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'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. Misriblamed 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-occupiedJammuandKash-

He said India's retaliatory strikes under "Operation Sindoor" were non-escalatoryand tar-Contd.on P7..

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

Contd.on P7..

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 highlevel 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.

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

mir (PoJK).

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

Contd.on P7..

EDUINSTITUTES 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

Contd.on P7..

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

Contd.on P7..



Intense shelling: CM orders relief, safe accommodation for border residents

Chairs meeting of DCs of border districts for 2nd day

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): After the intense shelling along the Line of Control (LoC), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday directed to provides a fe accommodation for all those affected in the border districts.The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), chaired the meeting of Deputy Commissioners of border districts of the region for the second straight day to assess the ground situation.

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bidhuri, Secretary Health and Medical Education Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah and others. Contd.on P7..

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. **Contd.on P7..**

'We've seen wars, but not this fear': Uri residents relivé 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 worstaffected 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 governmentestablished 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

Contd.on P7..

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 Thursdaywiththeadministration stating that road clearance operations are underway. The highway was closed for traffic following a cloudburstandsubsequent mudslides at overfive locations,

Contd.on P7..

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

Contd.on P7..

CM Omar reviews situation in border districts

Orders immediate ex-gratia relief for victims of shelling

Srinagar, May 08 (KNO): Chief MinisterOmarAbdullahThursdaychaired 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 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 Minister Dheeraj

Contd.on P7..

Satish Sharma visits GMC Jammu

Enquires about health of Cross Border shelling victims

Jammu, May o8 (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 AmarnathjiYatra (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

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, 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

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 campuswide 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

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

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 locations to prevent any loss of life or property from enemy attacks. Keeping this in mind, the Jammu

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.

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 humanitarianspirit 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-

Various officials including CEO, Tehsildar Pouni and prominent citizens like Vactch Pati Sharma

tions 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.

were felicitated for their contribu-

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.

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.

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

Jammu, May 8, 2025: Vivek Bali, J&KState 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 Pakistanare 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

to take swift action to ensure the safety of residents in border regions. Heals o 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 everygovernment 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.

DC INSPECTS PATWAR KHANA AT KISHTWAR Diverte for Denovation Cleanliness

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.

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 - Udheywalla, conducted under the direction of Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma. The CHO interacted with thegroup 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 Guptawhileinteracting with the participants, educated them about incentives available undervarious Schemes/ Programs presently under implementation viz. HADP, JKCIP, MIDH, CAPEX and urged them to take maximumbenefitfromtheseSchemes/ Programs. Alive 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

DIPR Cultural Unit organises thematic cultural awareness at GHSS Tikri

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

The aim of this initiative was to enhanceawarenessamongthestudents regarding the detrimental effects of drugabuseandtopromoteadrug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit Jammu captivated the audience with thematic songs, effectively demonstrating the repercussions of drug addiction on individuals,

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.

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 Haider Sheikh was the Chief Guest at the Iangural 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.

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.

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 District 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.

OPED

Srinagar, Friday 09 May 2025



Self-actualized people are independent of the good opionon of others

Antibiotic ineffectiveness in the pharmaceutical market

Go to anyone's house, you will find a box of medicine like food and drink in the kitchen. It can be guessed that where kitchen is included in the monthly budget of the house, other vegetables or electricity bill, medicines have also been included in the general budget. These medicines are not the ones that have to be used daily for chronic diseases like diabetes and blood pressure, they are for common diseases like fever, headache, nausea, upset stomach or joint pain etc.; I mean, weWe are living in a drug dependent society. Medicines have been used in the society since the time when man incarnated himself on the earth. Where man depended on trees and fruits due to stomach hunger, in the same way, he relied on trees and plants for any problem like pain. Our own Ayurvedic system originated from trees, plants. Today, most of the medicines popularized by Ayurvedic and modern science are still prepared from the juice of these trees, plants, fruits and flowers.. Modern science has prepared many medicines in the laboratory itself. Chemicals prepared in laboratories are benefiting from medicines by doing many experiments and are also suffering losses. Medicines started to reduce or completely eliminate human suffering but when it became a market and a commodity of daily use, it is not known. The use of medicines makes us healthy and puts life on the right path. In fact, here lies the point that when the harmony in our life was lost and we reached a life of running and dancing. of societyThe pace became so fast that even a minute of leisure started to sting us. Running is an important aspect in the capitalist system. The capitalist is always running for profit and does not let the people working for him sleep. He uses every herb for profit; Be it brotherhood, friendship and love or family comfort. We can see these things in the growing expansion of medicines. Questions have been raised about the expiry date printed on the medicines that it is deliberately kept low so that the old medicine is used before its prescribed limit.go In this way, medicines worth lakhs of rupees are wasted. Think for yourself, the same medicine is being used on the appointed date and then suddenly the same medicine becomes useless. It is from this aspect that the mentality of people has become that they have to buy medicine by looking at the date and put it in the dustbin accordingly. These medicines are usually taken in larger quantities for the first time after showing them to the doctors so as to avoid repeated visits to the doctor and paying fees. Another aspect of this is the custom of taking medicine by showing the prescription from the chemist. Any medicine can be obtained without a prescription from a chemist, even if it has a prescription. Likewise, another aspect - hundreds of drugs which are banned in foreign countries but are widely available in our country. India has a very low number of doctors as per World Health Organization standards. In almost every village, many unaccredited people are practicing medicine freely. There is a political motive behind their success and also a shortage of doctors on a large scale. It has come to light that if these people are banned, PendAnd the health system of the region will be shaken. This is one of the major reasons for drug abuse. The country's health system and medicine system is gradually becoming expensive and is going into the hands of corporate houses. This is also one of the reasons why people are giving preference to self-medication. Thus the trend of keeping medicines at home is increasing. Medicines market is very fast due to increasing sales of medicines. It has been observed that the trade of fake medicines is increasing. Today, the drug market is the most profitable ears ago, the wise doctors used to tell the budding doctors that a doctor who examines a patient and prescribes a medicine means that he has understood the disease. The doctor who prescribes two medicines means that he is still in doubt and the one who prescribes three or four or more medicines, then understand that he is an agent of a pharmaceutical company. With this in mind, take a look at today's prescriptions. No prescription will contain less than seven or eight medications. Some medications are certain, such as antacids, B complex, and a half-rate of the What is special in the prescription is the antibiotic. It has become difficult for people to get access to antibiotic medicines. As you may have noticed, one thing about antibiotics is the amount of medicine; Another way of eating. Thus, the patient voluntarily reduces the amount or postpones the time of eating. If the doctor has prescribed the medicine for five days, it is common to take the medicine for three days and seven days for five days. Due to this, the whole health science is having to suffer a loss, that is, day by day the antibiotic becomes ineffective. That timeNot far when we will have no antibiotics left to kill germs. The World Health Organization has termed this condition as serious and dangerous and has warned many times that antibiotics should be used judiciously. A situation should not arise that we take advantage of the health services and suffer losses. This includes the multitude of health workers who do not use medicines judiciously; Especially those who are sitting in villages.

