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*The Guardian of Journalism*

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RNI No: JKENG/2010/34728

Srinagar, Friday 09 May 2025 | Volume: 15 | Issue No: 108 | Rs. 3/- All Surcharges for Jammu/Leh

Postal Reg. No: JKNP/142/SKGPO-2015-17

## 'OPERATION SINDOOR' | Pak global epicenter of terrorism, terrorists given state funerals: Foreign Secretary

Says Pak resorting to lies since its inception; India's retaliatory strikes targeted only terror infrastructure

Rejects joint probe proposal; IWT to remain abeyance till terror ends

New Delhi, May 08 (KNO): Stating that Pakistan has a reputation of being a "centre of global terrorism," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday said that terrorists killed



during "Operation Sindoor" were given state funerals in the neighbouring country. Addressing a joint briefing here,

Misri, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) stated that Pakistan remains a "global epicenter of terrorism," and

revealed that terrorists killed in "Operation Sindoor" were given state funerals by the Pakistani establishment, with Pakistani Army person-

nel and other officials seen attending their burials. He displayed a picture of the funeral that he referred to. Misri blamed Pakistan for escalating tensions in the region through its continued support to terrorism, citing the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, as the origin of the latest flare-up. Following the Pahalgam terror attack the Indian Armed Forces on Wednesday launched 'Operation Sindoor', carrying out precision strikes on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). He said India's retaliatory strikes under "Operation Sindoor" were non-escalatory and tar-

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geted only terror infrastructure with surgical precision. "The escalation started with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which was claimed twice by The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy for Lashkar-e-Taiba. After realizing the gravity of the situation, they retracted. But their claim stands documented," said Misri. He highlighted that India's intention is not to escalate matters, and the armed forces are only responding to the escalation. He also added that no military targets have been targeted and only terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan has been hit. "Now if there is an attempt at further escalation by Pakistan, it will be responded

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### PM chairs high-level meet on national security, tells ministries to stay alert

Defence Minister briefs opposition on ongoing 'Operation Sindoor', asserts India will respond firmly to any further attacks

New Delhi, May 08 (KNO): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with secretaries of various ministries to review national preparedness and inter-ministerial coordination in the wake of recent developments concerning national security.

The Prime Minister, as per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stressed the importance of seamless coordination among ministries



and agencies to ensure operational continuity and institutional resilience. He called for continued alertness, institutional synergy and clear communication across all levels of governance.

The meeting was attended by the Cabinet

Secretary, senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, and Secretaries from major ministries, including Defence, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Power, Health, and Telecommunications.

The PM reviewed planning and preparedness measures undertaken by various ministries to address the current situation. Secretaries were directed to conduct a comprehensive review of their respective ministries' functioning and ensure an uninterrupted operation of essential systems. Special emphasis was laid on readiness, emergency response, and internal communication protocols.

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### Pak attempts to attack 15 places in North, Western India foiled; Air defence system at Lahore neutralized: Officials

New Delhi, May 08 (KNO): India foiled Pakistan military's attempts to attack 15 places in Northern and Western India using missiles and drones, and destroyed a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore, officials said on Thursday. Addressing a news conference here Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Yomika Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The Pakistani military attempted last

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### EDU INSTITUTES IN JK PARTS CONTINUE TO REMAIN SHUT ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): Amid prevailing situation, authorities Thursday said that the educational institutes in Baramulla, Kupwara and those falling nearby Srinagar and Awantipora airports shall continue to remain closed on Friday and Saturday. It also said that the school and colleges in five districts of Jammu region shall also remain closed on May-09.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the officials have said, "All the schools including the government as well as private schools in Baramulla, Kupwara and those falling nearby the Srinagar and

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## Armed forces demolished terror factories inside Pak: Sinha

'Have full confidence in ability of Police, SFs to face any emergent situation'

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that the armed forces have accomplished the goal of demolishing terror factories inside Pakistan. The Lt Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir, which was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo;

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Divisional Commissioners, IGPs, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of administration and police department. The Lieutenant Governor took stock of the situation and the preparedness in the various districts of the UT. The officials also briefed the Lieutenant Governor the actionable measures taken on the

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### All J&K hospitals fully prepared to handle border tensions: Official

Blood banks stocked; volunteers urged to donate blood

Srinagar, May 08: In the wake of intense cross-border shelling that has resulted in over a dozen civilian deaths and injured approximately 100 others along the Line of Control (LoC), hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert to manage any further escalation of the conflict. An official from the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the health infrastructure is fully prepared to handle emergencies.

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## 'We've seen wars, but not this fear': Uri residents relive shelling nightmare

'War no solution, we want peace'

Uri, May 08 (KNO): Terrified cries, shattered windows and homes turned to rubble—this is what remains in a Uri village along the Line of Control (LoC) after intense shelling from across the border that left residents traumatised and displaced. Villagers, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), recounted the horror they endured, even as the public representatives and emergency services stepped in to respond to the crisis.

Survivors recount night of terror In Uri's Salamabad - one of the worst-affected villages - elderly resident Alaf Din described the panic as shells rained down around 3 am. "We ran to a neighbour's house. Minutes later, a shell destroyed ours completely," he said. "We have nothing left—only our lives, and even that felt uncertain." Several structures in the village were reduced to debris, and at least nine civilians sustained injuries, now undergoing treatment at hospitals in Baramulla and elsewhere.

