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Weather | Day: Variable cloudiness with a thunderstorm in parts of the area in afternoon | Rain: 16mm | Cloud Cover 57% | Night: Partly cloudy | Rain: 0.0mm | Cloud Cover 68% | Temp: High: 23° | Low: 9° | Sunrise: 5:32 AM | Sunset: 7:23 PM

Post ceasefire, PM Modi chairs high-level meeting

Instructs armed forces to respond forcefully to every action by Pak, say Govt sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday with top government functionaries, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, a day after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions.

NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and all three service chiefs were among those who attended the meeting.

India had accused Paki-



stan of violating the terms of the understanding on Saturday night and asked it to take "appropriate steps" to address these violations and deal with

the situation with "seriousness and responsibility".

The situation has since cooled down even though residents in several border areas

continue to live in a state of apprehension following days of shelling and drone incidents.

Meanwhile, government sources said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi instructed the armed forces that the country's response to every action by Pakistan should be more forceful.

Following Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Modi told the armed forces that bullets must be responded to by artillery ('Wahan se goli chalegi, toh yahan se gola chalega'), the sources said.

They said Operation Sindoor is not concluded and there

Army Chief gives full powers to commanders to respond to Pak violation of May 10 arrangement

New Delhi, May 10 (PTI) Army Chief Gen Uday Kumar Singh has given full authority to the Army commanders for counter-action in the

See **Army Chief...** on Pg-08

India inflicted heavy losses on Pakistan military: DGMO

'Over 100 terrorists including high-value targets killed in May 7 strikes'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

India on Sunday said it inflicted tremendous losses on the Pakistan military, including downing its fighter jets featuring the latest technologies and damaging key military

installations close to even the capital Islamabad, during the three-day confrontation between the two sides.

Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said 35-40 Pakistani military personnel

See **India inflicted...** on Pg-08

India to send team to UNSC with evidence highlighting Pak's complicity: Sources

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

The sources have confirmed that India will be sending a team to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) soon, with the latest evidence highlighting Pakistan's complicity with terrorism, some news agencies reported.

The 1267 sanctions committee, also known as the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions committee, established under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) in 1999, is likely to meet next week, the agencies quoted sources as saying.

It is one of the most important UN subsidiary bodies working to combat terrorism, particularly in relation to ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida

and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. It oversees sanctions measures related to individuals, entities and groups, associated with the aforementioned organizations. This committee oversees the implementation of sanctions pursuant to UNSC resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015).

Notably, India has accused Pakistan of shielding The Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Pakistan reportedly blocked the mention of TRF's name in a UNSC statement condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians. Despite TRF claiming responsibility for the attack twice, Pakistan's actions suggest a pattern of

See **India to send...** on Pg-08

No ceasefire violation reported in Kashmir overnight

Borders remain calm in Jammu too; no drone activity reported from anywhere



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR / JAMMU, MAY 11

There was a semblance of normalcy in Kashmir valley as residents witnessed the first night in six days without the sound of aircraft, missiles and drones flying overhead.

"There was no ceasefire violation

Govt orders property damage assessment in shelling-hit Poonch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POONCH / JAMMU, MAY 11

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday called for a detailed assessment of the property damaged in Poonch, the border district worst hit by the Pakistani shelling between May 7 and 10, an official said.

Twenty persons, including some security personnel, lost their lives and over 50 others were injured in cross-border shelling in

See **Govt orders property...** on Pg-08

Don't rush back home, stay at safer places: Police urges border village residents

Cautions about possibility of unexploded munitions remaining scattered after Pakistani shelling

Srinagar/Jammu: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday asked border villages residents, who were evacuated to safer places in view of cross-border shelling by Pakistan, not to rush back to homes as they are yet to sanitize and clear these areas of any unexploded shells.

More than two lakh residents of villages close to the

See **Don't rush back...** on Pg-08



Quick Read

Soldier killed guarding air base in Udhampur

JAMMU/JAIPUR: (PTI) A soldier was killed when he was hit by a fragment of a Pakistani drone, which was successfully intercepted by the Army Air Defence at an air base in Udhampur district on Saturday, officials said.

India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire along the Line of Control and International Border on Saturday.

The soldier was on duty at the Udhampur air base, which came under Pakistani drone attack on Saturday.

"The Indian Air Defence successfully intercepted the drones in the air, but a jawan was hit by a fallen debris resulting in critical injuries to him," the officials said, adding that he later succumbed to his injuries.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Choudhary paid rich tributes to the soldier and expressed sympathies with his family.

"The news of the martyrdom of Shri Surendra Singh Moga ji, a son of Rajasthan, a resident of Jhunjhunu, a soldier of the Indian Army, who attained martyrdom at Udhampur Air Base while performing his duty of national security is extremely sad," he wrote on X.

Meanwhile, a young soldier, who succumbed to grievous injuries sustained in Pakistani shelling, was given a tearful adieu with hundreds of mourners joining his last rites in his village near the zero line here.

Rifleman Sunil Kumar (25) posted with 4-JAKLI (Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry regiment) was critically injured in cross-border shelling along the International border in RS Pura sector early Saturday and later breathed his last.

Coming from a military background with his two elder brothers also serving in the armed forces and his father an ex-serviceman, his relatives said that Kumar was inspired from a young age to join the army and serve the nation.

The majority of the inhabitants of his Triva village in the Arnia sector were shifted to safer places as a precautionary measure on May 8, a day after Pakistan started targeting forward

See **Soldier killed guarding air...** on Pg-08

Police raids 20 locations in Kashmir in UAPA case

Srinagar, May 11: Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Sunday conducted searches at 20 locations in the Valley and detained multiple suspects in connection with a UAPA case.

"The SIA conducted searches at around 20 locations across all districts of south Kashmir in connection with the investigation of a case registered under UAPA," officials said.

The officials said that substantial incriminating materials have been seized during the raids, and the suspects have been rounded up for further questioning.

"Preliminary investigation

See **Police raids 20...** on Pg-08

JKAS officer cremated with state honours in Jammu

LG, others visit bereaved family



IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, MAY 11

A Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer, who lost his life in Pakistani shelling, was cremated with full state honours here on

Sunday, officials said.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and J&K Assembly Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma joined hundreds of mourners at the cremation ground to bid final goodbye to

See **JKAS officer cremated...** on Pg-08

Mufti visits forward areas, hopes understanding between India, Pakistan will have permanent effect

IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, MAY 11

PDP supremo Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday expressed hope that the understanding reached between India and Pakistan to stop all military actions against each other would have a permanent effect.

"I pray to the Almighty that this ceasefire becomes a permanent thing as innocent people lose their lives and homes in case of a conflict," Mufti today media during her visit to the people displaced from border villages in Baramulla.



"It takes time to deescalate. We should not be jumping and be the militant type over everything," she added when asked about violations within hours of the military understanding

See **Mufti visits forward...** on Pg-08

After visiting war-hit areas of Kupwara, Sajad Lone seeks full compensation for affected, Community bunkers for border residents

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, conducted an extensive tour of border areas in Kupwara district on Sunday to assess

See **After visiting...** on Pg-08

LG visits GMC Jammu, meets injured victims of Pak shelling

IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, MAY 11

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital here to inquire about the health of those injured in recent Pakistani shelling in different districts of the Union Territory, an official said.

A team of doctors briefed



Sinha on the health condition of the injured residents of Jammu,

See **LG visits GMC...** on Pg-08

LG, Dy CM join wreath laying ceremony of slain BSF officer in Jammu

IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, MAY 11

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary here on Sunday joined the wreath laying ceremony of BSF Sub-Inspector

See **LG, Dy CM join...** on Pg-08



Second BSF personnel succumbs to injury in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

The BSF on Sunday said a second trooper was killed in action after Pakistan initiated cross-border firing in the Jam-

mu region a day ago.

"Constable Deepak Chimm-gakham sustained fatal injuries during cross-border firing along the International Boundary in RS Pura area, Jammu

See **Second BSF...** on Pg-08

Constitution is supreme, asserts CJI-designate B R Gavai, says no to post-retirement assignment

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, who is set to become the first Buddhist Chief Justice of India on May 14, on Sunday said no to any post-retirement assignment and put to rest the debate on whether Parliament or judiciary is superior by asserting the Constitution is supreme.

In an informal chat with journalists at his residence here, Justice Gavai said that the top court judges were shocked to hear about the Pahalgam terror attack and referred to the full court meeting convened by him as CJI Sanjiv Khanna was away.

"When the country is in crisis, the Supreme Court cannot remain aloof. We are also part of the nation," he said while touching upon issues ranging from pendency of cases to vacancies in courts, judges meeting commoners including politicians and the statements against the judiciary.

Responding to queries about statements of politicians and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar that

Parliament is supreme, he said, "The Constitution is supreme. This has been held in the 13-judge bench judgement in the Kesavananda Bharati judgement."

On the question relating to the judges accepting post-retirement political assignments like the posts of governors.

"I do not have any political ambition...I will not take any post retirement assignments," Justice Gavai said.

When the issue of a former CJI taking up the gubernatorial assignments was raised, he said, "I cannot speak on behalf of others."

Elaborating, he said for a former CJI, the post of governor is below the post of the CJI in protocol.

Responding to a query on judges meeting others, including politicians, he said, "As a judge you do not live in ivory towers and unless you meet people from different walks of life, you will not understand the issue afflicting them."

Justice Gavai recalled his recent Manipur visit and said that an old woman welcomed him in her home and it made him realise the nation's unity and affinity.

He spoke on the Pahalgam incident, the decision of the top court to condole loss of lives and express anguish over it, subsequent state action of 'Operation Sindoor' and halting of armed exchanges.

Justice Gavai said the judges are also the citizens of the country and after knowing about the gruesome incident, he consulted CJI Khanna and called the full court meeting to decide to issue a statement on behalf of the top court to condole the deaths.

"After all, we are also responsible citizens of the country and get affected by such incidents... We are also concerned as citizens. When the whole country is mourning, the Supreme Court cannot remain aloof," he said.

On the issue of halting armed exchanges, the CJI designate said wars are futile and gave illustrations

of ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, saying there are hardly any tangible gains.

On the issue of declaration of assets by the judges, Justice Gavai said 21 out of 33 apex court judges have so far put details of their assets in the public domain.

"Rest Supreme Court judges will be providing details shortly," he said, adding that the high court judges should also follow the suit.

Speaking on cash discovery row involving Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court, he said the apex court-appointed committee has indicted him and the issue is referred to President Droupadi Murmu and the prime minister for subsequent action.

He, however, refused to comment further on the controversy when questions were asked about whether any FIR can be lodged in the matter.

On a query relating to collegium and non-clearance of recommended names by the Centre, he refused specific comments.

In response to inadequate representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes and Backward classes in judiciary, he said there cannot be reservation in appointments to constitutional posts.

He, however, said that people concerned should be alive to the issue of adequate representation of different sections of societies in higher judiciary.

On the issue of a lesser number of women judges, he said at times, it is difficult to find suitable persons.

Responding to a query on whether social media comments perturb him as a judge, Justice Gavai said he does not follow them and only reads newspaper clippings about the court news.

Dwelling about his humble background, Justice Gavai said, "I will be perhaps the first Buddhist CJI." He has always been very supportive to the idea of socio-economic justice because of this.

He said that his father RS Gavai, a career politician, and many others

had converted to Buddhism following Dr B R Ambedkar.

Justice Gavai said he still visits his village in Amravati district on birth and death anniversaries of his late father besides on the occasion of the village fair.

Earlier on April 16, the CJI recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Gavai as 52nd CJI.

Later on April 29, President Murmu appointed him as the next CJI and he would enter office on May 14.

Justice Gavai, who will have a tenure of over six months as the CJI, is due to retire on November 23, 2025. Born on November 24, 1960 at Amravati, Justice Gavai was elevated as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on November 14, 2003.

He became a permanent judge of the high court on November 12, 2005. He had joined the bar on March 16, 1985 and was the standing counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University.

If India has 10 Abdul Kalam, we can nail R&D: Former DRDO scientist Ramarao

Bengaluru, May 11 (PTI) If India has 10 Abdul Kalam, we can really bring about a change in the way we approach research and development, said former DRDO scientist Prahlada Ramarao on Sunday.

Bengaluru-based Ramarao was part of the missile-building team put together by India's "Missile Man" and former President A P J Abdul Kalam.

The indigenous surface-to-air missile system, famously called Akash, that he and his team worked on for nearly 15 years, since 1983, is having its moment of glory, as it withstood the onslaught of Pakistani missiles and

drones, especially on May 8 and 9.

"The biggest difficulty for India is that we are individually good, but cannot work together as a team. Kalam was very good at addressing this. He taught me how to bring the energy of individuals synergistically to achieve a purpose. That is why I feel, if we have 10 Kalam, India will truly lead," Ramarao told PTI.

Ramarao said he was only 34 years old when he was made the project director for the surface-to-air missile project, originally called SAM X and later renamed as Akash system.

"To make it happen, we had to make hardware, software

prototypes, and then test it out.

When it didn't work, go back, review the design, change the design and so it went on for two, three iterations. Only after 15 years, we could show that to the reluctant Army, who never really believed we could pull this off," he said.

The scientist said India is now in a better place, and the young scientists today are better equipped to arm India with indigenous innovations.

"I am sure if you want to make another missile system, it will take maybe five years because the foundation has been laid," Ramarao said.

Cong remembers Indira Gandhi's leadership amid Indo-Pak conflict

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Asserting it is time to remember Indira Gandhi's leadership, the Congress on Sunday cited her action in 1971 that led to the formation of Bangladesh when she remained undeterred by the US action of sending a nuclear-powered naval task force in the Bay of Bengal.

Congress general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and Sachin Pilot cited the 1971 incident, claiming that she went ahead with the action in national interest despite being asked not to do anything in Bangladesh.

"Now is also the time to recall what happened in the second week of Dec 1971, which is well documented. The Nixon-Kissinger duo sent a nuclear-powered and nuclear-weapon capable US naval

task force of its Seventh Fleet led by the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise into the Bay of Bengal. Indira Gandhi was undeterred. Pakistan surrendered on Dec 16th, 1971," Ramesh said on X.

Pilot told reporters at the party headquarters here that the United States had said they will deploy the seventh fleet to the Bay of Bengal.

"Despite that, the then government and Indira Ji went ahead and did what was in a supreme national interest. We remember them today and that leadership was such where national interest was foremost," he said.

The Congress also remembered the former prime minister on its social media handles, saying, "Today the nation misses the courageous leadership of Indira Gandhi".

46 per cent of IIM-Nagpur MBA graduates are women; 100% placement for 2023-25 batch

Nagpur, May 11 (PTI) Women students of IIM-Nagpur comprised 46 per cent of the total 267 MBA graduates from the 2023-25 batch, marking a three per cent increase compared to the previous batch.

In the 2022-24 cohort, nearly 43 per cent of regular MBA graduates were women, according to officials from the Indian Institute of Management-Nagpur (IIM-N).

The institute recorded 100 per cent placements for the current batch, with leading companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, BNP Paribas, and Vedanta participating in recruitment.

Notably, three students received record-breaking offers, and four secured international placements.

The highest salary offers stood at Rs 69.57 LPA for final placements and Rs 2.70 lakh for summer internships, while the average packages were Rs 18.07 LPA and Rs 89,856, respectively.

Among the 267 regular MBA graduates of the 2023-25 batch, 120 were women (46 per cent) and 147 were men (54 per cent), said IIM-N Director Bhimaraya Metri.

"This gender balance reflects the institute's ongoing efforts to foster an equitable and inclusive learning environment in management education," Metri stated at the 9th convocation ceremony held on campus.

A total of 329 MBA students completed their programs, including 267 enrolled in the regular MBA course, 35 in the Executive MBA program at the Pune Campus, and 27 in the Executive MBA program at the Nagpur Campus.

Metri highlighted that IIM Nagpur has achieved 100 per cent placements in its decennial year, attributing this milestone to the efforts of the Career Development Services (CDS) team and the Student Placement Committee.

"This year, 89 new recruiters joined for final placements and 98 for summer internships, underscoring growing industry trust and positioning IIM Nagpur as a hub of opportunity," he added.

The placement season saw top firms such as Microsoft, Amazon, Adani, BNP Paribas, Vedanta, Aditya Birla Capital, Lupin, Tata Power, Axis Bank, Accenture, BNY Mellon, Cognizant, and Deloitte recruit students, reinforcing IIM Nagpur's growing industry relevance.

CP Gurnani, Chairman of the Board of Governors at IIM Nagpur, emphasised the institute's journey as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

"It is a decade of growth, innovation, and academic excellence," he said and also announced plans for significant infrastructure expansion to accommodate the institute's growing academic and institutional requirements.

Additionally, IIM Nagpur is set to collaborate with the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) in the near future.

The convocation's chief guest, Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO of IHCL, encouraged students to lead with purpose.

"If you follow purpose, success is just a consequence. Everything else falls into place. Practising without vision or purpose is not sustainable. Now is your time to lead, set new benchmarks, and cultivate a growth mindset that will help you thrive," he added.

In total, 62 students were awarded Executive MBA certificates at the convocation ceremony.

Civil Defence course to be introduced in Mumbai University curriculum

Mumbai, May 11 (PTI) The Maharashtra government has decided to introduce a civil defence course in the Mumbai University curriculum, acknowledging the key role the volunteer-based emergency response mechanism can play during emergencies amid a spotlight on the Indo-Pakistan conflict that necessitated mock drill exercises.

The government is also trying to strengthen the Directorate of Civil Defence, beset by multiple issues ranging from manpower crunch to patry daily allowance and logistical problems, including inadequate sirens, vehicles and ambulances.

The Directorate of Civil Defence and the University of Mumbai recently signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU), finalising the inclusion of the Civil Defence course in the academic curriculum, Director of Civil Defence Prabhakar Kumar told PTI.

This course will be taught in all engineering colleges affiliated with the University of Mumbai and will carry a weightage of 25 marks.

"Students who wish to serve the nation while pursuing their education will get an opportunity through this course," Kumar said, adding that students will be trained in rescue operations and saving lives during emergencies.

They will also be prepared to work alongside government and civic agencies, such as disaster management cells, fire brigades, and hospitals, especially during emergency and war-like situations.