Dr. Sandeep Kumar Ghand Life Coach

(A Lifetime Dedicated to Service and Change)

AMRITPAL SINGH MANSA

In a time when society often rewards celebrity over substance, the towering yet humble achievements of Dr. Sandeep Kumar Ghand stand as a reminder of what true social leadership looks like. For over three and a half decades, this self-made social worker, community builder, and life coach has transformed the social fabric of Punjab, leaving his mark across villages, towns, and districts, from Faridkot to Mansa, Bathinda to Barnala.

Born in 1963 to a family with no land, no wealth, and no institutional connections, Dr. Ghand rose solely through the power of grit, empathy, and vision. His academic journey, crowned by topping his Master's program in Social Work and earning multiple qualifications, became the launchpad for a lifetime dedicated to the service of others.

A Blood Donation Revolution When he first encountered the dark underbelly of paid blood donations in the 1990s, Dr. Ghand refused to look away. Instead, he launched a people's movement that, over 35 years, turned Punjab's blood donation landscape on its head. From small 15-unit drives to

mega-camps collecting over 2,000 units in a single day, his leadership ensured that hospitals across districts now rely on voluntary donors, not desperate or exploited sellers.

He pioneered the practice of linking blood donation to meaningful personal events — birthdays, anniversaries, memorials — thus transforming private milestones into public good. His work has not just saved countless lives; it has built a culture of compassion.

Empowering Women, Uplifting Youth Dr. Ghand's commitment to women's empowerment is no less inspiring. By establishing rural sewing centers, he provided thousands of girls and women with the tools to earn, stand tall, and shape their own destinies.

On the youth front, Dr. Ghand organized employment fairs that placed over 3,500 marginalized young people into meaningful private-sector jobs - a direct blow against poverty and hopelessness.

Frontline Service During Crisis While many stayed indoors during the terrifying uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Ghand was on the streets delivering PPE kits, distributing dry rations, feeding the homeless, and supporting medical staff. His unwavering courage in the face of crisis reflected not



just duty but moral leadership. A Champion for Mental Health and

Literacy

As an author of four pioneering books, including the first Punjabi-language life coaching manual, and over 200 widely published articles, Dr. Ghand has raised public awareness around mental health - a topic often dismissed or stigmatized in rural India. His libraries in over 50 villages, coupled with the planting of more than 100,000 trees, further underscore his holistic approach to societal

A Legacy That Demands Recognition Perhaps most remarkable is that Dr. Ghand's work was not born out of privilege or political backing. He built systems where none existed, creating sustainable change that touched health, education, environment, women's rights, youth empowerment, and moral values. His consistency over 35+ years makes him a rare figure in India's social sector someone who has not merely followed the tide but reshaped it.

As nominations roll in for national awards recognizing social impact, it is only fitting that Dr. Sandeep Kumar Ghand's name be placed front and center. He is not just a social worker; he is a pioneer, a builder, and a role model whose life reminds us that change is not a matter of resources but of will. At a time when India needs local heroes who embody Gandhian ideals, Dr. Ghand offers the clearest, most compelling example.

itpal Singh Mansa

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"Jai Hind" — A Way of Life at Desh Bhagat **University, Born of Patriotism and Legacy**

DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY, MANDI GOBINDGARH | SPECIAL ARTICLE

As the nation echoes with the resounding chant of "Jai Hind" amid growing national pride and 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 cul-

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.

Is Your Child at Risk of a Genetic Liver Disorder? Early Treatment Can Change Everything

Dr. Vikram Kumar. Principal **Consultant, Paediatric Liver** Transplantation. **Gastroenterology & Hepatology. Max Hospital, Saket**

When we think of liver problems, we often associate them with adults. But the truth is, liver conditions can affect children too-especially when they are inherited through family genes. These are called genetic liver disorders. Though they may sound worrying, understanding them early and getting the right help can make a big difference in your child's health and future.