"We have no other option but to leave our homes," said a Salamabad resident, taking shelter at the government-established relief centre in Government Degree College (GDC) Uri. "We're not safe there anymore—shells can drop anytime, without warning," he said. Another resident said they are left with nothing but fear and uncertainty. "It took us a whole life to build our homes, but in just a moment, everything was destroyed," he said. MLA Sajjad Shafi assures support Visiting the affected

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### Landslide-hit Sgr-Jmu NH remains closed; restoration work underway

Immediate restoration of traffic movement top priority, says DC Ramban

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): The landslide-hit Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed on Thursday with the administration stating that road clearance operations are underway. The highway was closed for traffic following a cloudburst and subsequent mudslides at over five locations,

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MeT issues yellow alert for May 9-10 as light rains likely across J&K

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): While the light rains lashed multiple areas across Kashmir, the weatherman here has issued a 'yellow alert' for May 09 and 10, predicting brief spells of light rain, thundershower and

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## CM Omar reviews situation in border districts

Orders immediate ex-gratia relief for victims of shelling

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a meeting for the second straight day with Deputy Commissioners of all border districts through virtual mode to take stock of the prevailing situation in the wake of cross-border shelling. The meeting was convened to review the preparedness and readiness of district authorities in



responding to exigencies, evacuation measures and safeguarding the lives

and properties of residents in the affected areas. In his remarks, the

Minister Dheeraj

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Chief Minister emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure the seamless provision of essential supplies and services, including food, water, electricity and medical care.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief

### Satish Sharma visits GMC Jammu

Enquires about health of Cross Border shelling victims

Jammu, May 08 (KNO): Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma Thursday visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to meet and enquire about the health, well-being of civilians injured in the recent cross border firing incidents along the Line of Control (LoC). During the visit, Sharma interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of government's full support in ensuring the best possible medical care and rehabilitation. He directed the GMC administration and medical staff to provide all necessary assistance and maintain high standards of care for the injured. "We stand firmly with every citizen affected by this cowardly act," said the Minister.

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## CS takes stock of arrangements for SANJY-2025

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high level meeting of all the concerned departments attended by the senior functionaries of Civil Administration and Police to review the position of arrangements being made for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

Dulloo had department wise appraisal of the status of facilities to be created by them for safety, security and convenience of the pilgrims going to visit the holy cave during the yatra period.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the facilities to be created for pilgrims particularly in transit camps,

lodgements and enroute Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides on both the axis leading to holy cave from Baltal and Chandanwari.

He directed the concerned to suitably augment all the requisite facilities to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. He directed the line departments including the PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, H&UDD, RDD, Tourism, Health, Forest, FCS&CA, Telecom, DMRR&R and others to ensure that the works identified for them are completed well in advance. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned Divisional Commissioners to ensure proper coordination among the departments for timely execution of works on ground. He stressed on finalization of tenders for services like sanitation and others to be done before June so that the service providers are available much before the commencement of the yatra. He also took detailed overview of the ongoing works, condition of tracks, infrastructure and that of other services like capacity of base camps, transit camps, lodgements, holding areas from the concerned Deputy Commissioners. He impressed upon them to make sure that no such facility is established in disaster prone areas and measures like fire-safety audit and compliance with all the safety parameters is done without any compromise.

## Indian Red Cross Society, J&K celebrates World Red Cross Day on 8th May, 2025



### World Red Cross Day, 2025 Celebrations at Red Cross Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu and Red Cross House, Exchange Road, Srinagar.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory joins the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in celebrating World Red Cross Day, 2025 with great pride and reverence at Red Cross Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, Red Cross Building, Exchange Road Srinagar and across the J&K at district Headquarters were Deputy Commissioners presided the programs on 8th May, 2025 to celebrate the humanitarian work which the society does to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people affected by conflicts, disasters, and health emergencies. Observed annually on May 8, the day commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross Movement and the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate. This year's theme, "On the Side of Humanity," reflects the core mission of the Red Cross: standing by communities in need, offering hope, and delivering impartial

humanitarian assistance. It also serves as a powerful reminder of the universal values of compassion, unity, and service that guide our efforts every day. On this important occasion, the J&K UT Branch extends heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated volunteers and staff members across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Their unwavering commitment to humanitarian service—whether in times of disaster, public health emergencies, or day-to-day community care—embodies the spirit of the Red Cross. "Our volunteers and staff are the real heroes behind every relief effort, health drive, and humanitarian response," said Sh. Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, IRCS, J&K UT Branch. "Today, we honour their courage, compassion, and tireless service to humanity. Whether in the mountains of Kashmir or the plains of Jammu, their presence has made

a lasting difference in countless lives." As part of the celebrations, the J&K Branch is organizing a range of activities across the UT, including Painting event at Red Cross Bhawan for students of different schools, Poster making competition, First-Aid Online Training to the Soldiers of Military Hospital, Kargil, First-Aid Awareness at SKAUST, Srinagar, Menstrual Hygiene and Free Sanitary Napkins distribution camp for the female students of Govt. Degree College, Akhnoor, Jammu, awareness drives, disaster preparedness workshops, youth engagement programs during the week to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of "Sir Jean Henry Dunant". The Indian Red Cross Society calls upon individuals, institutions, and civil society in Jammu & Kashmir to come forward and join this humanitarian movement—to extend a hand, to uplift the vulnerable, and to always stand "On the Side of Humanity."