The spotlight on civil defence has intensified following mock drills conducted across coastal districts and Pune, Nashik, and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

These drills aimed to raise awareness among volunteers and the general public.

The mock drills involved around 10,000 volunteers from Civil Defence, Home Guard, NDRF, and other emergency response agencies.

An official said the government is

taking appropriate steps to strengthen civil defence, and its revival is underway.

The Directorate of Civil Defence has long struggled with shortages in manpower, vehicles (including rescue vans and ambulances), sirens, and training equipment.

However, these requirements are likely to be fulfilled soon, he said.

Although the sanctioned manpower for Civil Defence is 420 personnel, operations are being carried out with only 135 staff members across the state.

He said some units, like those in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, have only one full-time government employee each.

"In emergencies, Civil Defence

CPI expresses concern over US role in India-Pakistan agreement to stop military actions

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) The CPI on Sunday expressed serious concern over reported US involvement in facilitating an agreement between India and Pakistan to end military actions, even as the Left party welcomed the understanding.

The CPI demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain what role the US played and how the American president announced the agreement before the Indian government.

It also sought a special session of Parliament as soon as possible for comprehensive and transparent discussions on the issue.

In a statement on Sunday, the Left party welcomed the agreement and called it a "positive and necessary step towards preventing a full-scale war and safeguarding peace in the



region". "This development offers much-needed relief to the people living along the Line of Control (LoC), who have long borne the

brunt of cross-border hostilities," the CPI said.

"While the CPI supports any initiative that halts bloodshed and opens avenues for peace, we express

serious concern over the reported involvement of the US in facilitating this ceasefire. The willingness of both the Indian and the Pakistani governments to allow an external imperialist power - especially the US - a nation historically responsible for igniting global conflicts, to mediate what should have been a bilateral issue is deeply troubling," it said.

India and Pakistan reached an agreement to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea on Saturday after four days of cross-border strikes that triggered fears of a wider conflict.

In a short announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the directors general of military operations of the two countries agreed on the understanding during a call.

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

The CPI said there was ample opportunity and political space for India and Pakistan to resolve their differences through direct dialogue.

"By agreeing to the US initiative in this process, the Indian government has effectively violated the essence of the Simla Agreement and provided a scope to internationalise the Kashmir issue," it said.

"This opens the door for the US to play its typical hegemonic and destabilising role in south Asia, further entrenching itself in the subcontinent's internal matters," it added.

Navy deployed carrier battle group, submarines with full combat readiness following Pahalgam attack

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Indian Navy's carrier battle group, submarines and aviation assets were immediately deployed at sea with full combat readiness in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, a top Navy official said on Sunday.

The naval forces remained forward deployed in the northern Arabian sea in a "dissuasive and deterrent" posture, with full readiness to strike select targets at sea, and on land, including Karachi, at a time of our choosing, Director General of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral A N Pramod, said.

The Vice Admiral was addressing a press conference along with his counterparts from the Army and the Indian Air Force on India's Operation Sindoor.

The Director General of Naval Operations (DGNO) said the Navy tested and refined tactics and procedures at sea during multiple weapon firings in the

Arabian Sea, within 96 hours of the terrorist attack.

"The aim was to revalidate our crew, armament, equipment and platform readiness to deliver various ordnance on selected targets precisely," he added.

The DGNO said the carrier battle group was deployed in the Arabian Sea following the terror attack that killed 26 civilians on April 22.

A carrier battle group is a naval fleet consisting of an aircraft carrier and its accompanying ships.

Vice Admiral Pramod said the forward deployment of the Indian Navy compelled Pakistani naval and air units to be in a defensive posture, mostly inside harbours or very close to their coast.

"The Indian Navy maintained seamless maritime domain awareness throughout the duration and was entirely aware of the location and movement of

Pakistani units," he said.

"In effect, we had, and continue to have, good battlespace transparency, using our maritime domain awareness grid," he said.

"Under India's calibrated approach, we considered all options, including the ability of the Indian Navy for offensive action from and at sea," the DGNO said.

"As part of the escalation control mechanism, the application of force by the Navy was planned in a synchronised manner in concert with the Army and the Air Force, the highlight being teams from the three services working closely in an integrated manner," he added.

"Along with kinetic actions by the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, the overwhelming operational edge of the Indian Navy at sea contributed towards Pakistan's urgent request for a ceasefire yesterday," Vice

Admiral Pramod said.

The India Navy remains deployed at sea in a credible deterrent posture to respond decisively to any inimical action by Pakistan, or Pakistan-based terrorists, he added.

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani actions were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damages to a number of key Pakistani military installations, including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Karan Singh welcomes India, Pak understanding, seeks compensation for affected families

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Sunday welcomed the understanding between India and Pakistan and also urged the government to ensure adequate compensation to the people affected by cross-border shelling in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wisely gave the armed forces a free hand to conduct Operation Sindoor.

"I congratulate him and all ranks of the armed forces for the efficient manner in which they conducted the whole operation including the lethal strikes on terrorists' headquarters in mainland Pakistan as well as their attacks on Pakistan's military bases, right up to Rawalpindi itself," Singh said.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of full scale war.

Later in the night, India accused Pakistan of breaching the understanding.

In a statement, the former Jammu and Kashmir Governor said, "The India-Pakistan ceasefire which came on the verge of the conflict further escalating to a lethal level has been a great relief."

"The operation was conducted in a very mature and professional manner and achieved its objective," Singh, son of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari

Singh, said in the statement.

He also urged the Jammu and Kashmir government to assess all the damage caused to the people, particularly the residents of Poonch and Rajouri, and to expeditiously provide compensation and support to those affected.

"My deep condolences to the families who lost their loved ones during the conflict over the last few days," the Congress leader said. He also welcomed President Donald Trump's statement that "the two countries have agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after US mediation".

"Finally, I must thank President Trump for the initiative that he took to encourage the ceasefire," Singh said in the statement.

DC Bla reviews relief measures for shelling-affected people in Uri



BARAMULLA, MAY 11: In view of the recent cross-border shelling incidents, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Mingsha Sherpa, today conducted an extensive visit to Uri sub-division to take stock of the arrangements made for families evacuated from vulnerable areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

Accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri and senior officers from concerned departments, DC visited several key locations, including Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Uri, Control Room Uri, Government Degree College Uri, and GDC Boniyar, which are currently being used as temporary relief centres.

At SDH Uri, the DC reviewed emergency preparedness, availability of staff, and healthcare facilities. He emphasized the need to ensure round-the-clock medical

services for any eventuality.

The DC also visited the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) food store to check the availability and distribution of ration and essential supplies for the affected population. He directed officials to maintain adequate stock and ensure timely delivery to all relief locations.

During interactions with the displaced families, DC assured them of full administrative support and directed officials to ensure proper arrangements for food, bedding, sanitation, and medical aid.

He also held detailed interactions with SDRF volunteers deployed in the area and lauded their tireless efforts in assisting the affected families and maintaining order on the ground.

Meanwhile, DC directed the SDM Uri to carry out a

comprehensive assessment of damages caused to property, livestock, and infrastructure due to shelling. He instructed for a prompt and detailed report so that compensation and necessary support could be extended to the affected households without delay.

It is pertinent to mention that a majority of the families from vulnerable border locations had already been shifted to District Headquarters Baramulla, where the district administration has made elaborate arrangements including food, shelter, medical services, and sanitation facilities.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment, DC stated that all possible steps are being taken to safeguard the lives and well-being of border residents and that the district administration stands firmly with them during this difficult time.

DC Kupwara visits Karnah, takes stock of situation

KUPWARA, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan on Sunday conducted an extensive tour of Karnah sub-division to assess the situation after the recent border tensions which resulted in the damage of various houses and shop establishments.

During the tour, DC visited various families at Tangdar, Hajinard, Nachiyar, Shamspora, Baghela, Batpora and Tarboni whose houses and shops were damaged by the cross-border shelling during the recent border tensions between the two countries.

DC assured the families that the Government and administration is committed to providing every possible support to them.

Ayushi also visited the sub-district hospital Tangdar, to take the firsthand appraisal of the healthcare facilities available in the border sub-division. She inspected various sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD, Gynecology, OT, USG, X-Ray and others. She interacted with the patients and attendants and enquired about the treatment and healthcare facilities provided by the hospital.

The DC also interacted with the doctors and para-medical staff of the hospital and enquired about the availability of essential drugs and other amenities of the hospital. She directed them to work with concerted efforts and dedication to ensure proper treatment and well-being of the patients belonging to this border and far-flung subdivision.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad, Tehsilidar and various officers from R&B, PHE and others.



Tourism, hospitality, aviation will rally together to face challenges after Pahalgam: Taj CEO

Nagpur, May 11 (PTI) The tourism, hospitality and aviation industries will work together to face the challenges following the Pahalgam attack and the consequent military situation, said Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO of Indian Hotels Company Limited, on Sunday.

Chhatwal, whose company operates the Taj Hotels brand, was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the convocation function at the Indian Institute of

Management (IIM), Nagpur.

When asked about how the hospitality industry plans to tackle the challenges after the Pahalgam terror attack and the resulting military conflict between India and Pakistan, Chhatwal said it is the role of management to navigate through crises, and that every crisis presents an opportunity.

"That does not mean we should have only crises. Once everything settles

down... how we, as a sector—tourism, hospitality, and aviation—rally together to bring business back to Kashmir, that's the key," he said.

Chhatwal also shared his company's plan to start Taj properties in Frankfurt, Bahrain, Mecca, Riyadh, and Bhutan.

He also said that two Taj hotels will be established in Nagpur, along with a resort at the renowned Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district.

Schools in Punjab's six border districts, Sangrur to remain shut on May 12

Chandigarh, May 11 (PTI) Schools in Punjab's six border districts as well as Sangrur will remain closed on May 12, officials said and added blackout measures were enforced late on Sunday in Hoshiarpur as a precautionary measure.

Academic institutions in the rest of the state will, however, reopen on May 12, they said.

The authorities in Fazilka, Pathankot, Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran districts that lie on the border with Pakistan have ordered schools to remain shut.

Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan. Education Minister Harjot Bains directed academic institutions to strictly adhere to the government's safety protocols and guidelines.

He said if any university already revised its examination schedule, those exams

would follow the updated schedule.

Deputy commissioners of border districts have been authorised to take a call on opening or closing schools, based on local circumstances.

Meanwhile, the Hoshiarpur district administration enforced a blackout from 9:10 pm.

"We're announcing blackout today at 9:10 pm. There is no need to panic. This is just a precautionary measure... We will keep you updated," the district administration said in a message.

In a related development, the authorities in Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Moga issued advisories, urging people to voluntarily switch off lights at home and avoid venturing outside unless necessary on Sunday evening.

On Sunday, calm prevailed in Punjab, especially in its border areas, following an

understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all military actions on land, air and sea.

In Amritsar, school teachers can take classes online, according to a message shared by the district administration. Colleges and universities in the district will also remain closed.

In Pathankot and Gurdaspur, colleges and universities will remain shut on Monday.

University and college teachers, however, can take online classes, according to an order issued by the Gurdaspur authorities.

The authorities in Sangrur have also ordered all academic institutions to remain shut. Earlier, Bains had said all academic institutions -- schools, colleges and universities -- across Punjab would reopen on Monday.

"Regular classes and examinations will proceed as per

academic schedule. We are immensely proud of our brave armed forces," he had said in a post on X.

The state government on May 8 ordered the closure of academic institutions for three days as a military standoff between India and Pakistan soared.

Meanwhile, the Ferozepur district administration on Sunday issued an advisory, asking people to voluntarily switch off lights at 8 pm.

"Avoid moving outside unless necessary. Stay calm and stay alert to the messages from the district administration," the district authorities said in a message.

The Gurdaspur district administration said the situation was peaceful.

Intimation will be made in case of any event of threat, it added.

In Fazilka, markets were closed at 7:30 pm as a

precautionary measure, an official said.

The Mohali district administration said there would be no blackout on Sunday.

However, as a means of abundant precaution, the administration said streetlights would be switched off and advised people to voluntarily stay indoors in the late evening.

Punjab reimposed blackout measures in several districts as a precautionary measure on Saturday after Pakistan violated the terms of the understanding between the two countries to stop military actions.

The authorities had earlier withdrawn blackout measures and restrictive orders after the two countries reached an understanding to stop military actions following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar condoles death of BSF sub-inspector in J&K

Patna/Saran, May 11 (PTI) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the death of BSF sub-inspector Mohammed Imtiaz, who was killed when his unit posted along the international border in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector came under heavy Pakistani firing on Saturday.

His mortal remains are expected to arrive at his home at Narayanpur village in Saran district on Monday, where his last rites will be performed with full state honours.

In a statement by the Chief Minister Office (CMO) on Sunday, "The CM expressed deep condolences on the death of Mohammed Imtiaz, who was killed when his BSF unit positioned along international border in RS Pura sector in J&K came under heavy Pakistani firing on Saturday."

Kumar said Imtiaz's sacrifice will always be remembered with pride and gratitude.

"I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family

members. May his soul rest in peace. His last rites will be performed with full state honours".

An ex gratia, in accordance with the state government policy, will be handed over to the bereaved family members, the statement added.

Talking to PTI, Saran district magistrate Aman Samir said, "Last rites of Mohammed Imtiaz will be performed at his native place with full state honours on Monday".

The news of Imtiaz's death left his village in a state of mourning.

Villagers gathered at his house on Sunday to console the grieving family members.

Aftab, a relative of Imtiaz, told reporters, "Everyone is proud of Imtiaz for the ultimate sacrifice. He was very enthusiastic about joining the forces. I have seen him working hard to get selected".

Immediate family members of Imtiaz were not available for comments.

Iran, US begin 4th round of negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme in Oman

Dubai, May 11 (AP) Iran and the United States began a fourth round of negotiations Sunday over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, officials said, just ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump to the Middle East this week.

The round of talks, again happening in the sultanate of Oman, likely will see Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi mediating. American officials believe the talks will include both indirect and direct portions, as in previous rounds of negotiations, but like the other rounds in Muscat and Rome, details remain scarce.

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the US has imposed on the Islamic Republic, closing in on half a century of enmity.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's programme if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels. Meanwhile, Israel has threatened to strike Iran's nuclear facilities on their own if it feels threatened, further complicating tensions in the Mideast already spiked by the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Iranian state television announced the talks had begun. There was no immediate comment from the US side.

The talks will again see Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff lead the negotiations. They have met and spoken face-to-face in the talks, but the majority of the

negotiations appear to have been indirect, with al-Busaidi shuttling messages between the two sides.

Iran has insisted that keeping its ability to enrich uranium is a red line for its theocracy. Witkoff also has muddled the issue by first suggesting in a television interview that Iran could enrich uranium at 3.67%, then later saying that all enrichment must stop.

"An enrichment program can never exist in the state of Iran ever again," Witkoff told the right-wing Breitbart news site in a piece published Friday. "That's our red line. No enrichment. That means dismantlement, it means no weaponisation, and it means that Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan — those are their three enrichment facilities — have to be dismantled."

Araghchi, however, warned again that enrichment remains a red line

for Iran.

"This is a right of the Iranian people that is not up for negotiation or compromise. Enrichment is one of the achievements and honors of the Iranian nation," Araghchi said before leaving Tehran. "A heavy price has been paid for this enrichment. The blood of our nuclear scientists has been shed for it. This is absolutely non-negotiable. That has been our clear stance that we have always voiced."

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers capped Tehran's enrichment at 3.67% and reduced its uranium stockpile to 300 kg. That level is enough for nuclear power plants, but far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Since the nuclear deal's collapse in 2018 with Trump's unilateral withdrawal of the US from the accord, Iran has abandoned all limits

on its programme and enriched uranium to up to 60% purity — a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels. There have also been a series of attacks at sea and on land in recent years, stemming from the tensions even before the Israel-Hamas war began.

Iran also faces challenges at home, exacerbated by sanctions. Its troubled rial currency, once over 1 million to \$1, has strengthened dramatically due to the talks alone to around 830,000 to \$1.

However, the two sides still appear a long way from any deal, even as time ticks away. Iranian media broadly reported a two-month deadline imposed by Trump in his initial letter sent to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Trump said he wrote the letter on March 5, which made it to Iran via an Emirati diplomat on March 12

— putting the deadline in theory as Monday when Trump takes off from Washington for his trip to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran's internal politics are still inflamed over the mandatory hijab, or headscarf, with women still ignoring the law on the streets of Tehran. Rumours also persist over the government potentially increasing the cost of subsidised gasoline in the country, which has sparked nationwide protests in the past.

Meanwhile, the last round of talks in Oman on April 26 took place as an explosion rocked a southern Iranian port, killing dozens of people and injuring over 1,000 others. Iran still hasn't explained what caused the blast at the Shahid Rajaei port, which has been linked to a shipment of missile fuel components to the Islamic Republic.

Top UN leaders welcome understanding between India, Pak to stop firings and military actions

United Nations, May 11 (PTI) Top UN leaders have welcomed the understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions, calling it a "meaningful" and "positive step" toward ending current hostilities and easing tensions.

President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly Philomena Yang wrote in a post on X that he welcomes the development, saying, "it is a meaningful step towards de-escalation reflecting the commitment of both nations to regional peace and stability."

Yang urged continued diplomatic efforts and dialogue to resolve differences and achieve lasting peace and stability in line with the UN Charter and international law.

Immediately after India announced "understanding on stoppage of firing and military action" on Saturday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the move, describing it as a "positive step" toward ending current hostilities and easing tensions.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 11 people, mostly women and children

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), May 11 (AP) Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 11 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents. Other strikes killed a child and a man riding a bicycle, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike killed a 16-year-old boy, according to the Indonesian Hospital.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes.

Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that

had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages.

Aid groups say food supplies are running low and hunger is widespread.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostages. Fifty-nine hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's offensive has killed over 52,800 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of the territory and displaced some 90% of its population of around 2 million.

Four booked for cheating Bhiwandi businessman of Rs 22.4 lakh

Thane, May 11 (PTI) A case has been registered against four persons for allegedly cheating a businessman of Rs 22.4 lakh in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Sunday.

Based on a complaint, the Bhiwandi police on May 7 registered a case against one Manzoor alias Raja Khan, Abul Kalam, Yaar Mohammad, and Hidan Mohammad under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code for the fraud that took place in 2020, an official said.