What Are Genetic Liver Disorders? Genetic liver disorders are inherited conditions that affect how a child's liver functions. They may disrupt the body's ability to break down substances, produce bile, or remove toxins. Some of the most recognised disorders include Wilson's disease, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency, and Glycogen storage diseases, Biliary

Children affected by these disorders might not display symptoms right away. Some only experience signs as they grow-like persistent jaundice, swelling in the belly, fatigue, poor weight gain, or pale stools. In many cases, parents only discover the issue during routine check-ups or blood

Early Detection Makes All the Dif-

The liver is a silent worker. It performs hundreds of essential functions every day-but when it's not working right, the effects can be serious. If not properly managed, several inherited liver conditions may progress to cirpediatric liver care, most genetic



rhosis, liver failure, or require a liver transplant. That's why early intervention is critical

With timely diagnosis and expert care, children can be treated successfully-even before symptoms appear. And that brings hope

Pediatric Liver Treatments That Give Children a

Healthier Future Thanks to

advances in and overall health.

liver disorders can now be managed effectively through a combination of: Medications that remove toxic build-up or improve bile flow

Custom diet plans tailored to the child's condition

Supplements containing essential vitamins and minerals that help promote healthy growth and support liver function

Regular monitoring through tests and imaging

In certain cases, a liver transplant may be recommended, providing a new chance at life for children with serious liver damage

These treatments are not one-sizefits-all—they are personalised. A team of pediatric liver experts will create a personalised treatment plantailored to your child's specific condition, age,

What Can Parents Do?

If your child shows signs of liver trouble or if you have a family history of liver disease, talk to a pediatric liver expert. Don't ignore symptoms likelong-termjaundice, poor appetite, or unexplained tiredness. Early screening can be life-changing.

And remember: treatment doesn't just aim to control the condition—it's about helping your child live life to the fullest.

Expert Help Is Closer Than You Think

Parents often feel helpless when facing a child's diagnosis. But with the right information and expert medical care, there's every reason to feel hopeful. A timely diagnosis, personalised treatment plan, and regular follow-up can make all the difference in your child's health journey.



INSIDE KASHMIR OPINION

Srinagar, Friday 09 May 2025

Canada's unity against Donald Trump is a myth

Almost one in five Conservatives support Trump's annexation bid. These numbers must be taken seriously.

Andrew Mitrovica

Canada is a haven for pleasing myths. One agreeable caricature popular these days is of a land and a people united in happy solidarity to resist an unpopular president clamouring to add Canada as the

51st star on the stars and stripes flag.

Uncomfortable truth be told, more than a few Canadians are not wishing Mark Carney all that well as Canada's Harvard-trained technocrat-turned-prime minister meets today for the first time the domineering commander-in-chief of the United States, Donald Trump.

A fair share of Canadians – still smarting from the Liberal Party's remarkable revival on election night last week – will be rooting for the other guy who keeps talking about erasing the "artificial line" that separates the two bordering nations.

While Carney insists that Canada's sovereignty is non-negotiable, I suspect Trump will continue to bellow privately and publicly that his ungrateful northern neighbour, having mooched off the US for far too long, best join it to form one "beautiful country". Despite broad expressions of new-found Canadian nationalism, including the boycott of US-made stuff and travel south of the 49th parallel, Trump has good reason to pursue his fever dream of a swollen empire. The prickly fact Carney and company are



loath to admit is that in parts of Canada, the idea of joining the US is not as radioactive as it ought to be.

The proof is in the polling.

A recent survey revealed that 18 percent of Conservative voters would be eager, apparently, to swap O Canada for a rousing rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Let us pause to consider the jarring significance of this fantastical sentence. Many modern-day ideological descendants of the party of Sir John A MacDonald – one of Canada's founding fathers, as well as a drunkard and racist – are content to trade in their Canadian citizenship to declare an oath, hand-on-malleable-heart, to America. The sobering story gets even more alarming the further West you venture.

According to the same poll, a halting 21 percent of Albertans would say "yes" to being absorbed into Trump's ugly, disfiguring

vision of America, where cruelty and vindictiveness are the defining governing ethos.

This is not the petering, verging on irrelevant sovereignty movement that has, at times, traumatised Canada since the late 1950s. This is not Quebec nationalists shielding and asserting their identity, language, and cultural survival.

No, this is a loud, disconcerting swath of the West – perpetually angry, isolated, and nursing a decades-long grievance – flirting not just with separation, but pining, it seems, for annexation.

For Canada's cockeyed annexationists, Trump represents salvation from myopic politicians in Ottawa beholden to the stranglehold exercised in election after election by smug voters in Ontario and Quebec.

In this stubborn context, Trump's crude, imperial designs are being treated as an

opportunity, not a threat.

His pugnacious image of America, with its loveforderegulation, muscular independence, and rejection of every stifling ounce of progressiveness, resonates with scores of Canadian Conservatives who feel abandoned by politicians more interested in currying favour with urban, "woke" constituencies in Toronto, Montreal, and beyond.

Trump's combustible rhetoric – couched in the language of "injustice", exceptionalism, and disdain for "globalist elites" – calls to a brewing sense of disillusionment with the existing state of Confederation among a growing number of Canadians.

The president's calculated provocations – amplified by social media and sympathetic "alternative" news outlets – have bolstered the perception that Canadian federalism is "broken" and that the powers-that-be are not listening.

In this corrosive climate, defeated Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre must finally reckon with his role in promoting a narrative, grounded in estrangement and dysfunction, that has deepened divisions and eroded trust in public institutions.

In his parochial pursuit of power, Poilievre disparaged the nation he sought to lead, echoing – often almost verbatim – Trump's seething resentment and polarising bombast. The US president's cynical efforts to undermine an erstwhile ally's independence were abetted by a preening politician anxious to declare, again and again, that Canada is crumbling from within.

The potentially dire, unintended consequences are now becoming apparent.

Like all demagogues, Trump is adept at sniffing out vulnerability and weakness. And while most Canadians remain loyal to the Maple Leaf and are offended to their core by his oafish overtures, fissures are showing.

Trump, predictably, is exploiting them with, alternatively, bouts of performative menace

and a grating grin.

Although she will dismiss the appellation, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith is, by word and deed, the patron saint of the province's emboldened separatists.

Smith's "Alberta Sovereignty Act" is not the benign assertion of provincial rights her allies inside and outside the legislative assembly claim it to be.