## Desh Bhagat University Pays Patriotic Tribute to Armed Forces Through "Jai Hind - Nation First" Event



Mandi Gobindgarh, 8 May: In a proud and patriotic celebration, Desh Bhagat University commemorated the resounding success of Operation Sindoor with a vibrant campus-wide event themed "Jai Hind – Nation First." The event honored the courage, strategy, and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces, resonating with a deep sense of national pride. The celebrations began with a solemn flag hoisting ceremony, led by Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur, Dr Virinder Singh adviser to Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti, followed by the national anthem. A spirited "Jai Hind March" saw students, faculty, and staff unite in chanting slogans like "Operation Sindoor – Bharat Ka Jawab Nahin" and "Desh Bhagat salutes our heroes!" A poignant moment of the event was the heartfelt tribute to Sardar Lal Singh Ji, father of Dr. Zora Singh and a valiant freedom

fighter in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj. His contributions were honored with the Tamra Patra by the Government of India in 1972. His legacy continues to inspire the university's unwavering dedication to patriotism and service. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Zora Singh stated that Desh Bhagat University was born from the spirit of patriotism. The slogan 'Jai Hind' is not occasional here—it is our daily greeting and guiding principle. Dr. Harsh Sadawarti added that Every DBU student carries forward the legacy of freedom fighters and the courage of our armed forces. Our mission is nation-building in every sense. To continue the patriotic spirit, the university announced upcoming activities including an essay competition, a defence webinar with ex-army officers, and a blood donation camp in collaboration with the Army.

## SSP Kupwara Ghulam Jeelani Wani visited the LOC (Line of Control) in Tangdhar



**Peerzada Sayeed**

Kupwara: where he inspected the areas recently affected by Pakistan's ceasefire violation. He gathered details from local residents about the destruction caused. Pakistan targeted several civilian homes in Tangdhar, resulting in significant damage to people's houses and livestock.

Senior Inspector Riaz Ahmad also accompanied SSP Kupwara during the visit. They inquired about

the health and well-being of the residents and assured them that the district police are fully prepared to ensure the safety of the people. They emphasized that the police will provide both financial and physical protection under all circumstances and that there is no need to panic.

SSP Kupwara had already relocated many residents to special bunkers and shifted people to safe locations to prevent any loss of life or property from enemy attacks. Keeping this in mind, the Jammu

and Kashmir Police along with other security forces have made every effort to provide all necessary facilities to the affected population.

Since the brave soldiers of India gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, the latter has been in a state of panic. As a result, Pakistan has been actively targeting civilian areas with heavy machine guns and continues shelling along the LOC. Today, SSP Kupwara personally visited Tangdhar at the LOC to check on the people and assess the damage to their lives and property.

## Reasi Administration celebrates World Red Cross Day with active community participation

REASI, MAY 8: The District Administration and District Red Cross Society Reasi celebrated World Red Cross Day today with great enthusiasm and active community participation under the theme "On the Side of Humanity." Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Chairperson of the District Red Cross Society, was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest and other dignitaries. The celebration paid tribute to the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross movement. Students from various schools and colleges, along with volunteers, actively participated in the event. A symposium was held in which six students highlighted the importance, history, and humanitarian values of the Red Cross Society. The event also featured a dance performance by stu-

dents. Various officials including CEO, Tehsildar Pouni and prominent citizens like Vatch Pati Sharma were felicitated for their contributions to the Red Cross.

In recognition of academic excellence, the Deputy Commissioner awarded trophies to students who achieved outstanding results during the 2024-25 academic year in Classes 10 and 12.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of humanity, stating that every individual should help others in whatever capacity they can to fulfill their role as responsible citizens. She highlighted the significant role played by the Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health services both globally and locally. Applauding the efforts of volunteers, she urged all citizens to come for-

ward and contribute to the noble cause of serving humanity.

The event also honored the generosity of those who support humanitarian efforts. Certificates of appreciation were distributed to officers and citizens who made significant contributions to the Red Cross Society in Reasi. A Red Cross Day pledge was solemnly taken by all attendees, reaffirming the commitment of students, teachers, and officials to uphold the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

A vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Kuldeep Khajuria, District Executive Secretary of the Red Cross. Among those present were ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, CEO Deepak Kumar, DSWO, Tehsildars, ALC, DIO (Information), district officers, officials, teachers, and students.

## Red Cross Day: District Red Cross Committee organizes programme at GGHSS Amira Kadal

SRINAGAR, MAY 08: In connection with the celebration of World Red Cross Day-2025, an impressive function was organized by District Red Cross Committee at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Amira Kadal, here today. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District

Red Cross Committee was the chief guest on the occasion. Addressing the function, DC underlined the role of District Red Cross Society in offering help, care, and life-saving services to people in disasters. He also highlighted the role of Red Cross teams, volunteers in providing humanitarian aid and support during emergencies and everyday life. Dr Bilal lauded the dedication, com-

passion, courage of the District Red Cross team and other volunteers for working tirelessly by responding the needy people during any calamity or exigent situation.

DC remarked that natural calamities have spared no one during any worst situations, but Red Cross staff and volunteers play pivotal role in saving and rehabilitation of people.

## DC INSPECTS PATWAR KHANA AT KISHTWAR

**Directs for Renovation, Cleanliness**

KISHTWAR, MAY 08: Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan conducted a detailed inspection of the Patwar Khana Kishtwar building today, emphasizing the need for immediate upgrades and cleanliness around the premises. During the visit, the DC directed the AEE MED to promptly prepare and submit estimates for the renovation of the first floor building of the Patwar Khana Kishtwar. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Municipal Council to undertake a comprehensive cleanliness drive, including desilting of the adjacent drains, removal of debris, and proper disposal of waste material in the surroundings. The DC was accompanied by Tehsildar Kishtwar Nirbhay Sharma, AEE Mechanical Division Kishtwar Umar Mushtaq besides other concerned Officials.