The official said the complainant, Awaram Mohammad Rafiq Mohammed, had entered into a partnership with Khan in 2020 to deal in used vehicles, and later Kalam joined the venture.

Between June 2022 and February 2023, they purchased damaged vehicles worth more

The official said the complainant, Awaram Mohammad Rafiq Mohammed, had entered into a partnership with Khan in 2020 to deal in used vehicles, and later Kalam joined the venture.

than Rs 47 lakh from Gujarat for resale and repair, and the complainant invested Rs 22.44 lakh in the business, he said.

According to the FIR, the accused allegedly sold the stock to third parties without informing the complainant and siphoned off the proceeds.

The complainant has claimed that he was assaulted and threatened, and the accused also took away his motorcycle, the official said, adding that the matter is under investigation.

US, China begin 2nd day of tariff talks; no breakthroughs but Trump touts 'great progress'

Geneva, May 11 (AP) The US and China on Sunday resumed crucial tariff talks that have put the global economy on edge, but appeared to have diverging views of where the negotiations presently stand. US President Donald Trump wrote on social media that "great progress" was being made and even suggested a "total reset" was a possibility as the sides took their seats for the second and final scheduled day of discussions in Geneva.

Beijing has yet to comment directly, but its official news agency took a tough approach, saying China will "firmly reject any proposal that compromises core principles or undermines the broader cause of global equity."

Still, Trump wrote Sunday on social media that "great progress" was being made.

He gave no further details, and officials at the White House also offered little information during and after the opening day of discussions.

Two officials speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter confirmed that the talks had resumed on Sunday morning.

The discussions could help stabilise world markets roiled by the US-China standoff that has ships in port with goods from China unwilling to unload until they get final word on tariffs. The discussions have been shrouded in secrecy, and neither side made comments to re-



porters as they left Saturday.

In its editorial, Xinhua said, "Talks should never be a pretext for continued coercion or extortion, and China will firmly reject any proposal that compromises core principles or undermines the broader cause of global equity."

Several convoys of black vehicles have been seen coming and going from the residence of the Swiss ambassador to the UN delegation in Geneva, which hosted the talks aimed at de-escalating trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump last month raised US tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last

year topped USD 660 billion.

Even before talks got underway, Trump suggested Friday that the US could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that "80% Tariff seems right Up to Scott!" — referring to lead negotiator and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

The talks mark the first time the sides have met face-to-face to discuss the issues. And though prospects for a breakthrough are slight, even a small drop in tariffs, particularly if taken simultaneously, would help restore some confidence.

"Negotiations to begin de-escalating the growing US-China trade war are badly needed and it's a positive sign that both sides were able to gracefully move beyond their bickering over who had to call first," Jake Werner, director of the East Asia Program at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said in an email.

The tariff fight with China has been the most intense. Trump's tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States. The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed 145%.

China's trade deficit, which came to a record \$263 billion last year, has also been a major target of Trump's complaints.

cash during a wedding at Lavanya Banquet Hall. A second complaint was received on May 1 after Rs 80,000 was stolen from a guest's bag at Foriya Banquet Hall," a senior police officer said.

Police teams scanned hours of CCTV footage from the venues and noticed a suspicious man present at both locations. The suspect was later seen feeling in a Maruti Swift car, part of whose registration number was captured on camera, he said.

Technical surveillance led police to Nihal Vihar, where the car was traced.

Awami League rejects its ban by Bangladesh interim govt, vows to continue operations

Dhaka/New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League on Sunday rejected "with disgust" the interim government's decision to ban the party and vowed to continue its operations despite the restriction.

The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's Council of Advisers or the Cabinet on Saturday night slapped a ban on "all activities of Awami League", including in cyberspace, under an anti-terrorism law.

Reacting to the move, in a strongly worded statement posted on X, the Awami League said, "We are rejecting and protesting the fascist autocrat Yunus government's decision with disgust... Awami League will carry on its activities in an appropriate course, defying the decision of the fascist Yunus government."

The party regretted that "today's independent Bangladesh" had to witness the ban on Awami League activities by an "undemocratic fascist" government that now runs the country "without people's mandate", while the country "earned independence and

sovereignty under its (Awami League's) leadership".

Formed in 1949, the Awami League led the movement for the autonomy of Bengalis in the then East Pakistan for decades and eventually led the Liberation War in 1971.

The statement said the ban is meant to "exile the spirit, ideals, and core values of the Liberation War and to empower the vulgar resurgence of anti-independence elements" and "only an anti-state and anti-independence evil force alone".

"We strongly believe that the people of Bangladesh will deliver a resounding response to this reckless decision by the fascist Yunus regime. We call upon all leaders and activists of Awami League to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and build a total resistance against this incoherent and anti-people decision," it said.

Awami League also called upon all democratic states, institutions, and leaders around the world to denounce the decision taken by the Yunus government.

Earlier in the day, Yunus's press secretary Shafiqul Alam in a media briefing

said the democratic world was unlikely to oppose the interim government's decision to ban "this shameless, killer, anti-democracy, and corrupt party".

He said there are instances of the Western world banning political parties for their activities against the national interest and for committing crimes against humanity, like the Nazi and Fascist parties of Germany and Italy.

"So we don't expect any negative international reaction over the ban on Awami League activities," Alam said.

The Election Commission (EC) has said it is awaiting a formal government notification to decide on scrapping the registration of the Awami League.

According to Bangladesh law, if the Awami League's registration with the EC is cancelled, it will be disqualified from contesting the general election, which could be held between December 2025 and June 2026. "We will have to decide

going with the spirit of the present Bangladesh," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin told reporters here.

Hasina's 16-year-long Awami League regime was toppled on August 5 last year in a student-led violent mass uprising, prompting the 77-year-old former prime minister to flee to India.

Three days after her ouster, Yunus took charge as the chief adviser of the interim government.

Hasina and many of her party leaders have been facing hundreds of cases, including those of mass murder and corruption, since then. Most of her party leaders and ministers in her government have either been arrested or fled abroad. The announcement to ban Hasina's Awami League came after the student-led newly-floated National Citizen Party (NCP) activists rallied since Thursday and carried out blockades across Dhaka demanding the ban.

Public Notice

The name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned in her school records as Aiman Zehra instead of Aiman Zehra Ganie. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson School in Tangmarg within the period of Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat Husain Ganaie
F/O Aiman Zehra Ganie
R/O Magam, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam
Post office Magam, Pin code 193401

(BNM)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I ABDUL RASHEED DAR R/O SEHKANOO MALPORA informed to general Public that I want to apply for Date of Birth certificate of my child's namely NAFEEES AHMAD DAR & SHERAZA RASHEED whose DOB is 05-10-2011 & 02-02-2010 respectively. In this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the office of Tehsil Office Beerwah or Block Development Office Beerwah within 03 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be accepted.

Child Name:- NAFEEES AHMAD DAR & SHERAZA RASHEED
S/O/O:- ABDUL RASHEED DAR
R/O:- SEHKANOO MALPORA

(DB)

History-sheeter held for thefts at Delhi wedding venues, accomplice absconding

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Delhi Police has arrested a 51-year-old man allegedly involved in a series of thefts at wedding functions in outer north Delhi, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, Mukesh alias Pappu, a

resident of Karampura and a history sheeter, was arrested following two thefts reported at separate wedding venues in Paschim Vihar, he said.

"An e-FIR was lodged on April 19 regarding the theft of gold jewellery and

cash during a wedding at Lavanya Banquet Hall. A second complaint was received on May 1 after Rs 80,000 was stolen from a guest's bag at Foriya Banquet Hall," a senior police officer said.

Police teams scanned hours of CCTV footage from the venues and noticed a suspicious man present at both locations. The suspect was later seen feeling in a Maruti Swift car, part of whose registration number was captured on camera, he said.

Technical surveillance led police to Nihal Vihar, where the car was traced.

A raid was conducted in the area, leading to the arrest of Mukesh, who confessed to committing both thefts along with his associate, Jitendar alias Jitu, the officer said.

Mukesh revealed that a portion of the stolen money was spent on car repairs and household expenses. Efforts are on to arrest his accomplice, he added.

Mukesh has a criminal record with 11 previous cases and is listed as a "bad character" at Karampura police station, police said.

Further investigation is underway, they added.

Victory of Indian armed forces, diplomacy: Experts on Indo-Pak understanding to halt military actions

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) As India and Pakistan reached an understanding to halt all military actions, defence experts termed it a "victory of the Indian armed forces" and hoped Pakistan will "not open another chapter" after the agreement.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of a full-scale war.

Making the announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the director generals of military operations of India and Pakistan agreed on the understanding during a call on Saturday afternoon, and the next talks are scheduled at 12 noon on May 12.

The announcement came

shortly after US President Donald Trump in a surprise social media post claimed that the talks between the two sides were "mediated" by the US.

Strategic affairs expert Maj Gen P K Sehgal (retd) called the understanding to halt military actions a "very good beginning" for both the nations, as both countries suffered as a result of the escalating tensions.

"As far as Pakistan is concerned, we have broken the back of terrorism. India showed that there is a very strong and decisive leadership in place."

"Over the last 11 years, India spent a lot of money to strengthen air defence, and increase the capabilities, competence and professionalism of the Army in a very big way," he told PTI.

The government has given all the "wherewithal and force multipliers" to them

that are essential to win a modern war, he said.

Also, the integration and coordination applied by the three services were "absolutely immaculate", the strategic affairs expert said, terming the cohesion displayed by the ministries of defence, external affairs and home affairs "absolutely outstanding".

"You cannot win a modern war without all the forces working in synergy," he said.

He also said the actions prior to the Operation Sindoor on May 7 "completely isolated Pakistan, and as the entire world stood behind India, the country stood behind the armed forces".

"Indian armed forces have emerged as a guardian angel of India's sovereignty and integrity," Maj Gen Sehgal (retd) said.

"I am sure that Pakistan will dare not fight again. It is not in Pakistan's interest. Its military infrastructure is de-



pleted," he added.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Col Anil Bhat (retd) from Mumbai said the understanding between the two sides might have stemmed from an agreement that "Pakistan will not support terrorist groups, and ensure they are not again sent into India".

"Knowing the history of Pakistan, it remains to be seen whether it (the under-

standing) will be followed, and if so, how well it is followed," he said.

However, it is hoped that the Pakistani military establishment "sees the sense and takes a positive course, otherwise, God forbid, if they start again, the response will appropriately be a little more," the retired army officer said.

"We hope that Pakistan learnt some lessons and will

not open a new chapter," he added.

Brig Vijay Sagar Dhemam (retd) said the US could have "put pressure" on Pakistan to agree to the understanding with India.

The US doesn't want India and Pakistan to go into a full-scale war, as it has its eyes on the security situation in the Indo-Pacific through the Quad, he claimed.

However, he also termed the understanding only of "kitchen means" as the restrictions in the economic, water and cyber domains remain, he said in Jammu.

Brig Khushal Thakur (retd), who played a key role in the 1999 Kargil conflict, said it was a matter of "great joy" that an understanding had been reached by the two sides to halt military actions.

"This is a victory of PM Modi's leadership, our armed forces, our diplomacy, and also a victory of our stand of

zero-tolerance towards terrorism," he said.

Stating that India and Pakistan have worked out an understanding to halt military actions, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday, "India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so."

Top government sources said the outcome was the result of a direct engagement between India and Pakistan and that Islamabad agreed to it with "no pre-conditions, post-conditions and no links to other issues". Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian armed forces on May 7 hit nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.

Raut questions timing of India-Pakistan understanding, seeks all-party meet to discuss issue



Mumbai, May 11 (PTI) Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday lambasted the government for agreeing to reach an understanding with Pakistan at a juncture when there was an opportunity to teach the neighbouring country a lesson, and demanded an all-party meeting over the issue.

Talking to reporters, he also accused the government of demoralising

the armed forces by accepting the understanding between the two countries to stop all military actions.

He said it was done on the directions of US President Donald Trump.

"What does Donald Trump have to do with it?" he asked.

Raut alleged that the understanding between the two countries was reached when a Pakistani

missile headed to Delhi was struck down in Haryana, and added that Gujarat could also be targeted. The betrayal took place to save some industrialists in Gujarat, he claimed.

"Under what authority was Trump mediating since Operation Sindoor is yet to get over. India is a sovereign country with a population of 140 crore. Trump directs and we agree to a ceasefire under what terms and conditions? What has India got?" Raut said.

He said India's image was maligned due to this.

"There should be an all-party meeting to deliberate under what terms and conditions was the ceasefire agreed upon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi must remain present," he said.

Raut asked the necessity behind agreeing to the ceasefire as there was an

opportunity to teach Pakistan a permanent lesson and when the spirits of the armed forces were high.

"But the political leadership in the country suddenly fumbled and demoralised the armed forces. There was no need to withdraw at this stage. When we reached a decisive point, this kind of a decision was taken to benefit someone," Raut alleged.

The Rajya Sabha member said China and Turkey backed Pakistan. The government should declare which countries back India. Not a single nation backed India. Whose failure is it, Raut asked.

"Where are the terrorists (involved in the Pahalgam attack)? Till the terrorists are killed, Operation Sindoor is incomplete. BJP should seek PM Modi's resignation. He

has betrayed the country," Raut added.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of full-scale war.

Barely hours after this development first announced by US President Donald Trump who claimed that the two countries have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after US mediation, Jammu and Kashmir was shaken by a series of drone sightings in the night followed by explosions, prompting security personnel to engage air defence systems to bring them down.

New book explores collapse of empires and global struggle for new order

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Hot on the heels of the 80th anniversary of World War II's end, the best-selling author Phil Craig's new book offers a powerful and original retelling of how the war's closing chapters reshaped the future of Britain, its colonies, and dominions.

Published by Hachette India, "1945: The Reckoning - War, Empire and the Struggle for a New World" delves into the collapse of the British, Dutch, and French empires as global power dynamics shifted.

It focuses on India, where a generation on the cusp of independence faces a tough choice between loyalty to the British Raj and supporting Subhas Chandra Bose's Japanese-backed Indian National Army (INA). Through the story of a family torn apart by these opposing paths, the book highlights the deep questions of loyalty, identity, and the future of a free India.

"The book explores the lives of real people and two of the most important in this book are Subhash Chandra Bose and Kodandera Subayya Thimayya.

Through tracking them closely, all of the book's many themes fall naturally into place - the war, the fate of the British Empire and the way decolonisation happens (or in some places, does not).

"Both men believe passionately in independence, but they choose very different routes toward it. Their lives intersect in numerous fascinating ways, in fact Thimayya's brother joins Bose in the INA," Craig, who is also the co-author of "Finest Hour", told PTI.

Thimayya, the first Indian officer to command a brigade in the Indian Army, fought against the INA as well as the Japanese. He eventually served as the third chief of Army staff from 1957 to 1961, playing a pivotal role in shaping India's military landscape during the post-independence era.

May 8 is observed as the end of World War II as it marks the surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces, officially ending the war in Europe. This event, celebrated as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), marked the culmination of years of fighting.

The book, in its de-

scription, also sheds a spotlight on a little-known Australian special forces mission in Borneo, secretly directed from London. However, the campaign goes horribly wrong as questions are asked about whether its true purpose is military or imperial.

According to the publishers, "1945: The Reckoning - War, Empire and the Struggle for a New World" confronts "uncomfortable truths" with honesty and depth, offering a nuanced and human portrait of a world in transition - and challenging readers to reconsider what "victory" in World War II really meant.

The book's foreword is written by renowned author, historian and broadcaster James Holland.

"This is a book that crosses the globe from Britain to Germany and from India to Indonesia...it is ambitious, deeply thought-provoking and, as with all the very best history, compellingly told," Holland writes in his praise for the book.

The book, priced at Rs 899, is available for purchase across online and offline stores.

Security at scientific installations along western border stepped up: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) In the wake of an armed conflict with Pakistan, the government has decided to step up security at scientific installations across the country, particularly along the western border, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said.

Singh reviewed the security preparedness at scientific and technical installations across the country on Saturday and issued directions for an upgrade, particularly in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The sites of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Srinagar and Leh and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine in Jammu will also get a security upgrade, the minister said in a post on X.

Singh specifically reviewed the preparedness and security mecha-



National Agri-Food and Biomufacturing Institute (NABI), Mohali.

All scientific institutions have been directed to review and enhance their current security protocols in light of the prevailing situation, an official statement said.

Singh also asked the institutions to immediately inform the respective district administrations to ensure seamless coordination and protection.

The minister asked each institution to develop and circulate standard operating procedures (SOPs) for an emergency response to ensure that both the staff and local authorities are well-prepared.

To avoid putting students and researchers, who may have returned to their home states, at disadvantage, Singh said all upcoming examinations and research proposal calls are to be postponed until further notice.

Two held on espionage charges for Pakistani official at High Commission in Delhi

Chandigarh, May 11 (PTI) Punjab Police on Sunday said it has arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to a Pakistani official posted at the High Commission in Delhi.

Acting on credible intelligence, one suspect was arrested for leaking sensitive information to a Pakistan-based handler regarding Indian Army movements, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav.

"Based on disclosures made during interrogation, a second conduit was also identified and taken into custody," said the DGP in a post on X.

The initial probe revealed that the accused had been receiving payments through

online transactions in exchange for classified information.

They were in frequent contact with the handler and were involved in channelling funds to other local operatives as per his instructions, he said.

Two mobile phones have been recovered, and an FIR has been registered, said the DGP.

"This operation marks a significant step in dismantling cross-border espionage networks and reinforces our commitment to national security," said Yadav.

He added that further investigation will be undertaken as per established protocol, focusing on tracing the financial trail and identifying additional operatives and linkages within the network.

Calm prevails in Punjab after understanding between India, Pak to stop military actions

Chandigarh, May 11 (PTI) Calm prevailed in Punjab, especially in the border areas, on Sunday, following an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea.

Authorities have asked people to resume their normal activities and maintain calm.

At around 8:30 am, the district administration in Amritsar asked people to resume their normal routine. The Jalandhar district administration also said there was nothing to worry about and work may resume as usual.

"All is well here in Jalandhar. According to the information received, there is nothing to worry and work may resume as usual. Forces are on a constant vigil," Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said.