This is, in effect, Alberta declaring, sotto voce: "We'll pick and choose which laws to follow."

It is a blatant rebuff of federalism and an affront to the constitution itself.

Smith's broadsides, denouncing central Canada's betrayal and control, parallel Trump's noxious modus operandi.

This is not about building pipelines or slashing taxes any more. It is about fomenting a sense of Alberta-as-victim, grooming a citizenry to view Canada not as home, but as an unyielding straitjacket.

as an unyielding stranjacket.

It is Trumpism in oil-stained cowboy boots.

A coalition of national leaders – along what constitutes Canada's narrow political spectrum – must take seriously the disaffection animating in the West.

That means embracing compromise and a wholesale commitment to the imperative that Canada's always delicate unity cannot be taken for granted.

If the curse of alienation spreads, if more and more Westerners see themselves as outsiders in their own country, then the absurd will become the imaginable.

Perhaps not annexation, but fragmentation. And with that, the very notion of Canada as a coherent, inclusive nation could soon be at stake.

Trump's pernicious prescriptions are not only a portal into an uncertain future, they pose an existential danger. Canada is confronting the remote, yet conceivable risk, of breaking not with a bang, but by invitation.

Courtesy Aljazeera

Palestine and the decline of the US empire

The US fears a free Palestine because it sees it as the beginning of its own end.

Muhannad Ayyash

It has been 19 months now since the start of the Israeli war on Gaza. The International Court of Justice is investigating a "plausible genocide", while the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes. Scholars of genocide, major human rights organisations, and United Nations experts have identified what is going on in Gaza as genocide. People across the world have marched to call on their governments to act to stop it.

stop it.

There is a single power that stands in the way of putting an end to this genocide: the United States. One administration has handed over to another, and yet there has been no change in policy. Unconditional support for Israel seems to be a doctrine that the US political establishment is unwilling to touch.

Various analyses have suggested that at the root of this "special relationship" are Judeo-Christian values and a shared democratic path; others have argued that it has to do with the two-party system and the donor class dominating US politics.

But the reality is far simpler. The US views Israel as a critical ally because it helps promote US global supremacy at a time when it is facing inevitable decline. Israel's survival in its current settler-colonial form – the US elites believe – is closely tied to maintaining US suprem-

The supremacy of US empire Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the US has been leading a unipolar world as the

sole superpower.
As a continuation of Western imperial global dominance, the US empire holds much sway over global economic, political, and cultural matters, often with devastating consequences for the lives of millions of people around the world. Like all empires, the US solidifies and expands its position of supremacy and



hegemony in the world through its overwhelming military force. Through the US infrastructure of organised imperial violence, it is able to secure access to and control of resources, trade routes, and markets. This, in turn, guarantees continuous economic growth and dominance.

But in recent years, we have seen signs that US supremacy is being challenged. The momentum to do so built up in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 US financial crisis, which turned into a global one. It demonstrated the negative impact of US supremacy on the world economy and motivated powers such as China and India to take action to protect themselves from it. The BRICS coalition of economies emerged as their shared response on the economic front.

In the following years, various US foreign policy mishaps, including the US failure in Afghanistan, its waning influence in Africa and its inability to prevent the Russian invasion of Ukraine, also demonstrated the limits of US global power.

The rise of US President Donald Trump and far-right populism in the United States reflected the fact that cracks were appearing in the very core of the US-led so-called liberal order.

No empire has ever easily accepted its decline, and neither will the US. It intends to hold onto its status as the unquestionable superpower, and for that,

it needs imperial outposts to stand loy ally by its side.

Israel – the most reliable imperial ally Throughout the Cold War, Western Europe and Israel stood as the US's junior partners in its confrontation with the Soviet Union in Europe and the Middle East. Today, while the decadesold transatlantic alliance seems to somewhat falter, the US-Israeli relationship appears as strong as ever.

Israel has demonstrated loyalty as an imperial outpost. It has played a key role in supporting US imperialism in two ways.

First, Israel helps the US secure its access to and control over one of the most critical markets for any empire: the energy market. The Middle East is an important force in the global energy trade, and its oil and gas policies can have a tremendous impact on the world economy.

What the US fears the most is losing its dominance in the global energy markets to a competing power, which is why it wants to secure its interests by establishing a regional order in the Middle East that overwhelmingly favours its imperial power. This new order is about giving the US a major advantage over any competitor seeking to make inroads into the region, namely China.

For the administration of former US President Joe Biden and its successor, the Trump administration, the Israeli genocide of Palestinians and aggression against neighbouring countries are about establishing this new security reality in the region by eliminating hostile groups and governments. That is why US support for them has not stopped.

Second, Israel plays a critical role in advancing US military supremacy. The US provides Israel with billions of dollars in aid, which is in fact a form of self-investment in developing military capabilities and expanding sales. The Israeli state uses these funds to buy weapons from US arms manufacturers, which then use Israel's deployment of that weaponry in the Middle East as testing and marketing tools. The US military-industrial complex is thus able to sell more weapons and continue to innovate and grow to ensure the US has a military edge over its rivals.

In this sense, Israel is one of the most critical parts of the US imperial machinery. Without it, the US would find it challenging to maintain its imperial power in the Middle East. It is for this reason that Biden once famously proclaimed that if Israel did not exist, the US would have to invent it.

Free Palestine and global decolonisation Over the past year, we have witnessed an unprecedented attack on the Palestine solidarity movement in the US, which has affected all public spheres, including education and healthcare. We have also seen an intensification of US threats against states, such as South Africa, for their support for Palestine. Based on the magnitude of the resources and energy that the US empire expends on the elimination and subjugation of Palestinians, one has to wonder, what is it about a stateless people with no economic and diplomatic capital or military power that terrifies the world's sole superpower?

