts with schools have been ordered shut until further notice as a safety measure. The government has

placed special focus on border-adjacent districts like Ambala, where sirens were heard earlier in the day, prompting precautionary closures of educational institutions and heightened surveillance. The Chief Minister also strongly condemned Pakistan’s involvement in terror activities, especially in the wake of the recent Pahalgam terror attack. “Pakistan must act against those who are spreading terrorism from its soil. The Indian Army is giving a strong and fitting reply to the enemy,” he asserted. As per the information the Chief Minister’s Office is operating in coordination with all district administrations. Control rooms have been activated for quick response, and emergency services have been placed on standby.

India says Pak used civil airlines as a shield

■ Pakistan used 300-400 Turkish drones to target 36 Indian locations from Leh to Sir Creek.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh exposed Pakistan’s airspace tactics, saying that Islamabad deliberately kept its civil airspace open after launching a “failed unprovoked drone” and missile attack on Wednesday, effectively using civil airliners as shields. Addressing the special briefing on Operation Sindoor on Friday, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said, “Pakistan did not close its civil airspace despite it launching a failed unprovoked drone and

missile attack on 7 May at 08:30 hours in the evening. Pakistan is using civil airliner as a shield, knowing fully well that its attack on India would elicit a swift air defence response.” She further emphasised that this decision endangered unsuspecting civil airliners, including international flights operating near the India-Pakistan border. “This is not safe for the unsuspecting civil airliners including the international flights which were flying



“On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistani army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border to target military infrastructure. The Pakistani army also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the LoC. Around 300 to 400 drones were used to attempt infiltration at 36 locations.”

- Colonel Sofiya Qureshi

“Pakistan did not close its civil airspace despite it launching a failed unprovoked drone and missile attack on May 7.... Pakistan is using civil airliner as a shield, knowing fully well that its attack on India would elicit a swift air defence response.”

- Wing Commander Vyomika Singh



■ 28 airports will remain closed until May 15.



■ Ample fuel stocks, including LPG, available across the country; supply lines are smooth.

■ ATMs are fully functional, well-stocked, digital services ops smooth.



INDIA CONFRONTING CHALLENGE OF TERRORISM, A SHARED THREAT TO GLOBAL COMMUNITIES: EAM

Jaishankar thanks for solidarity of allies for India's resolute response to counter threats

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday said India is “confronting” the challenge of terrorism, which is a “shared threat” to the international community.

The minister thanked those who have expressed solidarity with the country and understand the “resolute response that is underway”.

He was delivering an address at an event hosted at the Russian Embassy here to mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's triumph over Nazi Germany in World War II.

“It is a great pleasure to join you all on this occasion to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the war over fascism in 1945,” Jaishankar said.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russian Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov during the Victory Day celebrations at Russian Embassy, in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI Photo)

“We also meet at a time when India is confronting the challenge of terrorism, one that is a shared threat to the international community. I thank those who have expressed solidarity with us and understand the resolute response that is underway,” he added.

The Indian armed forces

early Wednesday carried out precise missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

India on Thursday thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike military sites with drones and missiles at 15 places in northern

and western regions of the country and targeted Pakistani air defence systems with one in Lahore being “neutralised”.

Since the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar have received calls from their counterparts in several countries, condemning the April 22 attack, conveying condolences over the loss of lives and expressing solidarity with India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin conveyed to Prime Minister Modi in a phone call on May 5 that his nation fully backs India's fight against terrorism and that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack must be brought to justice.

A Russian embassy read-

out had said that Putin described the terror attack as “barbaric” and the two leaders emphasised the need for an “uncompromising fight” against terrorism in all its manifestations.

Jaishankar in his address at the embassy also said, “Today is an occasion for hope and optimism, as also for remembrance, underpinned by the conviction, that international cooperation is even more important than ever before.”

“It is an endorsement of our diplomatic endeavours be that bilateral, regional or multilateral,” he added.

Russian envoy Denis Alipov and several other diplomats were present on the occasion.

The backdrop on the stage depicted the famous Red Square landmark of Moscow.

West Bengal STF arrests two JMB operatives

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal's Special Task Force (STF) on Friday arrested two individuals, Ajmol Hossain (28) from Nalhati and Saheb Ali Khan (28) from Murarai, for allegedly spreading the ideology of the banned terrorist group Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and planning attacks in India.

The arrests were made during simultaneous raids in the Birbhum district on May 8-9, 2025, according to the West Bengal STF.

The suspects were found to be propagating JMB's ideology and were part of a module that is engaged in dissemination of seditious and jihadi materials by using encrypted sophisticated mediums. They were allegedly planning to target specific people and places in India, aiming to harm the country's sovereignty.

Nadda chairs high-level meeting on emergency health systems preparedness



essential drugs, an adequate supply of blood, oxygen, trauma care kits, etc.

AIIMS New Delhi and other central government hospitals have mobilised doctors and nurses with supplies for ready deployment. They have been advised to coordinate with state and district administration, armed forces and regional associations of doctors, nurses, paramedics, private sector hospitals, charitable institutions, etc., to strengthen the emergency

response networks in a collaborative manner.

Additionally, nationwide mock drills for disaster preparedness have been conducted at AIIMS, PGIMER, JIPMER and other premier hospitals.

To build capacity in emergency healthcare, additional training modules for CPR, first aid, and basic life support are being rolled out with support from the Indian Red Cross Society, the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), AIIMS New Delhi, and iGOT.

Union Health Secretary apprised about a series of her meetings with states/UTs, and central government hospitals and healthcare institutes for seamless coordination with relevant stakeholders at the centre and within the states for ensuring effective response.

SC junks plea for enforcing NEP's three languages formula in TN, Kerala, WB

Rejecting BJP leader's plea, SC says can't compel a state to adopt policy like NEP 2020

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking implementation of the three-language formula, proposed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. A bench headed by Justice JB Pardiwala refused to entertain the plea, saying the court cannot directly compel a state to adopt a policy like the National Education Policy 2020.

The top court in its order stated, “It (court) cannot directly compel a state to adopt a policy like the National Education Policy 2020. The



court may, however, intervene if a state's action or inaction related to the National Education Policy violates any fundamental rights. We do not propose to examine this issue in this writ petition. We believe that the petitioner has nothing to do with the cause he proposes to espouse. Although he may be from the state of Tamil Nadu, yet on his own admission, he is residing in New Delhi. In such circumstances, this petition stands dismissed.” The plea was filed by BJP lawyer GS Mani, stating the refusal or failure of the state government to implement the National Educational Policy of the Central government or

National Education Policy 2020

sign an MOU may harm the public interest or infringe on citizens' rights. The petition sought direction to the state governments to implement the National Education Policy and sign an MOU which involves fundamental public welfare and rights of Education, constitutional rights, or government obligations that are being neglected or violated is very well maintainable. “The state government is under a constitutional or legal obligation to implement the National Educational Policy, 2020 of the Central government and to enter into an MOU for the implementation of the said policy, scheme, or project,”

the petition stated.

All state governments except Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have adopted and implemented the Central government's most important national education policy, the tri-language curriculum policy, advocate Mani said.

In the petition, the National Education Policy is a major education policy plan brought by the Central government with the aim of improving the quality of school education for students from all walks of life. “All Indian languages should be taught free of cost to school children belonging to the poor, scheduled, tribes, backwards, and the most backwards classes,” the petition added.

The petition said that the state governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal are refusing to accept the three-language formula for political reasons, citing the false reason of imposing Hindi.

Rana remanded to judicial custody till June 6

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Tahawwur Rana, a key conspirator in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, was presented before the Patiala House Court from NIA remand on Friday, a day earlier than the scheduled date due to security concerns. The NIA Special Court has ordered his judicial custody until June 6, 2025.

Rana, a 64-year-old Canadian businessman of Pakistani origin, was extradited from the United States earlier this month in connection with his purported role in the deadly 2008 terror strike on Mumbai. Last week, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) collected voice and handwriting samples from



Rana.

Rana provided handwriting specimens by penning various alphabets and numerical characters. Advocate Piyush Sachdev, his legal aid counsel, confirmed that Rana fully complied with the court's directive to submit these samples.

The Special NIA Court has recently allowed the Na-

tional Investigation Agency (NIA) to obtain voice and handwriting samples of Rana.

Earlier on April 29, the Court extended the NIA's custody of Tahawwur Rana for 12 days more days.

During the hearing, the NIA informed the court that Rana had been confronted with a substantial volume

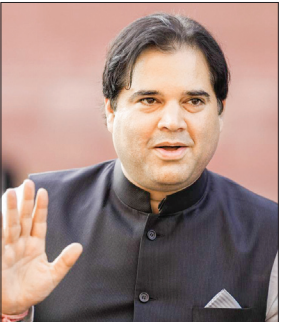
of records and evidence related to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. The agency argued that further custody was necessary to complete his interrogation. While seeking an extension of his remand, the NIA argued that Rana had been evasive during questioning and was not cooperating with the investigation.

The agency emphasised the need for further custodial interrogation to extract crucial information related to his alleged involvement in the attacks. In the legal proceedings concerning Tahawwur Rana, the NIA was represented by Senior Advocate Dayan Krishnan and Special Public Prosecutor Narender Mann.

Varun Gandhi speaks out after long silence, backs Modi on Op Sindoor

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The entire nation is praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision on the execution of Operation Sindoor. The operation has received widespread support from political leaders across the ruling and opposition parties. After a long period of silence, BJP leader and former MP Varun Gandhi issued a statement expressing admi-



ration for PM Modi's strong leadership. He commended the operation, stating that the country is proud of Mo-

di's decisive actions. Varun had remained silent since his ticket was cut in the 2024 general elections but chose to speak out in support of the operation.

After a period of silence, BJP leader and former MP Varun Gandhi has publicly expressed his support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

Defence Min urges media to refrain from live coverage of security ops

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence has urged media channels, digital platforms, and individuals to avoid live coverage or real-time reporting of defense operations and security forces' movements.

The Ministry emphasized that revealing such sensitive information could compromise operations and put lives at risk, citing past incidents like the Kargil War, 26/11 attacks, and

the Kandahar hijacking.

According to Clause 6(1) (p) of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, only authorised officials can provide updates during anti-terror operations. The Ministry has called on everyone to be responsible and mindful of national security.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday conducted a review of the country's current security situation at South Block, which houses the

Ministry of Defence, in the national capital, in the aftermath of the foiled large-scale drone strike by Pakistan on Thursday.

The Defence Minister was accompanied by the military top brass and senior officials, including Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, and Defence

Secretary RK Singh.

The meeting came in the wake of Pakistan's attempted retaliation following Operation Sindoor, where the Indian Armed Forces targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. The operation was a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Earlier, Indian Army during the intervening night of May 8 and May 9 successfully repelled and re-

sponded to multiple drone attacks by Pakistan along the western border and the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Army said, “Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along entire Western Border on the intervening night of 08 and 09 May 2025. Pak troops also resorted to numerous cease fire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

STALIN CALLS FOR RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES AMID TENSIONS WITH PAK

Tamil Nadu CM to lead rally today to be held from DGP office

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday urged citizens to unite in support of the Indian Army amid the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Stalin, in a statement, emphasised the need for collective action against Pakistan's promotion of terrorism and atrocities and announced a rally to be held on May 10, starting from the Director General of Police (DGP) office and proceeding to the War Memorial in the state. "Pakistan is promoting terrorism and committing atrocities in India, not only for its own sake but also for its own sake.

It is time to express our support for the In-



dian Army, which is fighting bravely to protect us," Stalin stated on X. He called upon ex-servicemen, ministers, the public, and students to participate in the rally.

"Tomorrow at 5 pm, a rally will be held from the DGP office to the War Memorial on the island, led by me, with the participation of ex-servicemen, ministers, the public and students. Let all the people participate and show our unity and determination," the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said.

"Pakistan is promoting terrorism and committing atrocities in India, not only for its own sake but also for its own sake. It is time to express our support for the Indian Army, which is fighting bravely to protect us," Stalin stated on X.

Stalin's call to action comes in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, where the Indian Army targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7, in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

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

in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking to X on Friday, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) stated that the drone attacks were "effectively neutralised" and the ceasefire violations were appropriately responded to.

The ADG PI also noted that the successful retaliation by the Indian Armed Forces was also under Operation Sindoor. Earlier on Thursday, the Indian Army had shot down more than 50 Pakistani drones during a

large-scale counter-drone operation along the LoC and International Borders (IB), sources told ANI. The operation was launched after Pakistan made failed attempts to send multiple swarm drones into Indian territory across different locations.

The Indian Army Air Defence units responded swiftly and targeted the drones in areas including Udhampur, Samba, Jammu, Akhnoor, Nagrota, and Pathankot. Sources added that the Army used several air defence systems and weapons, including L-70 guns, ZU-23 mm, Schilka systems, and other advanced counter-UAS equipment, to destroy the drones. The Indian Armed Forces successfully thwarted the drone attack targeting civilian areas. No casualties have been reported so far.

K'taka Cong holds Tiranga Yatra to show solidarity with armed forces

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Congress on Friday organised a Tiranga Yatra from KR Circle to Minsk Square near Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, extending support to the Indian armed forces as tensions between India and Pakistan escalated.

Party leaders and workers marched with the national flag, expressing solidarity with the security forces and sending out a message of unity during the ongoing border developments. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, Dy CM DK Shivakumar, and state Cabinet Ministers led the rally. Speaking at the rally, Karnataka Home Minister G. Parmeshwara said, "We would like to send out a message saying that we are all with you (Indian armed forces). Whatever action you have taken, it's appre-



ciated and praised. This rally has been organised to say that symbolically..." The yatra, marked by tricolour flags and spirited slogans, saw participation from across sections of society, including students, armed forces, and leaders from various political parties. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar expressed satisfaction at the wide participation and said, "We have invited all sections of the society... We want to salute our armed forces and stand in solidarity with the country... I'm pleased that within a short period, all sections of people, including

retired armed forces, students, and all political parties, are participating here..." "India is stronger. Like we managed the situation under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, the same thing will happen now, and India will win," DY CM Shivakumar added.

Karnataka Minister HK Patil underscored the significance of the rally, stating, "This Tiranga Yatra conveys our moral support and appreciation for our armed forces. They have succeeded and shown the world that India is the strongest and the most intelligent force in the world."

Maha reviews preparedness, issues directives

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

In light of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis conducted a comprehensive review of the state's security and preparedness with police and administrative agencies on Friday. According to the Chief Minister's Office, while reviewing aspects such as mock drills, blackouts, and more, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis issued several directives.

CM Devendra Fadnavis issued directives to conduct mock drills in every district and to establish war rooms at the district level. The directives also included setting up coordination mechanisms with hospitals during blackouts. He said that since lights are turned off to avoid becoming targets, to continue operations using alternate power sources, and use dark-co-



loured curtains or tinted glass to prevent light from being visible outside. The directives stated to share educational videos explaining what a blackout is and what actions to take during one with students and citizens and raise widespread public awareness.

Fadnavis said study the Union Government's "Union War Book" thoroughly and ensure everyone is informed. The directives said that cyber cells in each district police department should monitor social media to identify and act against handles

supporting Pakistan. Take action against those spreading false or enemy-supporting information. It said that emergency funds will be released today to all District Collectors, enabling immediate purchases of urgent supplies and any other major proposal related to this should be approved within an hour.

The directives said convene meetings of all municipal corporations in the MMR region and instruct them to raise awareness about blackouts. Involve cooperative housing societies in this process.

Telangana government sets up control room for border state residents

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Amid India-Pakistan tension, Telangana Government has established a round-the-clock Control Room at Telangana Bhavan in national capital on Friday to provide assistance, information, and support to residents of Telangana residing in border states, an official release said.

"In light of the prevailing situation in the international border, the Government of Telangana has established a Control Room at Telangana Bhavan, New Delhi, with a view to provide timely assistance, information, and support to

This operation was a retaliatory response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians, including one Nepali national.

residents of Telangana who are currently residing in the border states." I&PR Telangana release read.

The contact details are as follows: Landline: 011-23380556, Vandhana, Private Secretary to the Resident Commissioner & Liaison Head Mobile: 9871999044, Haider Ali Naqvi, Personal Assistant to the Resident Commissioner Mobile: 9971387500,

G Rakshith Naik, Liaison Officer Mobile: 9643723157, CH Chakravarthy, Public Relation Officer-Mobile: 9949351270. "The Control Room shall operate round-the-clock to ensure uninterrupted support," the release added.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated after the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor in the early hours

of 7th May, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK).

This operation was a retaliatory response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians, including one Nepali national.

Hours after India conducted a series of strikes on terrorist sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh held a media briefing in the national capital to share details of the operation.

Gujarat CM reviews border security, issues order of evacuation plans

TDG NETWORK
GANDHINAGAR

Amid rising tension between India and Pakistan, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel conducted a high-level review of the state's preparedness in border districts on Friday. The Chief Minister held a video conference with collectors and superintendents of police from affected regions and issued urgent instructions on evacuation, civil defence, healthcare, and communication systems.

The review meeting held at the State Emergency Operation Centre in Gandhinagar included Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi and Chief Secretary Pankaj Joshi.

Top officials from various departments and defence forces also participated in the session. During the meeting, he directed all control rooms and emergency operation cen-



Top officials from various departments and defence forces also participated in the session.

tres to remain operational round-the-clock.

He stressed the importance of alternative communication tools such as satellite phones and hotlines to maintain coordination during emergencies. The CM also ordered that evacuation plans in border villages be activated.

He instructed district administrations to identify

safe shelters and ensure the availability of drinking water, food supplies, fuel, and other essential items.

"The administration must be fully prepared with civil defence measures and healthcare support," the CM said. He also asked officials to gather an adequate stock of essential commodities and fuels as a precautionary step against any supply chain disruption. The CM also urged the Health and Transport Departments to deploy medical teams and necessary transport facilities immediately.

He advised district heads to pinpoint sensitive areas, strengthen surveillance, and evaluate warning systems for public safety. A major focus of the review was public communication. The CM also suggested to launch a state-wide awareness campaign to prevent panic and misinformation.

Andhra CM pays tribute to jawan Naik killed in LoC shelling by Pakistan

TDG NETWORK
ANANTHAPURAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid tribute to army jawan Murali Naik, who was killed in the line of duty during cross-border firing by the Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC).

According to an official release from the TDP, Chandrababu Naidu condoled the demise of the young soldier from Ananthapuram district. Naidu spoke with Murali's parents, Jyotibai and Ram Naik, and assured them of the state government's support.

He praised Murali's invaluable service in the army over the past two years and called on everyone to stand united with patriotism and vigilance. CM Naidu also urged everybody to observe two minutes of silence in honour of



Murali Naik's sacrifice. As per reports, Agniveer M Murali Naik was injured during heavy shelling from Pakistan side on Thursday.

He was later taken to hospital for treatment but succumbed to injuries on Friday morning. Meanwhile, in a major escalation along India's western front, the Pakistani army carried out multiple air-space violations and drone intrusions on the night of May 7 and 8, targeting Indian military infrastructure.

Rahul welcomes new KPCC chief, praises outgoing chief Sudhakaran

TDG NETWORK
KOCHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi extended congratulations to Peravoor MLA Sunny Joseph and the newly appointed KPCC team, wishing them success as they lead the fight for justice and progress in Kerala. In a message of pride, Gandhi said, "Proud of K. Sudhakaran ji -- a fearless warrior whose leadership and service have been pillars of strength for the Congress party and the people of Kerala."

The party thanked outgoing Kerala unit chief K. Sudhakaran for his contributions. Ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, the Congress high command appointed Peravoor MLA Sunny Joseph as the new president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), replacing Kannur Lok Sabha MP K. Sudhakaran.



Tharoor said that party unity remains his priority and that a leadership change is unnecessary in that regard.

Along with the president, there has been a complete change at the top of the state unit of the Congress in the state. Adoor Prakash has been appointed UDF convener in place of M M Hassan. MLAs P C Vishnunath, A P Anil Kumar and MP Shafi

Parambil have been made working presidents of the KPCC. A few months ago, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor extended his support for K Sudhakaran to continue as Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, dismissing the need for a leadership change. "I believe there is no need for a change in the KPCC president post.