However, the district authorities have requested people not to burst firecrackers or fly drones.

"We will take immediate action and inform you in time if there is any information of any threat in the area," the DC said.

In Amritsar, Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney along with Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar took a round of the city and its markets.

"Thank you to the brave and resilient people of Amritsar. We are incredibly proud of how each one of you responded with bravery, patience, and trust in one another and in the administration. Wishing you a pleasant day-Enjoy your Sunday," DC Sawhney posted on X.

Many locals said that during the recent escalation

in tension between India and Pakistan, Amritsar, which remains packed with tourists, had seen a decline in tourist footfall.

Punjab, which shares a 553-km border with Pakistan, various routine day-to-day activities were back to normal.

Morning walkers, especially in border districts like Amritsar, Pathankot and Ferozepur, thanked the country's armed forces.

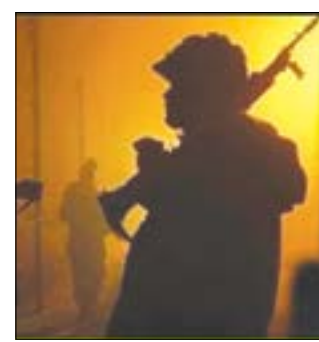
"It is because of our forces that you see us here today without any fear. Over the past few days, we saw how Pakistan carried out drone attacks targeting several parts of Punjab and some other states," said Amarjit Singh, a resident of Amritsar.

"But our brave forces acted as a shield and thwarted their misadventures. They gave a strong reply to perpe-

trators of terrorism and destroyed terror camps under Operation Sindoor. Now that an understanding has come into effect, let us hope that peace prevails, but if Pakistan again commits any misadventure, they will be given a stern reply," he said.

Another Amritsar resident, Pawan Kumar, said after days of tension, things are back to normal. "Over the last few days, Amritsar saw a decline in tourist footfalls because of the tense situation. Now, hopefully, peace shall prevail," he said.

Simran from Pathankot, a border town that had also remained quite tense in view of the situation, said, "Though there was anxiety among people over the last few days, we were confident that our armed forces were there to protect us against any Paki-



stani misadventure."

"However, the understanding between the two countries (to stop military action) has come as a relief," she added.

An elderly resident from Ferozepur was out on a morning walk with a group of friends. "We have resumed our morning routine after staying indoors for a few days," he said.

"Things are back to normal and we hope that peace will prevail," he said.

Another morning walker from the industrial hub of Ludhiana said, "Nobody wants a war as it only causes destruction and hits the economy. But if Pakistan or any other country indulges in any misadventure, India will hit back hard and give a befitting reply. Besides, India has a firm policy against any act of terror."

In Chandigarh and adjoining Panchkula in Haryana and in many other towns in Punjab, morning walkers were heard discussing the current situation and shared similar sentiments.

Earlier, in view of the prevailing situation, authorities had put in place a blackout and other measures in several Punjab districts,

including Amritsar, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Fazilka and Pathankot.

At a media briefing late on Saturday evening, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with "seriousness and responsibility".

The armed forces have been given instructions to deal strongly with any instances of repetition of the violations along the International Border as well as the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

The directors general of military operations (DG-MOs) of the two countries had agreed to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday, Misri had announced earlier.

Ceasefires and Cemetery Rows in Kashmir's Eternal Compromise

The announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan often evokes cautious optimism across the subcontinent. The phrase sounds comforting, almost like a lullaby to a fatigued region. Yet for Kashmir, these proclamations have become ritualistic preludes to fresh funerals. The Line of Control may fall silent for a few weeks or months, but the violence finds new routes – through infiltration, proxy terrorism, and ideological subversion. And thus, even as diplomats trade pleasantries, Kashmir builds more rows in its cemeteries.

The challenge lies in the very nature of the India-Pakistan dynamic: a theatre of perpetual mistrust where gestures of goodwill are often laced with strategic deceit. History bears witness. From the Simla Agreement to the Lahore Declaration, from back-channel diplomacy to Track-II initiatives, each moment of reconciliation has sooner or later been overtaken by bullets and bloodshed. The Kargil intrusion followed the Lahore bus ride. The Pulwama attack preceded the Kartarpur corridor initiative. And now, the recent Pahalgam incident



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threatens to cast a long shadow over the latest diplomatic overtures.

At the core of this cyclical betrayal is Pakistan's carefully calibrated ambiguity. While its political leadership mouths peace, its military-intelligence complex engineers conflict. The duality is not incidental but institutional. The terror infrastructure across the border is no longer a mere vestige of Cold War tactics or anti-India sentiment; it has morphed into a parallel economy, a strategic instrument, and a political crutch

for Pakistan's military elite. This ecosystem thrives on instability. And Kashmir is its chosen ground.

India, on the other hand, has oscillated between assertive retaliation and conciliatory diplomacy. The surgical strikes in 2016 and the Balakot airstrikes in 2019 were expressions of a new strategic posture that broke away from past restraint. Yet, New Delhi has also continued to offer the hand of dialogue, even at the risk of appearing naive. The willingness to talk has never been

India's weakness; it has been its civilisational strength. But diplomacy, without consequences for duplicity, is diplomacy wasted.

The latest developments have reignited the debate over whether dialogue with Pakistan serves any constructive purpose. Critics argue that talks lend legitimacy to a state that has repeatedly reneged on its commitments and patronised extremist elements. Supporters of engagement counter that disengagement leaves a vacuum, which malign forces are only too eager to fill. Both perspectives hold some merit. But what is often overlooked is the need to redefine the framework within which such dialogues occur.

India must no longer allow the discourse to be held hostage to performative ceasefires. A ceasefire, by definition, is a temporary halt to aggression. It is not a peace treaty, nor a resolution of fundamental differences. For decades, these announcements have provided only brief interludes – not from conflict, but from the pressure to account for it. They have enabled both nations to claim moral high ground, while ground realities remained unchanged.

What Kashmir needs is not another

ceasefire agreement; it needs a structural dismantling of the terror apparatus that fuels its unrest. This requires global accountability mechanisms that go beyond customary statements of concern. The international community, particularly those invested in regional stability, must abandon the comfort of neutrality when neutrality enables terrorism. There can be no moral equivalence between a democracy defending its sovereignty and a state-enabled actor waging asymmetric war.

Furthermore, it is time for New Delhi to broaden its diplomatic arsenal. Strategic isolation of Pakistan, wherever warranted, must be pursued with legal, economic, and narrative tools. Bilateralism has long been India's stated position, but it should not translate into self-imposed silences. If Islamabad internationalises lies, New Delhi must internationalise the truth – systematically, persistently, and professionally.

Yet amidst all this, the most critical stakeholder remains the Kashmiri citizen – the young student dreaming of progress, the apple farmer worrying about market access, the woman fearing both drones and slogans, the soldier standing guard in a hostile

terrain. Their lives cannot be subject to diplomatic mood swings or geopolitical gambles. They deserve stability that is not episodic, peace that is not performative, and governance that is not reactive.

Kashmir's future lies in ending its eternal compromise. It cannot continue to be a region whose peace depends on the promises of those who neither suffer its winters nor bleed in its battles. Ceasefires may sound noble in press briefings, but they are hollow until backed by intent and verifiable action. Until then, Kashmir will keep digging fresh graves even as the world reads hopeful headlines.

The time has come to call out the charade. A ceasefire is not a solution; it is a pause. And if that pause is only used to reload, it ceases to be moral or meaningful.

As a responsible nation, India must continue to uphold its commitment to regional peace. But it must do so without falling prey to theatrics. It must lead from the front, with clarity, courage, and consequence. Only then will the rows in Kashmir's cemeteries stop growing.

An author, a communications strategist, Dr Sanjay Parva was a debut contestant from 2024 Beerwah 2024 Assembly Constituency

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THE TICKING TIME BOMB

Naem Ahmad Nagoo

Global warming, once a term reserved for scientific circles, is now a pressing issue that dominates headlines worldwide. It represents a climatic challenge and an existential threat to human life and the environment. The Earth's average surface temperature has risen significantly over the past century due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. These emissions are the by-product of industrial activities, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels, practices that fuel our economy and imperil our future.

At the heart of global warming lies the greenhouse effect. Solar radiation enters the Earth's atmosphere and is either absorbed or reflected. Greenhouse gases trap part of this radiation, warming the planet. While this effect is natural and essential for life, human activities have dramatically intensified it, leading to dangerous warming trends. This has far-reaching consequences: melting polar ice caps, rising sea levels, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and disrupted ecosystems. Nations such as the Maldives and Bangladesh are grappling with coastal flooding, while wildfires rage in places as diverse as California, Australia, and the Mediterranean.

For the citizens, these shifts may seem distant yet, their impact is rapidly becoming local. The frequency of heat waves is increasing, droughts are intensifying, and agricultural yields are suffering. In urban areas, the "urban heat island" effect, where cities experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas due to concrete structures and limited vegetation—compounds the issue. This is not

just an environmental crisis, it is a social and economic one. Poorer communities, which often contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions, are hit the hardest.

Despite these sobering realities, there is hope. Solutions to mitigate global warming are available and within reach. Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal power plants are gaining momentum, offering cleaner alternatives to fossil fuels. Energy efficiency in homes, factories, and transportation can drastically cut emissions. Reforestation efforts, carbon capture technologies, and lifestyle changes such as reducing meat consumption can also contribute to reducing our carbon footprint. On a policy level, international agreements such as the Paris Agreement aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a target that though challenging, is essential for avoiding catastrophic outcomes.

However, time is not on our side. The longer we delay decisive action, the more difficult and expensive it will be to reverse the damage. Policymakers must prioritize climate action in national agendas, businesses must adopt sustainable practices, and citizens must advocate for and participate in green initiatives. Every effort, no matter how small, can contribute to a global solution.

Global warming is not a problem for future generations—it is a crisis we face today. The world must act with urgency and unity to turn the tide. The alternative is unthinkable, for the planet will continue warming, ecosystems will continue collapsing, and the lives we know will be forever altered. In the words of climate activists, there is no planet B. The time to act is now.

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The Surge of Cyber Scams in Kashmir: A Wake-Up Call for Digital Vigilance

Sayem Abass

In the past two years, Kashmir has witnessed an alarming rise in cyber scams, a trend that has left many residents grappling with financial losses and a sense of insecurity. With increasing internet penetration and a surge in digital transactions, cybercriminals have found fertile ground to exploit the region's burgeoning online user base.

The Evolution of Cyber Threats

What was once limited to sporadic phishing emails and fraudulent phone calls has now evolved into a sophisticated network of cybercrimes. From fake investment schemes and online shopping frauds to phishing attacks and OTP scams, these crimes have become increasingly diverse. Recently, several residents have reported falling prey to scams involving fraudulent job offers, where victims were duped into paying hefty sums as "processing fees."

One notable scam involved a group of cybercriminals impersonating government officials, convincing individuals to share sensitive information or transfer funds under the guise of government schemes. The rise of e-wallet and UPI frauds has further compounded the problem, as cybercriminals exploit the lack of awareness about digital security.

Statistics Paint a Grim Picture
According to local cybersecurity agencies, the number of reported cybercrime cases in Kashmir has nearly tripled over the last two years. In 2022 alone, over 500 cases of online fraud were registered, with actual numbers likely higher due to underreporting. The financial damage is estimated to run into crores, with some victims losing their life savings.

The COVID-19 pandemic played a significant role in accelerating this trend. With many people transitioning to online platforms for work, education, and commerce, cybercriminals capitalized on the situation. The lack of adequate cybersecurity measures and awareness among



users has made them easy targets.

Why Kashmir is Vulnerable

1. Lack of Awareness: Many residents, particularly in rural areas, are new to the digital ecosystem and unaware of potential threats.
2. Inadequate Cybersecurity Infrastructure: Despite the growing threat, cybersecurity infrastructure in the region remains underdeveloped.
3. High Unemployment: The economic distress in the region has made people more susceptible to fraudulent job and investment schemes.
4. Digital Overload: The rapid adoption of digital payment systems without proper education on their safe use has left users vulnerable.

The Role of Authorities
Law enforcement agencies in Kashmir are stepping up efforts to combat cybercrime, but challenges remain. The Cyber Police in Srinagar has been conducting awareness campaigns, urging residents to adopt safe online practices.

However, the limited manpower and resources of these agencies have hindered their ability to tackle the problem effectively.

The government has also initiated steps to strengthen cybersecurity, including the establishment of dedicated cyber cells and training programs for law enforcement personnel. Yet, the pace of implementation has been slow, leaving a gap that cybercriminals continue to exploit.

Steps to Safeguard Against Cyber Scams

1. Education and Awareness: Residents need to be educated about common cyber threats and safe online practices.
2. Two-Factor Authentication: Always enable two-factor authentication on digital accounts.
3. Verify Before Trusting: Never share sensitive information or transfer funds without verifying the source.
4. Regular Updates: Keep software and applications updated

to prevent vulnerabilities.

5. Report Scams: Victims should report incidents to the Cyber Police to help track and deter criminals.

A Call to Action
The rise in cyber scams in Kashmir is a stark reminder of the darker side of digital progress. While technology has opened doors to opportunities, it has also exposed vulnerabilities that need urgent attention. Residents must adopt a proactive approach to safeguard their digital lives, and authorities must invest in robust cybersecurity infrastructure.

Kashmir has always been resilient in the face of challenges, and with collective efforts, this digital menace can also be overcome. As we move forward, let us remember that digital security is not just a personal responsibility but a collective one that ensures a safe online environment for all.

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Doomscrolling, fear & dread: Away from frontlines, Indo-Pak tensions take toll on mental health

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Pakistan was nothing but a name for seven-year-old Hazel till earlier this week. Now she grows suspicious with every knock on the door and breaks down at the thought of impending doom.

"It all started when her school had an awareness session and then she heard things from her friends in the class. Now she wants me to be careful before opening the door. She says 'Pakistan will attack us' and everyone will die," said Annu Mathew, who is having a difficult time explaining to her daughter that she is in no direct danger in Kerala's Trivandrum.

Young Hazel is not the only one. Hundreds of miles away in Delhi, 36-year-old Mahendra Awasthi said he can't sleep. If the child is troubled by conversations around her, the young man finds himself doomscrolling endlessly through social media, unsure of what to believe and what to not.

This continues even after Pakistan and India agreed to step off the escalatory ladder of war on Saturday evening and US President Donald Trump said the two countries had reached a ceasefire. The relief quickly gave way to renewed anxiety when reports came in of Pakistan violating that understanding with sounds of explosions and blackouts in many border areas.

Everybody was on edge. It began on the intervening night of May 6-7 when India carried out Operation Sindoor against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir in retaliation for the attack in Pahalgam. In the following days, the two countries engaged in armed operations in major cities along the border.

All this has a long-term impact



on mental health.

The escalating military tension between the two nations, a deluge of information, and the inability to sift through fake and real news can significantly affect the psychological well-being of individuals, said mental health experts.

According to clinical psychologist Shweta Sharma, the constant chatter of potential war can trigger a "vicarious trauma" response in people, even for those far from conflict zones.

"Relentless 24/7 media coverage, social media exposure, and emotionally charged content that can overwhelm the brain's stress regulation mechanisms. War-related fears often stem from unpredictability - how far will this go, who will be affected,

and what will be the long-term consequences?" Sharma told PTI.

It's nerve wracking for people like Awasthi.

Drowning in the multitude of voices on social media and news channels, in an indistinguishable mix of news and misinformation, Awasthi said he is filled with a constant sense of dread to an extent he can hear his heart beat faster at times.

"I don't want to scroll social media but I keep feeling I will miss out on some essential news. What if Delhi is next on target, what should I do to keep my family safe, will we wake up tomorrow?" he said, without trying to hide the panic in his voice. For people watching from safer regions, seeing the suffering of civilians or soldiers can lead to guilt and

helplessness.

"Young minds are highly impressionable. War talk can instill fear, reinforce stereotypes, and disrupt their sense of security," explained Sharma.

It is important to stay aware at such times, but it is also imperative to choose credible sources and take breaks from continuous coverage.

And when it comes to children, Sharma said, it is advisable to explain the situation in age-appropriate ways.

"Reassure them of safety and encourage open conversations rather than letting them absorb misinformation online," she said.

Mathew has come up with a plan to reassure her daughter. She takes Hazel to the balcony and points at the clear skyline and asks her if she can spot any of the explosions or shootings that she is afraid of.

"When she sees that none of the fears in her imagination are real, she calms down," Mathew said.

The trauma can take on different shades.

Worried almost sick at the thought of impending war, Jaipur-based Aniket Singh (name changed) started preparing for an emergency after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 dead and led to the government launching Operation Sindoor. He stocked up rations for three months, a bunch of fully-charged power banks, flashlights, ample cash, and essential medicines. And is still feeling "extremely anxious" and "at a loss".

"I feel something big is coming and I am not at all prepared to take care of myself and my family. I feel what I am doing may not be enough when it comes down to it. I can't really help feeling this way," he said.

While it is one thing to be

anxious about the unknown as the threat of war looms overhead, being prepared for any untoward outcome can also cause anxiety.

Senior family therapist Maitri Chand said paying heed to sirens, blackout drills, and stocking up essentials might give a sense of preparedness for people and also induce anxiety at the same time.

"It's a tightrope to walk on where we have to find our own balance. It is difficult to stay calm and collected, especially when most people around you are coming from a frenzied space that is induced by anxiety and fear," Chand said.

In such circumstances, people must anchor themselves with "reaffirming positive thoughts" that they will come out of it and be able to take care of their loved ones when the time comes.

Chand advised people to engage in meditation, even for a few minutes through the day, believe in a belief system, not necessarily a religious one, and help others with their fears and anxieties.

"The thing about fear and anxiety is that other people around us can catch it from us very quickly. So meditation becomes very vital for you to sit in quiet silence, where you are able to reassure yourself.

"Focusing on some kind of belief system also helps. Belief in something bigger, greater than yourself. And if you can help somebody feel better, if you can help someone lower their anxiety or fear that will be very helpful," she said.

Sharma added that it's always advisable to seek professional help if intrusive thoughts, panic, or emotional numbness persist.

"Therapy can provide coping mechanisms tailored to individual needs," she said.