The answer is that the US empire views a free Palestine as the beginning of its own end.

The US is actively working to prevent the world from doing the right thing and isolating the Israeli state economically and politically because it fears what may come next. Such isolation would make it difficult for Israel to continue its existence as a settler colonial project, and ultimately could lead to a decolonisation process. The end result of that would be Palestinians and Israelis living together under a new decolonial political system that would be integrated into the region and would no longer serve imperial power.

A decolonised entity in Palestine/Israel would be a major step in the decolonisation of the world order itself and its liberation from US imperial power. And this is what the US dreads.

In this sense, it is in the self-interest of the overwhelming majority of the world's nations to follow this path. The future of Palestinians, who are facing the real threat of elimination and total subjugation today, depends on this. And the future of many other nations, if they wish to avoid the current unspeakable brutalities that Palestinians are facing all on their own, also depends on this.

As much as the US needs a settler colonial Israel to stave off its decline, the world, particularly the Global South, needs a decolonised Palestine to hasten US decline. Palestine, not just metaphorically but literally, stands in the way of US and Western imperialism's onward march towards continued global supremacy.

Courtesy Aljazeera

Srinagar, Friday 09 May 2025



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

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 col $leges of the \, University of \, Delhi. \, The$ 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, SGND-KC), 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. Prithipal Singh Sawhney (Treasurer,

MSCW). In her welcome address, Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal of Mata Sundri College, highlighted the



itarian efforts of S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, particularly during the CO-VID-19 crisis, when he extended substantial support to people across the Delhi-NCR region. His longstanding 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 exemplary leadership and human- clear and impactful agenda.

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. Jas-

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

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 Kash-

mir, which claimed 26 lives. The

strikes, part of a larger counterterrorism 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 Saniiv 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 GS 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 Arora and the Chief of Delhi Fire Services, both of whom were among the first responders on the night of the

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 account-

Mata Sundri College for Women Celebrates its 58th Annual Day with Grandeur

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.



licitated 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. Harprepresentation 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, shelfstable 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 climateresilient, 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 foodservice 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 protein 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 platformsand 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, theterrorist 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

rica 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 mar-

et Kaur. An audio-visual

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 sawa 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

London, May 8 (UNI) Airtel Af-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 renew-

> 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 percent to 73.4 million.





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Pak global to in an appropriate domain and therefore the choices entirely that of Pakistan to make," Misri asserted.

He condemned Pakistan's attempts to whitewash its complicity in terrorism, noting how Islamabad had opposed the mention of the terror organisation The Resistance Force (TRF) in the United Nations Security Council statement regarding the Pahalam terror attack

halgam terror attack.
PAK RESORTING TO LIES SINCE ITS

INCEPTION

He dismissed Pakistan's claims that it had downed Indian jets. "The claims are baseless propaganda. These are a part of alongstanding pattern of misinformation. Pakistan has been resorting to falsehoods since its inception in 1947, including its denial of involvement in the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir before the United Nations. There is nothing surprising in it. After all, this is a country that started lying as soon as it was born. In 1947, when the Pakistaniarmy claimed Jammu and Kashmir, they lied not to any random person but to the United Nations that we have nothing to do with it. So this journey started 75 years are."

ed 75 years ago." Referring to the recent statement of Pakistan foreign minister that there are no terrorists in the country, the Foreign Secretary said, "This is the same country where Osama bin Laden was found, and whom their leadership called a 'martyr'. Their ministers, past and present, including the Defence and Foreign Ministers, have publicly acknowledged their country's involvement in sponsoring terrorism," Misri said. INDIVIDUALS ELIMINATED WERE ACTIVE TERRORISTS

Clarifying India's response to the Pahalgam attack, Misri asserted that the May 7 operation was precise and targeted only terrorinfrastructure. "No military installations were attacked. The aim was not to escalate tensions but to dismantle the infrastructure enabling cross-border terrorism," he said. He also rebutted Pakistan's narrative that only civilians were killed, stating, "Individuals eliminated were active terrorists. Their funerals were attended by Pakistan Army soldiers. These were not civilians." Misriadded that India deliberately refrained from attacking any civilian or critical in-frastructure. "Claims of damage to the Neelum-Jhelum Dam are baseless. It was never targeted. If this claim is used as a pretext to strike Indian infrastructure, Pakistan will be held fully responsible for

the consequences."
'COMMUNALISATION ATTEMPT
Misri expressed concern over Pakistan's attempt to communalize the conflict, referring to the communal undertones in statements made by the Pakistani Army Chief and the religious profiling linked to the Pahalgam attack

He reiterated that Indians of all faiths stand united against terrorism and condemned Pakistan's misuse of religious sites to train terrorists. "The Pakistan Army even attacked a gurdwara in Poonch and killed three members of the Sikh community. This is unacceptable," he

NO JOINT PROBE

Responding to Pakistan's call for a joint investigation into the Pahalgam attack, Misri reminded that India had cooperated during the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2016 Pathankot attack, even allowing Pakistani officials access and sharing evidence. "Pakistan stonewalled all efforts and used the information to defend terrorists. We no longer trust Pakistan's intent," he said, as per KNO. INDUS WATERS TREATY IN ABEY-ANCE UNTIL TERROR ENDS

Touching on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the Foreign Secretary disclosed that India has put the treaty in abeyance until Pakistan ends its support for terrorism. "India has upheld the treaty's spirit for over six decades, even during war. But Pakistan has consistently violated it, refusing to engage in meaningful discussions on its modernization," he said, referring to the treaty's outdated reliance on 1950s-era engineering. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Highlighting the international response, Misri said that every major diplomatic mission around the world recognized and condemned the Pahalgam attack, with countries like the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar appreciating India's restraint and responsible conduct. "India's Executive Director at the IMF will raise concerns about Pakistan's duplicity. Let those who choose to open their purses for Pakistan also open their eyes

to its record," he added. Misri warned that any attempt by Pakistan to escalate the situation will be met with a strong response. "We have made our position clear. Pakistan escalated first, and we have responded with maturity and clarity. Any further provocation will be dealt with appropriately," he said. NO INFO ABOUT NSAs BEING IN CONTACT

Asked about reports of contact between the NSAs of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary said, "I have no information with regard to contacts between the two

National Security Advisors." Replying to a query about India was considering severing diplomatic ties with Pakistan entirely, Misri emphasised that "nothing further from the decision already spelt out by the government."—(KNO)

PM chairs

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 emergfb@theindsidekashmir



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ing challenges.