K Sudhakaran should continue in the role," Tharoor said. He emphasised the party's recent successes under Sudhakaran's leadership, including in by-elections. Tharoor said that party unity remains his priority and that a leadership change is unnecessary in that regard. "My priority is party unity, and that doesn't require a leadership change. Everyone should stand together with the KPCC president," he said.

NIA chargesheets four persons for involvement in supplying weapons to Naxals

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted four accused for their involvement in supplying weapons to the Naxals and other criminal elements, an official statement issued on Friday said.

The four accused, identified as Vikash Kumar, Satyam Kumar, Devmani Rai and Ahmad Ansari, were previously charged by

the local police under the Arms Act, it said.

As per the NIA, which has been investigating the case since May last year, the accused "had conspired and were actively involved in the illegal procurement and smuggling of prohibited bore weapons to Naxalites and other criminal elements", said the statement issued by the probe agency.

They had also raised and utilised funds for procurement



of these arms as part of a conspiracy, aimed at disturbing the

nation's unity, integrity, security and sovereignty, it added.

The four accused, identified as Vikash Kumar, Satyam Kumar, Devmani Rai and Ahmad Ansari, were previously charged by the local police under the Arms Act, it said.

In its supplementary chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court in Patna on Thursday, the NIA has now charged all four under Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 and 18 of the Un-

lawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the statement said.

The chargesheet followed an investigation in a case related to the seizure of an AK-47 rifle in Bihar's Muzaffarpur. The NIA said that the Mu-

zaffarpur Rail Police had initially on May 7, 2024, recovered an AK-47 butt and a rifle lens from Vikash and Satyam. "The duo disclosed during investigation that they had supplied an AK-47 rifle and five live rounds to Devmani Rai alias Anish, a resident of Mankauli under Fakuli PS, Muzaffarpur," the statement said. "A search of Devmani's house later led to the recovery of the rifle and the live rounds.

WAR AND TERROR VICTIMS BROUGHT UNDER FARISHTHEY SCHEME COVERAGE

This will provide coverage for victims of war and terrorist activities, ensuring comprehensive support and relief to affected individuals.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Widening the ambit of Farishtey scheme, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann also gave nod to include war and terrorist affected victims under this scheme. A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of Council of Ministers held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister at his official residence. Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister office said in order to provide immediate hassle-free medical treatment to victims of War and terrorist activities in Government / empaneled private hospitals in the State, to save precious

EXPANSION

- The expansion aims to provide immediate, hassle-free medical treatment in government and empaneled private hospitals to reduce mortality and morbidity in such cases.
- Citizens who help transport victims to hospitals will receive cash rewards, commendation certificates (as "Farishtay"), and legal immunity from police procedures.
- This move highlights



the Punjab government's commitment to supporting individuals facing extreme hardship due to war and terrorism.

- The scheme ensures free and prompt medical aid, improving emergency response and encouraging community-driven assistance efforts.

lives and to encourage the general public to bring the War victims and terrorist activities to the nearest government and empaneled private hospitals, cov-

erage under the Farishtey Scheme 2024 has been expanded. This will provide coverage for victims of war and terrorist activities, ensuring comprehensive sup-

port and relief to affected individuals. This expansion reinforces the state government's commitment to help those facing extraordinary hardships

Government eases land acquisition for urban estates

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In a major decision aimed at ensuring affordable housing to people, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday gave its consent to simplify the Land Acquisition process through direct purchase to expedite the process of establishing urban estates and timely completion of other development works in the State of Punjab. A decision to this effect was taken by the Council of Ministers in its meeting held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister

The new and separately formulated Mechanism to purchase land Directly from the land owners by Simplifying the Land Acquisition process was approved.

at his official residence today. Disclosing this here today a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's office said that the Cabinet also gave its consent for land pooling scheme of the Housing department to set up more urban estates in the state. The policy will be helpful in providing affordable housing facility to

the people of the state. The scheme will be helpful in land acquisition for setting up of the urban estates across the state. The new and separately formulated Mechanism to purchase land Directly from the land owners by Simplifying the Land Acquisition process was approved. This will facilitate in expediting

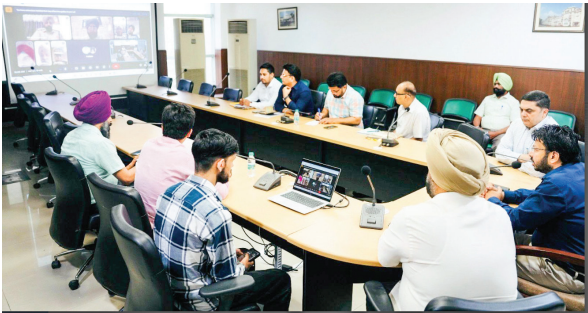
the process of establishing urban estates and timely completion of other development works in the State of Punjab. The land to be acquired for development of urban estates/creating infrastructure will be identified by a committee as per the Land Purchase Policy of the Department of Revenue and Rehabilitation dated 07.07.2011. After completing necessary formalities for inviting the concerned farmers/Land owners to sell their land to the Authority by adopting the Land Pooling Policy of Housing and Urban Development Department, the Title of the Land

offered by the Land owners to the Authority shall be got verified by the Development Authority from the Deputy Commissioner concerned. Thereafter, objections shall be called from general public by giving 30 days Public Notice regarding the title of the land. The objections received within the prescribed period shall be decided by the above said Committee within a period of 30 days and process to acquire land under the Land Pooling Policy shall be initiated by the Concerned Officer of the Development Authority nominated by Chief Administrator concerned.

Punjab govt on high alert: Leaves of fire brigade, emergency staff cancelled

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In view of the current tensions between India and Pakistan, the Punjab Government has taken immediate steps to ensure the highest level of preparedness in the state's Fire and Emergency Services. Local Government Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh has issued strict directives, cancelling all leaves of Fire Brigade staff and ordering 24x7 deployment at sensitive locations across Punjab. He said that war is a major emergency and the Fire Brigade plays a crucial role in such situations. He instructed officials to conduct mock drills, ensure all equipment is fully functional and maintain constant communication with Army authorities for swift response in case of any emergency. Officials have been directed to remain on high alert with their mobile phones active at all times. Dr. Ravjot Singh said that the State Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is fully com-



mitted to ensuring public safety and has mobilized all resources to handle any emergency effectively. To ensure rapid response, the Cabinet Minister has asked Fire Brigade officials to coordinate closely with Deputy Commissioners to strategically position fire tenders at key locations for quick mobilization. Regular meetings must be held to review preparedness and all necessary arrangements should be expedited. Dr. Singh reassured the public that the situation is under control and urged citizens not to panic. He also instructed officials to study the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) manuals to ensure timely

and effective relief operations. Additionally, local vehicle repair workshops will be engaged to provide emergency maintenance services, even during nighttime, if required. Dr. Ravjot Singh announced that Cabinet Ministers will personally inspect hospitals and Fire Brigade facilities to assess readiness. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Tejvir Singh stressed the department's responsibility and called for professional commitment in delivering efficient services. He confirmed that the department is well-equipped with modern firefighting tools but urged officials to promptly report any additional requirements.

Harbhajan Singh ETO unveils overhaul of power infrastructure

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Power Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO today announced significant advancements in the modernization of Amritsar's power distribution network under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for the financial year 2024-25. He informed that with Amritsar emerging as a key religious, cultural and economic hub, Punjab government has prioritized upgrading its aging power infrastructure to curb losses, enhance efficiency and ensure seamless electricity supply to residents and businesses. He said that the initiative focuses on critical areas such as infrastructure reinforcement, voltage stabilization, reduction of technical and commercial losses and the adoption of smart technologies to future-proof the grid. Key interventions include the augmentation of power transformers, replacement of outdated conductors with

High-Temperature Low-Sag (HTLS) cables, installation of advanced distribution transformers and underground cabling in theft-prone and heritage-sensitive zones. Besides this, the deployment of smart meters, SCADA systems and GIS-based monitoring mechanisms has been accelerated to improve operational transparency and consumer service delivery. Highlighting the project's achievements, S. Harbhajan Singh ETO informed that five 12.5 MVA power transformers were upgraded to 20 MVA, while four 20 MVA units were enhanced to 31.5 MVA. Likewise, five new 100 MVA transformers were installed to bolster the grid's capacity. Over 508 km of high-tension (HT) lines and 299 km of low-tension (LT) lines were upgraded alongside the installation of 5,200 new distribution transformers and the replacement of 4,060 overloaded units.

Fresh recruitment scam allegations in Punjab Vidhan Sabha

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The earlier recruitment scam within the Punjab Vidhan Sabha has been in limbo for three years, and now a fresh controversy of a recruitment scam has surfaced. Allegations of backdoor appointments during the tenure of Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan have come to light, particularly focusing on staff hired from his home constituency, Kotkapura. Despite the unresolved earlier recruitment scam, which involved alleged irregularities in the direct recruitment of clerks, assistants, and other staff without proper procedures, the new allegations have intensified calls for transparency and accountability within the institution. According to the complaint, the fresh scam involves the appointment of approximately 70 individuals through backdoor means, bypassing formal government rules and procedures. These individuals



were allegedly issued permanent Vidhan Sabha ID cards, despite being hired as contract staff through the NICSI (National Informatics Centre Services Inc.) outsourcing mechanism. A complaint sent to central agencies claims (TDG has copy of complaint) that the staff were appointed during Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan's tenure, raising eyebrows due to the concentration of hires from his constituency. However, when asked about this, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Secretary Ramlok Khatana clarified that the recruitment was entirely managed by NICSI, and he had no knowledge of the regional backgrounds of the appointees. In the wake of these alle-

According to the complaint, the fresh scam involves the appointment of approximately 70 individuals through backdoor means, bypassing formal government rules and procedures.

gations, concerns remain regarding the lack of transparency in the recruitment process, the issuance of permanent Vidhan Sabha identity cards to contract employees, and the overall accountability in the Speaker's office. Secretary Khatana, however, emphasized that 15 technical staff were hired under NICSI on a three-year contract as per an MoU between the Punjab Vidhan Sabha and the Government of India.

CM Mann directs ministers to camp in sensitive areas, vows full support

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In order to ensure that the residents of the state do not face any inconvenience during the ongoing war like situation in the state, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has directed the Ministers of his Cabinet to be permanently stationed in the border areas. During the Cabinet, the Chief Minister asked the Ministers of the border areas to be permanently stationed at their respective towns to oversee the relief operations. Likewise, he said that the other Ministers should also visit these towns on rotation basis so that people can be assured help in case of emergency. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the Ministers will visit Fire Stations, Hospitals, Ration depots and other places so that people in these areas

During the Cabinet, the Chief Minister asked the Ministers of the border areas to be permanently stationed at their respective towns to oversee the relief operations.

do not face any type of problem. The Chief Minister said that the Ministers from border areas will supervise the rescue operations and give necessary directions to the officers. Likewise, he said that the Ministers will visit the villages of the border areas to listen to the problems of the villagers and ensure their redressal. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it is the need of the hour to ensure that people do not face any problem in this hour of crisis. The Chief Minister said that keeping in view the escalating tension at the border the state government

was duty-bound to ensure relief to people. Striking an emotional chord with the residents of border region, he said that the entire country was thankful to them for braving all odds while living in this part of the state. Likewise, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that brave people of the region have to confront number of problems during their day to day life. The Chief Minister said due to frequent threat of war this region lagged behind in development but then also the brave residents of this region had contributed immensely in socio-economic progress of the country.

EC takes new initiatives to ensure free and fair elections

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer, Pankaj Agarwal, said that the Election Commission of India is continuously taking new initiatives to make the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies election process more transparent and fair.

He said that to ensure an error-free voter list, a total of 4,719 meetings have been organised with the representatives of national and state recognized political parties and other stakeholders. Out of these, 40 meetings were conducted by the CEOs, 800 by DEOs, and 3,879 by EROs. More

than 28,000 representatives from different political parties participated in these meetings. He said that this initiative aligns with the commission's vision of further strengthening the electoral process in accordance with the existing legal framework with all stakeholders.

Vigilance and unity are essential: Kumari Selja

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee, former Union Minister, and Member of Parliament from Sirsa Kumari Selja said that the country is currently going through a sensitive and challenging phase. Our Indian Army, deployed at the borders, is engaged in the defense of the nation with its bravery and commitment. In such times, it becomes the duty of every citizen to maintain respect for the army and commitment to national unity. Vigilance and unity are necessary. In a statement released to the media, Kumari Selja appealed to the people of the country to stay alert in this

Kumari Selja said that the country is currently going through a sensitive and challenging phase. Our Indian Army, deployed at the borders, is engaged in the defense of the nation with its bravery and commitment.

crisis, avoid rumors, and contribute to maintaining the morale of the Indian Army at every level. She mentioned that the Congress Party supports every step taken by the government that challenges countries like Pakistan, which are breeding grounds for terrorism, and responds firmly. The Congress Party's clear stance is that national security is paramount. It is the duty of every Indian to take pride in the valor, cour-

age, and sacrifices of the Indian Army. Kumari Selja said that the need to remain alert to forces that weaken the unity of the country, social harmony, and democracy. Kumari Selja said that it is important to stay away from rumors, as they give birth to negative thoughts. In such times, we must collectively reject the politics of hatred and division and remain united for the nation's interest.

Haryana govt sanctions emergency fund of Rs 1.10 cr for Dy Commissioners

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department and Revenue & Disaster Management, Dr. Sumita Misra, informed that the State Government has sanctioned Rs. 1.10 crore, allocating Rs. 5 lakh each to all Deputy Commissioners across the state to address any emergent situations. According to the official

Dr. Misra stated that as per the guidelines, only the amount actually required should be drawn from the treasury.

order issued by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, all Deputy Commissioners have been directed to exercise strict financial discipline and en-

sure that the allocated funds are utilized exclusively for the intended purpose. No expenditure beyond the sanctioned limit shall be incurred without prior ap-

proval of the Government. Dr. Misra stated that as per the guidelines, only the amount actually required should be drawn from the treasury. Furthermore, all Deputy Commissioners are instructed to submit monthly expenditure statements in Form 26 and 29 to the Accounts Branch of the department by the 10th of every month. Additional Chief Secretary stated that Deputy Com-

missioners are required to upload expenditure details on the National Disaster Management Information System (NDMIS) portal every month and furnish Utilization Certificates to the department on a priority basis. All provisions and norms of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), as issued by the Government of India and the State Government, must be strictly adhered to, she added.

PM chairs meet with Rajnath, NSA, CDS, service chiefs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting at his residence on Friday amid the rising tension between India and Pakistan.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi were among those present in the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conducted a review of the current security situation. The review was held a day after Pakistan sought to target Indian cities and civilian infrastructure, in addition to some military targets. The attacks were effectively repelled by Indian Defence Forces.

The meeting was attended by the country's top security brass and Defence Secretary RK Singh was also present.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri condemned Pakistan's "provocative and escalatory actions" and said Indian Armed Forces responded appropriately.



"The Made in India Akash surface-to-air missile air defence system has been effectively used by the Indian armed forces in foiling Pakistani attacks"

"These provocative and escalatory actions taken by Pakistan last night were targeted at Indian cities and civilian infrastructure in addition to military establishments. Indian armed forces responded proportionately, adequately, and responsibly... The official and blatantly farcical denial of these

attacks that Pakistan carried out, by the Pakistani state machinery is another example of their duplicity and the new depths they are plumb-ing to," Misri said.

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

nefarious designs will be re-sponded with force."

The indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile air defence system has played a crucial role in thwarting Pakistani drone attacks targeting Indian as-sets on Thursday, according to defence officials. Officials added that both the Indian Army and Air Force have deployed the missile system along the Pakistan border.

"The Made in India Akash surface-to-air missile air defence system has been ef-fectively used by the Indian armed forces in foiling Paki-stani attacks towards In-dian targets. Both the Indian Army and Air Force have the missile system all along the Pakistan border," a defence official stated.

BSF foils infiltration bid, kills seven terrorists in Samba sector

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

In a major security operation along the India-Pakistan border, the Border Security Force (BSF) thwarted a significant infiltration attempt in the Samba Sector of the Jammu Frontier early Friday and neutralised seven terrorists.

The BSF confirmed the input through a statement pointing out that the infiltra-tion bid was noticed during the interven-ing night of May 8 and 9.

According to BSF, a large group of ter-rorists attempted to cross into Indian territory under the cover of fire provided by Pakistan Rangers from the Dhandhar post.

However, the force said, the attempt was promptly detected by the BSF's ad-vanced surveillance grid.

"Acting swiftly, alert BSF troops en-gaged the infiltrators in a fierce exchange of fire. In the ensuing gunfight, at least seven terrorists were neutralised," said the BSF.



Additionally, retaliatory action by BSF caused extensive damage to the Dhand-har post.

The BSF, which is mandated to guard the 3,323 km India-Pakistan border, also issued a Hand-Held Thermal Imager (HHTI) clip of the destruction of the Pakistani Post Dhandhar.

The action came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held discus-sions with the Director Generals of all border guarding forces and reviewed the current security situation along India's borders.

Punjab govt defies HC on water sharing; Chief Justice warns of stern action

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab-Haryana wa-ter dispute took a dramatic turn on Friday when the Punjab and Haryana High Court heard a contempt petition filed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) against the Punjab government. During the nearly hour-long hearing, Punjab's legal team flatly refused to comply with the court's earlier directives, arguing that the High Court has no authority to issue or-ders on water distribution.

The defiance prompted Chief Justice Sheel Nagu to abruptly leave the court-room, warning, "Now wait and watch for our orders," before reportedly moving to his chambers to draft a formal ruling.

The dispute centres on Punjab's control over the Bhakra Nangal Dam and the Lohar control room, where earlier court orders had directed the Punjab government to keep police away from daily opera-tions while permitting in-creased security if needed. The state was also expect-ed to comply with direc-tions issued during a May 2 meeting chaired by the Union Home Secretary,



or else present its objec-tions to the Centre via the BBMB chairman rather than block operations.

The conflict escalated when BBMB Chairman Manoj Tripathi visited Nangal, only to be sur-rounded by Punjab Edu-cation Minister Harjot Singh Bains, AAP work-ers, and local leaders. The group locked the main gate of Sutlej Sadan, effectively detaining the chairman in-side. Protestors gathered outside, raising slogans against the BBMB and the central government. Punjab Irrigation Minister Virender Goel and Cham-kaur Sahib MLA Charanjit Singh Channi also reached the scene, intensifying the political standoff.

BBMB filed the contempt petition yesterday, assert-ing that Punjab's actions



amount to outright defi-ance of High Court orders. The board also informed the court about the hostile treatment of its chairman. This comes after two ear-lier petitions — one filed by Advocate Ravindra Dhul and another by the Fatehabad gram panchay-at — sought the removal of Punjab police from the dam and demanded Hary-ana receive 8,500 cusecs of water as decided in a re-cent BBMB meeting. The petitioners emphasized that water from Bhakra is essential not only for Haryana but also for Pun-jab, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

Meanwhile, during a special Punjab Assembly session, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann declared that although Punjab is currently supplying wa-ter to Haryana, it may

The meeting was aimed at assessing preparedness and operational readi-ness in light of recent developments, as Pakistan on Thursday night launched a significant missile and drone attack targeting India's Jammu region and Ra-jasthan, including Satwari, Samba, RS Pura, Arnia, and Jaisalmer. However, all missiles were intercepted and blocked by air defence units, and no major damage was reported.

In a specific talk with the Border Secu-rity Force DG, the Home Minister had also taken stock of the situation in the border areas and the preparedness of the border guarding force.

The BSF's fresh action followed addi-tional explosions reported on Thursday night in Jammu and Jaisalmer, prompt-ing air-raid sirens and civilian evacua-tions in border areas.