Anaesthetist among three held for patient's death during treatment

Navsari (Gujarat), May 11 (PTI) An anaesthetist and two others, including a nurse, were arrested after a school principal allegedly died due to post-surgical botched treatment at a private hospital in Navsari district, police said on Sunday.

The trio, also including a trustee of the hospital, were indicted for negligence by a probe committee of the Navsari Civil Hospital following the death of Arjun Rathod (54) during treatment in November 2024.

The accused, identified as Dr Bharat Nayak, nurse Nirali Nayaka, and Damania Hospital Manager Imesh Gandhi, were arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 105), and the presence of abettor when crime was committed (section 54) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita based on the probe panel report, DySP BV Gohil said.

An FIR was registered against the trio at Gandevi police station on May 10.

Rathod was admitted to Damania Hospital on November 6, 2024, after he fell off a chair at his house and suffered injuries, police said.

He underwent an orthopaedic surgery and later shifted to the hospital ICU, where Dr Nayak instructed the nurse to administer him a 0.4 ML TERmin injection, which resulted in a critical drop in the patient's blood pressure and oxygen level, causing his death, police said.

Gohil said further investigation is underway.

Overspending on construction leaves Maharashtra health dept ailing

Mumbai, May 11 (PTI) Overspending on construction of its various establishments has put the Maharashtra public health department under mounting financial stress over the past few years, with the authorities warning that the situation could lead to new projects getting stalled.

Due to multiple construction projects being approved without assessment of the actual financial condition, growing infrastructure liabilities and limited staff, the department is struggling to provide quality health care services, the officials said.

The department is yet to clear the dues running into Rs 9,000 crore of building contractors, they said.

"Permissions for a large number of projects, including primary healthcare centres and testing labs, were granted without proper scrutiny. If we do not cancel incomplete and unnecessary works, we simply will not have the capacity to initiate or complete any new health infrastructure," a senior state health official said.

Each year, the department receives Rs 500 crore as part of its core budget. However, a significant chunk of this allocation is consumed by ongoing expenses, including the procurement of ambulances and construction of new health institutions.

"These recurring costs are eating into our planned allocations," the official added, noting that they have surpassed manageable levels.

According to department data, it is yet to clear its dues of Rs 9,000 crore for health infrastructure. Of this, Rs 7,500 crore is expected to be given from the state treasury, while the remaining amount is to be financed through the National Health Mission (NHM).

"This scale of liability is unsustainable," said another official, warning that the backlog poses a long-term risk to healthcare delivery.

The department has also come under scrutiny for past decisions related to procurement, including purchase of ambulances, mortuary vans, and for hiring cleaning services for government hospitals.

"There has been criticism over how tenders were handled in earlier procurements, and it has impacted public trust," the official acknowledged.

In recent months, concerns have intensified as reports emerge of multiple construction projects being sanctioned without regard to existing budgetary provisions.

Dog nibbles on man's body at district hospital in MP's Narmadapuram; probe ordered

Narmadapuram (MP), May 11 (PTI) A dog nibbled on the body of an accident victim at a government hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram, prompting the authorities to order a probe, an official said on Sunday.

The incident occurred at the district hospital on Friday night, the official said.

The body of Nikhil Chourasia (21), who died in an accident near Palanpur, was kept for post-mortem, the hospital's civil surgeon Sudhir Vijayvargiya said.

He said an investigation would be conducted, a show-cause notice would be issued to the security guard and assured that steps would be taken to improve the security at the facility.

The deceased man's cousin, Ankit Gohile, said he had stepped out to drink water and saw a dog fleeing with a piece of flesh from the body when he returned.

A complaint has been lodged in the matter, he said, accusing the hospital management of negligence.

PM lauds cancer-awareness initiative in rural Delhi, launched as tribute to former khap chief

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tributes to former Palam 360 Khap chief Chaudhary Ramkaran Solanki on his fourth death anniversary and lauded the "Cancer Free Delhi Rural" campaign that was launched in his memory.

The campaign that is being spearheaded by his son and the current head of the khap, Chaudhary Surendra Solanki, in collaboration with the Amerix Cancer Hospital aims to raise cancer awareness and provide free screenings across Delhi's rural regions.

"I pay my tribute to respected Chaudhary Ramkaran Solanki ji on his fourth death anniversary. On this occasion, I was happy to know about the Cancer Free Delhi Rural programme organised by Chaudhary Surendra Solanki ji in his memory in Dwarka, Delhi. The work done by Chaudhary Ramkaran Solanki ji for the society and this effort to carry forward his ideals and values is commendable," a letter written by Modi on May 9 read.

The prime minister acknowledged Solanki's unwavering commitment to the welfare of farmers, labourers and marginalised communities, and highlighted the campaign's alignment with national health initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, emphasising the importance of accessible cancer detection and treatment facilities in rural areas.

"His work related to rural issues and social service will always be remembered," Modi's letter read.

The campaign has garnered support from several prominent political figures, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Bharatiya Janata Party president J P Nadda and South Delhi's BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

Bidhuri, who was present at the campaign launch, praised Solanki's efforts in uniting diverse communities and addressing rural issues.

The formal launch of the "Cancer Free Delhi Rural" campaign took place at the Amerix Cancer Hospital in Dwarka Sector-19 on Saturday. The initiative focuses on free cancer screenings, educational workshops and mobile health camps in the rural areas of the national capital.

A notable feature of the campaign is the introduction of the "Sankalp" card by the Amerix Cancer Hospital. This patient-benefit card offers discounted diagnostic, up to 50 per cent, on cancer-screening tests like Pap smear, PSA, Mammography and other cancer-related services at discounted rates, significantly enhancing healthcare accessibility for patients in under-served regions.

Chaudhary Surender Solanki, the current chief of the Palam 360 Khap, said, "This is not just a tribute to my father's legacy, but a pledge to serve rural communities with the dignity and access they deserve. No one should lose a loved one because of late cancer diagnosis and a lack of accessible cancer care in the rural parts of Delhi."

Dr Ashish Gupta, chief of the medical oncology department at the Amerix Cancer Hospital, highlighted the campaign's healthcare impact.

"Our goal through this initiative is to democratise cancer care and create a community-driven health ecosystem. Early detection can save lives, and our mobile screening vans and awareness teams are committed to reaching the last mile. We are grateful for the prime minister's acknowledgment, which inspires us to continue our mission with greater resolve."

Clay walls, check dams and neem leaves: Rural India fights extreme heat with age-old wisdom



New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) As India braces itself for the upcoming scorching summers, rural communities across heat-wave-prone states are turning to traditional and low-cost solutions to shield themselves from rising temperatures.

From building check dams to planting native trees and adjusting daily routines, villagers are crafting ground-up heat resilience where formal cooling infrastructure is scarce.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the number of heatwave days is likely to increase by up to 7-8 days in northern and western India, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district which is among the hottest districts in the country saw temperatures soar above 50 degrees Celsius last year.

In the Bijadandi block of Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district, Malati Yadav remembers a time when water was a rare luxury in her small village.

"There was a severe water crisis in our village. Those who woke up first got water, the rest didn't," she says.

Seema Nargava, a resident of Bhagsur village in Barwani's Rajpur block, described that even walls "felt like they were on fire till 9-10 pm."

However, many villagers like Malati and Seema are confronting the upcoming crisis with innovative and low-cost adaptations rooted in traditional knowledge.

Today, Malati and other women of her self-help group are working towards constructing check dams and reviving six village ponds.

"We now store rainwater to recharge the groundwater and our pumps. There's enough for everyone, even in summer," she said.

Seema explained that with a mix of brick and mud homes, families are turning to traditional architecture to beat the heat. "We coat our mud houses with cow dung and build small thatched rooms from Arhar stalks to allow better ventilation," she says.

She said, "Our buffalo's skin burns from the heat and it stops giving milk. It's not just the animals. People, especially women, suffer too - unable to work, cook, or step out during peak heat hours."

Her family uses neem leaves and cotton cloths to keep livestock cool.

In Jharkhand's Garhwa district, farmers like 40-year-old Kunti Devi now begin their day before sunrise to avoid the punishing midday sun.

"I get dizzy in the fields by 10

am," she told PTI over the phone.

With no shelter and irregular water supply, she and her neighbours rely on natural remedies. "We drink chaach (buttermilk), eat light meals and try to stay under tree shade as the heat becomes unbearable," she said.

In Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand region, known for its parched summers and agrarian distress, farmers are increasingly turning to deep-rooted native trees like ber, neem and aam for shade and resilience.

But Ghamandi Lal, a small farmer from Lalitpur in Madhya Pradesh, said even that's becoming harder.

"Buying saplings is expensive, and because livestock numbers have fallen, we don't even get enough gobar (manure) anymore. It's a cycle, heat is killing our crops and our ability to fight it."

Lal's worries reflect a deeper malaise.

"Our fields are getting harder. We use more fertiliser and pesticides now, which makes things worse. There are no subsidies for buying climate-resilient plants," he said.

The cost of maintaining livestock has also risen. "The fodder is too expensive. Even cows are giving less milk because of the heat," he added.

From the Front page...

Post ceasefire...

is a new normal in India's response to cross-border terrorism. The cost of cross-border terrorism will be raised, and Pakistan can't continue with terrorism while expecting cooperation in areas of its choosing.

They also said that India will never accept mediation in the Kashmir issue and the only matter to discuss is Pakistan returning the territory which is under its illegal occupation.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect, after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

The development was first announced by US President Donald Trump, who claimed that the two countries had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after US mediation.

In a statement, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was "pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site".

The only matter related to Kashmir to discuss is Pakistan returning territory under its illegal occupation, government sources asserted on Sunday.

They made it clear that the Indus Waters Treaty will be in abeyance as long as terrorism sponsored by Pakistan against India continues.

Only talks with Pakistan will be through the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs). There is no other issue to discuss, the sources said.

India's position after the May 7 strikes on terror infrastructure was that if Pakistan fires, India will respond more forcefully, they said, adding it was the Pakistani DGMO who reached out to the Indian DGMO on May 10 to de-escalate situation.

After the Pahalgam attack, India had told countries that reached out to New Delhi it would hit terror infrastructure in Pakistan territories.

After the May 7 strikes, every Pakistani action was dealt with very firmly, the sources said.

Army Chief gives...

kinetic domain to any violation of the understanding reached between the Indian and Pakistani militaries.

India and Pakistan announced reaching an understanding on Saturday to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

"Consequent to the ceasefire and airspace violations on the night of May 10-11, the Chief of Army Staff reviewed the security situation with the Army Commanders of the Western Borders," the Army said.

The Army Chief "has granted full authority to the Army Commanders for counteraction in the kinetic domain to any violation of the understanding reached vide the DGMO talks of May 10", it said.

India inflicted...

were killed in the combat, and New Delhi achieved its desired objectives and that Pakistan will have to pay a very heavy price if it resorts to any misadventure.

At a media briefing, senior military officials of the Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy provided details of Operation Sindoor, including how India repelled Pakistani attempts to target Indian military installations and civilian areas.

To a question, Air Marshal AK Bharti said India definitely downed a few Pakistani planes but refused to hazard a guess on the numbers.

"Their planes were prevented from coming inside our border. So we do not have the wreckage with us but definitely we have downed a few planes," he said.

Asked about reports in the foreign media of losses of Indian fighter jets, Air Marshal Bharti said, "We are in a combat situation and losses are part of combat."

"All I can say is that we have achieved our objectives that we selected and all our pilots are back home," he said.

DGMO Lt Gen Ghai also paid tribute to five Indian fallen heroes and civilians who "tragically lost their lives" during Operation Sindoor.

"We have thus far exercised immense restraint and our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory. However, any threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and safety of our citizens will be met with decisive force," he said.

On losses to the Pakistani military, the DGMO said there are reports of 35-40 fatalities.

The DGMO said it was his Pakistani counterpart who made a call to him last afternoon, requesting a way out to stop the hostilities.

The two DGMOs on Saturday afternoon agreed to stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time.

The Indian military suggested that the Pakistani DGMO's call came after Indian Armed Forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations including Rafiqi, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunian on Saturday morning.

The strikes were launched after the Pakistan military attempted to target major Indian military installations on the night of May 9-10.

Lt Gen Ghai said over 100 terrorists, including high-value targets such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf and Mudasar Ahmed, who were involved in the hijacking of IC 814 and the Pulwama blast, were eliminated during Operation Sindoor on May 7.

Nine terror targets were identified after careful deliberations and they were hit using precision weapons, he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor.

India to send...

diplomatic cover for terror outfits. TRF is a designated terrorist outfit linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, emerging after Article 370's abrogation in Jammu and Kashmir. It's involved in planning killings, recruiting terrorists, and smuggling weapons.

India will approach the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate TRF as a terrorist organization, imposing sanctions and travel bans on its members. TRF has been involved in several attacks, including targeted killings, grenade attacks, and ambushes in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Operation Sindoor, India's military operation in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, is ongoing and represents a shift in India's strategic posture, according to sources.

The operation, which involved precision strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, aimed to hold those responsible for the attack accountable.

No ceasefire violation...

reported from any sector along the Line of Control in Kashmir after 11 pm on Saturday," officials said here.

Shahjahan Dar, a resident of Rawalpora, said, "It has been a while since we slept well. We are thankful to the Almighty and everyone else who played a role in ending the war."

A large number of people who had migrated from border areas to relatively safer areas, however, want to wait a couple of days before returning home.

"We saw drones and rockets flying all over last night even after a ceasefire was announced. We are praying that this ceasefire is permanent but we want to wait a couple of days," Abdul Aziz, a resident of Uri, said.

Dozens of drones were seen flying over Kashmir valley on Saturday evening in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire along the Line of Control and International Border on Saturday.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday. The brief announcement by the foreign secretary came shortly after US President Donald Trump said India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after talks mediated by the US.

In Jammu too, no overnight cross-border shelling or drone activity was reported from anywhere across the region, officials said on Sunday.

An uneasy calm prevailed on the borders, especially along the Line of Control (LoC) in the worst-hit twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, throughout the night, the officials said.

They said no ceasefire violation or drone activity was reported from anywhere, bringing relief to the people who woke up in a peaceful atmosphere and resumed normal activities this morning.

As many as 27 persons, including five security personnel, were killed and scores of others injured in intense shelling and drone attacks from Pakistan since May 7.

Series of blasts had also rocked Jammu city and other major towns, including areas close to the International Border, in the past three days.

Govt orders property...

the district with a large number of houses, religious places and commercial buildings damaged along with dozens of private vehicles.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, on Sunday visited several areas of the town affected by the recent cross-border shelling and directed the authorities concerned to conduct a detailed assessment of property damage and submit comprehensive reports promptly.

During the visit, Kundal inspected Qazi Mohra, Dungs, Sarain, district police lines, district court complex, Jamia Zia Ul Uloom, Geeta Bhawan, Kamsar, radio station, Gurudwara Singh Sabha and Kama Khan -- all of which suffered damage due to the shelling, an official spokesman said.

He said the deputy commissioner interacted with local residents and took stock of the ground situation, assuring the affected residents and institutions of all necessary support.

Officials were also instructed to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation in coordination with local agencies, the spokesman said, adding that Kundal is expected to visit the remaining areas affected by the shelling shortly to assess the situation firsthand.

Meanwhile, National Conference leader and MP Mian Altaf along with independent MLA Choudhary Mohd Akram visited the Poonch town to assess the damage to public and private properties.

Altaf met the office bearers of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and assured the community of all possible help in the reconstruction of the historic place of worship.

He also visited the district hospital to enquire about the health of those injured in the Pakistani shelling.

Talking to reporters, the MP demanded adequate compensation to the families hit by shelling, including those who lost their members and houses.

Don't rush back...

Line of Control (LoC) and International Border were evacuated to safer places amid intense Pakistani artillery and mortar shelling from May 7 onwards owing to vulnerability of their habitations in both divisions of Kashmir and Jammu.

"Do not return to frontline villages. Lives are at risk as unexplored munitions remain (scattered) after Pakistani shelling," said an advisory issued by the police in Kashmir Valley.

Bomb disposal squads will be sent to the affected areas to sanitize and clear the villages of any unexplored shells, which can lead to loss of human lives, it said.

"As many as 41 lives were lost in explosions of left-over shells near the LoC in 2023 alone," the advisory read, highlighting the dangers of civilians rushing back to villages.

In Jammu region, police vehicles fitted with a public address system were seen making rounds in the worst-hit Poonch district and asking people not to touch any suspicious object lying at their residential houses, compounds or open fields.

"People returning to their homes are advised to be cautious and immediately inform police or the nearest security camp about any suspicious object, which could be dangerous to human life," the police said.

The Poonch district accounted for the highest 20 of the total 27 fatalities with over 50 others injured since Wednesday, shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and PoK to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

However, hours later New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching it.

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

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Poonch, Shafket Hussain, also visited Mankote village of Mendhar sub-division and urged the general public to remain

vigilant and immediately report the presence of any unexploded live shells or suspicious objects to the nearest police or security camp.

"Timely reporting can help prevent further loss of life and enable swift action by the Bomb Disposal Squad," he said while interacting with the local residents, who have returned to the border village.

The SSP assured the public of enhanced safety and security measures in the border area.

"Police remain committed to the safety and well-being of citizens and will continue its dedicated efforts to ensure peace and security in the region," he said.

Hussain also visited the family of Balvinder Kour, who lost her life due to cross-border shelling in the village and expressed condolences with her family.

The SSP assured the bereaved family of all possible assistance from the police department and civil administration.

Reports from Rajouri and Akhnoor in Jammu districts also speak about police and other security agencies actively searching for unexploded shells besides asking people to remain cautious and not to come closer to suspicious objects for their own safety.

Police raids 20...

has clearly brought out that these entities are actively engaged in terrorist conspiracy, propagating and furthering anti-India narratives aimed not only at challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India but also at inciting disaffection, public disorder, and communal hatred," they said.

The officials said police are keeping surveillance on the terror associates and overground workers (OGW) working in Kashmir.

"Technical intelligence indicated that a host of sleeper cells in Kashmir were in direct contact with their handlers based in Pakistan and were involved in conveying sensitive and strategic information about security forces and vital installations via messaging apps, including but not limited to WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal and so on," they added.

The officials said "these terror associates were also involved in online radical propaganda on the behalf of terrorist commanders of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, impinging upon the national security and integrity".