## ACR reviews implementation of E-Waste Management Action Plan in Kishtwar District

KISHTWAR, MAY 08: Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Idrees Lone today convened a meeting to review the implementation of the E-Waste (Management) Action Plan in the District. The meeting was attended by CMO Dr. Rajinder Kumar; Divisional Officer Pollution Control Committee Dr. Mohan Lal Sneh and representatives from major power projects such as Pakal Dul and Kwar HEP, among other Stakeholders. Stress was laid on scientific disposal of electronic waste and strict adherence to the notified guidelines by the stakeholder departments. The ACR underscored the need for generating awareness among the general public, including shopkeepers, project workers, and other community members, about the hazards of improper e-waste disposal and the correct methods of handling it. The stakeholders were asked to compile a comprehensive inventory of all e-waste generated within their respective domains and ensure its submission to authorized agencies only, avoiding any unauthorized disposal practices.

## World Red Cross Day observed at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, MAY 08: Like other parts of the country, world Red Cross day was today celebrated at District Udhampur wherein Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai was the chief guest.

IAS Probationer Seerat Baji, District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta and other officers, besides staff members and students attended the programme. The District Red Cross society organized a Symposium contest on the theme "On the side of humanity" in which 10 students from different educational institutions participated and threw light on the given topic. Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the crucial role of Red Cross in enlightening Humanity and emphasized that need of the hour is unity among the society, cordial behaviour and conflict resolution. She encouraged the students to act as brand Ambassadors to spread the message of humanity and said 'We as a society owe responsibility in fostering unity in the society and make a progressive India.'

## Poonch Administration steps up restoration of Essential Services, Supplies

POONCH, MAY 08: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Thursday convened a meeting to review the status of essential services and initiate measures to expedite the restoration of critical supply chain across this border district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the XENs of the Jal Shakti and Power Development Departments to ensure the restoration of water and electricity supply within two hours in all affected areas.

The Assistant Director Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) was asked to take immediate measures to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supply of ration, particularly in areas along the Line of Control (LoC). It was informed that the district has sufficient stocks of food grains, petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG to meet the needs of the public. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the concerned authorities to ensure sufficient cash flow in all ATMs to avoid any inconvenience to the people.

### Kishtwar Ignites Youth Sports Spirit: Inter-School Zonal Tournament for U/14 Boys & Girls commences across Multiple Zones

KISHTWAR, MAY 08: The District Youth Services & Sports Department, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, kicked off the Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament for Under-14 Boys and Girls here today.

The multi-day tournament, organized across Kishtwar, Nagseni, Drabshalla, and Paddar Zones promises a spectacular showcase of young talent, discipline, and athletic excellence.

The grand inauguration took place here at the ITI Badminton Court and Chowgan Ground, where over 150 young athletes competed in Badminton, Carrom, Kho-Kho, and Kabaddi. District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haidar Sheikh was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony. He lauded the enthusiastic participation and commended the organizing team



led by ZPEO for their meticulous planning and spirited execution. In Zone Nagseni the tournament featured Chess and Carrom at Bharatiya Vidya Mandir (BVM) with participation of 120 students from various schools, the event reflected a high standard of intellectual engagement. ZPEO Suresh Chander Parihar ensured smooth

conduct with the active support of his team.

Continuing the athletic excitement, Zone Drabshalla held U/14 Girls Kho-Kho matches, where 60 participants showcased exceptional teamwork and agility. The event emphasized inclusivity and the promotion of traditional games among girls.

## Vivek Bali Expresses Deep Grief Over Loss of Lives in Poonch Due to Pakistan Shelling

Jammu, May 8, 2025: Vivek Bali, J&K State President Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), has expressed deep sorrow and strong condemnation over the tragic deaths of civilians caused by unprovoked shelling from across the border in Poonch district.

In a heartfelt statement, Mr. Bali said, "The continued ceasefire violations by Pakistan are not only a breach of international norms but also a brutal assault on the innocent civilians of our border areas. The deaths in Poonch have shaken us all. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families, and I extend my deepest condolences to them."



Mr. Bali urged the Government of India and the local administration

to take swift action to ensure the safety of residents in border regions. He also called for enhanced medical aid, financial relief, and long-term rehabilitation plans for the affected families.

"The lives of our fellow citizens in border areas must be protected with all possible means. It is the duty of every government to stand with them in these critical times," Bali added. The SBSP also appealed to civil society and social organizations to come forward and support the affected families in every possible way. They are also planning to come up with different support initiatives for the affected area.

## Horticulture Department Kathua organises exposure visit for Fruit Growers

KATHUA, MAY 08: The Department of Horticulture Kathua organised a one day Exposure visit for a group of 25 Farmers/Fruit Growers of Billawar and Lohai Malhar blocks under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), here today. Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Sharma flagged off the Exposure Visit to the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, SKUAST-Jammu – Udhewalla, conducted under the direction of Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma. The CHO interacted with the group of farmers and advised them to learn the latest horticulture techniques during the exposure visit and adopt the same in their fields for better returns. During the Exposure visit, an Interactive Session was held for the visiting farmers which were chaired by Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, SKUAST-J Prof. Vikas Tandon, alongside Division of Fruit Science Prof. Akash Sharma,

and District Level -Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology) Kathua Sandeep Gupta., Prof. Tandon, while addressing the Farmers, briefed about the activities being taken up at COE, especially about the latest and elite cultivars of different Fruit plants being propagated at the centre. He further disclosed that the interested farmers can take these quality Fruit plants of high yielding varieties at genuine rates. Prof. Akash imparted in-depth knowledge about Scientific Orchard Management. Sandeep Gupta while interacting with the participants, educated them about incentives available under various Schemes/Programs presently under implementation viz. HADP, JKCIIP, MIDH, CAPEX and urged them to take maximum benefit from these Schemes/Programs. A live demonstration about various propagation techniques was given to the Farmers during their visit to different Hi-tech Houses.