The Pakistani attack followed India's "Operation Sindoor" on May 7, wherein Indian forces conducted missile strikes on nine locations in Pakistan and Pak-istan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Sirens sounded in Tricity, schools, colleges shut

CONTINUED FROM P1

The administration has also imposed a ban on hoarding essential items, including ration supplies. Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav issued the orders, making it illegal for any individual, trader, wholesaler, or retailer to stockpile food or essential goods. All parties have been instructed to report their current stock levels to the Department of Food and Supply. If anyone is found selling food items at inflated prices, citizens can file com-plaints with the Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrol-ogy Department located in Sector-17. Complaints can also be made by calling 0172-2703956. These orders will remain in effect from May 9, 2025, through July 7, 2025. Indian armed forces quickly responded and shot down the incoming drones and missiles.

According to the Ministry of Defence, Pakistan tried

to target 15 Indian military sites, including in Bathinda, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Sri-nagar, and even airbases in Bhuj and Phalodi. Missile debris was found in Bath-inda's villages like Tungwali, Gehri Baghi and Bir Talab.

One missile hit a house in Tungwali village, damaging a shed and breaking win-dows. Bathinda's Deputy Commissioner Shaukat Ah-mad Parry confirmed that 4-5 drones were spotted and destroyed by the Indian Army during the night.

The Punjab government has cancelled the leave of all government employees and asked them not to leave their place of posting. In the morning, an air raid siren was sounded in Chandigarh. An hour later, officials said the alert had ended.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held an emergency Cabinet meeting and as-signed 10 ministers to stay in border areas to boost public confidence. In Mohali, cine-ma halls and malls have been

ordered shut from sunset to sunrise until further notice.

In Amritsar, one of India's most visited tourist and reli-gious places, the number of visitors has dropped sharply due to the situation. Many people working in the hos-pitality sector are now out of work. All schools in six border districts of Punjab — Ferozepur, Pathankot, Fazil-ka, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran — have been closed until further notice. Mohali's Deputy Commis-sioner Komal Mittal said that a complete blackout might be needed at night to protect public safety and important locations.

Chief Minister Mann also assured the public that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or cooking gas in the state. He asked people not to panic and report any black marketing to the police.

In Haryana, the govern-ment has cancelled the leave of all police and health de-partment employees. They must stay at their assigned

places. In Panchkula, a black-out was scheduled from 7 pm Friday as a precaution, and the district is on high alert.

In Ambala, sirens rang for 48 minutes around 10 am. Schools and colleges were immediately closed. Flights between Hisar and Delhi and Ayodhya have also been can-celled. Hisar's SP Shashank Kumar Sawan urged people to remain indoors, stay safe, and keep an emergency kit ready.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has formed a war relief team in Gurugram with 50 special-ist doctors. Details of more than 2,000 doctors' blood groups have been collected, and they are ready to donate blood if needed.

In neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, security has been increased in border districts like Hamirpur, Una and Bi-laspur. Police are keeping a close watch, especially near famous temples like Baba Balak Nath, Maa Chintpurni, and Maa Naina Devi.

Pak drone hits residential areas in Punjab

CONTINUED FROM P1

the tactics used by Hamas, sources said all "cheap" rockets directed at the Jam-mu region were intercepted and neutralised by air de-fence units.

The missiles were aimed at key locations, including Satwari (Jammu airport),

Samba, RS Pura, and Arnia.

A sudden power outage had plunged Jammu city into darkness following two loud explosions, likely resulting from the intercep-tion of the intruding drones. Immediately after, sirens were blared throughout the city, alerting residents to

seek shelter. The aerial ob-jects had attempted to strike the strategic Jammu airport and its surrounding areas, which house the army, air force, and paramilitary in-stallations.

Tension between the two neighbours soared after the Indian Armed Forces

on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Paki-stan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 attack by ter-rorists in Jammu and Kash-mir's Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

India says Pak used civil airlines as a shield

CONTINUED FROM P1

near IB between India and Pakistan," she said.

During the briefing the Wing Commander showed the data of the application flight radar 24 during a high air defence alert situa-tion in the Punjab sector.

Singh pointed out that while India's airspace was closed due to the height-ened alert, Pakistan al-lowed civil airlines to continue flying, including those on the Karachi-La-hore route.

"As you have seen, the airspace on the Indian side is absolutely devoid of civil air traffic due to our de-clared closure. However, there are civil airlines fly-ing the air route between Karachi and Lahore... Indi-an Air Force demonstrated considerable restraint in its response thus ensuring safety of international civil carriers," she said.

Further, she also high-lighted that, in response to the Pakistani attack, armed drones were launched at four air defence sites in Pakistan. One of the

drones was able to destroy an Air Defence radar on Thursday.

Citing Pakistan's attack on Indian Army on the night of May 7 and 8, she stated, "Pakistan also car-ried out artillery shelling across the line of control using heavy-calibre ar-tillery guns and armed drones... which resulted in some losses and injuries to Indian army personnel. Pakistan army also suf-fered major losses in Indi-an retaliatory fire."

Meanwhile, Colonel So-fiya Qureshi revealed that, in a major escalation along India's western front, the Pakistani army carried out multiple airspace viola-tions and drone intrusions on the night of May 7 and 8, targeting Indian military infrastructure.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said during the press brief-ing, "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistani army violated Indian airspace several times over the en-tire western border to tar-get military infrastructure. Not only this, the Pakistani army also fired heavy-cal-

the Indian Army had shot down more than 50 Pakistani drones during a large-scale counter-drone operation along the LoC and IB

bre weapons along the Line of Control. Around 300 to 400 drones were used to attempt infiltration at 36 locations."She added, "The Indian armed forces shot down many of these drones using kinetic and non-kinetic means. The possible purpose of such large-scale aerial intrusions was to test air defence systems and collect intelligence. Forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done. Initial re-ports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones..."

Escalating its tensions with India, Pakistan target-ed Jammu using Hamas-style missiles to target mul-tiple areas on Thursday, defence sources had said.

The sources said the at-tack resembled a Hamas-style operation in Israel, where multiple cheap rockets were used to target cities.

Pakistan's attempted re-taliation came in the wake of India's Operation Sin-door, where the Indian armed forces targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday.

The operation was a di-rect response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

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

The Indian Armed Forces also successfully neutral-ised Pakistan military's attempts at a large-scale drone and missile attack on multiple Indian military installations across North-ern and Western India dur-ing the night of May 7-8, and an Air Defence system at Lahore was neutralised.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and triservices chiefs, at his residence in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

CM OMAR VISITS RELIEF CAMPS IN JAMMU AMID ESCALATING BORDER TENSIONS

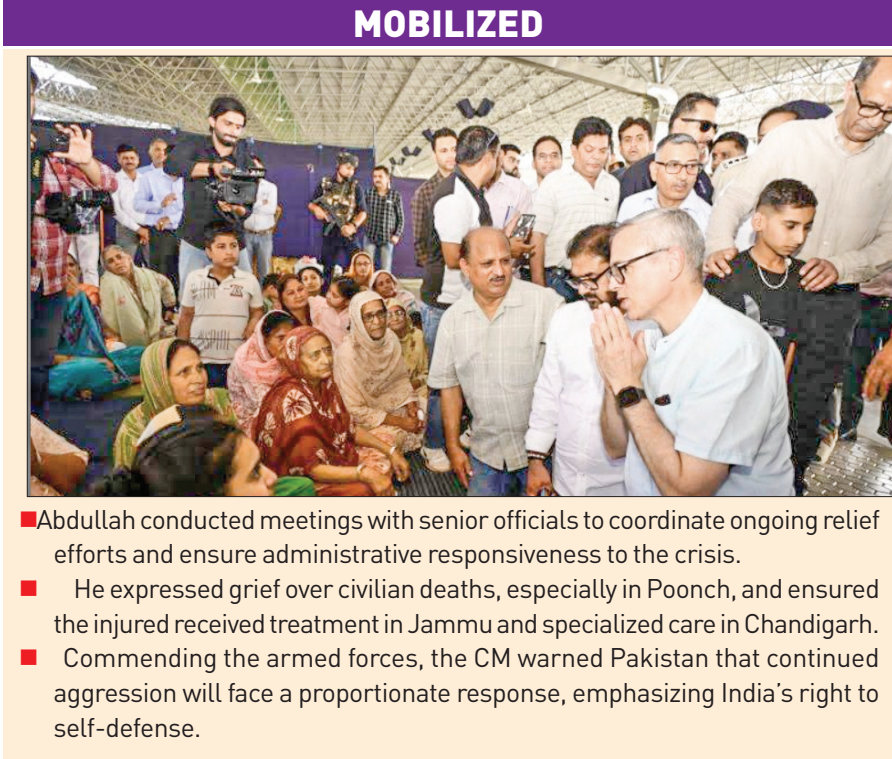
With airports shut due to security concerns, CM travelled by road early in the morning.

AJAY JANDYAL
JAMMU

Amid heightened tensions along the border, drone attacks in Jammu, and intense cross-border shelling, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah rushed to Jammu on Thursday to assess the evolving situation and oversee relief efforts. With airports shut due to security concerns, the Chief Minister travelled by road early in the morning.

Upon arrival, Abdullah visited multiple relief camps and lodgement centres in the Jammu and Samba districts, including those at Mishriwala, Nagbani, Bishnah, and Thandi Khui. These centres have been established to shelter civilians evacuated from vulnerable border areas.

Accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, and senior officials, the Chief Minister personally interacted with displaced families and reviewed the availability of



- Abdullah conducted meetings with senior officials to coordinate ongoing relief efforts and ensure administrative responsiveness to the crisis.
- He expressed grief over civilian deaths, especially in Poonch, and ensured the injured received treatment in Jammu and specialized care in Chandigarh.
- Commending the armed forces, the CM warned Pakistan that continued aggression will face a proportionate response, emphasizing India's right to self-defence.

food, shelter, medical aid, and other essential services. "All efforts shall be made to ensure that all necessities are provided to the people during this difficult time," Abdullah assured, directing the administration to remain alert and responsive to emerging needs.

In light of large-scale civilian displacement caused by continued hostilities, the government has established multiple relief camps across the affected border districts. The Chief Minister also held high-level discussions with senior district officers to take stock of the ground

situation and ongoing relief measures, reiterating the government's unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of all citizens. Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of civilian lives—particularly in Poonch district, which has seen the highest number of

India's advanced air defence systems neutralise all Pakistani missiles and drones

AJAY JANDYAL
NEW DELHI

Following the launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7, India's integrated air defence network successfully intercepted every missile and drone Pakistan deployed against military installations across northern and western India, according to highly placed sources.

Sources confirmed that S-400 Triumph batteries, Barak-8 and Akash surface-to-air missile systems, and DRDO-developed anti-drone technologies were all mobilised to repel the offensive. "Not a single hostile

missile reached its intended target," an official said, underscoring the robustness of India's layered defence architecture.

In response to the Pahal-gam terror attack, Indian forces had carried out precision strikes on Jaish-e-Mohammad strongholds in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including Bahawalpur. Pakistan retaliated overnight on May 7-8 by launching drone and missile attacks aimed at bases in Awantipora, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, and several other locations. "The coordinated deploy-

ment of our air defence assets ensured a swift and seamless response," the source added. "This operation highlights the synergy among our strategic weapons, medium-range systems, and indigenous counter-drone capabilities." Defence analysts say the exercise demonstrated not only the accuracy of India's strike options but also the maturity of its defensive posture. By neutralising every incoming threat, India sent a clear message of deterrence: any aggression will be met with both precision strikes and impenetrable defensive measures.

Police urges blackout protocol compliance, markets shut in Jammu

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday made announcements urging residents to follow blackout protocols and respond promptly to sirens amid heightened tensions in the region. As a precautionary measure, markets in Jammu City have begun closing operations.

The citizens are requested to follow the advisories and cooperate with the authorities to ensure their safety. Multiple residential buildings were damaged in the region of Kupwara, Poonch, and Rajouri sectors of Jammu in the cross-border shelling by Pakistan on

casualties—Abdullah said the injured are being treated at Government Medical College Jammu, while critically wounded patients have been referred to Chandigarh for specialized care.

The Chief Minister also praised the armed forces for their swift and effective response to cross-border attacks launched from Pakistan across various locations in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions last night.

"Our security mechanisms responded with commendable speed and precision, ensuring the defense of all targeted areas," he stated. "If innocent people of ours are harmed, the nation reserves every right to defend itself. It is Pakistan that must end aggression if peace is to prevail. Continued offensives will be met with proportionate response—our forces are fully capable and ready."

Here are ***key pointers*** summarizing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and CM Omar Abdullah's response:

LG visits Uri villages, praises Army morale, promises relief to shelling victims

AJAY JANDYAL
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today toured villages in the Uri sector hit by three nights of unprovoked Pakistani shelling, affirming that the Indian Army's morale remains "very high" and civilians will face no inconvenience under his administration.

"I went to border villages that suffered losses," Sinha told reporters in Baramulla. "Attempts were made to attack, but our forces are ready to deal with any situation." He assured that

ex-gratia grants have been sanctioned for the families of the deceased and the injured, whose treatment and recovery are being closely monitored.

Highlighting the need for improved civilian protection, the Lieutenant Governor announced plans to construct additional safety bunkers in the coming days. "The injured are stable and will be discharged soon," he said after visiting patients in the Uri sector.

Commending the soldiers he met in Uri, Sinha observed, "The nation has always been proud of you.

Whenever the country has faced challenges, you have rendered supreme sacrifice."

He underscored the administration's directive to district authorities to ensure immediate relief, safety, and security for affected families in Lagama, Ginal, and other border hamlets.

In a post on X, Sinha reiterated his commitment: "I've directed the district administration to provide immediate relief to the affected families and ensure their safety and security. The nation stands strong with them."

Residential buildings across Kupwara, Poonch damaged in cross-border shelling

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

Multiple residential buildings were damaged in the region of Kupwara, Poonch, and Rajouri sectors of Jammu in the cross border shelling by Pakistan last night. Visuals from Kupwara and Poonch showed residential building affected in the attack.

A local, whose house was damaged by Paksitan shelling in Poonch, said "I can't understand what Pakistan thinks and does. This is not humanity. If Pakistan won't understand now, then what will it? If it weren't for our Armed Forces, we wouldn't have been able to sleep peacefully at night,"

Additionally, a Hanuman Temple in Poonch was also damaged in the shelling last night.

A local criticised Paksitan for targeting religious places, "Pakistan army is targeting religious places in poonch, gurdwara, masjid, temples, this is very bad he said we are stand with Indian army and government of India," he said.

Additionally, Residents of Rajouri living along the LOC have started moving to safer areas after heavy cross-border shelling by Pakistan. A local

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resident said, "Last night when the shelling took place, around 200 of us were hidden in a bunker. There was an atmosphere of fear. Many houses were also damaged. This is why people have started moving to safer places. Some people moved away in the morning, some are waiting for vehicles to move out... Many people are still here... Shelling went on all night... Children were very scared... Our houses have been destroyed and cattle have died, while some are being left behind."

Another local said that the shelling went on from 9 pm yesterday to 6 am today in which couple of houses and vehicles have been damaged. "Shelling went on from 9 pm yesterday to 6 am today. A couple of houses and vehicles have been damaged. We spent the night in a bunker with around 200 others. We have nowhere to go. The

government has sent a bus for us so we are leaving, but we don't know where to go... Civilians were targeted by Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan on Thursday night launched a series of coordinated drone and missile attacks along India's western border, targeting regions in Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan. According to Indian defense officials, the attacks were largely intercepted by India's air defense systems, including the S-400 missile defense system, preventing significant damage. This comes after India conducted Operation Sindoor earlier this week, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir that killed 26 tourists on April 22.

The situation remains volatile, with international calls for restraint and diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation.

CM directs to coordinate with J&K govt for safe evacuation of Himachali students

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania met Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday and apprised him about the concerns raised by the parents of Himachali students studying in Jammu & Kashmir, mostly in Srinagar amid the prevailing tension between India and Pakistan.

He said that about 103 students were currently pursuing their studies in Jammu and Kashmir, and their families were deeply worried about their well-being and

were urged to bring them back home safely, according to a release.

The Chief Minister assured that the State Government would leave no stone unturned in ensuring the safety and well-being of the Himachali students. He immediately asked the Chief Secretary for prompt and coordinated action to bring the students back home safely.

Earlier in the day, the Revenue, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jagat Singh Negi, said that the state is fully prepared for internal security

and that the current situation along the Indo-China border in Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti remains peaceful.

Speaking to the media in Shimla, Negi said the state is ready for internal security. "Himachal Pradesh is ready for internal security." He added that while the state does not share a direct border with Pakistan, some districts like Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti border China, and currently, there is no tension in those regions.

"Everything is peaceful. We hope it remains peaceful in the future as well," he

said. Negi noted that all small hydro power projects in Kinnaur district have security deployed, and arrangements for their protection have been made.

"We do not have many large dams in Himachal. The only major dam is Bhakra. In Kinnaur, there are several small hydro power projects which naturally require protection," he said. Pakistan on Thursday night launched a series of coordinated drone and missile attacks along India's western border, targeting regions in Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan.

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

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While referring to recent developments along the Pakistan border, Negi expressed concern over the casualties reported there. "Given the recent incidents along the Pakistan border,

it is natural to feel alarmed. The casualties reported are worrying. We will know in the coming days what kind of situation develops and to what extent the set targets can be achieved," he said.

He further emphasized that although Himachal does not share a direct boundary with Pakistan, its proximity to the China border requires caution.

"If we look at the China border, especially our Kinnaur region, not a single untoward incident has taken place till date. We hope that no such incident happens in the future either," he said.

Himachal CM directs all DCs, SPs to remain vigilant amid escalating tensions

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday directed all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) to stay vigilant in view of the latest cross-border tensions escalating between India and Pakistan.

While presiding over a high-level meeting here today, the Chief Minister took detailed feedback from

all DCS and SPs regarding the prevailing condition in their respective districts, according to a release.

"There is no need to panic as such, but you all should remain cautious and watchful at all levels", stated the Chief Minister.

He said that the essential government offices, including the Chief Minister's office, Office of Chief Secretary, and Control Rooms with essential staff, will remain operational across the state during the upcoming

three holidays.

The release stated that the Chief Minister hoped that the district administration adjoining inter-state borders would immediately take necessary measures as and when warned by the sound of sirens, particularly in Pathankot, Chandigarh, and Jammu and Kashmir, in case of possible escalation of tension.

He directed that all adhere to the instructions of the Union Government and the State Government to ensure



the safety of the people.

He also directed ensuring adequate security around vital installations, including religious places, airports, dams, and bridges. He also instructed to conduct regular mock drills in accordance with the advisories of the Union Government. He also assured us that he would extend full support in strengthening the Control Rooms established across the State.

CM Sukhu extended solidarity with the Indian

Armed Forces and the Union Government, further commending the action of our armed forces for giving a befitting reply to the Pakistani failed intrusion.

"We are proud of our brave hearts and action being taken by our Armed forces in safeguarding the Nation," he remarked. The Chief Minister also urged the people of the State to rely on the official information and not be swayed by the rumours or fake news. Principal Advisor Media

to Chief Minister Nareish Chauhan, Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, Director General of Police Dr Atul Verma, Additional Chief Secretaries KK Pant, Onkar Chand Sharma and RD Nazeem, Principal Secretary Finance Devesh Kumar, Secretaries Abhishek Jain and Rakesh Kanwar attended the meeting at Shimla while Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police of all the districts joined the meeting virtually.

WHAT IS AKASH MISSILE SYSTEM AND WHY IT'S KEY TO INDIA'S BORDER SECURITY AGAINST DRONES

India's indigenous Akash missile system has proven vital in countering aerial threats, showcasing its strength during recent attacks from Pakistan and boosting its global export potential.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile system played a key role in stopping a large-scale drone and missile attack by Pakistan. According to defence officials, the Indian Army and Air Force used this system effectively during the night of May 8 and 9 to protect military positions near the Western border and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

WHAT IS THE AKASH MISSILE SYSTEM?