The secretaries shared details of their planning and identified action points relevant to their respective sectors. The meeting also included discussions on enhancing civil defence mechanisms, tackling misinformation and fake news, and securing critical infrastructure. The overall focus remained on ensuring institutional preparedness, coordination,

and national security.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefed opposition leaders on Operation Sindoor, the In-dian military's response to the Pahalgam terror attack. He said that over 100 terrorists were killed in the operation, which remains ongoing. Rajnath said the Indian military is prepared to respond to any escalation but does not seek further military action unless provoked.

The government shared limited operational details, citing national security concerns. The opposition extended support to the government in counterterrorism efforts.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said all parties expressed solidarity with the government and acknowledged the need for confidentiality in certain matters.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the all-party meeting was held in a cordial environment and commended the political leadership for maintaining unity and refraining from criticism during

The government has maintained that it remains vigilant and prepared to protect national interests while ensuring internal coordination across agencies and ministries—(KNO)

Pak attempts to attack 15 night to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj. These attempts were neutralised by the Integrated Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (Grid and Air Defence systems)."

the Pakistani attempt came after Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under "Operation Sindoor" and destroyed these sites.

"India's anti-terror response was focused, measured and non-escalatory and that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. Any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response," they said.

Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh said, Today morning Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. Indian response has been in the same domain with the same intensity as Pakistan. It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised.

They said, "Pakistan has increased the intensity of its unprovoked firing across the Line of Control using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. Innocent lives have been lost, due to Pakistani firing," they

"India was compelled to respond to bring mortar and artillery fire from Pakistan to a halt. Indian Armed Forces reiterate their commitment to nonescalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," they added—(KNO)

Edu institutes in

Awantipora Airport shall remain closed on May-09 and May-10 as precautionary measures. Besides, the authorities have also said that the schools falling under the sub-division in Gurez so remain closed on May-09 and May-10 as a part of precautionary measures.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu on microblogging site X said, "In view of the prevailing situation Schools, Colleges & educational institutions (private as well as Government) in the districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch shall remain closed tomorrow on 9th May as well.' In the meantime J&K State Eligibility Test Agency (Jammu) has postponed the JKŠET/LAŠET Examination 2024-25 slated for May-11

Due to the prevailing situation, the JKSET/LA SET Examination 2024-25, scheduled to be held on May-11-2025 in UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, stands postponed till further notice," it reads. Earlier the University of Kashmir had also postponed all the exams that were scheduled to be

Assistant Controller Conduct of KU in an order on Wednesday had said, "It is hereby notified that all examinations of the University of Kashmir scheduled to be held upto and including 10.05.2025 stand postponed."—(KNO)

Armed forces

directions passed during the meetings on May 06 to ensure Physical infrastructure, Public safety and Cyber security. The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to be on alert and deal sternly with any attempts to disturb public order and take the strongest possible measures to prevent fake news and

'I have full confidence in the ability of officials, Police and security forces to face any emergent situation. Seamless coordination among the Administration, Police and Armed Forces is the key in the present situation. Deputy Commissioners and SSPs must together visit the vulnerable areas and spend time with people on the ground and focus on their needs and be responsive," the Lieutenant Gov-

The Lieutenant Governor directed Divisional Commissioners to meet prominent citizens and ensure continuous public engagement. He said other district officers should also visit border areas and meet the citizens and ensure their safety, medicare etc.

'We have to take precautionary measures and be prepared for any exigency. Ensure effective execution of Evacuation plan and other SoPs. All basic facilities at shelter centres to be ensured," the Lieu-

Γhe Lieutenant Governor observed that our armed forces have accomplished the goal of demolishing terror factories inside Pakistan and ensured that no one dares to indulge in this kind of misadventure

'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)

Intense shelling:
The Chief Minister called for making immediate arrangements to provide safe accommodation for all those affected in border districts and ensuring uninterrupted essentials to the people. In a post on X, the Office of Chief Minister, J&K, quoted Omar as saying that coordinated supply of food, drinking water, power and other essentials is being ensured on priority.

The ambulance services are being augmented to handle any medical emergencies effectively while adequate medical facilities and staff are being mobilised to provide timely care to those in need, the post reads—(KNO)

All J&K hospitalsEight districts—three in Kashmir and five in Jammu—bordering Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), are considered most vulnerable to injuries, and all necessary facilities have been activated to ensure timely treatment for the

The government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Jammu, a leading healthcare institution in the region, said it is ready to manage medical emergencies arising from ongoing border tensions.

'We are equipped to respond to any situation. Mini ICUs with ventilators and monitors are operational, and we have sufficient stocks of medicines, said an official at GMC Jammu.

The hospital has prepared over 200 beds, with medical teams and logistical support staff on standby to provide 24/7 care, especially for those affected by shelling incidents. Authorities have also issued alerts to health facilities in border districts such as Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, and Samba, urging vigilance and preparedness. Similar instructions have been disseminated in districts across north Kashmir.

The shelling, which began early Wednesday, was reportedly a retaliatory strike by Indian forces targeting nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and PoK. This military action was in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in 26 civilian deaths.