Sohan Lal Incharge HDO Billawar/ Lohai Malhar accompanied the Farmers/Fruit Growers during the exposure visit.

### DIPR Cultural Unit organises thematic cultural awareness at GHSS Tikri

JAMMU, MAY 08: Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today conducted a Cultural Awareness Programme themed 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' (Say No to Drugs) at the Government Higher Secondary School Tikri- Udhampur.

The aim of this initiative was to enhance awareness among the students regarding the detrimental effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit Jammu captivated the audience with thematic songs, effectively demonstrating the repercussions of drug addiction on individuals,

## Inter-School Zonal Level U14/U17 tournaments begin across Bhagwah, Thathri and Bhatyas Zones

DODA, MAY 8: The Inter-School Zonal Level Tournaments for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys and Girls commenced today in Bhagwah, Thathri, and Bhatyas Zones.

The much-anticipated event aims to promote physical fitness, discipline, and team spirit among school students through structured sports competitions.

About 900 students from across various schools of three zones are taking part in the tournaments, competing in a wide range of events including Kabaddi, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Yoga, Chess, Carrom, and Athletics. These events are designed not only to identify emerging sports talent at the grassroots level but also to provide a platform for students to qualify for higher-level competitions. The tournaments were officially inaugurated by the respective Zonal



Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs) of Bhagwah, Thathri, and Bhatyas, who were present alongside staff members of the Youth Services and Sports Department. The inauguration ceremonies were marked by enthusiastic participation from both students and sports officials, highlighting the spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition. Under the directions of the Director General Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Rajinder Singh Tara and Dis-

trict Youth Services and Sports Officer Doda, Pritam Singh.

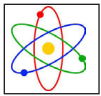
The zonal tournaments play a crucial role in strengthening the foundation of the YSS Department's mission to foster youth engagement and holistic development through sports. The department has also ensured the presence of trained officials, proper sporting equipment, and first-aid support at all venues to ensure the smooth conduct of the games.







Its is heath that wealth



Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organizing our curiosity

## Felicitation Ceremony Held in Honour of Cabinet Minister S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa

**Sudhir Saluja**

New Delhi, May 7, 2025 : A grand felicitation ceremony was organized on May 7, 2025, to honour S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Cabinet Minister in the Government of Delhi. The event was a collaborative effort by Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, Mata Sundri College for Women and Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce — all constituent colleges of the University of Delhi. The ceremony took place at Mata Sundri College for Women.

The occasion was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including S. Harmeet Singh Kalka (President, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee), S. Sukhbir Singh Kalra (Chairman, SGNDKC), S. Kulbir Singh (Treasurer, SGNDKC), Dr. Baljeet Singh (Officiating Principal, SGNDKC), S. M.P.S. Chadha (Chairman, SGGSCC), S. Gurinder Pal Singh (Treasurer, SGGSCC), Dr. Jatinder Bir Singh (Principal, SGGSCC), and S. Prithpal Singh Sawhney (Treasurer, MSCW).

In her welcome address, Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal of Mata Sundri College, highlighted the exemplary leadership and human-



itarian efforts of S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, when he extended substantial support to people across the Delhi-NCR region. His long-standing commitment to the welfare of the victims of the 1984 riots was also acknowledged.

S. M.P.S. Chadha commended the government's decision to entrust greater responsibilities to Mr. Sirsa, noting that his services should benefit not only the national capital but the entire country. Dr. Jatinder Bir Singh expressed pride in welcoming a visionary leader whose work is consistently guided by a clear and impactful agenda.

S. Kulbir Singh praised Mr. Sirsa's efforts toward realizing the dream of a pollution-free Delhi, while S. Gurinder Pal Singh stated that his contributions have surpassed all expectations. S. Harmeet Singh Kalka recalled numerous public welfare initiatives under Mr. Sirsa's leadership, including the establishment of new medical stores, a free dialysis centre, distribution of oxygen cylinders, and large-scale langar sewa (community kitchen services), even during lockdowns through home delivery.

In his address, Mr. Sirsa, currently serving as Minister of Industries, Food & Supplies, Environment, Forest and Wildlife in the Delhi Government, outlined a series of initiatives aimed at combating pollution in the city. These include the installation of mist spray systems and anti-smog guns, mechanised road sweeping integrated with jetting systems, extensive tree plantation drives, and the removal of obsolete vehicles. He also acknowledged the active cooperation of both the central and state governments in supporting the goal of a cleaner and greener Delhi.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jasmeet

## Karnataka directs mosque prayers to honour Indian troops



Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI) In a move to honour the Indian soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor, the Karnataka government has directed that special prayers be held in mosques across the state.

This follows the pujas held earlier this week at various government temples, offering blessings for the safety and success of the armed forces.