JKAS officer cremated...

Rajouri Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa.

Thapa was killed when a mortar shell landed in his residential compound in Rajouri town early Saturday. His mortal remains were brought to his Roop Nagar residence in the outskirts of Jammu city in a police vehicle, and later his body was cremated in a nearby cremation ground.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also visited the bereaved family to offer his condolences. He paid homage to the distinguished public servant who worked assiduously to fulfill the people's aspirations.

"Dr Thapa's contribution to J&K's development is immense. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and numerous admirers in this hour of grief. I pray for peace for the departed soul," Sinha said.

Talking to reporters after the cremation, the deputy chief minister said the officer and all those who lost their lives in the four-day-long conflict between India and Pakistan will be remembered forever for their sacrifice.

"He was known for his dedication, competence, unwavering professionalism and people-friendly approach, and his departure is a big loss for J&K," Choudhary said.

The deputy chief minister, who also visited the officer's residence on Saturday, asserted that the government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief.

"I spent two days with him recently during my tour of Rajouri-Poonch districts to take stock of the situation in the wake of Pakistani shelling," he said, adding this is the sacrifice of the people like Thapa and the border residents, which makes India and J&K strong.

Sharma, a senior BJP leader, also paid rich tributes to the officer and said he will be remembered for his professionalism and dedication.

He also praised the Indian armed forces for carrying out recent precision strikes against terror infrastructure across the border and said this demonstrated the strong will of the BJP-led central government.

LG visits GMC...

Rajouri and Poonch districts undergoing treatment at the hospital, an official spokesman said.

The LG directed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible medical care and treatment to the injured.

He also prayed for speedy recovery of the injured and assured the affected families all possible assistance, the spokesman said.

Earlier, the LG paid tributes to army's Rifleman Sunil Kumar, who was killed in firing by Pakistan in RS Pura sector of Jammu earlier on Saturday.

"Paid tributes to the Army Braveheart Rfn Sunil Kumar, who laid down his life in the line of duty for the Nation. India will never forget his selfless service and supreme sacrifice. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," Sinha wrote on X.

LG, Dy CM join...

Mohammed Imteyaz who was killed in cross-border shelling by Pakistan.

Minister Satish Sharma, BSF Inspector General (Jammu frontier) Shashank Anand, Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, Jammu Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti and other senior BSF, police and civil officers also attended the ceremony to pay floral tributes to the slain officer.

Sub-Inspector Imteyaz, a resident of Bihar, lost his life and seven of his colleagues were injured when a mortar shell from Pakistan exploded near their post along the International Border in R S Pura sector on Saturday.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our BSF braveheart. His valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the LG said.

Sinha also walked to the grieving son of the officer and expressed his sympathies to the family.

After the wreath laying ceremony, the tricolour-wrapped coffin carrying the body of the officer was dispatched to his home town for last rites.

Second BSF personnel...

district, on May 10, and attained martyrdom on May

11," the Border Security Force (BSF) said in a social media post.

The BSF director general and all ranks express their deepest condolences to his family, it said.

Eight troopers of the BSF's 7th Battalion were injured in Saturday's shelling and sub-inspector Mohammed Imteyaz later succumbed to his injuries.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held with full military honours at the BSF's frontier headquarters in Jammu's Paloura on Sunday for Imteyaz.

His last rites will be performed at his native Narayanpur village in Bihar's Saran district on Monday.

A similar wreath-laying ceremony to honour Chimm-gakham will be held at the BSF's frontier headquarters on Monday.

The firing between BSF and Pakistani forces took place after India launched Operation Sindoor following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

The military operation by the Indian Armed Forces was launched on May 7 and nine terror infrastructures were destroyed in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out as part of this operation.

The two countries reached an agreement to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea on Saturday after four days of cross-border strikes that triggered fears of a wider conflict.

Soldier killed guarding air...

villages along the Line of Control and international border in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, when the tricolour-wrapped coffin carrying the mortal remains of the soldier was brought in a decorated army vehicle to the village amid chants in praise of his sacrifice and the nation, hundreds of mourners also gathered there to bid a tearful adieu to him.

Emotional scenes were witnessed when his family members, including parents, requested the last glimpse of the martyred soldier.

The body was later taken to Parmandal, where the cremation took place with full military honours.

Mufti visits forward...

on Saturday. It takes time to deescalate a situation when the armies of the two countries are eyeball to eyeball, she further said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state also urged the government to make arrangements for the displaced persons and provide financial support to them for rebuilding their homes.

"These people have lost their homes. They are not in a position to rebuild their homes. It is my request to the government that it should provide them accommodation and also monetary help for reconstruction of their houses," she said.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president said the situation was bad in the border districts of Kashmir and no better in Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts.

Mufti also visited Salamabad near the Line of Control (LoC) and met the families forced to take refuge in camps due to relentless cross-border shelling.

Standing among children in tin-roofed shelters, she said, "These children are not waiting for revenge -- they are waiting for peace. End the war. Let them live."

Earlier in the day, she visited Government Medical College, Baramulla, to enquire about the civilians injured in the shelling. She offered support to the wounded and urged the administration to ensure their proper treatment and rehabilitation.

"Our wounded lie in hospitals. Our families huddle in shelters. Our homes are reduced to rubble. This is why Kashmir cries out for peace, not war," she said.

"Those who beat the drums of war don't hear our children weep. They don't see our parents breaking under the weight of fear and loss. We need homes, not bunkers. We want our children to grow -- not be buried. The warmongering must stop," she added.

Reflecting on her visit to the LoC near Uri, she said, "I met the families who fled their homes overnight with nothing but trauma. Men, women and children -- all scarred by conflict -- are simply longing for the right to live without fear. This pain is not political; it is deeply human. And it is unbearable."

Mufti said Kashmir could not afford another war. "It's time to stop turning it into a battlefield. Give peace a chance -- our children's future depends on it."

In her appeal to the national leadership, Mufti urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other decision-makers to prioritise dialogue over military escalation.

After visiting...

damage caused by recent cross-border shelling incidents.

A party spokesman, in a statement, said that Lone, accompanied by Chief Spokesperson Advocate Bashir Ahmed Dar and District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Irfan Pandithpori, visited multiple affected locations including Dolipora, Trehgam, Sontipora, Rawathpora, Chowkibal and Kralpora.

During his interaction with media representatives, Lone emphasized that residents should not bear financial burden for damages resulting from border conflicts.

"The damage was not due to any personal enmity but rather an unfortunate situation created by war for which the government holds responsibility. A proper system must be established whereby every loss is assessed, evaluated and adjusted, with full compensation provided to affected residents," he stated.

Highlighting the economic vulnerability of these areas, Lone questioned why impoverished border residents should absorb these losses. "Why should these poor individuals bear the loss from their own pockets?" he asked.

Moreover, he committed to engaging with the government to ensure complete compensation for all affected individuals.

"I will speak to the authorities regarding this matter and God willing, ensure that those who lost their homes receive proper replacements and those who suffered losses receive full compensation. The central leadership must visit these frontier areas to witness firsthand the suffering of those who bear the brunt of conflict," he pledged.

Looking toward long-term solutions, Lone advocated for infrastructure improvements to protect civilian lives during future incidents.

"We must ensure that people's lives remain safe during such incidents. Community bunkers must be built in these areas so residents have safe places to shelter," he said.

India emerging as global leader in different aspects of technology: PM Modi

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) On National Technology Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday remembered the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and said India is emerging as a global leader in different aspects of technology.

National Technology Day commemorates the momentous events of May 11, 1998, when India conducted successful nuclear tests under Operation Shakti and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously-developed Hansa-3 aircraft.

In recognition of these achievements, then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had declared May 11 as National Technology Day.

"Best wishes on National Technology Day! This is a day to express pride and gratitude to our scientists and remember the 1998 Pokhran tests. They were a landmark event in our nation's growth trajectory, especially in our quest towards



self-reliance," Modi said in a post on X.

"Powered by our people, India is emerging as a global leader in different aspects of technology, be it space, AI, digital innovation, green technology and more," he said.

Modi reaffirmed the commitment to empowering future generations through science and research.

"May technology uplift humanity, secure our nation and drive futuristic growth," the prime minister said.

Technology, weapons used in conflict with Pak rooted in self-reliance: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) India's scientific prowess and advances in technology as well its progress in these fields in the last 11 years were demonstrated to the world in the recent armed conflict with Pakistan. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday.

Addressing a function to celebrate the National Technology Day, Singh said many of the technologies and weapons used in the conflict over the past four days - from drones to missiles - were rooted in the concept of self-reliance (atma nirbharta) espoused by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India celebrates National Technology Day on May 11 every year to mark the anniversary of the nuclear tests at Pokhran in 1998.

"Over the last few days, there has been an abundant opportunity for India to demonstrate its scientific prowess to the rest of the world. Any armed conflict these days is driven by technology."

"Therefore, it was a vindication of India having ac-

quired supremacy in every sphere of scientific technology, including defence," Singh said at the event organised by the National Technology Board of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"Whatever you saw happening on the television screens was more or less indigenous - a creation of Atmanirbhar Bharat and also an indication of what Viksit Bharat (developed India) is going to be," Singh said.

"For the first time, the world has realised that the India of today is not the India of the past," he said, referring to remarks made by a Pakistani minister.

Singh recalled that the TDB was the first to fund a drone project that was demonstrated during a Beating Retreat ceremony a few years back to mark the conclusion of the Republic Day celebrations.

"That day, you celebrated the fascination and romanticism of the manner in which they (drones) coloured the skies. What the drones can actually do, you have witnessed over the last four days," Singh said.



Singh stressed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a push for gaining self-reliance in every sphere, and it was reflected in the policies pursued by the government over the past 11 years.

"Most of the equipment you saw used in the last four days was actually acquired in the last 10 years. I don't want to go into detail, but most of the defence equipment was developed,

acquired or manufactured under Transfer of Technology over the last few years," Singh said.

The minister said there was no dearth of scientific acumen in the country, but it has to be guided and directed by the political dispensation of the day.

"The government has moved in that direction in the last 11 years and the stands vindicated today," Singh said.

BrahMos a message of our armed forces' strength, says Rajnath on inaugurating missile facility

Lucknow, May 11 (PTI) BrahMos is not just a weapon but a "message of strength" of India's armed forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday at the inauguration of the largest integration and testing facility of the supersonic cruise missile system.

"India is now one of the most powerful nations in the world. We are constantly increasing our strength, and I believe that the facility centre that is being inaugurated today will help in further strengthening India's power," he said while virtually addressing the event from Delhi.

"BrahMos is one of the world's fastest, supersonic cruise missiles. BrahMos is not just a weapon, but it is a message in itself. A message of the strength of our armed forces. A message of our deterrence towards the enemy. A message of our commitment to safeguarding our borders," Singh said.

The country's largest

BrahMos integration and testing facility centre in Lucknow will strengthen India's efforts towards self-reliance in the defence sector, the Defence Minister said, addressing the inaugural ceremony at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in his Lok Sabha constituency.

"A good thing is that in this defence corridor, we are seeing very important participation of both public and private sectors," he said.

On the private sector, he noted that PTC Industries Limited is starting Titanium and super-alloy material plants. "Apart from this, the foundation of seven additional critical projects is also being laid. This will certainly accelerate the pace of India's self-reliance in the defence sector," the defence minister said.

Major investments have been made in aircraft manufacturing, UAVs, drones, ammunition, composite and critical materials, small arms,

textiles and parachutes, he said.

"When our government moved forward with the vision of a defence corridor in Uttar Pradesh... one of our objectives was that we should once again develop Uttar Pradesh as the production centre of the country."

"The UP Defence corridor passes through Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Agra and Aligarh, and all these nodes will emerge as new centres of development in the coming times," Singh said.

He expressed happiness that the project was completed in just 40 months.

"Looking at the circumstances around us today, it becomes very important that we continue to fulfil our goals in such a timely manner," Singh said and congratulated the DRDO, engineers and people and institutes associated with this project.

Singh said the inauguration of the BrahMos facility

assumes importance as it took place on National Technology Day.

"On this day in 1998, under the leadership of respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, our scientists showed India's strength to the world by conducting nuclear tests in Pokhran."

"That test was the result of the tireless efforts of our scientists, engineers, defence personnel and many other stakeholders. This is the day to recognise our scientists and engineers and acknowledge their contribution," he said.

National Technology Day commemorates the momentous events of May 11, 1998, when India successfully conducted nuclear tests under Operation Shakti, and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft.

In recognition of these achievements, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as National Technology Day.

"Today is an important day for me personally. Because I had a dream for my city, Lucknow, that my city would make a big contribution in strengthening India's Defence sector, that dream is now being fulfilled," Rajnath Singh, who is the Lok Sabha MP from Lucknow, said.

"Today is a historic day for our city, Lucknow, our state Uttar Pradesh, and our entire country. Today, I believe, is a day to worship the power that gives strength to our forces, which lies in our forces and wreaks havoc on the enemy," Singh said.

The Rs 300-crore facility is a key part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and represents India's commitment to self-reliant defence manufacturing, the Ministry of Defence said.

"It includes not only missile production but also testing, integration, and a materials complex for aerospace-grade components. A major leap toward #Atman-

irbharBharat and a strategic boost to regional industrial growth," the Ministry of Defence said on X.

The Uttar Pradesh government had said the facility will manufacture one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missiles, with a range of 290 to 400 km and a top speed of Mach 2.8.

The missile, a product of BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia, can be launched from land, sea, or air and uses a "fire and forget" system.

Completed in three-and-a-half years, the BrahMos production unit in Lucknow is spread over 80 hectares of land provided free of cost by the Uttar Pradesh government, the state government had said in the statement.

The UP Defence Industrial Corridor, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, has six nodes - Lucknow, Kanpur, Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, and Chitrakoot - where major investments



are being made to boost defence manufacturing.

Uttar Pradesh is the second state after Tamil Nadu to establish a Defence Industrial Corridor, it added.

India Space Congress in June to discuss emerging trends in sector

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Nearly 1,000 policymakers and experts from more than 30 nations will gather in Delhi in June for the three-day India Space Congress to deliberate on the new opportunities in the country's space sector.



India's space sector regulator Pawan Kumar Goenka and industry leaders will deliberate on issues such as satellite communications, geospatial applications, deep-space exploration, emerging technologies, Earth observation and strategic trade corridors.

Discussions will spotlight advancements in artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, quantum communication, hyperspectral imaging and space-based biomanufacturing, as well as evolving challenges in orbital debris mitigation, security and global regulatory alignment.

Besides Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) chairman Goenka, other speakers include M Ravichandran, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences secretary; Abhay Karandikar, Department of Science and Technology secretary; National Institute of Advanced Studies director Shailesh Nayak; Kai-Uwe Schroll, International Institute of Space Law president; and SIA-India president Subba Rao Pavuluri.

ISRO's former scientific secretary VS Hegde; and senior retired defence leaders Lt Gen VG Khadare, principal advisor in the defence ministry; and Lt Gen (Dr) PJS Pannu will also take part.

UP: 7 arrested in Sambhal for killing 2 men, staging deaths as accidents to claim insurance money

Sambhal (UP), May 11 (PTI) Police in Sambhal on Sunday arrested seven persons for allegedly killing two men and staging the deaths as accidents to claim insurance money, officials said.

The gang allegedly orchestrated the murders of Salim and Aman, and staged them as road accidents to fraudulently claim their hefty insurance policies.

Those arrested have been identified as Vedprakash, Kamal Singh, Nirdesh Kumar, Udaybhan Singh, Premshankar, Sunil Kumar and Omprakash.

ASP Anukriti Sharma said, "Salim was murdered on July 29, 2022, while Aman was killed on November 15, 2023. Both the cases were shown as deaths caused by road accidents, leading police to initially close the files."

Later, police found that prior to their deaths, Salim purchased multiple insurance policies on his name totalling Rs 88 lakh, while Aman was insured for a staggering Rs 2.70 crore, the officer said.

"The gang meticulously planned and executed the two murders and made them appear as accidents. The breakthrough came with the arrest of a man



named Shahrukh in February. "A mobile phone chat involving Kamal Singh led to further probe, which implicated the latter in the suspicious death of Aman in November 2023. A case of unknown death due to accident was registered at the time," Sharma said.

The probe revealed that Aman's maternal uncle, Vedprakash, along with his accomplices allegedly murdered him after securing insurance policies worth Rs 2.70 crore issued by different companies in the deceased's name, the officer said.

Vedprakash himself was the complainant in the "accident" case, and around Rs 20 lakh had

already been deposited into an account from the insurance payout, the ASP said.

Further probe exposed the gang's involvement in a similar case involving the death of Salim in 2022, in which they fraudulently claimed Rs 75 lakh in insurance money from various companies.

"Our investigation exposed an active gang that targeted individuals, secured substantial insurance policies in their names, and then murdered them and staged the deaths as road accident cases to fraudulently claim insurance money running into lakhs and crores," the ASP said.

India should ban apple imports from Turkey, boycott tourism: Himachal Cong leader

Shimla, May 11 (PTI) India should immediately ban import of apples and other goods from Turkey and people should boycott tourism, said All India Congress Committee spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore in a statement here on Sunday.

He said, "When Turkey was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2023, India started 'Operation Dost' and provided all possible assistance including aid, National Disaster Response Force and sent drones to rescue the people trapped under the rubble. We even modified Kisan drones to carry medicine and food."

"However, the ungrateful



country stabbed India as drones manufactured by Tehran was a part of Pakistan flock used against India. Nation comes first and therefore I demand that India should immediately ban

import of Apple and other goods from Turkey," he said in a video statement.

Rathore, former Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president, further said that people should also stop going to Turkey as tourists.

Meanwhile, Fruit Vegetable Flower Growers Association president Harish Chauhan shared the sentiment and said, "Turkey is supporting Pakistan against India and we urge the Indian government to completely and permanently ban all import and export from Turkey which is a leading exporter of apples to India."

Delhi airport sees around 100 flight cancellations on Sunday

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Around 100 flights to and from the Delhi airport were cancelled on Sunday, according to a source.

Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in the northern and western parts of the country were temporarily shut in view of the conflict between India and Pakistan.

On Saturday, India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect.

As many as 52 domestic departures and 44 arrivals, and one

international departure were cancelled. These cancellations happened between 5:00 am and 4:30 pm, the source said.