Poonch district has borne the brunt of Wednesday's shelling. Many homes have been damaged, and residents are relocating to safer areas.

Health authorities have assured the public that all necessary arrangements are in place to handle any emergencies. "From blood banks to trauma units, everything is ready. We have coordinated with district hospitals to ensure efficient patient management," officials said. An official at GMC Rajouri said the hospital remains alert, as cases from road accidents and other emergencies continue daily. However, given the heightened shelling impact on Poonch and Rajouri, they are especially vigilant

Hospitals also said adequate stocks of medicines and blood supplies are available across all blood banks. They have called on volunteers to step forward and donate blood voluntarily, to ensure sufficient reserves in case of emergencies. Meanwhile, authorities continue to monitor the border situation closely, as fears of further escalation persist. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has urged residents in vulnerable areas to follow safety advisories and cooperate with emergency services to ensure safety and preparedness—(KNO)

'We've seen

areas, MLA Sajjad Shafi termed the situation "unfortunate and heartwrenching", highlighting how border residents remain the worst sufferers during such escalations. "Our people have seen the wars of 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1998, but the kind of terror and helplessness they feel now is unprecedented," he said, pointing to the deserted markets and abandoned homes as painful evidence.

The MLA praised the administration's prompt action and outlined the threetier evacuation setup now in place. "We are shifting people first to Uri, then to Boniyar and finally to Baramulla. Health facilities are fully equipped, and no effort is being spared," he added. While Sajjad confirmed injuries, he expressed relief that no lives were lost. He appealed for calm and assured residents that they are not alone. "We are here for you," he said. MLA Uri blamed the recent Pahalgam

terror attack for disturbing the fragile peace that border residents had begun to enjoy and prayed for the safe return of displaced families.

Fire & Emergency Department conducts

In anticipation of further emergencies, the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department conducted a mock drill in Uri, assuring locals that they are fully

An official confirmed that five fire tenders are on standby—one each from Srinagar, Sopore, Muqam, and Baramulla, in addition to the existing unit in Uri. "Our manpower and machinery are alert. We 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 flareIt is pertinent to mention that the authorities acted swiftly and relocated several families to safer locations. However, the trauma continues to linger. The escalation follows the launch of Operation Sindoor" by Indian forces, which targeted terrorist camps across the border in Pakistan. The operation was in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives and injured several others—(KNO)

Landslide-hit

severely impacting vehicular movement severely impacting vehicular movement and stranding commuters. Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that immediate restoration of traffic movement on the highway is a top priority to ensure that stranded vehicles and passengers reach their destinations safely

reach their destinations safely.

He said that adequate manpower and machinery have been deployed to expedite the clearance operations.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that the cloudburst has significantly afforted villages such as Bagna Marog.

affected villages such as Bagna, Marog, Balihote, and Sincha. Assessment of damages and immediate restoration work will begin soon in these areas to mitigate the impact on local residents. Furthermore, the district administration is providing all possible assistance, including food and other essential items, to stranded drivers and others in need to stranded drivers and others in need. The Deputy Commissioner has appealed to the public to remain patient, follow official traffic and weather advisories, and avoid unnecessary travel until the highway is fully restored and safe for movement.

He also urged people to rely on information available through the official handles of the district administration, District Police Ramban and Traffic Police—(KNO)

MeT issues yellow gusty winds at scattered to fairly widespread places across Jammu and Kash-

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a two-day yellow alert has been issued by the MeT from

May 09. Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said partly to generally cloudy with a spell of light to moderate rain, thundershower and quety winds are expected at scattered. gusty winds are expected at scattered

gusty winds are expected at scattered to fairly widespread places.
The parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, were lashed by the light rains on Thursday, bringing down the temperature across the valley.
The MeT Director further predicted the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at isolated places on May 12, adding that there is a forecast of generally dry weather conditions from May 13 to May 17.

May 13 to May 17.
Meanwhile, the MeT has called upon people to follow the administration and traffic advisory.

"Avoid boating, shikara riding in Dal Lake, Wular Lake and other water bodies during inclement weather and gusty winds," it said in the advisory, adding that intense showers at a few vulnerable places may lead to landslides and mud-

The MeT further said there is a forecast of a significant rise in day temperature from May 13 onwards, mainly in the Jammu division—(KNO)

CM Omar

Gupta, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department & Information, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies &

stood on 15-04-2025.

Consumer Affairs, Secretary Health & Medical Education, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora and Director Information who attended the meeting in person and Deputy Commissioners through

and Deputy Commissioners and the video conferencing.
Both Divisional Commissioners and the respective Deputy Commissioners briefed the Chief Minister on the ground situation, availability of essential commodities, medical supplies and basic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioners also briefed the meeting about the temporary shift-ing of some population to safer zones, particularly at lodgement centers. The Chief Minister directed for ensuring the availability of basic amenities including food, sanitation, water and power supply in these lodgement facilities.

The Chief Minister was informed that adequate stocks of ration and other essential commodities have been kept in readiness at all strategic locations.

He instructed concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted supply chains. Regarding emergency healthcare, the Chief Minister was briefed about the availability of blood and medical supplies, availability of doctors in Government Medical Colleges and district hospitals, and he emphasized the need formaintaining recovers tooks in need for maintaining reserve stocks in need

of emergency.
The Chief Minister also directed that senior doctors be deputed to key hospitals in the affected districts to strengthen emergency medical response and ensure specialized care for the injured. He further instructed the administra-tion to facilitate swift transportation of critically injured victims to tertiary care hospitals outside their districts, using critical care ambulances so that timely and advanced medical treatment is provided without delay. Further, the Chief Minister directed

that additional ambulances be deployed in vulnerable areas to ensure swift medical response and evacuation, wherever needed.