The directive, issued by Minority Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, mandates that all mosques,

including those under the jurisdiction of the Waqf Board, hold Friday prayers in tribute to the soldiers. The prayers are intended to seek divine blessings for the protection and well-being of the troops engaged in counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, was a series of precision strikes by India in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives. The

strikes, part of a larger counter-terrorism initiative, have been met with widespread support across the nation. Zameer confirmed that he has instructed the CEO of the Waqf Board to ensure the prayers are conducted with the necessary respect and solemnity in all relevant mosques. The move underscores the state's support for the armed forces and is a gesture of solidarity with their critical mission. The order follows a similar initiative where temples across Karnataka conducted pujas on May 8 to seek divine intervention for the safety of soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor. The Minister for Transport and Muzrai, Ramalinga Reddy, had issued a directive urging temples to perform ceremonies with devotion, focusing on the safety and success of the Indian Army.

This religious show of unity highlights the collective national effort in support of India's defense forces, with both Hindu and Muslim communities coming together in their prayers for the well-being of soldiers engaged in dangerous operations. UNI BDN SSP

## CJI forwards Inquiry Panel report on Justice Yashwant Varma to President, PM

New Delhi, May 8, (UNI) In a significant development, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Thursday forwarded the report of a Supreme Court-appointed three-member inquiry committee probing serious allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The CJI also enclosed Justice Varma's written response to the allegations, adhering to principles of natural justice.

The confidential communication, made under the Supreme Court's in-house procedure, pertains to allegations surrounding the discovery of unaccounted cash following a fire incident at Justice Varma's official residence in Lutyens' Delhi on the night of March 14. At the time, Justice Varma was serving as a judge of the Delhi High Court before being elevated to the Allahabad High Court. "The Chief Justice of India, in terms of the in-house



procedure, has written to the President of India and the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith a copy of the three-member committee report dated May 3 along with the letter / response dated May 6 received from Justice Yashwant Varma," the Supreme Court stated in a press release. Crucially, the press note does not explicitly mention that the Chief Justice has recommended Justice Varma's removal. Sources

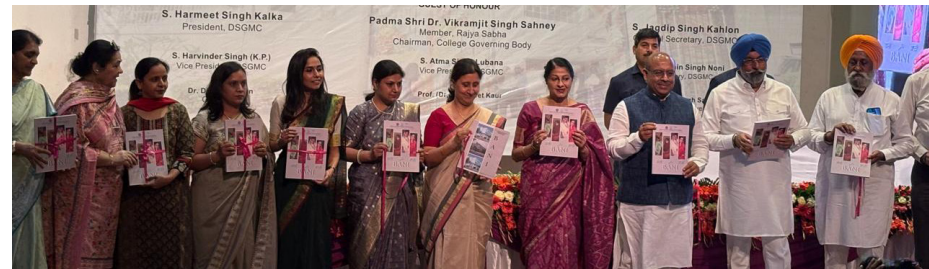
say it was part of the confidential correspondence. The inquiry committee was headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and included Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court. The panel conducted a detailed investigation, examining evidence and recording statements of over 50 individuals, including senior

officials such as Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Aroora and the Chief of Delhi Fire Services, both of whom were among the first responders on the night of the fire.

The report was earlier shared with Justice Varma for his comments before it was forwarded to the President and the PM, maintaining transparency and fairness in line with the norms governing judicial accountability.

**Sudhir Saluja**

New Delhi, May 6, 2025: Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, commemorated its 58th Annual Day on May 6, 2025 with great zeal and solemnity. The event served as a fitting culmination to a year marked by notable academic accomplishments and dynamic cultural engagements. The celebration commenced with a serene Shabad recital establishing a spiritually enriching ambience. The event was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including Shri Vijender Gupta, Honorable Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly (Chief Guest), Ms. Nandini Paliwal, Secretary Higher Education, Delhi Government (Guest of Honour), S. Harmeet Singh Kalka (President DSGMC), S. Atma Singh Lubana (Vice President DSGMC) and members of the Governing Body—S.



Satnam Singh, S. Kulbir Singh, S. Rawail Singh, S. H.S. Nag and Treasurer S. Prithpal Singh. The distinguished guests were cordially received and facilitated by the college. In her welcome address, Principal Prof. Harpreet Kaur highlighted the college's key initiatives, institutional achievements, and strategic vision for the future. Addressing the gathering, Shri Vijender Gupta shared inspiring reflections from his student leadership days as former President of Delhi University Students' Union, encouraging students to pursue their goals with discipline and passion. Ms. Nandini Pali-

wal underscored the importance of women's empowerment and solidarity, while S. Harmeet Singh Kalka announced the introduction of mental wellness labs aimed at supporting the emotional well-being of students. A significant highlight of the event was the release of the college's annual magazine Bani, a comprehensive compilation of academic and creative contributions by students and faculty. The occasion also saw the unveiling of notable faculty publications, including Teg Bahadur Boliya and Sikh Women in Indian History, authored by Principal Prof. Harpreet Kaur. An audio-visual

presentation showcased the year's key milestones and achievements, capturing glimpses of national and international conferences, seminars, academic lectures, heritage walks, cultural festivals, and other noteworthy college activities.

The prize distribution ceremony honoured outstanding students across diverse domains. The prestigious 'Student of the Year' award, along with scholarships and special recognitions was conferred upon students for exemplary academic performance and excellence in co-curricular pursuits.

The ceremony concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

## Avaana Capital leads 1.2 million dollars seed round in High Time Foods

Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI) Avaana Capital, a venture capital fund backing deep-tech and frontier innovation, has led a USD 1.2 million seed round in High Time Foods, a food-tech startup offering cost-effective, shelf-stable plant-based protein solutions. Existing investors also participated in the round.