The Akash missile is a medium-range air defence system made in India. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) designed and developed it. This missile is meant to shoot down enemy aircraft, helicopters, drones, and cruise missiles.

It can strike aerial targets at a range of up to 25-30 kilometers and at speeds nearly three times the speed of sound (Mach 2.5). This makes it a reliable shield for important military locations and formations.

HOW DOES THE AKASH SYSTEM WORK?

The Akash system uses a multi-target tracking radar and command-guidance mechanism. The ground radar locks onto the target and sends instructions to the missile mid-flight. This helps the missile make real-



time adjustments and ensures it hits moving aerial threats.

The system includes:

- A 3D Central Acquisition Radar (CAR) to scan for threats
- A Battery Level Radar (Rajendra) for target tracking and guidance
- Launchers mounted on vehicles for mobility
- A Command and Control Centre for real-time threat analysis

This setup allows Akash to detect, track, and destroy multiple targets from different directions at the same time.

Key Features of the Akash Missile System

- All-weather capability: Works in rain, fog, and dust
- Mobility: Easy to deploy in rough terrains and battlefield conditions
- Multiple engagements: Can shoot down more than

one target at once

- Flexible operation: Can work alone or with other systems
- Indigenous design: 96% of the components are made in India
- High agility: Can respond to fast and low-flying threats

HOW IT WAS USED AGAINST PAKISTAN'S DRONE ATTACK

During the night of May 8 and 9, Pakistan launched



a series of drone attacks and ceasefire violations. These targeted areas near the LoC and international border in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Indian Army detected these attacks early and used the

Akash missile system to intercept and destroy the drones mid-air.

Officials confirmed that, "The Made in India Akash surface-to-air missile air defence system has been effectively used by the In-

dian armed forces in foiling Pakistani attacks."

Additionally, mobile phone videos from the region captured bright lights across the night sky, showing successful interceptions by the Indian air defence units.

ARMY'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Indian Army stated, "Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple at-

tacks using drones and other munitions along the entire Western Border... The drone attacks were effectively repulsed and a befitting reply was given to the CFVs (ceasefire violations). Indian Army remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nation. All nefarious designs will be responded with force."

OVER 50 DRONES SHOT DOWN IN EARLIER ATTACK

On the night of May 7 and 8, Pakistan also attempted a massive drone and missile assault on Indian military facilities. In response, India launched a strong counter-drone operation.

Sources told ANI that Indian forces shot down more than 50 drones. They also neutralised a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore as part of their response.

A Strong Defence with Indigenous Technology

The Akash missile system has once again proven its value in combat. Its role in protecting Indian military posts from a large Pakistani drone and missile attack highlights its real-time efficiency and reliability.

India's ability to develop and deploy such advanced systems shows how the country is becoming more self-reliant in defending its borders.

What are ATGMs? The missile India fired at Pakistan after Pahalgam attack

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a quick and measured reaction to the recent terror strike in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, the Indian Army has initiated targeted attacks across the Line of Control (LoC) with Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs). The attacks, defence sources said on Friday, destroyed several Pakistani military outposts, escalating an already tense border situation.

WHY THE RETALIATION WAS SWIFT AND PRECISE

The Army deployment of ATGMs followed a matter of days after 26 civilians were butchered in one of the worst Kashmir attacks in more than two decades. The airstrikes are being conducted as part of an ongoing operational campaign. The strike included air attacks under Operation Sindoor that bombed terror camps across Pakistan and Pok.

Official sources also attested to the fact that India successfully downed more than 50 drones en route to sensitive military installations at Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur.

WHAT ARE ATGMs AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

Anti-tank guided Missiles are specifically made to blow up heavily armoured vehicles, especially tanks. In contrast to previous systems, these missiles are "guided," which means



As tensions rise after the deadly Pahalgam attack, the Indian Army retaliated with precision strikes using Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) along the LoC, highlighting their growing role in modern warfare.

that they can target something and course-correct during the air. This greatly enhances accuracy and enables soldiers to attack from a safe distance.

ATGMs can be fired from many different platforms — shoulder firings, tripods, vehicles, or aircraft. Their versatility and accuracy have made them imperative in defensive and offensive military tactics.

HOW ATGMs WORK

ATGMs depend mostly on a shaped charge — a concentrated explosive that can penetrate thick tank armour. Newer versions employ tandem warheads. The initial blast destroys protective

systems such as explosive reactive armour (ERA), and the second enters the tank's core.

A few systems provide a 'top-attack' option, attacking a tank's thinner upper armour. Others are fitted with dual-mode seekers that enhance target tracking, even in sophisticated combat conditions.

CAN TANKS DEFEND THEMSELVES?

Tanks are not completely defenceless against ATGMs. Some employ slat armour or reactive plates that initiate premature detonation of incoming missiles. Advanced defence systems such as Israel's Trophy are even capable of intercept-

ing ATGMs mid-air. Tanks also employ smoke screens or fire-and-forget options to come out of these engagements alive.

But as India's retaliation indicates, even the most sophisticated tank defence mechanisms are being tested by the increasing accuracy and range of latest-generation ATGMs.

GLOBAL SPREAD AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

ATGMs are currently in operation in more than 130 countries and have become a standard element in such conflicts as the Russia-Ukraine war.

India's recent employment serves to highlight not only the missile's tactical value but also the evolving nature of combat engagement. As with the Indian Army indicating its preparedness and capability to counter any provocation, the employment of ATGMs gives a stark message — the country will never shy away from protecting its sovereignty using precise firepower.

Disillusionment is gripping Britain. From rising living costs and an overburdened welfare system to a crisis in immigration and asylum, voters across the political spectrum are growing tired of empty promises and flashy announcements. There is a growing demand for competence, fairness, and real results—especially in how the country treats the most vulnerable, including asylum seekers. But as the Labour Party prepares for government, it appears to be doubling down on punitive immigration rhetoric, aligning itself more closely with the Conservatives and Reform UK in tone if not always in substance.

Rather than focusing on practical solutions or systemic reforms, Labour is increasingly adopting the politics of spectacle—leaning into dramatic deportation videos and pledges to send failed asylum seekers to "return hubs" in countries like Albania. An upcoming immigration white paper is expected to outline even tougher policies, including stricter English-language requirements and a crackdown on international students who claim asylum. While these moves may capture headlines, their impact on the asylum system—and on the daily lives of British citizens—is likely to be negligible.

PLAYING TO REFORM VOTERS

Labour's strategy is clearly

Labour's new asylum stance: Tough talk, missed solutions

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI



aimed at attracting voters who might otherwise back Reform UK, the right-wing populist party that's made immigration a cornerstone issue. But there's a flaw in this logic. As much as Reform voters may respond emotionally to tough talk, they—like most of the electorate—ultimately want policies that work. They want to see fewer boats crossing the Channel, fewer asylum seekers in hotels, and a greater sense of control over borders. What they're not looking for is more rhetoric or symbolic measures that fail to produce tangible results.

CURRENT POLICIES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

The raft of new policies being proposed—targeting international students, introducing more hurdles to settlement, and publicizing deportations—are unlikely to deter asylum seekers. Those fleeing war, persecution, or societal collapse do not make finely calculated decisions based on the latest Home Office press release. Research and on-the-ground experience from organizations like the Refugee Council show that

people seeking asylum are influenced by far more fundamental factors: family connections, historical ties to the UK, and the language advantage of English. Britain's colonial past also creates a cultural and linguistic affinity that naturally draws people from many former colonies.

HEART OF THE PROBLEM

Perhaps the most visible sign of a broken asylum system is the widespread use of hotels to house claimants. This isn't just an immigration issue—it's a housing crisis. Councils across the UK are buckling under the pressure of rising homelessness, spiraling temporary accommodation costs, and the absence of affordable housing. The asylum housing problem is just one facet of a much broader failure in housing policy.

RETHINKING CHANNEL CROSSINGS

The public's concern over small boats crossing the Channel is legitimate. It's a visible, emotionally charged issue that taps into deeper anxieties about control and security. But again, the

response has been more about optics than effectiveness. Plans to "smash the gangs" of people smugglers dominate the headlines, but they offer little in the way of comprehensive strategy.

NEW VOTER-ALIGNED POLICY

If Labour wants to rebuild public trust and prove itself as a party of serious government, it must shift away from reactive, headline-driven policymaking. The public doesn't need more deportation footage or populist soundbites. They need thoughtful, evidence-based policies that deal with root causes, not just symptoms. Asylum policy cannot be solved through deterrence alone. It requires housing reform, international cooperation, and legal migration channels. These are not just humanitarian imperatives—they are practical ones. When voters see real progress in their communities—fewer hotels filled with asylum seekers, fewer boats on the Channel, and less strain on council resources—they will reward competence, not just toughness.

FAIRNESS OVER FEAR

Labour has a clear choice to make as it inches toward power. It can continue down a path shaped by fear and media sensationalism, trying to outflank the right by being equally harsh on asylum seekers. Or it can chart a different course—one that puts fairness, pragmatism, and results at the center of its approach.

IRONCLAD SKIES: HOW MODI GOVT

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Since the 22 April Pahalgalam massacre, it was expected that India would respond to the Pakistan military orchestrated terror attack with all its might. The confidence behind this expectation turned into reality, as it eventually did on the intervening night of 6-7 May when it executed Operation Sindoor.

Officials told the Sunday Guardian that since the last three days, India's military prowess, specifically its air defence and offensive capabilities have been put to the ultimate test in which it obliterated nine terrorist camps across Pakistan.

According to officials, there was no doubt that Pakistan would retaliate in order to pacify its military ego and the various terrorist groups.

However, when Pakistan retaliated with missile strikes targeting Indian military installations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, not a single missile reached its mark.

This, sources said, happened because of India's air defence ecosystem, meticulously built over the past decade under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, which neutralized every threat with precision.

Sharing details, an official source said that the operation showcased a seamless integration of cutting-edge systems: the S-400 Triumf, Barak-8 missiles, Akash Surface-to-Air Missiles, and DRDO's anti-drone



BARAK-8 missile (File photo)



S-400 Triumf (File photo)

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technologies which formed an unbreachable aerial shield.

The Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid and Man Portable Counter Drone Systems (MPCDS) further ensured that hostile drones and UAVs were jammed or disabled before they could pose a threat.

This robust defence not only thwarted Pakistan's aggression but also exposed the fragility of its own air defence systems as was revealed during the 20 minutes of the execution of Operation Sindoor in which

the Indian Armed forces struck deep into Pakistani territory. A Chinese-supplied HQ-9 air defence unit in Lahore was destroyed, and critical radar infrastructure was crippled.

Sources revealed that the operation marked the combat debut of indigenously manufactured loitering munitions—suicidal drones ordered in 2021—that executed simultaneous, pinpoint strikes, catching Pakistan's defences off guard.

In addition, locally built Harop drones, alongside Rafale fighter jets armed with

SCALP and HAMMER missiles, took out air defence assets in Karachi and Lahore, showcasing India's ability to project power with surgical accuracy. This military success is likely to be seen and deciphered by experts as a result of a decade-long transformation of India's defence architecture under the Modi government.

Since 2014, strategic investments have fortified the nation's air defence capabilities which included the Rs 35,000 crore deal for five S-400 Triumf squadrons, signed in 2018, under which three squadrons deployed along the borders with China and Pakistan.

Similarly, the \$2.5 billion acquisition of Barak-8 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles, signed with Israel in 2017, is now protecting key bases like Bhatinda. Indigenous systems, including Akash missile batteries

and DRDO's counter-drone technologies, have further strengthened India's self-reliance in defence.

Sources pointed out that the rise of Indian technology in modern warfare was a defining feature of Operation Sindoor. The use of home-grown loitering munitions and locally produced Harop drones underscored India's growing expertise in precision weaponry. Combined with a tech-driven airspace defence network capable of detecting, jamming, and eliminating threats, India has established itself as a formidable force in modern warfare.

Operation Sindoor is not just a military victory—it is also being seen as a testament to the Modi government's vision of a resilient, multi-layered defence ecosystem. India's skies are not just defended; they are controlled.



Image shows Pakistani drone sighted and neutralised by the Indian forces. Agencies

Centre empowers Army chief to call out Territorial Army in support

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Central Government on Friday empowered Chief of Army Staff to call out "every office and every enrolled person" of Territorial Army on active duty amid escalating tensions with Pakistan.

This decision came under the power conferred Rule 33 of the Territorial Army Rule 1948.

According to a notification from Ministry of Defence, the government has sanctioned 14 out of the existing 32 Infantry Battalions of the Territorial Army for deployment in the areas of Southern Command, Eastern Command, Western Command, Central Command, Northern Command, South Western Command, Andaman and Nicobar Command and Army.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 33 of the Territorial Army Rule 1948, the Central Government empowers Chief of the Army Staff to exercise the powers under that rule to call out every officer and every enrolled person of the Territorial Army to provide for essential guard or to be embodied for the purpose of supporting or supplementing the regular army to the extent," the notification from Ministry of Defence stated.

"Out of the existing 32 Infantry Battalions (Territorial Army), embodiment of 14 Infantry Battalions (Territorial Army) for deployment in the areas of Southern Command, Eastern Command, Western Command, Central Command, Northern Command, South Western Command, Andaman and Nicobar Command



This comes after India conducted Operation Sindoor earlier this week, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir that killed 26 tourists on April 22.

and Army," it added.

This order will remain in effect for a period of three years, until February 2028.

Pakistan on Thursday night launched a series of coordinated drone and missile attacks along India's western border, targeting regions in Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan. According to Indian defense officials, the attacks were largely intercepted by India's air defense systems, including the S-400 missile defense system, preventing significant damage.

This comes after India conducted Operation Sindoor earlier this week, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir that killed 26 tourists on April 22.

The situation remains volatile, with international calls for restraint and diplomatic

engagement to prevent further escalation.

The TA, raised on October 9, 1949, completed 75 years last year and has served the nation in times of war, and in humanitarian and environmental protection works through its eventful journey over the decades.

It is fully integrated with the regular Army. In recognition of nation-building efforts and contributions made during war or conflicts, numerous individuals have been honoured with gallantry as well as distinguished service awards in the TA, a report said.

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

PIB Fact Check debunks false claims of Pakistani attack on Jammu

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check unit has debunked misinformation circulating on social media, falsely claiming to be a video of a Pakistani attack on Jammu.

On debunking, it was found that the video circulating on social media, claiming to be a Pakistani attack on Jammu, was found to be an old video from Bangladesh's Dhaka from February 2025.

The unit provided a link to a report to substantiate its findings, urging the public not to fall for the misinformation.

In a social media post on X, the official handle of PIB Fact Check wrote, "Fake News Alert! An old video is circulating on social media claiming a Pakistani attack on Jammu. #PIBFactCheck - This video is originally from Dhaka, from February 2025. Don't fall for misinformation."

The clarifications come amidst heightened tensions between Indian and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor, where India targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), following which Pakistan tried to retaliate with a large-scale drone attack on Thursday.

Pakistan-based social media handles have been trying to deliberately sabotage the narrative from the ground reality by launching intense mis-

information campaigns amid these tensions.

The PIB Fact Check unit has debunked several such claims.

Earlier today, the PIB Fact Check unit debunked the claim that multiple explosions occurred at the Jammu Air Force Base, stating that the viral image accompanying the claim was traced back to the Kabul Airport blast in August 2021, not a recent event in India.

In another social media post, the Fact Check unit tackled a false narrative about an attack on Gujarat's Hazira Port, where a video showing a massive fire and explosions was shared with the claim that Pakistan had



targeted the port. PIB Fact Check clarified that the footage was from an oil tanker explosion on July 7, 2021, without connection to Hazira Port or any recent attacks.

The PIB Fact Check's efforts in debunking fake news and busting myths have been crucial in maintaining public trust and countering attempts to destabilise the nation through misinformation during such times.



A man searches for his belongings amid debris after his house was damaged amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, at Uri, in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday.



Family members mourn the death of Nargis, who was killed during shelling by the Pakistan army, at Uri in Baramulla on Friday.

TRANSFORMED AIR DEFENCE MIGHT



Jammu and Kashmir Minister of Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare Sakina Itoo meets displaced people at a camp at Uri, amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, in Baramulla district.



Samba: Residents of Kandral village take shelter in a bunker in view of the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, in Samba district, Jammu & Kashmir, Friday, May 9, 2025



An elderly Kashmiri villager, Mohammad Saleem, inspects a damaged house after overnight shelling from Pakistan at Gingal village in Uri, in Baramulla district, Jammu & Kashmir, Friday, May 9, 2025



Baramulla: A man searches for his belongings amid debris after his house was damaged amid the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan, at Uri, in Baramulla district, Jammu & Kashmir, Friday, May 9, 2025

Punjab takes key decisions amid Indo-Pak tensions

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann convened a high-level cabinet meeting on Friday, which resulted in 15 key decisions on security, agriculture, and industrial development.

The most significant decision was activating the anti-drone system across the state. Ministers and MLAs will be stationed in the border areas to maintain security and peace. The government has urged the citizens to remain calm and assured that the administration is fully prepared and with



them.

In addition, it has been decided that the unused lands of the Housing Department will be handed over to the Industry Department to be used for industrial purposes.

The cabinet also approved the launch of the 'Rangla

Punjab Fund', encouraging public contributions. The government has assured that funds will be used transparently, and tax exemptions will be provided by the Centre.

On the agriculture front, the government has decided to procure maize at

Minimum Support Price (MSP). Discussions are underway with agencies and ethanol producers for procurement. Farmers sowing maize instead of paddy will receive compensation at the rate of Rs 17,000 per acre.

To combat illegal mining, the state will adopt the mining system of IIT Ropar. Additionally, the Land Pooling Scheme will be implemented in various cities, enabling landowners to access residential and commercial plots.

The cabinet further proposed to benefit about 2,500 employees appointed before 2014 under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Mohali strengthens air raid siren network

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In response to growing security concerns and public complaints, the Mohali administration began installing new air raid sirens across key locations on Friday, with 30 requisitioned for Kharar and 20 for Zirakpur and Dera Bassi.

Mohali Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal stated, "We are comprehensively augmenting the early warning system, with some sirens having a range of up to 15 km. The orders were placed yesterday, and installation is expected to be completed by this evening."

Residents from Mohali city, Kharar, Gharuan, and

Residents from Mohali city, Kharar, Gharuan, and Zirakpur had raised concerns that the existing air raid sirens were either too few or simply inaudible across large areas.

Zirakpur had raised concerns that the existing air raid sirens were either too few or simply inaudible across large areas. Currently, only 10 limited-range sirens are operational in Zirakpur and Dera Bassi, while officials have refrained from disclosing the exact number working in Mohali and Kharar. However, they assured that the

system is being significantly strengthened today.

Most of the new sirens are being installed at municipal offices, BDPOs, and government buildings in Dera Bassi, while in Kharar, additional sirens and loudspeakers are being set up at gurdwaras and other religious institutions to maximize coverage.

Officials confirmed that

rosters are being prepared to ensure these facilities are manned in shifts, guaranteeing timely activation in case of an emergency. "Probably due to the high population density in these areas, the existing sirens were not effective," they admitted.

The administration also acknowledged that the current siren network is operated on a standalone basis, with no integrated or synchronized system yet in place at the subdivision level. "As of now, there is no integrated mechanism," an official revealed, highlighting that future efforts would need to focus on creating a more unified early warning system across the region.

Bathinda cantonment foils major Pakistani drone attack; Punjab on high alert

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In a dramatic turn of events, the Bathinda Army Cantonment, Asia's largest military garrison, became the main target of Pakistan's latest cross-border aggression following India's 'Operation Sindoor' airstrike. On the night of May 8-9, Pakistani forces launched a drone attack aimed at Bathinda, but the Indian Army intercepted and destroyed the drone before it could inflict any damage. Ministry of External Affairs officials, Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, confirmed the incident during a press conference, praising the swift mili-

dents had reported hearing several explosions around 4:30 a.m.