"Delhi Airport is operating normally. However, due to changes in airspace dynamics and increased security measures, some flight schedules and security checkpoint processing times may be affected," DIAL said in a post on X.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is the busiest airport in the country.

Navi Mumbai civic body urges property owners to complete KYC

Thane, May 11 (PTI) The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has appealed to all property owners within its jurisdiction to complete the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process to ensure timely delivery of municipal alerts and updates.

NMMC spokesperson Mahendra Konde said the move will enable residents to conveniently view and pay their property tax bills via mobile phones, receive critical updates such as water supply alerts, heavy rainfall warnings, emergency notifications, and traffic advisories directly on their devices.

"Citizens can complete the KYC process by visiting the NMMC's official website at https://www.nmmc.gov.in and scanning the QR code or clicking on the relevant link provided," he said.

Might of Indian military felt in Rawalpindi: Rajnath Singh on Operation Sindoor



New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) Under Operation Sindoor, Indian armed forces not only struck Pakistani military bases near the border but their might was even felt in Rawalpindi where the headquarters of the Pakistani Army is located, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday.

He said the Indian military has punished anti-India forces and terrorists who had wiped off the vermilion of many families through the Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking virtually at an event in Lucknow to inaugurate a BrahMos production unit, the defence minister said Operation Sindoor is not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social and strategic will against terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was launched on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror

attack. All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor.

India and Pakistan on Saturday announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Singh said the entire country is "congratulating the Indian military for success of the operation."

"This operation is a demonstration of India's strong will against terrorism and also the capability and determination of the military power," he said.

"We have shown that whenever India takes any action against terrorism, even the land across the border will not be safe for the terrorists and their masters," he said.

Singh said Indian forces launched Operation Sindoor with the aim of destroying the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

"We never targeted their civilians. But Pakistan not only targeted civilian areas of India but also tried to attack temples, gurudwaras and churches," he noted.

"The Indian Army has displayed valour and courage as well as restraint and has given a befitting reply by attacking many of Pakistan's military bases," he said.

"We not only took action against the military bases near the border but the threat of Indian forces was felt even in Rawalpindi where the headquarters of the Pakistani army is located," he added.

The defence minister said the whole world saw the consequences of committing and getting terrorist incidents carried out in India.

After the Uri incident, our army entered Pakistan and carried out surgical strikes, after the Pulwama attack, we carried out Balakot air strikes, and now the world is seeing how India entered Pakistan and carried out multiple strikes following the Pahalgam attack, he said.

"Following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that this is the new India which will take effective action against terrorism on both sides of the border," he said.

BJP hails PM Modi, says India isolated Pakistan diplomatically



New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) The BJP on Sunday asserted that India has rewritten the rules of engagement with Pakistan under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party's remarks came after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

In a post on X, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said Pakistan "pleaded for an understanding" after

suffering "catastrophic losses".

"In just 72 hours, under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has rewritten the rules of engagement with Pakistan," he added.

Bhandari said India called out Pakistan's "nuclear bluff" with strategic resolve, struck deep inside Pakistani military zones from Lahore to Rawalpindi and destroyed terror headquarters of Jaish and LeT in Munnirke and Bahawalpur.

"Sent a clear message: no inch of Pakistani territory is beyond India's reach,"

crippled Pakistan economically by pausing the Indus Water Treaty," he said.

India isolated Pakistan diplomatically, exposing its terror ecosystem globally, he added.

"In an era where conventional wars - from Russia-Ukraine to US-Taliban - have failed to achieve strategic ends, India under Prime Minister Modi has adopted 'Chanakya Neeti' - smart, swift, and sovereign," the BJP spokesperson said.

"This is not strategic restraint. This is strategic dominance, and fight against Pakistani terror is not over," he added.

WATER ROW: Mann says BJP, BBMB to blame if something untoward happens; slams farmers' 'silence'

Chandigarh, May 11 (PTI) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday warned that the BJP and the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) will be held responsible if "violence" or something untoward happens as they continue to send officials to the Nangal Dam.

He also called out farmers' unions for their "silence" on the issue.

Mann headed to the Nangal dam in Rupnagar district after he came to know that the BBMB officials had reached there again to release water to Haryana.

AAP workers and some local villagers led by Punjab Cabinet minister Harjot Singh Bains held a protest against the officials for their attempt to release water to the neighbouring state.

This came four days after BBMB Chairman Manoj

Tripathi was allegedly locked inside Nangal Dam's guest house by AAP workers.

Punjab and Haryana are at loggerheads over the distribution of water. The AAP-led government in Punjab has refused to share the water from Bhakra dam saying Haryana has already utilized its share.

Mann also took potshots at the farmer unions for their "silence" on protecting the state's water rivers.

Addressing the media at the Nangal dam, Mann said it is unfortunate that on one hand, Punjab is on high vigil and bravely confronting the enemy at the international border and on the other hand the BJP government at the Centre was playing "dirty games" and resorting to tantrums to deprive the state of its waters.

"This is unfortunate and should be avoided during

times of crisis," he said.

Mann said the Punjab government is committed to protecting the border and the state waters.

Chastising the attempts of the BBMB, Mann warned BJP and BBMB to not try to disturb the law and order by frequently sending officials to the Nangal dam.

"If any untoward incident takes place, there is any loss of life and property or violence takes place, then BBMB and BJP will be held responsible for this," the chief minister said.

Asked whether the Punjab government would move the Supreme Court, Mann asked which order would the state challenge when there was no such order was released for sharing water.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on May 7 had restrained Punjab and its de-



partments, including police personnel, from "interfering" in the day-to-day functioning, operation and regulation of the Bhakra-Nangal Dam and Lohand control room water regulation offices managed by BBMB.

The bench further directed Punjab to abide by the decision of a meeting held on May 2 under the chairmanship of the Union home secretary.

Replying to a question, Mann said his government will seek reconstitution of the BBMB.

Replying to a question, Mann said the state government will also seek an audit of the funds given to the BBMB in the last few years, alleging the officers used the hard earned money of taxpayers for their "own interests".

"We will stop their

(BBMB) funds if the Centre does not release our pending rural development fund. We will get an audit of utilisation of funds conducted," said Mann.

Mann said even the BBMB uses the money of the state to fight legal battles against Punjab, which is highly deplorable.

Earlier addressing the protesters at the Nangal dam, which is located downstream of the Bhakra dam, Mann took a swipe at Punjab's farmers' unions for keeping mum on protecting the state's waters.

"We are trying to save water for farmers. Now where are farmers' unions? They have not issued a single statement in support of Punjab's waters. We will fight alone."

He said that they only want to hold 'dharnas' and stop highways. "Come here. We

are here. We are saving water for agricultural fields," said Mann.

"Now where are those who call themselves 'paniya de rakhe' (protector of waters)? Have you met any of them? They just run their shops. They will now face protests. People will come to know who stands on which side. There is no AC here, nor AC-fitted trolleys here. It is difficult (for protesting) under the sun," said Mann.

Earlier in a post on X, Mann accused the BJP government of once again attempting to "plunder" Punjab's water through BBMB officials. "I will not let this happen," he said.

Punjab has claimed that Haryana has already exhausted its allocated share, and 4,000 cusecs of water were already being released on humanitarian rounds.

LoPs Rahul, Kharge demand special Parliament session to discuss Pahalgam attack, Op Sindoor



New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) The leaders of opposition in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding an immediate special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the latest developments in cross-border firing.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and his counterpart in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, have written to the prime minister, reiterating their demand to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament to demonstrate the collective resolve against terrorism.

"I reiterate the unanimous request of the Opposition to convene a special session of Parliament immediately. It is crucial for people and their representatives to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the ceasefire, first announced by US President Trump. This will also be an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead," Rahul Gandhi said in his letter.

"I trust that you will consid-

er this demand seriously and swiftly," he added.

Kharge recalled the letters written by him and Rahul Gandhi on April 28, requesting the prime minister to convene a special session of Parliament in the wake of terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, primarily tourists, on April 22.

"In view of the latest developments, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha has already written to you again conveying the unanimous request of all opposition parties for a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire announcements, first from Washington DC and later by the governments of India and Pakistan," Kharge said in his letter.

"As leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha, I am writing in support of the request. I trust you will agree," the Congress chief said.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

All-party meeting be called but parties must attend only if PM participates: Sibal

New Delhi, May 11 (PTI) With India and Pakistan agreeing to halt military actions, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday demanded that an all-party meeting be called while urging political parties not to attend it until the government assures that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present there.

Sibal also demanded a special session of Parliament and asserted that he was confident that if Manmohan Singh had been the prime minister today, he would be present in the all-party meeting, and a special session would have been called too.

Addressing a press conference here, Sibal referred to US President Donald Trump's latest social media post on stoppage of military hostilities in which the American president said that he is proud that the US was able to help arrive at this "historic and heroic decision".

"Many questions will be raised on this tweet as well. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that for the last 48 hours talks went on. So what happened, how and why, no information has been given to us regarding this. They also stated that there will be a meeting at a neutral site. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi also spoke with NSA Ajit Dowl," Sibal said.

"We will not issue any criticism today because this is not the time for criticism. We only want a special Parliament session and an all-party meeting to be called. I want to appeal to all political parties not to attend the meeting until the government assures them that the prime minister will be present at the meeting as well," Sibal said.



"I am confident that if Dr Manmohan Singh had been the prime minister today, he would be present in the all-party meeting, and a special session would have been called too," the Independent Rajya Sabha MP said.

He said MPs can't wait till the Monsoon session for getting details on what has transpired in the last few days.

Sibal said he did not like it when Prime Minister Modi did not participate in the all-party meeting that was held after the Pahalgam terror attack.

"Maybe he (Modi) thought Bihar elections were more important. He also went to Bollywood, Kerala, he thinks that whenever such an incident takes place, no matter what happens in Manipur, it is not necessary to go there," Sibal said.

The former Congress leader hailed the armed forces for giving a befitting reply to Pakistan.

The country in one voice asserted that enough is enough and a reply should be given to Pakistan, he said.

His remarks came after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Woman booked for objectionable social media status on Operation Sindoor

Mumbai, May 11 (PTI) A 40-year-old beautician from Malwani in Mumbai was booked over her allegedly objectionable social media status on Operation Sindoor launched by Indian armed forces, police said on Sunday.

An FIR was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and a notice was served to the woman, who runs a beauty parlour, for joining the investigation.

"When governments



make reckless decisions, it's the innocent on both sides who pay the price, not the ones in power", the woman stated on her WhatsApp status while suffixing a slang term to dismiss Operation Sindoor.

Indian armed forc-

es launched "Operation Sindoor" on the intervening night of May 7 and 8, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, from where terrorist attacks against India had been planned and directed.

Tibetan monks hold peace prayers for India-Pakistan, victims of conflict

Shimla, May 11 (PTI) Tibetan monks are holding special prayers for peace between India and Pakistan and for those who lost their lives in the recent conflict, at a Buddhist Monastery in Panthagathi on the outskirts here, monks said on Sunday.

"The prayers for peace has been going on for the past 3 to 4 days and will continue for another six days," Lama Yangil told PTI Videos on Sunday.

As Tibetans, we preach non-violence and empathy and Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama has always advocated

peace, another monk Rora Sambu said.

He said that prayers are being held for peace between India and Pakistan and also for the departed souls of those who lost their lives in the hostilities, he added.

The recent conflict between India and Pakistan began when terrorists killed at least 26 tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22.

India armed forces retaliated and struck nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor.

Akhilesh urges politicians not to use armed forces for 'self-display'

Lucknow, May 11 (PTI) Amid the recently concluded military confrontation with Pakistan and prevailing "uneasy" calm at the LoC, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday appealed to political leaders to refrain from using defence-related backdrops as photo opportunities, urging them instead to show solidarity with the armed forces.

"In the current highly sensitive environment, 'defence-security' has become an even more serious issue. Politicians are requested to please not make it a photo background or selfie point. This is a time to stand with the armed forces, not alone for self-display," Yadav said in a post in Hindi on X.

While Yadav did not name anyone directly, his comment is seen targeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who posed alongside a BrahMos missile in its model, in Lucknow at an event.

President Trump praises 'strong, unwaveringly powerful' leadership of India, Pakistan

New York/Washington, May 11 (PTI) US President Donald Trump on Sunday praised the "strong and unwaveringly powerful" leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a "ceasefire" and offered to work with them for a "solution" on the Kashmir issue.

India has always maintained that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter and there is no space for any third party. India asserts that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of it.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a "thousand years," a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

His comments came hours after India and Pakistan on

Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

"I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have led (led) to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," Trump said.

"Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision," Trump said.

He went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase trade substantially

with both of these great Nations."

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Office Sunday said it appreciates President Trump's "willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute".

Trump on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night" of talks.

Soon after Trump's announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm (IST) on Saturday.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied



Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday said that over the past 48 hours, Vice President J D Vance and he engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, "including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim

Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik."

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

Vance had also expressed gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their "hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire."

"Great work from the President's team, especially Secretary Rubio. And my gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire," Vance said in a post on X.

Last month, Trump had said that there have always been tensions between India and Pakistan, and the two countries will figure it out between themselves "one way or the other."

Several members of the Trump administration and lawmakers lauded Trump's efforts for de-escalation.

"I am incredibly proud to serve alongside Vice President Vance and Secretary Rubio. This historic administration is working every day to achieve peace. The golden age is coming and it starts with peace throughout the world," Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said on X.

Former national security advisor Mike Waltz, whom Trump plans to nominate as US ambassador to the United Nations, said, "progress towards stability in a historically volatile region. It won't be easy, there will be violations and much work to be done, but another step in President Trump's commitment to peace."

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the US has said President Trump is the "President of Peace."

Far-right political activist Laura Loomer said Trump "deserves the Nobel Peace Prize" for his efforts on India and Pakistan.

"He is truly such a transformative historical figure and the most consequential President of our lifetime. Once again, he has proven his commitment to Peace. Thank you, President Trump," Loomer said in a post on X.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang speaks to NSA Doval, calls for lasting ceasefire with Pak

Beijing, May 11 (PTI) Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke to India's National Security Advisory (NSA) Ajit Doval and expressed hope that New Delhi and Islamabad would address their differences through dialogue and achieve a lasting ceasefire.

During their conversation, Doval told Wang that war was not India's choice but India needed to take counter-terrorism action after the Pahalgam attack, state-run Xinhua news agency reported in separate dispatches.

Wang also condemned the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which had cross-border linkages and triggered the worst fighting between India and Pakistan in years.

Wang also spoke to Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Xinhua's reports said.

Hostilities soared between India and Pakistan after the Indian military hit terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

The two nuclear-armed neighbours on May 10 reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after



four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

In his talks with Doval, Wang expressed hope that India and Pakistan would remain calm and restrained, properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, and avoid escalating the situation, according to Xinhua's reports.

Wang said China supports and expects India and Pakistan to achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire through consultation, which is in the fundamental interest of the two countries and meets the common aspiration of the international community.

He said China condemns

the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and opposes all forms of terrorism.

Noting that the world is undergoing both transformation and upheaval, Wang said peace and stability in Asia are hard-won and deserve to be cherished. India and Pakistan are neighbours that cannot be moved away and they are both neighbours of China, he said.

Doval told Wang that the Pahalgam attack resulted in serious casualties for the Indian side and that India needed to take counter-terrorism actions.

War is not the choice of the Indian side and is not in the interest of either side, Doval underlined, adding that both India and Pakistan will be committed to the ceasefire and look forward to restoring regional peace and stability as soon as possible, the reports said.

In his conversation with Dar, the reports stated, Wang said that as a neighbour of both Pakistan and India, China is concerned about the conflict between the two.

He said China believes that Pakistan will make decisions in line with its fundamental and long-term interests.

Dar told Wang that Pakistan is willing to achieve a ceasefire with India but will

respond to any acts that violate its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Noting that Pakistan stands on the frontline of the international fight against terrorism, Wang said China supports its continued firm counterterrorism efforts, the Xinhua reports said.

Before India and Pakistan agreed to the ceasefire, China on Saturday strongly urged the two countries to exercise calm and restraint, and return to the track of peaceful settlement.

China is closely following the ongoing situation between India and Pakistan, and is deeply concerned about the escalation, the Chinese foreign ministry said earlier in a statement.

"We strongly urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, exercise calm and restraint, return to the track of political settlement through peaceful means, and refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions," the statement said.

This will be important for the fundamental interest of both India and Pakistan, and for a stable and peaceful region. This is also what the international community hopes to see. China is willing to continue to play a constructive role to this end, it said.

Pope Leo XIV calls for peace in Ukraine, Gaza ceasefire, release of hostages in Sunday appeal



Vatican City, May 11 (AP) Pope Leo XIV called for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza with the release of hostages and delivery of humanitarian aid in his first Sunday noon blessing as pontiff.

"Never again war!" Leo said from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica.

Recalling the end of World War II 80 years ago, Leo quoted Pope Francis in denouncing the number of

conflicts ravaging the globe today, saying it was a "third world war in pieces".

Leo, the first American pope, also noted that Sunday was Mother's Day in many countries and wished all mothers, "including those in heaven" a Happy Mother's Day.

The crowd, filled with marching bands in town for a special Jubilee weekend, erupted in cheers and music as the bells of St Peter's Basilica tolled.

It was the first time that Leo had returned to the loggia since he first appeared to the world from there on Thursday night following his remarkable election as pope, the first from the United States. Then too he delivered a message of peace.

Earlier Sunday, Leo celebrated a private Mass near the tomb of St Peter with head of his Augustinian order, the Rev Alejandro Moral Anton. The Mass occurred in the grottoes underneath St Peter's, the traditional burial place of St Peter, the apostle who is considered the be the first pope.

The area, which is normally open to the public, also contains the tombs of past popes, including Pope Benedict XVI.

Leo on Saturday prayed before the tomb of Pope Francis, located across town at the St Mary Major Basilica.

The 69-year-old Chicago-born missionary was elected 267th pope on Thursday following the April 21 death of Francis.

St Peter's Square was packed with pilgrims, well-wishers and the curious, many holding up flags from their homelands. Leo gave many special groups a shoutout.