The funding coincides with High Time Foods' official launch in India, where it aims to address the country's protein gap by building a climate-resilient, non-refrigerated, and versatile protein product line catering primarily to the institutional food sector. The Bengaluru-based startup had earlier secured a distribution deal with US-based Sysco, one of the world's largest food-

service providers, which it described as a significant global validation of its product innovation and operational efficiency.

"With Avaana Capital backing us, my co-founder Damian and I are doubling down on our mission to deliver delicious and versatile plant-based proteins to our B2B partners across India and beyond," said Aakash Shah, Co-Founder and CEO, High Time Foods.

"We're launching at a very affordable price point, and as we scale, we aim to be cheaper than conventional protein sources, including meat." The firm's offerings, designed for restaurants, hotels, caterers, institutions, and manufacturers, are intended to function as adaptable ingredients in diverse preparations,

including Indian staples like samosas and kebabs. The company's early India operations include a partnership with Vasantha Bhavan, a 65-year-old restaurant chain with presence across Tamil Nadu and abroad. According to Avaana Capital's Investment Director Shruti Srivastava, "High Time Foods is tackling one of the most urgent gaps in food systems today—affordable, scalable protein. Their shelf-stable innovation is built for real-world conditions, especially in markets where infrastructure can be a challenge."

Founded by MBA classmates Aakash Shah and Damian Felchlin, the company combines experience in foodservice, logistics, and international trade.

## Govt directs OTT platforms to immediately stop Pakistan-origin content



New Delhi, May 8 (UNI) Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the government on Thursday directed all OTT platforms, media streaming platforms and intermediaries operating in India to immediately stop streaming of web-series, films, songs of Pakistan origin. According to an advisory issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the decision has been taken in the interest of national security.

The statement said, "Several terrorist attacks in India have been established to have cross border

linkages with Pakistan based State and non-State actors. Recently, on April 22, 2025, the terrorist attack in Pahalgam led to the killing of several Indians, one Nepali citizen, and injuries to a number of others."

"In the interest of national security, all OTT platforms, media streaming platforms and intermediaries operating in India are advised to discontinue the web-series, films, songs, podcasts and other streaming media content, whether made available on a subscription-based model or otherwise, having its origins in Pakistan with immediate effect," it said.

Notably, the government had earlier banned several Pakistani YouTube channels, for disseminating provocative, false and misleading content against India.

## Airtel Africa revenue grows 21.1 pc in constant currency

London, May 8 (UNI) Airtel Africa Ltd on Thursday reported a strong financial performance for the year ended March 31, with constant currency revenue rising 21.1 per cent to USD 4,955 million and profit after tax (PAT) swinging to USD 328 million from a loss of USD 89 million in the previous fiscal, aided by easing currency headwinds and operational momentum across its markets.

Revenue growth accelerated in the fourth quarter to 23.2 per cent in constant currency and 17.8 per cent in reported currency, supported by improved pricing in Nigeria and strong execution across the Group. However, reported annual revenue saw a marginal decline of 0.5 per cent due to currency devaluation. Underlying EBITDA stood at USD 2,304 million, down 5.1 per cent in reported currency, with margins narrowing to 46.5 per cent from 48.8 per cent in the prior

year. The margin dip was attributed to increased fuel prices and a reduced contribution from Nigeria. Notably, EBITDA margins improved sequentially from 45.3 per cent in Q1 to 47.3 per cent in Q4, reflecting a more stable operating environment and cost efficiency gains.

Basic earnings per share rose to 6.0 cents from a negative 4.4 cents a year earlier, largely due to lower derivative and forex losses. EPS before exceptional items dropped to 8.2 cents from 10.1 cents, impacted by higher finance costs following tower contract renewals.

On the operating front, the telecom major expanded its total customer base by 8.7 percent to 166.1 million, driven by digital inclusion efforts and network investments. Smartphone penetration improved to 44.8 per cent, while the number of data customers increased by 14.1 per cent to 73.4 million.



The ministries were instructed to strengthen their coordination with state authorities and ground-level institutions. A Whole of Government approach was underlined as key to addressing any emerg-

“The adversary, however, is targeting civilians and on the night of 07-08 May 2025, attempted to engage a number of military targets in the country and the UT of Jammu Kashmir. These were neutralised. We need to be alert and Civil Administration, Defence and law enforcement authorities must work unitedly to tackle all the challenges on the ground,” the Lieutenant Governor said—(KNO)

are ready for any fire or rescue operation that may be needed," the official said. Fear, displacement, and a plea for peace. With homes destroyed, livestock abandoned and what not, the residents across the LoC belt repeated the same plea: "War is no solution." They called on both India and Pakistan to restore peace and safeguard the lives of civilians who live on the frontlines of every flare-up.

**CM Omar**  
Gupta, Divisional Commissioners of  
Kashmir and Jammu, Commissioner  
Secretary General Administration De-  
partment & Information, Commis-  
sioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies &

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Health Department and the district administration, who briefed him on the ongoing treatment and the measures being taken to support the victims and their families—(KNO)

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**dated 08/05/25**

## Eight vibrant host cities to dazzle the world at FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027

Zurich (Switzerland), May 8 (UNI) FIFA, joined by a host of prominent and high-profile Brazilians, has officially announced the eight Host Cities and their respective stadiums for the historic edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027, marking a memorable milestone in the countdown to the tournament.

The selected Host Cities truly reflect the diversity of Brazil, which will host the first FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in South America: Belo Horizonte (Estadio Mineirao), Brasília (Estádio Nacional), Fortaleza (Arena Castelao), Porto Alegre (Estádio Beira-Rio), Recife (Arena de Pernambuco), Rio de Janeiro (Estádio do Maracana), Salvador (Arena Fonte Nova) and Sao Paulo (Arena Itaqueria).