Bathinda's surrounding villages bore the brunt of Thursday night's aggression. In Tungwali, located in Beed Talab and Nathana block, fragments of Pakistani rockets were found in the fields, and the shockwaves from the blasts shattered windows, doors, and damaged sheds. Bathinda SSP Amneet Kaundal confirmed that army teams conducted on-site investigations and secured the affected zones.

Elsewhere, a rocket was recovered in Kamahi Devi, Hoshiarpur, and loud explosions were reported around 8:15 p.m. in Uchi Bassi, an

Reacting to the mounting threat, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that the state will install nine anti-drone systems across its border areas to bolster defenses.

tary response.

This marks Pakistan's third attack on Punjab in recent days, intensifying tensions along the border. Shortly after the Bathinda incident, Amritsar faced a drone strike at 5 a.m. Friday. India's advanced S-400 defense system neutralized two drones — one small and one large — over the Kharsa area.

In Pathankot, a late-night strike triggered a massive search operation near the airbase on Friday morning. Police recovered a bomb near the riverbank, forcing the army to evacuate the area. At the same time, another drone was seized near Karoli village, where resi-

area hosting an army camp. Reacting to the mounting threat, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that the state will install nine anti-drone systems across its border areas to bolster defenses.

Meanwhile, Faridkot experienced a 13-hour internet shutdown, imposed at midnight to curb the spread of rumors, with services restored by 12:45 p.m. today.

Taking no chances, the Punjab government has canceled all IAS officers' leave and instructed them to remain at their headquarters. Additionally, ten state ministers are set to tour the border regions today to assess the situation firsthand.

PM Modi meets group of armed forces veterans

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Amid the rising tension between India and Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met a group of armed forces veterans on Friday and had an extensive interaction on various issues related to the current situation.

The group included former Air Force, Army, and Navy Chiefs and other veterans who have extensively served the country.

Earlier today, the Central Government empowered the Chief of Army Staff to call out "every office and every enrolled person" of the Territorial Army on active duty amid escalating tensions with Pakistan.

This decision came under the power conferred Rule 33 of the Territorial Army Rule 1948.

According to a notification from the Ministry of Defence, the government has sanctioned 14 out of the existing 32 Infantry Battalions of the Territorial Army for deployment in the areas of Southern Command, Eastern Command, Western Command, Central Command, Northern Command, South Western Command, Andaman and Nicobar Command and Army," it added.

Pakistan on Thursday night launched a series of coordinated drone and missile attacks along India's western border, targeting regions in Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan.



TRADEMARK TROUBLE: IPL FAME MEETS ‘CHAMPAK’ LEGACY

Every day is Mother’s Day

OPINION

DR. ZEESHAN H. HASHMI & DR. ALISHA VERMA



The renowned children’s magazine Champak has filed a lawsuit against the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on the designation of the Indian Premier League’s (IPL) new AI-driven robotic dog, which shares the name “Champak.” The Delhi High Court has taken cognizance of the matter and sent a notice to the BCCI to address the trademark infringement claims within four weeks. Champak’s publishers, Delhi Press Patra Prakashan Pvt Ltd, assert that the use of the term “Champak” for the IPL’s robotic mascot undermines their brand’s uniqueness and violates their registered trademark, which has been associated with children’s books in India since 1968. The next hearing is scheduled for July 9, 2025, and this case may establish a substantial precedent in intellectual property rights, particularly with the use of established brand names in future technology and entertainment platforms.

WHAT IS “CHAMPAK” IN IPL?
“Champak” is an AI robotic dog that has been launched as part of the technological advancements in the league. During the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL), This robotic dog greets players, umpires, and fans with gestures such as handshakes, jumps, and heart gestures. It also has several cameras to capture novel angles on the field. The name “Champak” was chosen via an

online fan poll held during match 33 of the tournament between Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad, in which it garnered 76% of the votes, beating out other names such as Buddy, Chulbul, and Jaffa.

WHAT IS “CHAMPAK” AS A MAGAZINE?
Champak is India’s longest-running and most popular children’s magazine, established back in 1969 by the Delhi Press Group. It has been a part of numerous Indian families for decades, amusing and enlightening generations of children. The magazine is popular for its short moral stories, animal-based stories, comics, puzzles, science snippets, and interactive exercises that instill critical thinking, creativity, and ethical values. It is specifically made for children in the age group of 4 to 14 years, with the help of simple language, vibrant illustrations, and familiar characters that appeal to young readers.

IS “CHAMPAK” REGISTERED TRADEMARK?
The Delhi Press Group, magazine publisher since 1969, owns the registered trademark “Champak” in India. With 36 publications in 10 languages, such as popular names as Saras Salil, Grihshobha, Sarita, and The Caravan.

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSY RELATED TO

“CHAMPAK” NAME?

Delhi Press Patra Prakashan Private Limited, the publisher of the Champak, magazine argues that the use of its registered trademark in a commercial setting threatens brand dilution and consumer confusion. The matter, which came up for hearing before Justice Saurabh Banerjee in the Delhi High Court, saw the BCCI being directed to file a written reply within four weeks and a notice being issued to it. At the hearing, the legal representative of Champak contended that the application of the name by BCCI unjustly appropriates the magazine’s reputation built over the years. Yet, Justice Banerjee had reservations about the absence of proof demonstrating a direct commercial abuse as necessary under Section 29(4) of the Trademarks Act, 1999, which deals with the use of a well-known trade mark on disparate goods or services. For BCCI, Senior Advocate J Sai Deepak replied that “Champak” is a generic word “a flower” and not “a novel” or “coined term” unique to the magazine. He argued that the choice of the name by a public vote campaign for a non-commercial mascot does not amount to trademark infringement. The case highlights the intricacies of trademark law, especially where common words are applied in various contexts, and emphasizes the need to establish both commercial intent and consumer confusion in such cases.

WHAT IS THE LAW ON TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

Trademark infringement is, as per Section 29 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, involves using a mark in trade that will likely cause confusion or create a false connection with the registered trademark. This also includes applying a well-established trademark to goods or services that are not related, according to Section 29(4), where the use is without reasonable cause and for unfair advantage or detriment to the distinctive character or reputation of the mark. Although a trade-

mark may not be registered, the law of “passing off” safeguards established brands where misrepresentation causes harm to goodwill. So, in short, infringement relies on unauthorized commercial use, likelihood of confusion, brand dilution, and damage to reputation.

Relief from Trademark Infringement

Under Section 135 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, an aggrieved party in case of trademark infringement or passing off can seek relief in the form of injunctions and damages. Further, the court can grant damages as monetary compensation for the legal harm caused, even if the precise loss is not measurable.

Prospective Outcomes
In the ongoing Champak controversy, the central legal issue lies in whether the use of the name Champak by the BCCI for its AI-powered robotic dog in the IPL constitutes trademark infringement or unauthorized exploitation of a well-established brand. The Delhi High Court, having directed notice to BCCI, has not yet ruled on whether under section 29(4) of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 the magazine’s claims of use of a well-known mark on dissimilar goods can be evidenced by proof of commercial use and consumer confusion. The next hearing is set for July 9, 2025, on which date BCCI is required to submit its written submission.

In this matter, the court will probably deal with larger questions like the application of common or descriptive terms to branding, the extent of trademark protection extending to newer goods and services, and the standard of proving dilution or goodwill misappropriation in non-competing environments. The verdict may establish an important precedent in Indian trademark law, especially with respect to digital and AI-based branding in high-profile commercial environments.

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OPINION

PRIYA S. TANDON



The mother-child relationship is the purest relationship in the world. In the recent years it became a fad to celebrate Mother’s day. I often wonder why Indians are so enamoured by the ways of the West.

In the western world, youngsters leave home in their teens and fend for themselves. Mother’s day is a designated day for them to come and meet their mothers once in a year. They may even skip the trip and just send a bouquet of flowers with a ‘Happy Mother’s Day’ greeting card. The day, and many others akin to it, have been popularised by those for whom this was a business proposition. Innumerable cards, flowers, teddies, chocolates etc. are sold, the world over on these days. If you look closely, they have nothing to do with our culture but have just been copy-pasted on our psyche.

Contrarily in the Bhartiya culture, mothers look after the children much beyond their growing up. I would say that mothers look out for their children forever. I remember a time when my Dadi told my mother, “*Madan lissa ho gaya bai. Eh nu changi kburaak deya kar!*” (Madan-my father, had lost weight and was looking weak, so she should give him a better diet) We all had a good laugh because my Dad was always overweight! But mothers are mothers!

Mother’s love is pure. It doesn’t need to be posted about or glorified on social media. It doesn’t look for gratification because it’s

natural and undemanding like a flowing river. It’s suffused in every breath of a mother. It’s lived and felt every day of a mother’s life. Mothers give their all for their children. Their sacrifices for the upbringing of the children have been recognised in our scriptures. Mothers teach their children to distinguish between right and wrong. They are the ones who teach values like honesty, kindness, punctuality, empathy, sacrifice, devotion etc. by setting an example; by walking the talk. That is why the mother is the one who is accorded the first place of reverence. The Taittiriya Upanishad says, “*Mathru Devo Bhava, Pithru Devo Bhava, Aacharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava.*” Meaning: Honour your Mother as God. Honour your Father as God. Honour your Teacher as God. Honour your Guest as God.

Children grow up; get involved with their careers and their spouses. They move on ... that’s the way of life. But a mother’s heart always beats for those she once carried in her womb. Mothers are always about giving ... there is no ‘take’ in their vocabulary.

In the Bharatiyas culture we worship five mothers. These are Deha Mata- the physical mother, Desh Mata- Mother India, Bhu Mata- Mother Earth, Gau Mata- Mother Cow and Veda Mata- The scriptures and the feminine form of Divinity. Bhartiyaas are the only ones that revere their country as a mother. Did you ever hear of Mother America or Mother Canada? They adulate the five as mothers, because they nourish us selflessly.

Motherhood brings great joy but it also brings great responsibilities. Our scriptures propound that responsible motherhood begins, not when a child is born; it begins when the thought of conceiving a

child is born. It means that a woman should be in good mental and physical health before she conceives. If she is not, the same shortcomings would likely be there in the child to come.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, “If one’s mother is unhappy, all the expenditure one incurs and all the worship one offers in the name of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi in the Navatri festival will yield no fruit. Even in the ancient teachings about the persons who are to be revered as Gods - mother, father, teacher



and guest - the first place is given to the mother, when it says, ‘Mathru Devo Bhava’. Even in our casual talk we say mother, father, teacher and God. God is relegated to the last position but the mother is given the first place. This reveals the attitude of Bharathiya culture towards women in general and the mother in particular. It is the mother that holds the child with her hand and teaches it how to walk. It is the mother that feeds the child and teaches it how to eat. It is again the mother that teaches the child how to utter meaningful sounds and speak. Thus the mother is one’s foremost teacher.”

Maa ka baath ka khaana, was a delicacy in our childhood. *Maa* here would include Grandmas too. I still remember my Nani’s paranthas and my Dadi’s halwa. My mother would make the best Matar-paneer, Zeera-alu, pakoras etc. She was much ahead of her time and would bake healthy cakes and desserts for us. Her 5-star dishes were homemade Gulab jamuns and Trifle pudding. In those times, we too ate with abandon. There was no calorie counting. The calories would get burnt in the normal course of play.

Much as I understand the

demands of the working mothers of today, it would be nice if they would find time to feed, cuddle and connect with their babies. Our mothers fed us with their own hands. However busy they were, they always found time for their babies. Feeding time is the best time to bond with children.

In the present day pace of life, with professional commitments, social media ... taking a toll on time, mothers have lesser time for their babies. This is what happened in the West too. And the family as a unit of togetherness and commitment to each other, got eroded. When the mothers stopped bonding with the children, they started bonding elsewhere.

Motherhood is precious. If you are lucky to be a young mother, enjoy every moment of it. Give your best to your babies, because they are your most valuable property. It’s important to make proper ties, they are far more valuable than properties.

And if your mother has passed on to the other side, remember that a mother never really dies, she remains alive in your smile, in your thoughts, in your demeanour ... and a part of her is alive in your siblings too!

In the Bhartiya culture, we do not really need to celebrate Mother’s day, because we look after our mothers each day, till the end. They have looked after us and we can never repay the *Matri-rini!* We don’t meet them just once in a year. They are a part of us, just as we are a part of them. For us, each day is mother’s day.

In the Bhagwad Puran it is stated that when Kaliyuga is at its prime, mothers shall overindulge children such that they shall be spoiled rotten and shall not be able to do the simplest things for themselves, neither would they respect the parents who have given them everything. Sadly, we see this all around, more so in the affluent sections of society. Let us raise responsible children who are assets, not burdens to the society and the nation. Let the innate essence of motherhood stay alive. Happy Mother’s Day!

In the Shadows of Influence: Masculinity and Modern Parenting

OPINION

DR AVLOKITA SHARMA



Since its premiere on March 13, 2025, the gripping limited series “Adolescence” has captured global attention, amassing over 114 million views within just one month—an impressive achievement that underscores its resonance with a diverse audience, includ-

ing Indian parents. Its harrowing narrative and bold engagement with dark yet timely theme has struck a chord with viewers around the world. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that viewers were captivated by the series, which revolves around a 13-year-old boy accused Jamie of murdering a classmate. Everyone involved—his family, therapists, and detectives—was left asking: why? Throughout his childhood, both Eddie and Manda (parents in the series) made sure that Jamie avoided the mistakes—such as underage drinking, smoking, drug use, and premature sexual

activity. They knew where he was and what he was doing at all times when he was out with friends, and he was always at home when he wasn’t with them. However, when Jamie was home, he spent most of his time locked in his room, quietly browsing the internet until the early hours of the morning. Eddie makes a devastating observation in the final episode of the series. He assumed that close proximity would ensure that Jamie would grow up to be a happy, healthy young boy. Eddie even stated that he made a concerted effort to be a better father than his own had been, while Manda poignantly emphasized that both Jamie and his sister were “made” in the same way: “through love.” Regrettably, Jamie’s seemingly normal upbringing couldn’t prevent his eventual horrific crime.

Indian parents may find the Netflix web series “Adolescence” particularly valu-

able for several compelling reasons. Firstly, the series offers deep insight into the multifaceted issues and challenges that today’s teenagers face. These include identity formation, complex relationships (such as peer pressure and romantic entanglements), and mental health struggles (like anxiety and depression). Un-

In Indian society, particularly in the regions of Punjab and Haryana, the foundations of masculinity are deeply ingrained in the minds of young boys from an early age, and there remains a strong preference for male children.

derstanding these intricate themes can empower parents to empathize with their children, fostering an environment conducive to open and honest conversations. The series tackles significant themes, such as toxic masculinity and the ramifications of raising spoiled male children. It poignantly

explores how neglect from fathers, coupled with unresolved personal issues, can adversely affect their sons, often leading to harmful behaviors and destructive attitudes.

For Indian parents, “Adolescence” transcends the genre of a mere crime thriller; it acts as a stark wake-up call. It emphasizes that par-

enting in the digital age goes far beyond focusing solely on academic performance and career ambitions; it’s fundamentally about nurturing emotionally intelligent and empathetic individuals. This message is especially crucial for raising boys, who must learn that genuine power is rooted in

kindness and compassion, rather than aggression or violence.

As Indian parents, it is crucial to recognize that the digital challenges our children encounter are not confined to specific cultural contexts but are universal in nature. Today’s youth, irrespective of their upbringing, are vulnerable to the pressures and risks associated with digital platforms. The notion that our children are immune to these vulnerabilities due to our traditional values is increasingly outdated. Long before Andrew Tate and the manosphere gained widespread notoriety, the influence of uncles and cousins played a significant role in shaping perceptions of masculinity. They promoted the idea that real men do not cry, that economic independence defines manly status, and that men should avoid household chores—like doing dishes—because they consider them unmanly. In

Indian society, particularly in the regions of Punjab and Haryana, the foundations of masculinity are deeply ingrained in the minds of young boys from an early age, and there remains a strong preference for male children. Boys are often socialized to believe that assertiveness, or even aggression, is a virtue. Many young boys learn that negotiation or acceptance doesn’t always apply to them, frequently refusing to accept “no” from their mothers or sisters. This socialization leads them to believe that emotional expression is often discouraged, while dominance is celebrated.

Moreover, it’s essential to move away from the tendency to blame working mothers or attribute societal issues solely to the disintegration of the joint family system. Problems such as infidelity, extramarital affairs, and violence against women, which frequently dominate media headlines,

cannot be pinned down to specific family structures alone. Instead, we need to take a holistic view and understand the interplay of various factors contributing to these issues. If we believe we are what we eat, the same logic applies to what we watch and scroll through. These beliefs, whether consciously or unconsciously picked up, end up shaping how teens think, feel, act, and even influence their life experiences.

The pertinent question still remains- Who ought we to hold accountable—the parenting, the children, the insidious grasp of digital addiction, or the pervasive influence of social media—when children transgress despite admonitions? It is even more disconcerting when they exhibit lack of remorse, often retorting with dismissive phrases such as “no big deal,” “everyone is doing it,” “it’s okay; our generation is just messed up,” or even “no one is clean.” -

BCCI DECIDES TO SUSPEND THE REMAINDER OF IPL 2025 FOR A WEEK

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with immediate effect for one week, as per a release from BCCI media advisory.

Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders.

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



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

"At this critical juncture, the BCCI stands firmly with the nation. We express our

solidarity with the Government of India, the Armed Forces, and the people of our country. The Board salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation, as they lead a resolute response to the recent terrorist attack and

the unwarranted aggression by Pakistan's armed forces. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the Nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country. The BCCI remains firmly committed to support all efforts that safeguard India and will always align its decisions in the best interest

“As you know, the situation escalated yesterday... To ensure no panic in the crowd and the safety of the public, steps were taken and people were evacuated comfortably.s

- Arun Dhumal, IPL chairman

of the nation,” a statement from the board said. The development comes on the heels of Thursday night's unfortunate incident at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium, where the highly anticipated match between PBKS and DC was called off.

UAE likely to shut door on PCB's plan to host PSL X in Dubai: Sources

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) hopes of hosting the remainder of the PSL 10 in the United Arab Emirates have suffered a massive setback. The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) remains wary of the repercussions it can cause amid the escalating border tensions between India and Pakistan.

After the recent developments, the PCB announced that the remaining fixtures of the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) X have been shifted to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Pakistan board stated that the last eight fixtures of the tournament, which were previously scheduled in Rawalpindi, Multan, and Lahore, will now be staged in the UAE.

However, a source close to the development at the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), who spoke on condition of anonymity, has indicated



that the board is unlikely to approve the hosting of the remainder of the PSL matches in the UAE, citing security concerns potentially emanating from the rising tension between India and Pakistan. "The UAE has a diverse South Asian population which enjoys cricket. Hosting a tournament like the PSL in the midst of such tense circumstances could vitiate harmony, pose security risks and stir unnecessary friction between communities," the source said.

The recent developments have made the Emirates Cricket Board wary of being

perceived as an ally of PCB, which it believes the act of harbouring PSL may suggest. The Emirates Cricket Board has enjoyed a strong relationship with the BCCI in recent years, having hosted the 'India' edition of the ICC T20 World Cup 2021, editions of the IPL, and India matches during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

Dubai is also the International Cricket Council's headquarters and has hosted multiple Asian Cricket Council events during former President and current ICC Chairman Jay Shah's tenure at the ACC.

Deepika, Salunkhe reach recurve semis; mixed team in bronze play-off

AGENCIES
SHANGHAI

The Indian compound mixed team entered the bronze medal match while Deepika Kumari and Parth Sushant Salunkhe made it to the women's and men's recurve individual semifinals of the World Cup Stage 2 here on Friday.

Madhura Dhamangaonkar and Abhishek Verma lost 156-158 to Ella Gibson and Ajay Scott of Great Britain in the compound mixed team semifinal.

The Indian archers lost the opening and third series 38-39 and 39-40 while they were tied 40-40 and 39-39 in the second and fourth



series.

Dhamangaonkar and Abhishek Verma will face Malaysia who lost to Turkiye 156-157 in the bronze medal match on Saturday.