Putin proposes direct peace talks with Ukraine, Zelenskyy insists on ceasefire before negotiations

Moscow, May 11 (PTI) Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday proposed holding direct peace talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on May 15 without any preconditions, a move welcomed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who insisted that Moscow must agree to a ceasefire first.

Putin said talks are intended to "eliminate the root causes of the conflict" and "reach the establishment of a long-term, durable peace."

"We would like to start talks immediately, already next Thursday, May 15, in Istanbul, where they were held before and where they were interrupted," Putin said in an address.

He emphasised the talks should be held "without any preconditions."

Putin's address came just hours after the leaders of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Poland stood alongside Zelenskyy in Kiev and urged Putin to agree to a 30-day ceasefire starting on Monday or face possible "massive sanctions."

Root causes are generally understood to cover a range of Russian grievances, from NATO's expansion eastwards to the size of Ukraine's military, according to reports.

Putin reminded that after the beginning of Russia's special military operation (SMO) in Ukraine, the representatives of Russia and Ukraine had met for several



rounds of talks in Belarus and, after advanced negotiations in Istanbul facilitated by Turkey, they finalised a joint agreement in 2022. However, after the visit of former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, this draft was trashed.

Putin categorically rejected the demand for an immediate 30-day ceasefire.

Citing a bad record of Kiev in observing ceasefire and truces, Putin accused Ukraine of not honouring a 30-day moratorium on attacks on the energy infrastructure brokered by US President Donald Trump, as well as the Easter truce.

Reacting to Putin's offer, Zelenskyy reiterated the precondition of a full, lasting, and reliable ceasefire starting May 12.

"It is a positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war. The entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time. And the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire," Zelenskyy posted on X.

"There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire - full, lasting, and reli-

able - starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet," he said.

For two months now, Ukraine has said it wants an immediate 30-day ceasefire. But Russia has so far refused to commit, saying it supports the idea of a pause in principle, but insists there are what it calls "nuances" that need addressing first.

The Kremlin argues that Ukraine and its European "handlers" will use the 30-day ceasefire without agreed-upon "nuances" to replenish human and hardware to resume military operations against Russia, which has an upper hand on the battlefield.

"This will be a trap for Russia, and Ukraine will rearm to continue the war with the help of its Western backers," Senator Alexi Pushkov was quoted as saying by the state-run VestiFM.

US President Trump welcomed Putin's offer of direct talks.

"A potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine! Think of the hundreds of thousands of lives that will be saved as this never-ending "bloodbath" hopefully comes to an end," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"It will be a whole new, and much better, WORLD. I will continue to work with both sides to make sure that it happens. The USA wants to focus, instead, on Rebuilding and Trade. A BIG week upcoming!" he wrote.

Israel's blockade means Gaza's hospitals cannot provide food to recovering patients

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), May 11 (AP) It cost a fortune, she said, but Asmaa Fayeze managed to buy a few zucchinis in a Gaza market. She cooked them with rice and brought it to her 4-year-old son, who has been in the hospital for the past week. The soup was his only meal of the day, and he asked for more. "It's all finished, darling," Fayeze replied softly. Still, it was an improvement from the canned beans and tuna she brings on other days, she said.

Hospital patients are among the most vulnerable as Palestinians across Gaza struggle to feed themselves, with Israel's blockade on food and other supplies entering the territory now in its third month.

With hospitals unable to provide food, families must bring whatever they can find for loved ones.

"Most, if not all, wounded patients have lost weight, especially in the past two months," Dr. Khaled Alserri, a general surgeon at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, told The Associated Press. Nutritional supplements for intensive care unit patients are lacking, he said.

"Our hands are tied when it comes to making the best choice for patients. Choices are limited," he said.

Malnutrition is on the rise across Gaza, aid groups say. Thousands of children have been found with acute malnutrition in the past month, but adults as well are not getting proper nutrients, according to the U.N. It estimates that 16,000 pregnant women and new mothers this year face acute malnutrition.

Since Israel's blockade began on March 2, food sources have been drying up. Aid groups have stopped food distribution. Bakeries have closed. Charity kitchens handing out bowls of pasta or lentils remain the last lifeline for most of the population, but they are rapidly closing for lack of supplies, the U.N. says.

Markets are empty of almost everything but canned goods and small amounts of vegetables, and prices have been rising. Local production of vegetables has plummeted because Israeli forces have damaged 80% of Gaza's farmlands, the U.N. says, and much of the rest is inaccessible inside newly declared military zones.

Fayeze's son, Ali al-Dbari, was admitted to Nasser Hospital because of a blocked intestine, suffering from severe cramps and unable to use the bathroom. Fayeze believes it's because he has been eating little but canned goods. She splurged on the zucchini, which now costs around USD 10 a kilogram (2.2 pounds). Before the war it was less than a dollar.

Doctors said the hospital doesn't have a functioning scanner to diagnose her son and decide whether he needs surgery.

Israel says it imposed the blockade and resumed its military campaign in March to pressure Hamas to release its remaining hostages and disarm.

Hamas ignited the war with its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostage, most of whom have been released in



ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel's offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

Israeli officials have asserted that enough food entered Gaza during a two-month ceasefire earlier this year. Rights groups have disputed that and called the blockade a "starvation tactic" and a potential war crime.

Now Israeli plans to control aid distribution in Gaza, using private contractors to distribute supplies. The U.N. and aid groups have rejected the idea, saying it could restrict who is eligible to give and receive aid and could force large numbers of Palestinians to move - which would violate international law.

Those under care at hospitals, and their families who scrounge to feed them, would face further challenges under Israel's proposal. Moving to reach aid could be out of the question.

Another patient at Nasser Hospital, 19-year-old Asmaa Faraj, had shrapnel in her chest from an airstrike that hit close to her tent and a nearby

charity kitchen in camps for displaced people outside Khan Younis.

When the AP visited, the only food she had was a small bag of dates, a date cookie and some water bottles. Her sister brought her some pickles.

"People used to bring fruits as a gift when they visited sick people in hospitals," said the sister, Salwa Faraj. "Today, we have bottles of water."

She said her sister needs protein, fruits and vegetables but none are available.

Mohammed al-Bursh managed to find a few cans of tuna and beans to bring for his 30-year-old son, Sobhi, who was wounded in an airstrike three months ago. Sobhi's left foot was amputated, and he has two shattered vertebrae in his neck.

Al-Bursh gently gave his son spoonfuls of beans as he lay still in the hospital bed, a brace on his neck.

"Everything is expensive," Sobhi al-Bursh said, gritting with pain that he says is constant. He said he limits what he eats to help save his father money.

He believes that his body needs meat to heal. "It has been three months, and nothing heals," he said.

Clinical India crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs to win Women's Tri-Nation tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, MAY 11

India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here on Sunday.

After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Amanjot Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the damage.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu (51 off 66 balls) and Nilakshika Silva (48 off 58) were the chief contributors for the hosts.

Earlier, battling cramps in humid conditions, elegant left-hander Mandhana, who had returned to form with a fifty in India's last match against South Africa, struck a majestic 116 off 101 balls to lay the foundation for India's imposing total after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat.

Her knock was laced with 15 fours and two sixes, including four successive boundaries off Athapaththu to bring up her 11th ODI hundred in style.

After the early dismissal of Pratika Rawal for 30, Mandhana shifted gears smoothly.

The stylish Mandhana made Sri Lanka pay for dropping her on 21 as she was involved in two big partnerships - 70 for the first wicket with Pratika and 120 for the second with Harleen Deol.

She brought up her 32nd ODI fifty with a stylish sweep behind square.

The left-hander added 120 runs in 106 balls with Harleen (47 off 56; 4x4) for the second wicket to steady the innings before falling while at-



tempting a lofted cover drive.

But her dismissal set the stage for a strong finish as Jemimah Rodrigues, coming off a career-best 123 against South Africa, smashed a quick-fire 44 off 29 balls (4x4), while Harmanpreet contributed a brisk 41 off 30 (4x4, 1x6) as India piled on 90 runs in the last 10 overs.

There was a brief phase where India looked to have lost steam in the final overs, but came from Deepti Sharma (20 not out off 14) and Amanjot Kaur (18 off 12) helped them surge past 340.

For Sri Lanka, Sugandika Kumari was the pick of their bowlers with 2/59, while Dewmi Vihanga (2/69) and Malki Madara (2/74) also picked two wickets each.

Set a formidable target, the home team needed a strong start,

but instead, they lost Hasini Perera to Amanjot in only the third ball of the Sri Lankan innings.

Attempting to play through mid-off, Perera ended up playing down the wrong line as the ball crashed onto the off-stump.

Sri Lanka were one down without a run on the board and an onerous task awaited the duo of captain Athapaththu and Vishmi Gunaratne (36 off 41 balls).

They seemed to be succeeding, as Athapaththu and Vishmi put Sri Lanka's chase back on track after the early blow. The pair negated the difficult phase well before opening up to hit boundaries.

However, Deepti's introduction put the brakes on Lankan scoring as the senior off-spinner bowled three economical overs on the trot before

Amanjot gave India their second breakthrough by bowling Vishmi around her legs after the batter had shuffled a long way across.

India could have had another wicket but wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, standing up to debutant pacer Kranti Goud, could not hold to an edge from Athapaththu when she was on 25.

Kranti then missed a catch off her own bowling after Nilakshika's leading edge off a slower delivery.

However, soon after getting to her fifty, Athapaththu was bowled by Rana, who dropped the batter off her own bowling in her previous over.

With the required run rate mounting, the match was as good as over after Nilakshika's dismissal to Rana.

IPL likely to resume on May 16 or 17, final could be moved out of Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

Suspended due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to resume either on May 16 or 17 with the possibility of the final being moved out of Kolkata.

The announcement of ceasefire on Saturday paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended on May 9 for one week.

The IPL Governing Council members and the BCCI officials discussed the resumption plan on Sunday.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said the board is still working on creating a suitable schedule.

"As of now there is no decision on IPL. BCCI officials are working out on the solutions. BCCI secretary, IPL Chairman are in talks with franchises and everyone, so very soon we will know about the decision, efforts are being made to resume the tournament early," said Shukla.

An IPL source said the league will resume with the match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow - the game which was supposed to be played on May 9.

"All the teams have been asked to call back their players, the tournament will resume either on May 16 or 17 in Lucknow. The final schedule will be shared tomorrow (Monday)," a source told PTI.

"Most likely the matches will be held at four venues and Delhi and Dharamsala won't get to host more matches. All



the equipment has already been removed from these venues," added the source.

The source also said that there won't be any change in the venue for Qualifier 1 and Eliminator that Hyderabad was supposed to host but Kolkata may miss out on hosting the final, most likely on June 1, due to rain forecast on that day in the city.

"As of now there is no change in venues for the play-off stage but it seems rain can affect the final in Kolkata. In that case the final could be played in Ahmedabad," said the source.

Speaking to PTI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added: "In the next few days, we will begin consultations with the franchisees, broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations slated to host the remaining matches before crystallizing to a decision on the league's resumption."

"Given that the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take the nod of the Government of India before finalising the time for its restart."

The abandoned game between PBKS and DC

It is possible that the two teams will be awarded a point each. Punjab Kings had raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when the game in Dharamsala had to be stopped due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

The players were ferried in bus to Jalandhar in Punjab from where they travelled to Delhi by train.

If only four venues are chosen to host the remaining 16 games then Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians will miss out on their home games.

It means the remainder of the tournament will be restricted to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Lucknow.

CSK, RR and SRH are already out of the reckoning and the battle for sealing the four play-off spots is among seven teams.

Gujarat Titans as of now are leading the table with 16 points and superior NRR of 0.793, followed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (16 points, 0.482), Punjab Kings (15), Mumbai Indians (14), Delhi Capitals (13), Kolkata Knight Riders (11) and Lucknow Super Giants (10).

India's men's 4x400m, mixed 4x400m teams miss out on World C'ships qualification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUANGZHOU, MAY 11

India's campaign at the World Athletics Relays ended in disappointment as the men's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m teams missed out on qualifying for the World Championships, to be held in Tokyo later this year.

The mixed 4x400m team of Santhosh Kumar, Tamilarasan, Rupal Chaudhary, Thennarasu Kayalvizhi, Vishal and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.81 seconds to finish fourth in heat number 2.

The top three teams in each of the two heats qualified for the Worlds - scheduled for September 13-21 in the Japanese capital.

On Saturday, the Indians had clocked 3:16.85 seconds to finish fifth in heat number 3. They got another chance on Sunday to book the World Championships

berth but failed to do so.

Eight teams booked their World Championships berths on Saturday.

The men's 4x400m quartet of Jay Kumar, Dharmveer Choudhary, Thekkinilil Saji Manu and Rince Joseph did worse than their female counterparts, finishing seventh with a time of 3:04.49.

On Saturday, the Indian men's 4x400m team had clocked 3:03.92 to finish fifth in their heat. They got another chance on Sunday to book the World Championships berth but failed to do so.

The top 14 teams in each of the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m, plus the mixed 4x400m, will secure their place at the Tokyo World Championships.

The remaining two places in each event will be awarded based on top lists during the qualification period (February 25, 2024 to August 24, 2025).

India will now hope to be among these two remaining teams and try to clock better times in events during the qualification window.

The country had competed in the men's 4x400m in the 2023 World Championships in Hungary, where the Indian quartet gave a scare to the fancied United States before finishing second in the heat race with the then Asian record of 2:59.05.

The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas, Amoj Jacob, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Ajmal had finished fifth in the final. The same team, however, failed to qualify for the final round in the 2024 Paris Olympics after finishing fourth in the heat race.

India fielded a fresh team in the men's 4x400m relay here, leaving out the athletes that competed in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 Olympics.

Home-bound Ponting deboards plane after ceasefire announcement, gives pep talk to foreign players

BHARAT SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

(PTI) Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting was about to take off for home when the ceasefire between India and Pakistan came into force.

Despite that, the Australian legend had the option to fly back to Australia but he chose not to, making a last-minute disembarkation from the Qantas plane packed with anxious passengers.

Ponting stayed back in Delhi but he also ensured that the PBKS' foreign players, who were edgy considering the possibility of a full scale war between two nuclear-armed countries, were convinced about returning to India with the event likely to resume later in the week.

"It shows Ponting's character. Only he could have pulled that off. Not only he voluntarily decided to stay back, he gave a motivational talk to the foreign players who had left for their respective destinations but now will be joining the team at the earliest," Punjab Kings CEO Satish Menon told PTI.

Considering the heightened security at the Delhi Airport, the franchise officials had to make plenty of



phone calls to ensure Ponting's luggage was off-loaded from the plane.

The anxious batch of players, who had to make a nervous road/train journey from Dharamsala to Delhi following the abandonment

of the IPL game on May 8, included Marcus Stoinis, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis and Xavier Bartlett (all from Australia).

South Africa's Marco Jansen and Afghanistan's Azmatullah

Omarzai have camped themselves in Dubai which is a short flight from India.

"The foreign players are not used to something like this (war like situation). So, it was natural for them to feel anxious. Led by Stoinis, they all wanted to leave at the earliest and understandably so. But Ponting has convinced them to come back post ceasefire which I think is remarkable," said a source in the team.

With the announcement of IPL resumption imminent, Punjab find themselves well-placed with majority of their star Indian and foreign players already in the country and on standby.

With Ponting galvanising the team from a nervous situation, it could motivate the squad to do something special in this IPL.

In the first season of Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting era, Punjab stand on the cusp of its first play-off berth since 2014.

The other stranded team in Dharamsala was Delhi Capitals after the game was abandoned after Punjab Kings raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs. The match will resume from that position at a yet to be decided venue and date.

Marseille and Monaco seal Champions League spots and PSG thrashes Montpellier

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, MAY 11

Marseille and Monaco sealed spots in next season's Champions League while Ligue 1 champion Paris Saint-Germain beat last-placed Montpellier 4-1 with a Goncalo Ramos hat trick.

On the penultimate matchday of the season, Mason Greenwood's 19th league goal in the 85th minute put second-placed Marseille back in the lead at struggling Le Havre. Amine Gouiri scored twice and Marseille won away 3-1.

Lagging one point behind Marseille, Monaco sealed its 18th win - 2-0 over Lyon - with goals from Takumi Minamino and Denis Zakaria and was also guaranteed to finish among the three best teams. The top three qualify for the group stage of the Champions League, and the fourth team grabs a spot in the qual-



ifying rounds.

Gouiri scored Marseille's opener after halftime and the match was stopped soon after because of crowd trouble. Pressing to remain in the top flight next season, Le Havre pushed hard for an equalizer and got it when Issa Soumaré beat goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli from Josue Casimir's assist.

Greenwood's superb curled strike from outside the box put the visitors back on track and Gouiri gave more luster to the win in added time on the break.

"At the start of the season, we had trouble playing at the Velodrome, the ball was hot and we were shaking a bit," Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi said. "We talked about it. The aim was to stay together, united, without putting football first. We put other things first. We spent some time together. We worked a lot on uniting the team and that showed on the

pitch. We saw a family and with that we have a better chance of winning."

After getting past Arsenal midweek to reach the Champions League final, PSG coach Luis Enrique rested seven players: Gianluigi Donnarumma, Achraf Hakimi, Marquinhos, Nuno Mendes, Willian Pacho, Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha.

Senny Mayulu, an 18-year-old midfielder, was given a start and did not disappoint to put PSG ahead before halftime with a powerful strike. Ramos made it 2-0 off a deflection, and added another goal from the spot.

Having won the league with six games to spare, PSG is hoping for its first ever treble. In addition to the Champions League final against Inter Milan on May 31, Enrique's team will have another shot at more silverware against Reims the week before in the French Cup final.

Behind Marseille and Monaco,

three teams were level on points; Nice, Lille and Strasbourg, which all lost on Saturday. Seventh-placed Lyon can still aim for the fourth spot but will need to win against Angers hoping that the trio of teams all lose.

"There's a lot of regret, anger and disappointment," Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette said. "We feel sorry for all the fans who believed in us. We've made mistakes all season, but also tonight."

SAINT-ETIENNE STILL ALIVE

At the bottom of the standings, last-placed Montpellier was already demoted. There was still a glimmer of hope for Saint-Etienne, which won at Reims 2-0. Saint-Etienne remained in the relegation zone but just one point behind 16th-placed Le Havre, which was in the relegation playoffs spot.