"From samba to frevo, from stunning beaches to cosmopolitan cities, the world will experience the energy, colour and warmth that only Brazil can offer," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

"We will continue to work closely with the selected host cities on the exciting journey ahead of us, creating unforgettable moments in each of their stadiums in 2027, and ensuring that this tournament has a major and widespread positive impact. We are deeply grateful to all 12 cities that took part in the thorough and competitive selection process to host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027. Belem, Cuiaba, Manaus and Natal, we thank you very, very much for your extraordinary efforts. Your passion has not gone unnoticed, and we are committed to keeping in touch and finding meaningful ways for you to also be part of this historic event."

The much-anticipated announcement was made on Wednesday across FIFA channels by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, joined by celebrities and prominent figures from the sport, entertainment and public life in the Brazilian states where the eight Host Cities are located. Celebrations will now unfold across the cities, as communities proudly embrace their role in welcoming the world to Brazil for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027.

## Mitchell Owen replaces Glenn Maxwell in Punjab Kings Squad

Chandigarh, May 7 (UNI) Australian all-rounder Mitchell Owen will be joining the Punjab Kings squad for the remainder of the IPL 2025 season.

He will replace Glenn Maxwell, who was ruled out of the tournament after sustaining a finger injury. Head coach Ricky Ponting said, "I think we're all very happy to add Mitchell Owen to our squad for the back end of this season. He's someone that I've watched very closely, especially over the last 12 months." "He is a very exciting player, a very exciting package. He is someone that can bat lots of different positions in the order and can bowl some very handy medium pace as well, which will be really good for us. I am really excited to have him as part of the group and looking forward to him getting over here sooner rather than later," he further added. Joining the Kings for INR 3 crore, Owen has scored a total of 646 runs and picked up 10 wickets in 34 T20 matches. He also has two centuries to his name, with a highest score of 108.

"I am really excited to be given the opportunity to join the Punjab Kings and I can't wait to get over there and get stuck in," said Owen on joining the team.

"We believe Mitch Owen has the skillset and temperament to thrive in the IPL. He's an exciting young talent with a bright future, and we're looking forward to seeing him showcase his abilities in our setup," said Satish Menon, the CEO of Punjab Kings.

## World Cup can be incentive for Russia to end war: Donald Trump

Washington, May 7 (UNI) US President Donald Trump said the opportunity for Russia to play at the 2026 World Cup could be an "incentive" to end the war in Ukraine. The Russian national football team has been banned from international competition by FIFA and UEFA since the country's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the BBC reported. Trump campaigned on ending the war in Ukraine on "day one" of office if he was elected for a second time in November 2024. Under current rules, Russia will not play at the 2026 World Cup being co-hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico. Qualification began in September 2023, with 45 spots available in addition to the three host nations. But, speaking at the first meeting of his administration's 2026 World Cup taskforce, Trump said reinstating Russia for the tournament could end the war in Ukraine. Sat next to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, Trump said he did not know Russia were banned from the tournament. "That is right," said Infantino. "They are banned for the time being from playing but we hope that something happens and peace will happen so that Russia can be readmitted." Trump said: "That's possible. Hey, that could be a good incentive, right?" "We want to get them to stop. We want them to stop. Five thousand young people a week are being killed - it's not even believable."

## JAI HIND- NATION FIRST PRIDE , PATRIOTISM, PURPOSE

## A WAY OF LIFE AT DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY, BORN OF PATRIOTISM AND LEGACY

### DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY, MANDI GOBINDGARH SPECIAL FEATURE

As the nation echoes with the resounding chant of "Jai Hind" amid growing national pride and a sharp response to provocations across the border, Desh Bhagat University (DBU), Mandi Gobindgarh, stands as a living embodiment of that spirit—where "Jai Hind" is not just a slogan but a part of daily culture. In a time when "Jai Hind" is trending across political circles, the military, and social media following India's assertive action against Pakistan-backed aggression, the chant reverberates with special significance at DBU. Here, every meeting, every greeting among faculty, staff, and students begins and ends with "Jai Hind." The phrase is ingrained in the university's ethos. The very name Desh Bhagat translates to "Freedom Fighter," drawing its roots from India's glorious freedom struggle. The university's founder and Hon'ble Chancellor, Dr. Zora Singh, carries the legacy of patriotism in his bloodline—his father, Sardar Lal Singh Ji, was a valiant freedom fighter who served with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj (INA). His contributions were recognized with the Tamra Patra Award by the Government of India in 1972. "Desh Bhagat University is not just an educational institution—it is a movement," said Dr. Harsh Sadawarti, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. "We strive to instill in our students the same patriotic fervor that inspired our forefathers. Here, education goes hand-in-hand with national pride."

While the country unites under the chant of "Jai Hind" in response to escalating tensions with Pakistan, DBU continues to promote the values of service, sacrifice, and unity—the pillars upon which it was built. From organizing commemorative events on Republic Day and Independence Day, to integrating national values in its curriculum, the university ensures that students are nurtured not just as professionals, but as proud citizens of India. In the wake of recent developments, the university has extended full support to the Indian Armed Forces and reiterated its commitment to nation-building. Special lectures, student rallies, and tribute sessions are being organized throughout the week to express solidarity with the country's defense forces. Jai Hind is not just a trending hashtag here—it's a deeply held belief. At Desh Bhagat University, it resonates across corridors, classrooms, and hearts.

## S. LAL SINGH FREEDOM FIGHTER