In the individual men's recurve competition, Salunkhe made it to the semifinals after stunning

Tokyo Olympics gold medalist and Paris Games bronze winner Mete Gazoz 6-5 in the shoot-off in the first round.

He then overcame Aoshima Tetsuya of Japan with an identical margin in the round of 32 before defeating Ryan Tyack of Australia 6-2.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025, which was set to be held on May 24 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, has been postponed until further notice in the wake of the escalating cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

"In light of the current situation, the inaugural edition of the NC Classic stands postponed until further notice. This decision has been made after careful thought and consultation, with the well-being of athletes, stakeholders, and the broader community as the top priority," a statement from NC Classic on social



media.

In a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, where 26 tourists were gunned down, the Indian Armed Forces on Wednesday launched 'Operation Sindoor', carrying out precision strikes on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-oc-

cupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

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

Anahat Singh to feature in World Squash Championships 2024-25

AGENCIES
CHICAGO

India's Anahat Singh will compete in the upcoming World Squash Championships 2024-2025, which will be played at Chicago, the United States of America, from Friday.

The 2025 World Squash Championships, which run from May 9 to 17, as per the Olympics.com.

Anahat, still just 17, is fast becoming one of India's top bets in world squash. The youngster has been in inspired form since her double bronze medal win at the Hangzhou 2023 Asian Games in the People's Republic of China two years ago.

Last year, Anahat Singh won an astonishing nine PSA Challenger titles - more



than any other woman - and successfully defended her senior and junior national crowns. The teenage prodigy has carried her form into 2025, winning the Indian Tour tournament in Chennai before clinching the Indian Open title in Mumbai. She also helped India win a bronze medal at the Asian Junior Squash Team Championships held in Hong Kong, China, this year. Courtesy of

the succession of wins, Anahat is currently ranked 62nd in the world, which makes her the India No. 1 among women.

The Indian squash player, who booked her ticket to her maiden singles World Championships by winning the Asian Qualifiers held in Malaysia last month, will face England's world No. 28 Marina Stefanoni of the USA in the first round. A couple

of wins could see the youngster square off against world No. 1 and reigning champion Nouran Gohar of Egypt in the third round.

While Anahat will be the only Indian in the women's draw at Chicago, India will mount a four-front challenge in the men's category with Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar competing under the tricolour.

World Squash Team Championships 2025: Indian squad Men: Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar Women: Anahat Singh

Veer Chotrani, similar to Anahat, qualified for the Chicago World Championships by winning the Asian Qualifiers but the other three received direct entries.

Diksha and Pranavi make a decent start on rainy day

AGENCIES
SEOUL

Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs made a reasonable start with cards of 1-over 73 each on the first day of the rain-hit Aramco Korea Championship here. Diksha was inside the top-10 till she came to the ninth hole, her closing hole of the day.

She bogeyed the hole and dropped to 1-over to go tied-19. Pranavi had just one birdie against two bogeys in her 73 and she was also tied-19. Despite a beautiful week in Seoul the rain proved a tough test for the stars of the Ladies European Tour (LET). India's other two stars, Tvesa Malik (79) and Avani Prashanth (79) were both T-86 and needed good second rounds to cut.

Only six players were under-par with France's Perrine Delacour and Germany's Patricia Schmidt tied at the top on three-



under. The former, a recent winner at the Investec SA Women's Open, also tops the Team event with her side on 13-under par. Diksha started from the tenth and had two birdies and bogeys each to turn in even par. On the second nine, she bogeyed the first but got the shot back with a birdie on

the fifth. A dropped shot on the last hole saw her go over par. Pranavi opened with a birdie on the tenth and then had bogeys on the 15th and the sixth. Out in the first group of the day, Delacour, alongside her squad of Maha Haddioui, Eleanor Givens and Polly Mack, set the benchmark teaming up

for 14 birdies to post a combined score of 13-under par.

They lead Team Kouskova by one shot. The captain, Olympian Delacour, led from the front carding five birdies and dropping just two shots at New Korea Country Club for a round of 69 (-3). Joining her at the top of the Individual leader board is fellow LET winner Schmidt. The German, winner of the 2023 Belgian Ladies Open, also made five birdies, dropping her only shots of the day at the par-4 1st and par-3 11th. In the team competition, Team Dagar was T-6, while Team Urs was T-12 and she also had Avani in the team. Tvesa Malik, who was on Team Babnik, was T-24. Three players share third spot on two-under par, a trio which includes South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace, Ecuador's Daniela Darquea and defending champion Hyo Joo Kim from South Korea.

Odisha girls win Kho-Kho gold; Aditi Hegde bags 7 medals

AGENCIES
PATNA

Odisha grabbed the girls' kho-kho gold while Maharashtra swimmer Aditi Satish Hegde picked up her seventh medal of the Khelo India Youth Games on the sixth day of competitions here on Friday. Odisha beat fancied Maharashtra in the girls' kho-kho final here while Aditi won a bronze in the 1500m freestyle event to take her medal haul to seven at the BIPARD Sports Complex in Gaya.

Odisha also won a silver medal in the boys' kho-kho. Aditi has already won five



gold -- including two in relays. She had won five medals the 2024 KIYG in Chennai and came to Gaya with a resolve to improve her medal count. On the last day of the swimming competitions dominated by Karnataka, Haryana's Arjun Singh not only emerged as the fastest

swimmer of the meet with a victory in 23.91 seconds but also claimed his second sprint gold. He had won the 50m backstroke gold earlier in the week.

If it was the Jammu and Kashmir boys' volleyball team that took the breath away of the fans at the Patli-

putra Sports Complex here late on Thursday, it was the turn of Odisha girls kho-kho team to do the same as they wiped off a deficit at the break to secure a memorable victory. At the Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi, the 10m air rifle mixed team of Rudra Pratap and Divya Shree took Bihar's medal count to 14. The duo showed poise and calm under pressure to beat an Uttar Pradesh pair for a bronze. Bihar, however, suffered a heartbreak when the girls' team lost the sepaktakraw Regu final to Manipur. Bihar now has one gold, five silver and eight bronze medals. Despite the

reverse in the kho-kho final in the morning, Maharashtra continued its relentless quest to stay on the top of the medal tally. With a title win for the kho-kho boys' team and the air rifle shooting mixed team, and three athletes on the final day of swimming competition in Gaya, Maharashtra's haul rose to 23 gold. The twin gold medals won by Rujula S (50m freestyle) and the boys 4x100m freestyle relay quartet enabled Karnataka to edge ahead of Rajasthan on the chart with 12 gold, 20 silver and six bronze medals. Madhya Pradesh and Haryana complete the top five on the medal tally.



Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh players in action during the final match of Volleyball during the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, in Patna on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

KANGANA TO MAKE HER HOLLYWOOD DEBUT WITH HORROR DRAMA

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut will debut in Hollywood with a lead role in the horror drama 'Blessed Be the Evil', reported Variety. She will star alongside 'Teen Wolf' actor Tyler Posey and 'Tulsa King' star Scarlet Rose Stallone in the film.

According to the outlet, the production of the film is set to begin this summer in New York. Producers chose US locations to "avoid running into any uncertainties stemming from the recently announced Trump industry tariffs," as quoted by



Variety.

The movie will be directed by Anurag Rudra. She also wrote the screenplay of the film along with Gatha Tiwary, president and found-

er of Lions Movies.

As per the synopsis, the film follows a Christian couple who, after experiencing a devastating miscarriage, purchase an abandoned farm with a dark past. However, a malevolent presence soon tests their love and faith, reported Variety.

The director, with roots in India, shared his affinity for the stories he heard during his childhood in rural India.

"Being born and spending my childhood in rural India, I was told stories that got embedded in my mind and heart. This folklore was

so special that I truly believed in all the stories, and wanted to showcase them internationally through the art of cinema - the strongest and most beautiful way to connect to dreams and reality," said Anurag Rudra as quoted by Variety.

Earlier this year, actress Ranaut released her directorial 'Emergency'. In the film, she portrayed the former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

As for actor Posey, it is not his first time that he will be trying his luck in the horror genre. He was earlier seen in the horror film 'Truth or Dare', reported Variety.

Pranav's horror thriller with 'Bramayugam' makers is titled 'Dies Irae'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The upcoming horror thriller of Pranav Mohanlal, son of actor Mohanlal, has finally got a title. The movie is titled 'Dies Irae'.

The 'Bramayugam' makers have come up with another horror thriller, and this time they are collaborating with Pranav Mohanlal for the film.

It is written and directed by Rahul Sadasivan.

The actor shared the motion poster of the film on his Instagram handle.

https://www.instagram.com/p/DJbESRGRCnP/

As per Variety, the principal photography has been wrapped, and the project



is currently in post-production.

The studio's previous effort, 2024 monochrome period horror film 'Bramayugam,' starring Malayalam-language cinema superstar Mammooty, Arjun Ashokan and Sidharth Bharathan, directed by Sadasivan, was a box office success.

The film is produced

under the banner of Night Shift Studios.

"With 'Bramayugam,' we were able to draw global attention to what Indian horror thrillers could achieve. 'Dies Irae' is the next step in this pursuit. Pranav Mohanlal is set to leave an indelible footprint on this genre," says Chakravarthy Ramachandra, founder and producer of Night Shift Studios, as quoted by Variety.

While specific plot details remain under wraps, director Sadasivan hints that viewers can expect something distinctly different from his previous work.

"Compared to my previous films, 'Dies Irae' explores a diametrically opposite emotional spectrum which connects to the new generation," he says.

"While it stays true to the horror-thriller space, it's a very different beast in terms of narrative style and mood," added director Sadasivan as quoted by Variety.

A worldwide theatrical release is slated for later this year.



Sonam Kapoor poses for her social media. (ANI)

Anushka, Virat, other celebs laud Indian Army

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Anushka Sharma has expressed her support for India's Operation Sindoor against terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

On Friday afternoon, Anushka took to Instagram and thanked the Indian armed forces for working day and night to protect the nation.

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

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

Virat Kohli posted on his Instagram, "Westand in solidarity with and salute our armed forces for fiercely protecting our country in these difficult



Bollywood celebrities have extended support to the nation and also offered prayers for the safety and well-being of the people.

times. We are forever indebted to our heroes for their unwavering bravery and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices they and their families make for our great nation."

India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads against each other after terrorist camps were destroyed at nine locations in the neighboring country under Operation Sindoor, which was launched in response to the ghastly Pahal-

gam terrorist attack.

Bollywood celebrities have extended support to the nation and also offered prayers for the safety and well-being of the people.

On Thursday, the Indian Army shot down more than 50 Pakistani drones during a large-scale counter-drone operation along the Line of Control and the International Borders (IB), sources told ANI.

BRAIN PICKING



I have always had a flair for acting; maybe that's why I enjoyed casting so much.

—BHUMI PEDNEKAR

(Indian Actress)

SRK returns to Mumbai after his big Met Gala 2025 debut

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

After stunning fans at the Met Gala 2025, Shah Rukh Khan is back in Mumbai.

The Bollywood superstar, who made headlines with his debut at the prestigious fashion event, was seen walking out of the airport on Thursday evening. The actor looked stylish as always.

He was accompanied by his manager, Pooja Dadlani.

In videos captured by paparazzi, the actor was spotted in a white t-shirt paired with blue jeans, a black



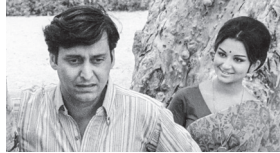
jacket, and sunglasses. He completed his look with a blue bag, brown belt, and white sneakers.

Satyajit Ray's 'Aranyer Din Ratri' set for screening at Cannes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 4K restored version of master filmmaker Satyajit Ray's 1970 film "Aranyer Din Ratri" will be screened at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival under the Classics section, the organisers said on Thursday.

Based on the novel of the same name by author Sunil Gangopadhyay, the Bengali-language film, titled "Days and Nights in the Forest"



in English, featured an ensemble cast of Soumitra Chatterjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Samit Bhanja, Robi Ghosh, Aparna Sen, Sharmila Tagore and Simi Garewal.

The movie, which explored themes of alienation, class, and modernity, followed the

Shah Rukh Khan made a scintillating debut at the prestigious Met Gala this year.

For Shah Rukh's Met Gala appearance, ace designer Sabyasachi created a black floor-length, elongated coat in Tasmanian superfine wool with monogrammed Japanese horn buttons. The coat is hand-canvassed, single-breasted, with a peak collar and wide lapels. It was paired with a crepe de chine silk shirt and tailored superfine wool trousers.

story of four city-bred men who escape to the forests of Palamau for a carefree holiday, only to undergo a journey of self-discovery.

"Aranyer Din Ratri" is presented and restored by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project at L'Imagine Ritrovata in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), Janus Films, and the Criterion Collection.

REVIEW: RAID 2 *****

THUNDERBOLTS*



PRAVEEN NAGDA

Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is back with another cinematic thrill, not only for those who are die-hard followers of MCU but also for those who enjoy super sharp graphic effects in 3D of the superhe-

roes. Directed by Jake Schreier and written by Eric Pearson, Joanna Calo, and Kurt Busiek, Thunderbolts* packs a punch while introducing a new character in this Universe.

Thunderbolts* opens up with the mysterious Val aka Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) deploying Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) for destroying a laboratory of the OXE group working on a superhuman project secretly. She is facing an impeachment possibility and wants all her dark secrets buried as far as her OXE association is con-

cerned, so mercenaries are sent by her to kill each other and self-destruct, erasing all the evidence against her.

John Walker (Wyatt Russell), Ava Starr (Hannah John-Kamen) and Taskmaster (Olga Kurylenko) are all in the secret OXE facility. Ava kills the Taskmaster, and to their surprise they discover Bob aka Robert Reynolds (Lewis Pullman) out of the blue popping out from a container wearing a hospital gown like a test subject in the mid of the gunshots and fire powers being exchanged.

Having understood that it was only a trap set up by Val to eliminate all mercenaries, also with the facility, the team unites for an escape attempt before they are roasted in the thermal

chamber itself. Of course, they come out saving Bob from the facility, and in the escape bid, Bob realises his superhuman powers, letting Yelena, John, and Ava escape and face the wrath of military bullets that turn only into lightning and fly high in the skies. And this new team is Thunderbolts*.

Val's agents are going for a kill by eliminating Thunderbolts* but there comes the Winter Soldier turned Congressman, Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan) apprehending them eventually discovers the Bob and the Sentry project. Bucky wants them to testify against Val in her impeachment, but Val tries brainwashing Bob, the Sentry, whose superhuman capabili-

ties overpower the Thunderbolts*. However, the good side of Sentry doesn't listen to Val for eliminating the Thunderbolts*, and it takes Val head-on. A Killswitch activation by Mel (Geraldine Viswanathan), assistant to Val, triggers Sentry's darker side (Void), and he is on a rampage in spreading darkness in the entire city, trapping people in pocket dimensions as per their worst memories.

Interestingly, all characters here have some troubled past, and they all deal with it in forming a new team, Thunderbolts*. While they're being presented as rogues by Val to the media and public, they, in turn, start saving the citizens from the wrath of the Sentry's void.

Yelena doesn't give up, and she enters the darkness to reach Bob's consciousness and bring back the good side, eventually making the new team.

Visual effects and graphics are simply amazing, and they give you much thrill as expected in MCU movies with the stunning visuals of skyscrapers and the skydiving. As refreshing were the brutal fight sequences of the motorcycle and big guns as were the emotional exchanges between various characters through the film. Thrills, chills, and feelings are all very well packed in Thunderbolts*!

Praveen Nagda is Festival Director of KidzCINEMA and CultureCinema Film Festivals



AMID INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSION, MAYOR CALLS MEETING ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In response to rising Indo-Pak tensions, Chandigarh Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla convened an emergency meeting to ensure the city's full preparedness and citizen safety.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh Today Society Chandigarh In a swift and proactive response to the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, Chandigarh Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla today called a special meeting with top officials of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh. The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Amit Kumar, Senior Deputy Mayor Sh. Jasbir Singh Bunt, Deputy Mayor Taruna Mehta, all Joint Commissioners, Sumit Sihag, Joint Commissioner Himanshu Gupta, Joint Commissioner Vasundhara Chief Engineer, Sanjay Arora Superintendent Engineer and senior officers of the corporation.

Expressing deep concern for the safety and well-being of Chandigarh residents, Mayor Babla issued a series of immediate directives to ensure the city's preparedness for any emergency. He emphasized that "the safety of citizens is our top priority, and the Municipal Corporation is fully mobilized to respond swiftly and



efficiently." Key measures initiated under the Mayor's leadership include

EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM ACTIVATED

A 24x7 control room has been set up at ICCC (Tel: 0172-2787200) to handle all emergency calls. A dedicated team under the supervision of SDE Sh. Rudesh Kumar has been deputed to manage the operations, with full support from designated staff.

BLACKOUT PROTOCOL

AND STREET LIGHT MANAGEMENT

The mayor directed immediate implementation of the blackout plan. SE (horticulture) has been appointed as the nodal officer to switch off street and solar lights and to raise the siren if necessary. Coordination with the Shikha and Engineering departments has been ensured.

WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

In case of power failure, SE (Public Health) has been

directed to ensure uninterrupted water supply through tankers. Contact details of key officials are being centralised in the control room.

PUBLIC ADVISORY THROUGH RWAS/ MWAS

Field engineers are directed to meet Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Market Welfare Associations (MWAs) to advise them on blackout protocols, prevent public panic, discourage hoarding and ensure compliance with emergency advisories.

IDENTIFICATION OF EVACUATION CENTRES

Community centres in Chandigarh are being identified and prepared to function as evacuation centres if required, with logical arrangements for boarding and lodging.

PROTECTION OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS

Critical infrastructure such as waterworks, tube wells and ICCCs are to be secured. Only verified government

personnel will be allowed access to these locations.

MOBILIZATION OF MACHINERY

The Mechanical and Transport Wing is preparing a list of all government and private machinery (JCBs, Tipplers, Trucks) with contact details of drivers for rapid deployment during emergencies.

PREPAREDNESS OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The Chief Fire Officer has been directed to ensure that all fire and rescue operations are on high alert and fully operational. Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla urged the citizens of Chandigarh to remain calm, avoid rumours and co-operate with the authorities. She assured that all departments are on full alert and Chandigarh is fully prepared to meet any contingency. "The Corporation is taking every step to ensure the safety and resilience of our city. I appeal to the public to remain vigilant, stay informed through official channels, and avoid panic," she said.

Chandigarh alert: Shops shut, schools closed till today; DC office to remain open on holidays

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

There was panic in Chandigarh on Friday morning when sirens suddenly started ringing in many areas of the city. According to the information, this step was taken after receiving a warning of a possible air attack from the Air Force Station. The DC office will remain open even on holidays on 10, 11 and 12 May.

DC Nishant Yadav said that he had received information from the Air Force station that there could be a possible air attack, after which the entire city was immediately alerted. He has appealed to the city residents that everyone should stay in

their homes, not go out of the house without any need and stay away from balconies or open spaces. As soon as the siren sounded, shopkeepers in many markets including Sector 22, Sector 17, Sector 35 immediately closed their shops and people were seen running here and there. Apart from this, the administration has also taken precautions regarding schools.

Kendriya Vidyalaya located in Sector-31, where children of Air Force personnel and officers study, has declared holiday till May 10. Apart from this, holiday has been declared in all government and private schools of the entire city till May 10.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

nine anti drone systems will be installed along with 532 kilometers of border with Pakistan. He said that these systems will help in checking the smuggling of drugs and weapons along with the border through the drones. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Rs 51.41 crore will be spent by the state government for this Nobel initiative aimed at strengthening security along with border.

Punjab shares a long International Border with Pakistan and lies in proximity of Afghanistan (major Heroin

producer). Pakistan continues to make concerted efforts to destabilize India's Internal Security by smuggling from across the border. The fencing along the international border has been breached with use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Drones.

Requirement for Anti Drone System (ADS) to enhance capability to detect and neutralize hostile drones, thereby preventing the influx of arms, explosives and narcotics which are smuggled from across the border using the drones is must.

