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Weather | Day: Mostly cloudy with a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon | Rain: 1.0mm | Cloud Cover 50% | Night: Clear | Rain: 0.0mm | Cloud Cover 8% | Temp: High: 26° | Low: 9° | Sunrise: 5:31 AM | Sunset: 7:23 PM

Operation Sindoor is the new norm; India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail: PM Modi

"Terror, talks and trade can't go together, and water and blood can't flow together; talks, if any, would be about terrorism, POJK"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sternly warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail and sent a clear message to the world: terror and trade, terror and talks



cannot go together. "Operation Sindoor is India's new policy against terrorism. It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi said in a 22-minute address. He also had an advice to Pakistan's rulers: "The See **Operation Sindoor**...on Pg-08

PM Modi proven no enemy of Bharat can go unpunished: Amit Shah

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation, saying he made clear the country's resolve to strike back the very moment its enemies dared to make a mistake. In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, the prime minister sternly warned Pakistan that India would not succumb to "nuclear blackmail" and sent a clear message to the world that territory See **PM Modi proven**...on Pg-08

India, Pak DGMOs hold crucial talks; focus on avoiding aggressive, inimical action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday deliberated on ways to avoid "inimical" military actions and agreed on considering immediate steps to reduce troops of the two militaries from the See **India, Pak**...on Pg-08

Last night remained peaceful in J&K: Army

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Jammu and Kashmir was peaceful last night with no hostilities See **Last night**...on Pg-08

32 airports to resume operations: AAI

Airlines issue travel advisories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, MAY 12

Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday announced that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan. See **32 airports**...on Pg-08

Suspected drones observed along IB in Jammu's Samba, being engaged: Army

Jammu, May 12 (PTI) Security forces are engaging suspected drones observed along the International Border in Samba See **Suspected**...on Pg-08

Congress asks if PM has accepted US mediation on Kashmir, stopped ops against Pakistan for trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The Congress on Monday demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on US President Donald Trump's

claims, made minutes before the prime minister addressed the nation, asking if the operation against Pakistan was stopped due to trade obligations and whether he had accepted American mediation

on Kashmir. The Congress also reiterated its demand for a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor and the cessation of military action

against Pakistan on US mediation, asserting that a collective resolve from Parliament was the need of the hour. Asserting that India would not tolerate any "nuclear blackmail", Modi on Mon-

day said operations against Pakistan had only been kept in abeyance and the future would depend on the neighbouring country's behaviour. Congress general secretary See **Congress asks if PM**...on Pg-08

Trump claims his administration stopped 'nuclear conflict' between India and Pakistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, MAY 12

President Donald Trump on Monday reiterated his claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, telling the South Asian neighbours that America will do a "lot of trade" with them if they end hostilities.

"On Saturday, my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think, a permanent one between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons," Trump said at the start of a press conference in the White House where he announced that he will set

US, UK discuss tensions between India and Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, MAY 12

The US has discussed the current situation between India and Pakistan with the UK, emphasising the need for both neighbours to maintain the "ceasefire".

India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immedi-

ate effect on Saturday.

In a readout, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Sunday.

"On India-Pakistan, the Secretary and Foreign Secretary Lammy emphasised the need for both sides to maintain the ceasefire and to continue to communicate. The Secretary See **US, UK discuss**...on Pg-08

30-day deadline for drug-makers to lower cost of prescription drugs.

He started the briefing by describing "the historic events that took place over the last few days" in the Indian subcontinent.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Indian government See **Trump claims his**...on Pg-08

India always advocates peace, Operation Sindoor lesson for Pakistan: LG Sinha

IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, MAY 12

Asserting that India has always stood for peace, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the recent attack in Pahalgam was nothing short of an "act of war perpetrated by Pakistan".

He said the Indian armed forces avenged the attack through Operation Sindoor, a mission that he said should serve as a lesson to the neighbour.