Taking serious note of casualties and injuries caused due to shelling, the Chief Minister directed that ex-gratia relief be disbursed immediately to the next of kin of deceased and injured persons. He further instructed that all required formalities be expedited so that finan-

formalities be expedited so that financial assistance—including support from PM CARES Fund and other relief sources—be processed without delay. The Chief Minister instructed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to undertake field visits to the affected villages and ensure the presence of senior officers of line departments on the ground to monitor the situation closely.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to ensure that law enforcement agencies step up vigilance in vulnerable areas, especially to protect properties left behind by familian between the control of the con ilies who may have temporarily relocated to safer zones. The Chief Minister commended the efforts

of the officers for their measures in these testing times to safeguard people's lives and ensure their well-being—(KNO)

Satish Sharma

The government is committed towards safeguarding the lives and dignity of our people living in border areas", he empha-

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)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER **BANDIPORA**

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Sub: Final Seniority list of Junior Assistants (District Bandipora) as it

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the tentative seniority list of Junior Assistants working in the School Education Department (District Bandipora) was prepared and circulated vide this office No. CEO/Bpr/Estt-NT/025/659-62, dated 25-04-2025, inviting objections/feedback from the concerned officials through their Drawing and Disbursing Officers for rectification of particulars/errors, if any, in the seniority list.

Whereas, in response to the tentative seniority list, this office was in receipt of some representations for minor corrections in service particulars of the concerned officials which were scrutinized and subsequently disposed off in due course of time.

Now, therefore, the seniority list of Junior Assistants is finalized and the Final Seniority List, appended to this notification as Annexure 'A', is hereby published/made available on the official website of this office (www.ceobpr.in) for the information of all the stakeholders.

The final seniority list shall be without prejudice to the final outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending in the competent court of law.

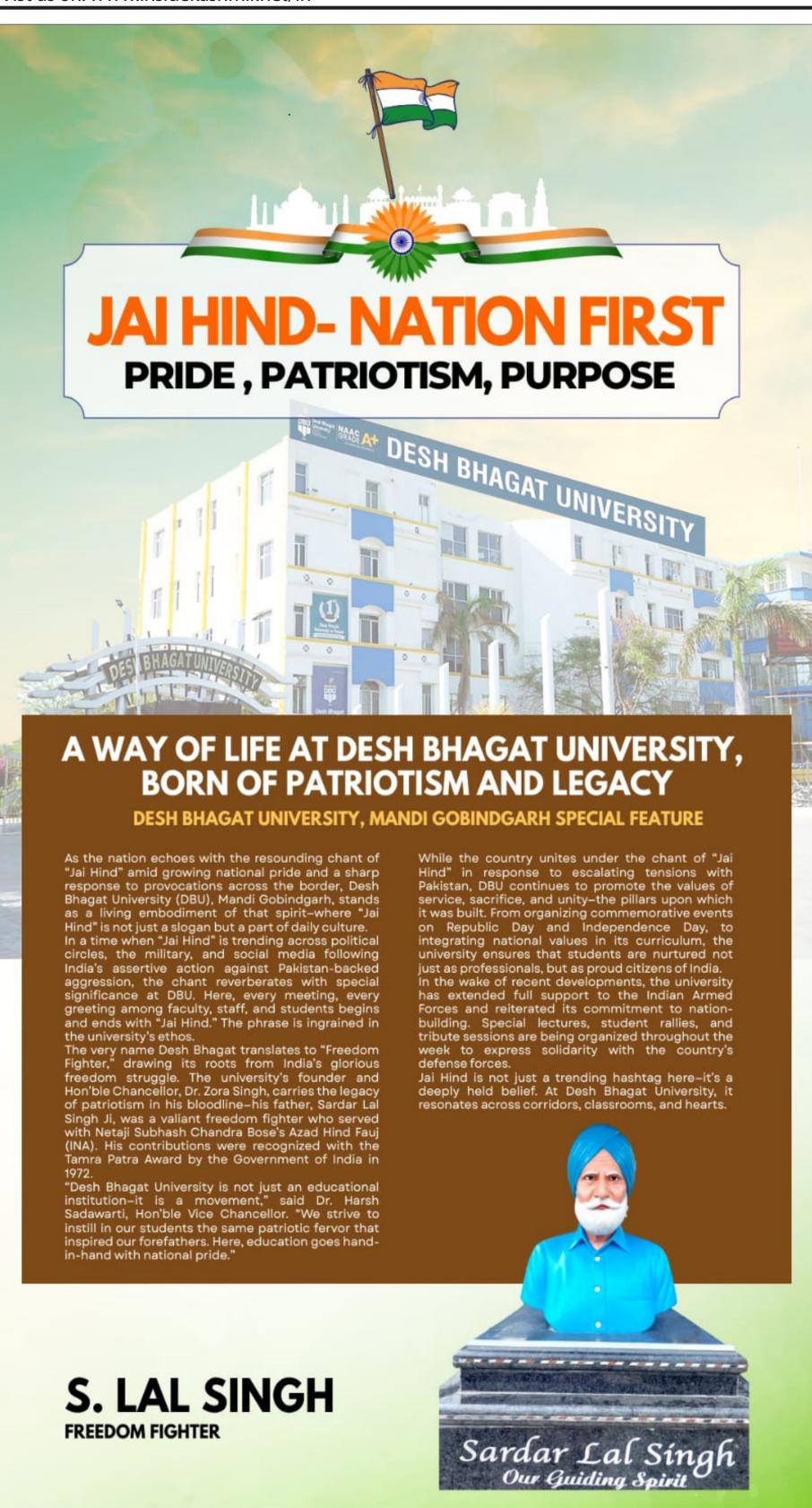
DIPK-1235-25 dated 08/05/25

Sd/- CEO Bandipora





Srinagar, Friday 09 May 2025



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 Itaquera).

"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 peacewill 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."