Panchkula on high alert, district safe: DC Monica Gupta urges caution

TDG NETWORK
PANCHKULA

In view of the emergency situation, Panchkula district is on high alert and is completely safe. Deputy Commissioner Mrs. Monica Gupta has appealed to the people to be cautious in view of the situation. In this regard, while holding a meeting of officials in the District Secretariat, she gave necessary guidelines and said that we have to work together to keep our district safe.

Deputy Commissioner Monica Gupta said that last night too, a blackout was imposed in the district after a sudden blackout alert was issued in Panchkula. There may be an alert today too. She requested the people of Panchkula that as a precaution, all the residents of the district should observe a blackout themselves and everyone should stay safe in their homes. She appealed to keep all the lights of their homes switched off and leave the house only in case of essential work.

He has also requested the market associations to keep the display board lights of their respective establishments off and not leave any lights of their establishments on. He requested the shopkeepers to observe a blackout as a precaution today and close the market at 7 o'clock. He said that those who have CCTV cameras installed at their places should switch off their CCTV cameras before leaving. Switching off the cameras will make the blackout more effective. Keep the lights of the common park-



ing area off as well. He said that electricity will not be cut at the government level, it is an appeal to the general public to fully cooperate in the blackout. Deputy Commissioner Monika Gupta said that no lights should be kept on at night in government headquarters and offices. Officers of the concerned departments should ensure that all the lights in their offices are switched off.

Deputy Commissioner Monica Gupta said that in case of a blackout alert, area-wise teams have been formed to inform people so that the alert information reaches people on time and all the district residents remain safe. She said that in case of a sudden blackout alert, people will be informed through siren and loudspeaker, separate teams have been formed for this. She said that as a precautionary measure, a blackout will be observed in the entire district from 7 o'clock today.

Deputy Commissioner Monica Gupta said that till now the district is completely safe and there is no situation to impose curfew. She said that all activities are being done with caution for safety, people need not be afraid. She said that follow the information issued by the district administration

and do not pay attention to any kind of rumor. She said that only believe the message sent by the district administration. She said that a lot of rumors spread at such a time, so do not pay attention to any rumor. She said that for information, apart from the social media handle of the district administration, believe only the information posted in the civil society group created by the district administration on WhatsApp. She said that all the councilors, sarpanches, etc. prominent people are being included in this group so that correct and accurate information reaches the people. She said that in today's meeting it was decided that till the situation is serious, the solar lights will be kept off.

He said that we have identified the sensitive areas. The health and fire department teams are on alert mode.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Police Himandri Kaushik, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nisha Yadav, SDM Panchkula Chandrakant Kataria, SDM Kalka Sanyam Garg, City Magistrate Vishwajeet, District Revenue Officer Dr Kuldeep Singh, EO of Haryana Urban Development Authority Manav Malik and other concerned officers were present.

Tricity alert: CTU halts Jammu-Katra buses; Panchkula markets to close by 6 PM

TDG NETWORK
PANCHKULA

After Operation Sindoor, tension between India and Pakistan is at its peak. Late on Thursday night, Pakistan tried to launch air strikes in several cities of Punjab. After these incidents, an alert has been issued in Panchkula and Mohali including Chandigarh.

Air raid warning sirens started ringing in Chandigarh on Friday morning. This meant that an air raid warning of a possible drone attack had been received from the Air Force station. Everyone was advised to stay indoors and away from the balcony.

CTU has stopped its bus going to Jammu-Katra. A CTU official said that buses used to run from Chandigarh to Jammu and Katra every morning and evening. The bus that had left yesterday evening was sent back from Pathankot citing security reasons, after which CTU has not sent any bus

There is an alert in Panchkula as well. The DC has instructed to increase vigilance in hospitals in the district.

going towards Jammu-Katra this morning.

Chandigarh UT administration has issued an important order informing that due to the current circumstances, the DC office will now remain open even on holidays i.e. 10 May (Saturday), 11 May (Sunday) and 12 May (Monday). The order issued by the DC states that all the employees of the office must be present on these three days. This order will be applicable to the employees of DC office and all sub-divisions.

There is an alert in Panchkula as well. The DC has instructed to increase vigi-

lance in hospitals in the district. Now shops will not open after 6 pm. The DC has instructed the police to remain alert. There will be a blackout in Panchkula tonight as well.

The Personnel Department of the Chandigarh Administration has issued an urgent order to all Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments directing that all government employees should remain in their respective headquarters/stations (which are located in Chandigarh) until further orders are issued. The order clarifies that no employee will leave his headquarters. All leaves already sanctioned will also now be considered cancelled unless they get the approval of the concerned Secretary and that too will be granted only under special circumstances. This instruction has been sent to all concerned officials for strict compliance and it has been issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Strict evening restrictions imposed to ensure public safety

TDG NETWORK
MOHALI

Mohali Jyoti Singla:- Keeping in mind the safety of the people, Mohali District Magistrate Komal Mittal has ordered to keep cinema halls and shopping malls closed from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am.

Giving detailed information, he said that these orders have been issued for the safety of life and property of the general public and to protect the lives of citizens from any future danger, keeping in mind the prevailing conditions at night, so that any potential danger can be avoided.

Similarly, the use of fire-

crackers and long beam laser/DJ lights will be prohibited in the district, especially during evening hours, so that these lights do not become a hindrance in implementing a complete blackout, whenever required.

Additionally, there is a complete ban on the use of inverters, generators and any other power backup and solar lights used for outdoor lights, billboards, street lights etc. in case of sudden blackout (in case of prior notice given by the administration) in district SAS Nagar till further orders.

Apart from this, the Mohali administration has appealed to the people not to step out of their houses

in the evening, unless it is absolutely necessary. If any siren/signal sounds, people should immediately follow the instructions issued by the government from time to time. It is generally advised to use lights as little as possible.

He said these orders will not apply to law enforcement agencies including police, para-military, air force, SPG personnel and persons authorised by the competent government, authority, as well as hospitals and emergency services etc.

These orders issued under Section 163 of the BNNS 2023 will be effective from May 9, 2025, until further orders.

Mann govt cracks down on terror funding with anti-drone system approval

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday gave nod for purchasing anti-drone system to check the smuggling of weapons and drugs through drone on the borders.

A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting of the council of Ministers held here at the official residence of the Chief Minister.

Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that



Chandigarh terror plot foiled: Two held with time bomb, RDX

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

There is a conspiracy to terrorize Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana, once again. For this purpose, two miscreants from a terrorist group had reached Chandigarh with a large quantity of RDX and time bombs. But due to the alertness of the police, a major incident was averted.

Chandigarh Crime Branch arrested two goons of terrorist Happy Pasia. A large quantity of weapons, time bombs and RDX have been recovered from the accused. Crime Branch SP Jasbir Singh was leading this operation to catch the goons. The team led by Inspector Satwinder Singh caught both the goons before the incident. Police caught both the goons from the jungle

area near Jeeri Mandi of Sector-39.

According to police sources, the accused were planning to commit a major crime in Chandigarh. Recently, the IB had shared inputs with the Chandigarh Police that Happy Pasia was plotting to blow up the police station in the South Area of Chandigarh. After this, the police had increased the security of the

police stations. Let us tell you that the most wanted gangster Happy Pasia living in America was arrested by the FBI and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in April last month.

There has been a hand grenade attack in Chandigarh. On 9 September 2024, a hand grenade attack took place in bungalow number 575 in Sector 10 of Chandigarh. Three youths came in

an auto, threw a hand grenade in the bungalow and fled. The responsibility of this attack was also taken by the terrorist Happy Pasia sitting abroad. The bungalow on which the bomb was thrown belongs to NRI couple Ramesh Malhotra. In Chandigarh, US-based gangster Happy Pasia and Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda carried out a grenade attack.

'I RESIGNED FROM AAM AADMI PARTY WITH A HEAVY HEART': NAVJOT SAINI

TDG NETWORK
ZIRAKPUR

Due to the halt in development work in the city, 14 councillors submitted a memorandum to the Executive Officer on Friday and demanded that if any emergency situation arises in the country, how will we be able to help the people. Because the administration is not making any coordination with the councillors of the city. Councillors Harjeet Singh Minta, Neha Sharma, Ajitpal Singh, Navjot Singh, Jaswinder Longia, Sukhbir Singh Longia, Dharminder Sharma, Yadvinder Sharma, Parveen Sharma, Dharminder Singh, Teji Sidhu, Jagdev Singh, Jaipal Singh and with them Mani Sharma, Pratap Rana, Anil Jain, etc. said that in view of the situation in the country, there was a blackout on Thursday, but many people in the city were keeping the lights on and the hawkers were sitting on the roadside with the lights on. Apart from this, the street lights of the city were also on. It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council and the administration to turn them off. But no officer or employ-



14 councillors submitted a memorandum to the Executive Officer due to the stagnation of development work.

"I cannot call a meeting alone, a meeting will be called according to the rules of the government. All the officers and employees have been informed about the rest of the development work. After seven o'clock in the evening, duties have been assigned to remove all the hawkers from the roads and black out will be observed with the cooperation of the people."

- Jagjit Singh Judge, Executive Officer, Zirakpur.

ee of the administration is picking up the phone, due to which a memorandum was

handed over to the executive officer and a demand was made to fix the responsibil-

ties of the concerned officers. Apart from this, it was said to create a WhatsApp group and create mutual coordination so that the messages and important information of the administration can reach the people. At the same time, the councilors demanded to organize a meeting of the House as soon as possible to solve the problems of the people who are troubled by the stalling of development work in the city.

The councillors who gathered on Friday supported Navjot Saini and said that if he will work ahead then we will all support him. Due to which Navjot Singh resigned from Aam Aadmi Party with

a heavy heart on Friday and declared himself an independent councillor. During this he said that people had made us councillors so that development works of the people could be done. But development has been stalled for a long time. Roads are broken everywhere, the condition of streets, drains and sewerage is so bad that people have become very upset. Due to which today all 15 to 16 councillors held a special meeting and demanded to call a meeting of the House so that the stalled development works in the city can be taken forward and people can be given relief. During this the councilors present there said that we had removed Udayveer Dhillon from the Pradhan post so that the work of the people could be done, but Aam Aadmi Party made the situation even worse than that. Due to which councilors of all parties want to come together and work on development works. For which they have been elected. On the issue of Pradhan and Vice Pradhan, Navjot Singh said that if all the other councillors support me then I am ready to serve.

Devotees gather for Shrimad Bhagwat Katha at Trivedi Camp

TDG NETWORK
DERABASSI



In the weekly Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagna held at Prem Mandir in Trivedi Camp, Sant Prem Murti Maharaj, the narrator from Vrindavan, is narrating the chapters from Shri Vishnu Avtaar to Shri Krishna Avtaar in a musical atmosphere. He congratulated the congregation for the crowd of devotees gathering day by day. He said that like the Shri Ram temple built in Ayodhya, the temples in Mathura and Kashi should also be

renovated. Anyway, the followers of Sanatan Dharma have goodwill towards all religions. Sarpanch Sunita Rani along with the Panchayat members attended and received the blessings of the narrator. Sunita Chopra, Deepak Sharma, Vikas Chopra, Shanti, Gulshan, Hariom, Gurmeet, Goldie

Pahwa were also present in today's story. Vikas told that the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha has been going on since May 2, in which the enthusiasm of the devotees is worth seeing. In the packed pandal, the repeated chants of Radhe-Radhe and Jai Shri Ram were making the entire atmosphere devotional.

Two robbing incidents during blackout in Baltana

TDG NETWORK
ZIRAKPUR

Two incidents took place in Zirakpur as soon as the blackout started at 8 pm on Thursday. In the first complaint, Raj Chauhan told the police that he works as an AC repairer. His salary is 9 thousand. He got his salary on Thursday, out of which he had spent 1 thousand rupees. Raj Chauhan told that after returning from work, he was going to the park with his friend 12-year-old Prince at 8 pm. There was a blackout at that time. Under the Saini Vihar Phase-3 underbridge, a boy first surrounded him and tried to rob his belongings. When he started fighting, the robber youth whistled and called his friends. About 6 to 7 boys came after hearing his whistle, who had knives, rods, sticks and stones in their hands. All of them came and attacked him. He was attacked on

"Raj Chauhan's complaint has been received and his statement has been recorded. The matter is being investigated. The process of registering a case against unknown persons has been started. Naushad Ali has not yet lodged a complaint at the police station."

- Urpreet Singh, Outpost Incharge Baltana

the head with a rod and a knife. The robbers took out 8 thousand rupees of his salary from his pocket and fled after snatching his mobile. His friend Prince rushed him to Dhakoli Hospital from where he was referred to GMCH-32. Raj Chauhan has got five stitches on his head.

The second incident took place in Tribune Colony of Baltana where a youth attacked another youth with a sharp weapon for Rs 100. The incident was carried out during the blackout. Naushad Ali, a resident

of Baltana, was injured in this attack. He was attacked with a sharp weapon on his ear due to which his ear was cut. Naushad was sent to GMCH-32 in an injured condition where he was sent back after first aid. Naushad Ali told that three youths came to him on a scooter and started demanding Rs 100 from him. When he refused, all three attacked him with sharp weapons. One of the attacks hit his ear, causing a deep cut. Later they fled after snatching five thousand rupees from his pocket.

PPCB Golden Jubilee highlights pollution control in pharma sector

TDG NETWORK
DERABASSI

Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) celebrated its Golden Jubilee by organising a function which focused on the theme "Role of Punjab Pollution Control Board in improving prevention and control of pollution in pharmaceutical industries". This Golden Jubilee celebration not only honoured the legacy of PPCB but also strengthened its dedication towards a clean, green Punjab.

Chief Guest, Dr. Lavneet Kumar Dubey, Chief Environmental Engineer inaugurated the event with ceremonial lamp lighting in presence of PPCB Member DD Garg, DIA President Vijay Mittal. He praised the ongoing initiatives of the Board and reaffirmed its commitment to protect the environment of Punjab, especially in sectors like pharmaceuticals where pollution challenges are evolving. EO Rantje Sharma informed that Engineer Rohit Singla, Anuradha Sharma, Senior

Environmental Engineer highlighted the regional approach of PPCB for pollution control. Dr. Anoop Verma, SE Gursharan Das Garg, emphasized on the regulatory journey and achievements of the Board. The event concluded with the presentation of the commemorative Golden Jubilee Calendar of PPCB. The event brought together eminent officials, environmental experts and academic leaders to reflect on the significant contributions of PPCB over the last five decades.

Tyre of moving bus bursts on Zirakpur flyover, major mishap averted

TDG NETWORK
ZIRAKPUR

On Friday morning around 11 a.m., a major accident was narrowly avoided on the Zirakpur flyover when a CTU bus suffered a tyre burst while in motion. The incident involved a Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) bus that was on its way from Chandigarh to Narnol with approximately 35 passengers on board.

As the bus descended the Zirakpur flyover, one of its tyres suddenly burst. Reacting swiftly, the driver showed commendable presence of mind and managed to bring the vehicle to a safe halt, preventing what could have been a serious mishap. Thanks to his timely response, no injuries were reported among the passengers.

After safely stopping the vehicle, the driver coordinated with authorities to arrange alternative transport for the stranded passengers. Another bus was promptly arranged, and the passengers were safely transferred to continue their journey. The damaged bus was later moved from the scene with

This incident comes just two weeks after a similar situation occurred on the same flyover, when another bus went out of control and crashed. In that case, the driver was rescued with considerable effort, highlighting the recurring safety concerns on this route.

the help of a crane and sent to a workshop for necessary repairs.

This incident comes just two weeks after a similar situation occurred on the same flyover, when another bus went out of control and crashed. In that case, the driver was rescued with considerable effort, highlighting the recurring safety concerns on this route.

Authorities are being urged to inspect road conditions and vehicle maintenance standards to prevent such incidents in the future. The alertness and quick thinking of the driver in Friday's case, however, ensured the safety of all passengers and prevented what could have been a serious tragedy.



Officials with the Golden Jubilee Calendar of PPCB which was released on the occasion.

Dy Commissioner hails Chandigarh residents for effective emergency response

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Today Society Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav expressed his hearty appreciation for the exemplary cooperation of Chandigarh residents over the last two days. The city-wide blackout conducted last evening and the mock drill conducted a day before were both successfully conducted. The administration particularly appreciates the contribution of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Market Welfare Associations (MWAs) in enhancing community participation, disseminating verified information and effectively countering the spread of misinformation.

THE PUBLIC IS AD-

USED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY SIREN SIGNALS:

- Red Alert Siren: A fluctuating, high-low tone lasting about five minutes, indicating an imminent air attack or emergency.
- All Clear Siren: A single, continuous tone indicating the end of danger and return to normal.

These sirens can be activated at any time of the day or night, depending on the changing situation. The administration is in the process of increasing the number of existing sirens and installing additional units to ensure comprehensive citywide coverage.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE OBSERVED DURING THE RECENT BLACKOUT

EXERCISE AND REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

- Solar lighting: All solar-powered lights must be manually deactivated during blackout periods. RWAs and MWAs are encouraged to take voluntary responsibility to ensure compliance.
- CCTV surveillance systems: Some night-vision cameras emit light while in operation. Property owners are advised to disable this feature during blackout hours.
- Commercial lighting: All commercial lighting, including illuminated signage, shop boardings and display lights, must be switched off during the blackout period. MWAs are requested to monitor and facilitate compliance in their respective jurisdictions.



These sirens can be activated at any time of the day or night, depending on the changing situation.

EMERGENCY HOUSING AND PUBLIC WELFARE MEASURES:

As part of contingency planning for public safety,

several hotels and inns have been identified for use as emergency evacuation and shelter centres, if required.

Additionally, the Chandigarh administration has issued instructions

to prevent hoarding and profiteering in essential commodities. All government employees, especially those engaged in essential services, have been directed to remain in Chandigarh as their services may be requisitioned

- All coaching institutes up to class 12 will remain closed till further orders.
- From May 9, 2025, all

markets and commercial establishments, including malls, bars, hotels and showrooms, will remain closed after 7:00 pm, except medical stores, which can function as usual.

● Hon'ble Administrator of UT Chandigarh Shri Gulab Chand Kataria attended the blood donation camp organized today. Such camps will be organized in the coming days as well and all citizens are encouraged to actively participate in this noble cause.

● Enrolment and Training Camp for Civil Defence Volunteers will be held on 10th May 2025 at 11:00 am at Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh. Individuals interested in serving as volunteer during emergency situations are urged to attend the same.

RESIDENTS ARE

STRONGLY ADVISED TO RELY ONLY ON OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR AUTHENTIC AND TIMELY INFORMATION:

It is important to note that emergency announcements, including blackout alerts, can be issued at very short notice – as little as 5 to 10 minutes. Citizens are therefore requested to remain vigilant and act promptly upon receiving such communications.

For any emergency assistance or clarification, please contact Helpline 112.

Let us, as responsible citizens, stand in full solidarity with our armed forces and civil authorities during these times. Your continued cooperation and vigilance is vital to ensure the safety of all residents.

SPIRITUALITY FOR THE YOUNG



B.K. ATAM PRAKASH

Young people are generally regarded as a potential source of positive change. Governments and organisations try to channel their vigour and enthusiasm in order to foster in them a positive identity, resilience, and help in their overall development. This is seen as crucial for economic and social progress in communities and nations.

According to the United Nations, there have never been so many young people in the world as now, and they represent a great potential for economic and social growth. While their potential is vast, the realities surrounding the youth today are not all encouraging. There was a time when youth was considered the best phase of one's life, romanticised and envied by those past their prime. But

now, young people are associated with unemployment, disorder, violence, and substance abuse. In some communities, they are seen as a nuisance.

Why has this promising segment of the population come to be regarded as a source of problems? There are several reasons for this.

Too many of the world's young people are trapped in insecurity, with few opportunities to learn or earn a decent living, and little hope for the future. Growing populations and sluggish economies are increasing competition for jobs. Technological advancements are putting more jobs beyond the reach of those without higher education or advanced training. A lot of young people thus remain out of work or stuck in low-paying jobs. The resulting economic hardship takes a psychological toll, and many of them become resentful of an economic order they see as unjust. Their feelings are sometimes vented through extremism and violence, or they resign themselves to an unhappy existence. Many turn to alcohol and drugs in a misguided attempt to escape their miseries, while some take to a life of crime.



The spiritual principle is — the more you give, the more you get in return — opportunities, cooperation, trust, and success.

While economic and social factors do create conditions in which young people end up as unproductive or undesirable elements in society, they do not entirely explain this phenomenon. Even individuals from privileged backgrounds who

have never encountered deprivation pick up harmful habits and ideas, and end up as drug addicts, criminals, or terrorists.

The reason many young people take the wrong turn at some point in their life is a weak moral compass,

which fails to show them the right way. Governments spend a lot of money on providing a good education for the young, but little attention is paid to the values they pick up. From a young age, children are told, or come to believe, that

success, and by extension happiness, will come from getting good grades and a well-paying job. In today's overtly materialistic milieu, the role models for young people are those who have become very rich or famous through exceptional skill or

talent. Some of these high-achieving individuals have their faults, but impressionable youngsters nevertheless copy them, in the process picking up wasteful or harmful habits. When these idolised celebrities do something wrong, the message that goes out to their adoring fans is that it is all right to make mistakes as we are merely human.

When youngsters see political and religious leaders, business tycoons, and top sportspersons getting embroiled in scandals, many of them conclude that it is pointless to remain upright: it is smarter to get ahead by hook or by crook as that is what everybody is doing. The rebel types become convinced that all means are justified to correct a system that is loaded against the underprivileged.

It is here that spiritual education can play a role. Everyone, especially the young, need to know that the true worth of a person is measured by their character. I could be a billionaire, but if I am arrogant, dishonest, and selfish, I will get little love or respect. Wealth, fame, and flamboyance may impress people for some time, but what touches their hearts is kindness, humility, and integrity. These values

do not just please others; one who has them is rewarded with peace of mind, a sense of satisfaction, and happy relationships. Such individuals win the trust of others and are offered opportunities that everyone does not get.

The materialistic mantra is: grab more to get more. In the process, you deprive and antagonise others and no one would like to share anything with you. You are soon isolated and find yourself the target of resentment and hostility. The spiritual principle works exactly the other way: The more you give, the more you get in return — opportunities, cooperation, love, trust, and success -- and you make a lot of friends in the process.

When young people understand this subtle truth, they will begin to appreciate the value of community initiatives and collaborative efforts that seek to address their issues in a constructive way. They will also realise that dialogue and engagement with the stakeholders, and not protests and violence, are the best ways to create a better future for themselves.

B.K. Atam Prakash is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

The truth of virtue



MICHAEL FRANK

Virtue has a bad reputation. People treat it like a checklist for being "good" or a bland alternative to real fun. But what if virtue is not a rule book at all? What if it is a hidden design — something real, flowing beneath the noise?

Think of a river. When it flows freely, it nourishes. Block it, and you get stagnation, disease, flood. Virtue works the same way. It is not forced goodness — it is our natural current, once the blockages are cleared.

The challenge? Distractions scream. Cravings seduce. Virtue whispers. It does not chase or beg to be seen. It just is. Unless we learn to feel it, we might miss it entirely.

This is not about morality. It is about recognition. Each of the seven essential virtues — Peace, Joy, Love, Bliss, Purity, Power, Truth — is not something we build from scratch. It is something we uncover. Something already alive in us, waiting beneath the clutter.

And it begins with Peace — the stillness that moves everything. Not passivity, but presence. When fear quiets, peace speaks — not with volume, but with gravity. Like the calm of a deep pool, it holds everything without struggle. Real peace does not pause life — it lets it flow.

From this stillness, Joy — the lightness that lifts everything — rises like sunlight on the water's surface. Joy does not arrive because we have earned it. It bubbles up when we stop trying so hard to hold everything together. Joy reminds us that lightness is not frivolity — it is freedom.

As Joy opens us, we feel Love — the force that unites. Love is the river's reach, flowing into every crevice, nourishing everything in its path. Not sentiment, not possession — just the quiet pull toward connection. Love does not



Virtue is not forced goodness — it is our natural current, once the blockages are cleared.

restrict — it expands.

Beneath the movement, there is Bliss — the quiet delight of simply being. Deeper than joy, it hums below the surface like the current under calm water. Bliss is not excitement — it is presence. Not something to chase, but something we touch when we no longer resist the moment.

In that depth, we discover Purity — the state of being undistorted. The river does not try to be pure — it is, when nothing clouds it. Purity is clarity, the unfiltered transparency that appears when there is nothing to hide and nothing to force.

And in that clarity, we feel Power — the strength of alignment. Not the power of pushing, but the strength that comes from moving in harmony with what is. Like a river shaping stone over time, true power flows with what is real — it does not resist, but it never yields its direction.

Beneath every current is Truth — the foundation of everything. Like the riverbed shaping the course of flow, truth holds steady, untouched by preference or opinion. It does not shout to be noticed. It simply is — quiet,

constant, sure.

These virtues are not traits we earn. They are not trophies. They are what is left when the noise drops out. Peace when fear fades. Joy when striving ends. Purity when distortion clears.

And once you feel them — even once — you never forget. They are not dull. They are alive. Familiar. Flowing. Virtue is not a burden. It is a rediscovery. A return to the natural course. And just like water, it always finds the path of least resistance — moving not with effort, but with grace.

How do we uncover this flow of virtue deep within us? We spend time in bringing each one to the surface. We take time to really feel the energy of that virtue, use it in our lives, re-affirm it, and go deeper and deeper each time, until we ultimately become full of all the virtues. It is through meditation and connection with the source of all virtue — the Supreme Being, that we have the power to delve that deeply into the silence, and rediscover our true nature.

Michael Frank is a teacher of Rajyoga meditation with the Brahma Kumaris and is based in Halifax, Canada.

Balancing passion and equanimity



B.K. USHA

In real life and on the internet, we are often advised to be passionate about whatever we do, in order to achieve the desired results. Passion helps — it provides us energy, drive, and resilience. Those who are deeply passionate about a task often push through obstacles that others might quit at. But passion is not the only path to achievement.

Wisdom, discipline, and a sense of duty — all of these can lead to good outcomes even without intense emotion. Many people achieve their goals through steady, consistent ef-

fort rather than bursts of inspiration. So, while passion can be a powerful engine for attaining success, it is not strictly necessary.

Actually, when passion is not accompanied by wisdom, it can burn out or lead to recklessness and ego-driven goals. There are several well-known examples of people's intense dedication to their craft leading them to great achievements, but ultimately, their unrelenting passion turned out to be their undoing. Their inability, or unwillingness, to balance passion with caution or self-care resulted in personal suffering and, in some cases, premature death.

In today's world, the perils of unchecked passion can be seen most commonly in the field of sports, where the drive for victory sometimes takes the form of vehemence, impulsiveness, and aggression.

Wisdom alone may also not be enough to realise our dreams. In the absence of passion, it can turn passive, or lack motivation. It is when the two are together



When passion is accompanied by wisdom, the balance brings success.

that they create a kind of purposeful fire — energy guided by

insight. That is when people become both effective and ethical.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Shri Krishna encourages the Pan-

dava prince Arjuna to fight with full energy and fulfil his duty, but without ego or personal desire. That is passionate detachment. The Gita emphasizes equanimity — staying balanced in success and failure, not clinging to results, and doing one's duty without selfish attachment.

Passion is not about getting things done by hook or by crook in a desperate attempt to win at any cost. That is imprudence. It is really about caring for the task and engaging with it fully and responsibly. Similarly, equanimity is not indifference, but a calm inner balance while fully engaged in action, without craving success or fearing failure. It is like being in love with the effort, while at the same time not needing a specific outcome to validate our exertions. This is done not by suppressing emotion, but by cultivating a still centre amidst the storm. It is the hallmark of spiritual maturity. B.K. Usba is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Abu Road, Rajasthan.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Two indicators of spiritual transformation are: worry reduces and one becomes more lighthearted and joyful. Also a person begins to see more meaningful coincidences and moments of synchronicity in life. To what extent do I see these indicators in my spiritual growth? What other indicators do I see? Today let me notice the signs of my own transformation.

Forever 25: The obsession with eternal youth



NAMRATA KOHLI
WOMAN WISE

“My daughter came home wide-eyed and said, ‘Mumma, my classmate’s grandma doesn’t look like adadi—she looks like herchachi!’ Turns out, she was full of Botox. Smooth forehead, pouty lips, not a line in sight. When people start looking unusually young, it does something strange—it blurs roles, confuses perception, and breaks generational codes. We expect grandmothers to look like grandmothers. When they don’t, it’s not just their face that’s changed—it’s how we relate to them. But the bigger question is: why this urge to erase age so completely? Delve deep into the psyche of women and a billionaire’s wife reveals in a private intimate conversation- “We women

become a depreciating asset over time. He (husband) will find beauties swooning over him even in his 70s, 80s, 90s despite his bulging tummy and balding head. His worth is measured by his wealth and in a woman’s case, by her beauty. And that’s the honest truth.” From KP Singh finding love at 91 to Warren Buffett remarrying SOON after his first wife’s death, and Gates, Trump... the rich surely don’t retire from romance. (and often with someone decades younger). Take the case of women, and their currency is youth and even more dangerously, ageing has become optional. And once something becomes optional, not opting in can feel like opting out—of desirability, of relevance, even of self-respect. It’s not just about beauty—it’s about belonging. About clinging to youth in a culture that sidelines the old. Looking young becomes a form of social survival. A way to stay seen. Relevant. Wanted. But in chasing the ageless look, we may be ageing out of authenticity. When everyone looks like they’re 30—who teaches the 30-year-olds what 60 looks like? There’s a strange kind of doublethink at play today. We celebrate ageing gracefully



There’s a strange kind of doublethink at play today. We celebrate ageing gracefully—and yet, we spend thousands smoothing out the very lines that come with grace. With Instagram, filters, reels—beauty is under a constant spotlight. Botox smooths skin, enhances symmetry, and creates that “camera-ready” face without going under the knife.

now talked about like skincare—just with a needle. And do you know where it is leading younger women to... Women in their late 20s and early 30s are starting early—not to reverse wrinkles, but to prevent them. This shift toward “prejuvenation” is trending globally, and India’s catching on. It’s also creating problems in society where middle aged women end up at-

tracting young suitors. And then what happens when the expectations, emotional maturity, or life stages don’t align? There’s thrill, yes. But more than that confusion, embarrassment and disasters. So why do we, especially women, want to look eternally young? The short answer: because youth is valued and you are painfully undervalued with age. We live in a culture where being young isn’t just desirable—it’s a form of social capital. Youth equals energy, beauty, relevance, and vitality. Ageing, on the other hand, is often equated with decline: physical, social, and professional. This isn’t new, but the tools to delay ageing are newer, sharper, and more accessible than ever before. Earlier generations didn’t

have Botox on EMI. They didn’t have under-eye fillers at mall kiosks or YouTube dermatologists telling them that “prejuvenation” at 28 is smart self-care. Today, the pressure to “not age” doesn’t just come from movies or magazines—it’s algorithmic. Your face on Zoom. Your reel views. Your dating profile. The ring light that flatters, but also reveals. But here’s the twist: the desire to look young is no longer just about beauty. It’s about control. For many women, especially those in their 30s and 40s, injectables are not vanity—they’re agency. After years of being told how to look and what to wear, choosing Botox is, ironically, a personal decision to own the mirror again. Yet, we must ask: what happens when youth becomes the only acceptable version of ourselves? There is nothing wrong with aesthetic enhancements. What’s wrong is when one’s age becomes a liability—at work, in relationships, in how seriously we’re taken. And that is not a skin-deep problem. That’s societal. Let’s normalize ageing not as a decline but as a deepening. Let’s allow a wrinkle to mean wisdom, not weakness. And while we may still love our serums and shots, let them be tools—not terms—for belonging. Because ageing is not the enemy. The fear of becoming invisible is.

Helping mothers reclaim their identity



DR CHANDNI TUGNAIT

Motherhood often comes with a celebrated sacrifice that can lead to self-erasure. The moment a woman becomes a mother, the world tends to remember her for her roles, as the caregiver, the homemaker, while quietly forgetting her essence. She becomes the center of her family’s orbit, yet slowly loses connection with her own gravity. What was once her name becomes “Mumma.” What was once her dream becomes “someday.” And what was once her voice becomes a whisper under layers of routine. Reclaiming identity is not about turning away from motherhood. It’s about remembering that motherhood is part of her, not all of who she is. Identity loss doesn’t arrive dramatically; it arrives gradually- through unspoken expectations, continuous self-neglect, and years of emotional multitasking. But it can be reversed. Not through rebellion, but through quiet, consistent choices that say, ‘I am allowed to be whole.’ Reclaim rhythm before roles: Most mothers wake up into a role, not into themselves. They enter the day reacting to others’ needs before they’ve even asked themselves how they feel. Reclaiming identity starts with rhythm- returning to a morning that begins with her. Even ten quiet minutes of reflection, movement, music, or mindful stillness

can shift her from reaction to intention. It’s a small act, but a powerful declaration: ‘I belong to myself first.’ Redefine worth outside of usefulness: Many women are conditioned to associate their value with being needed. If they are not fixing, organizing, giving, or caring, they feel invisible. Reclaiming identity means separating worth from usefulness. She is allowed to have a desire that doesn’t serve anyone else. She is allowed to rest without guilt. Her joy does not have to be productive to be valid. Give yourself back your name: Motherhood often leads to the disappearance of identity in language. Friends call less. Partners speak in logistics. Children call her “mumma,” and slowly, her name gets lost in function. To reclaim her identity, she must remember her own name, not just in title, but in how she refers to herself within her mind. Who was she before the labels? What did she crave, create, or imagine? That woman is not gone. Restore the inner dialogue: Often, mothers speak to themselves in a tone they would never use on their children- critical, rushed, dismissive. The voice in her head often becomes mechanical: “You should be doing more.” “You’re falling behind.” “Why can’t you just be better at this?” Reclaim-

ing identity means rewriting that voice. Speaking to herself like someone she loves. With grace. With presence. With the same compassion she extends so freely to others. Let yourself be seen again: In the journey of giving, many mothers stop being visible in their own lives. They dodge the camera. They say no to the dinner. They delay the gathering because there’s always something more important. Identity can’t survive in the shadows. Reclaiming it means choosing to be seen again- by dressing for herself, saying yes to joy, and showing up in places where she is not “the mom of someone” but simply herself. Reclaiming identity isn’t about becoming someone new, it’s about remembering who’s always been there beneath the surface. A mother’s wholeness is not a threat to her family; it is a gift. When a woman returns to herself, she models something powerful: that love is not self-abandonment, and that joy does not have to wait its turn. She does not have to disappear to be a good mother. She only has to remember that she matters too.

Dr Chandni Tugnait, MD (A.M) Psychotherapist, Life Alchemist, Coach & Healer, Founder & Director, Gateway of Healing shares few steps to help mothers reclaim their identity-



From archetypes to authenticity: How Nirupama Subramanian and Powerfulife are redefining women’s leadership

Nirupama Subramanian, through Powerfulife, redefines women’s leadership by shifting focus from rigid archetypes to authentic expression, fostering inclusive workplaces grounded in empathy, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence.

TDG NETWORK

1. You transitioned quite early from a corporate career to leadership development. What shaped that decision, and how did the journey unfold? I started my career in corporate banking at Citibank. It gave me a strong foundation in business, but I soon realized that what energized me most was helping people realize their potential. I was drawn to conversations about leadership, growth, and transformation—things that weren’t necessarily part of my job description. I chose to follow that calling early in my career, moving into leadership facilitation and eventually executive coaching. It wasn’t an easy transition. Walking away from a structured corporate path meant learning to trust my instincts—and building a life more aligned with my values of authenticity, purpose, and service. Over three decades, this journey has evolved into Powerfulife Solutions, where I work with leaders, founders, and professionals to help them lead with power, presence, and joy. 2. Leadership coaching has become a crowded space today. What differentiates your approach from others? Today, leadership coaching often emphasizes skills, tools, or checklists. While these are useful, real leadership transformation comes from the inside out. At Powerfulife Solutions, my work is grounded in helping leaders reclaim their authentic power—the ability to act with agency, presence, and purpose. Unlike one-size-fits-all programs, my leadership journeys integrate the Being and the Doing—deep inner shifts coupled with visible leadership behaviors. Through my coaching, I guide individuals to recognize their inherent potential and connect to their own values and purpose to overcome limiting and shadow beliefs that create power blocks. When I coach women, we connect deeply to the 4 strategies or conditioning that blocks our power and potential



Diminish (underplaying your worth), Divide (judging and competing with others), Deter (giving in to fear of negative consequences), and Decorate (being pressured to live up to impossibly high standards). Another key differentiator is the Powerfulife Assessment, South Asia’s first validated psychometric tool for women leaders. Based on six feminine archetypes, it has helped over 3,500 women discover new dimensions of their leadership. Ultimately, my belief is simple: true leadership comes when you align your strengths, energy, and purpose. That’s what I help leaders do—not just perform better, but live and lead more powerfully. 3. You’ve developed the Powerfulife Assessment for women. Could you share the idea behind it and the impact it’s created? It focuses on an often overlooked leadership capability: the ability to nurture oneself and others. Leadership has traditionally emphasized authority, achievement, and resilience, but nurturing—building environments of trust, psychological safety, and sustainable performance—is equally critical, especially in today’s complex world. We explore how leaders can actively nurture themselves across four domains of energy—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual—so they can show up fully for their teams and organizations. The idea

Today, over 3,500 women across industries have used the assessment to better understand their leadership energy, recognize unconscious patterns, and step into their authentic power. It’s a tool that enables reflection and action—and I’m grateful to see the kind of deep shifts it continues to create.

er) and Kanya (good girl) allowing women to see leadership through a broader, empowering lens. I shared the model first in my book Powerful and then worked with a psychometrician to create a validated assessment using research data. Today, over 3,500 women across industries have used the assessment to better understand their leadership energy, recognize unconscious patterns, and step into their authentic power. It’s a tool that enables reflection and action—and I’m grateful to see the kind of deep shifts it continues to create. Curious to discover your dominant leadership archetype? Take the free Powerfulife Assessment and begin your leadership journey. 4. Your next book, The Nurturing Quotient, is generating interest. What leadership gaps are you hoping to address through it? The Nurturing Quotient, co-authored with Rajesh Ramakrishnan, will be published by Penguin in June 2025. It focuses on an often overlooked leadership capability: the ability to nurture oneself and others. Leadership has traditionally emphasized authority, achievement, and resilience, but nurturing—building environments of trust, psychological safety, and sustainable performance—is equally critical, especially in today’s complex world. We explore how leaders can actively nurture themselves across four domains of energy—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual—so they can show up fully for their teams and organizations. The idea

is simple but powerful: if you are depleted within, you cannot nurture growth outside. Leaders nurture others through the qualities of HOPE- Humility, Openness, Patience and Empathy. Guided by these qualities that can Mentor&Coach others, Listen Actively, Inspire others to grow and Empower the team to thrive. We have also created an assessment which can give you your score- the NQ-Nurturing Quotient and indicate the areas where you do well and areas to improve your nurturing behaviors. 5. For young leaders today, especially women professionals, what advice would you offer for building authentic leadership? First, I would say: know yourself deeply. Take the time to understand your core values, your inner drivers, and what gives you energy, your larger purpose. Leadership is not about fitting a mold—it’s about creating one that fits you. You can be authentic and skilled. Second, claim your space unapologetically. Leadership is about impact, not titles. You don’t need permission to start influencing the world around you. And third, nurture yourself. Sustainable leadership is not a sprint; it’s a marathon. Learn practices that replenish your energy, build resilience, and ground you in your purpose. Especially for women, I would add: you are powerful. You have all the powers you need within you- they have been stifled or stilled by conditioning but you evoke your powers, be guided by purpose and claim your space and voice in the world.