"India always advocated for peace. It never wants a war but what happened in Pahalgam was an act of war by terror state Pakistan". See **India always**...on Pg-08

LG, minister pay tributes to BSF officer killed in Pak firing along IB in Jammu

Jammu, May 12: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Minister Satish Sharma on Monday joined the wreath-laying ceremony of BSF Constable Deepak Chingakhm who died in cross-border firing by See **LG, minister**...on Pg-08

LG meets family of civilian killed in Pak shelling in Jammu, assures support

IMAGES NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, MAY 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the family of Zakir Hussain



who was killed in Pakistani shelling here. He offered condolences to the family and assured them of full support from the administration. See **LG meets family**...on Pg-08



Quick Read

PM Modi chairs high-level meeting

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting, which included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, ahead of a scheduled talk between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan.

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

Modi has been chairing regular meetings with the top government functionaries involved in the country's military and diplomatic response to the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22.

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

Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs)-level talks between India and Pakistan are set to be held on Monday. (PTI)

Schools, college to reopen in non-border districts

SRINAGAR: All schools and colleges in the non-border districts of Jammu and Kashmir will reopen on Tuesday after remaining closed for nearly a week.

"All schools and colleges to reopen from tomorrow in non-border districts of Jammu as well as Kashmir," Education Minister Sakina Ittoo said in a post on X.

The schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and See **Schools, college**...on Pg-08

Residents of villages close to LoC begin returning home

Srinagar, May 12 (PTI) Residents of villages close to the LoC who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by the Pakistani military started returning home on Monday.

They started their journey back to their villages after bomb disposal squads cleared the residential areas of any leftover or unexploded shells, officials said.

"We are happy that a ceasefire has been reached between the two countries. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident of the Kamalkote area in Uri.

Some residents praised the army and other security forces for taking care of them.

"The Indian Army has come out with flying colours. It had to respond and See **Residents of**...on Pg-08

Those who left their homes due to Pak shelling can return now: CM Omar Abdullah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POONCH/JAMMU, MAY 12

Asserting that the recent Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir created a "war-like situation", with Poonch district bearing the brunt of the attack, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said those who had left their homes can return as a military understanding between the two countries

is in place now.

Abdullah also dismissed the "Pakistani military's ongoing propaganda", saying the neighbouring country will continue to push it, but the reality is known to the world.

"They (border residents) should now try to return to their homes. Eighty to 90 percent of Poonch town is vacant. See **Those who**...on Pg-08

CM visits shell-hit Poonch, stresses need for building bunkers

Poonch/Jammu, May 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reached out to people affected by Pakistani shelling in the Poonch district and stressed the need for setting up bunkers in the area. 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 See **CM visits**...on Pg-08

War is not Bollywood movie, diplomacy first choice, says ex-Army chief Naravane



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE, MAY 12

Former Indian Army chief General Manoj Naravane has criticised people raising questions about the suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan, saying war is not romantic, nor is it a Bollywood movie.

Speaking at an event in Pune on Sunday, Gen Naravane said he would go to war if ordered, but diplomacy would be his first choice.

The former Army chief pointed out it has been a tumultuous week, starting with Operation Sindoor, the strikes by the Indian Armed Forces on terrorist camps and infrastructure in Pakistan and POK, followed by four days of intense aerial and some land battles.

"It finally culminated in an announcement regarding the cessation of military action. I would like to repeat that it is only a cessation of military operations, not a ceasefire as such. Watch how things unfold in the days and weeks to come," he said.

He noted that several people have raised questions about the suspension of military hostilities and whether it was a good thing.

"If you consider the facts and figures, particularly the See **War is not**...on Pg-08

DGMO-level talks rekindle hope in Bengal BSF jawan's family for his return from Pak captivity

Rishra (WB), May 12 (PTI) The DGMO-level talks between India and Pakistan have brought a ray of hope to the distressed family of BSF constable Purnam Kumar Sahu, who is currently in Pakistani custody after reportedly crossing the international border inadvertently.

Sahu, 40, was posted in the Ferozepur sector of Punjab and was apprehended by Pakistan Rangers on April 23, just a day after a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Following the terror strike, India launched 'Operation Sindoor', a series of precision strikes on terrorist infrastructure across the border on May 7. Pakistan also tried to hit back.

The developments plunged Sahu's family in Rishra, located in West Bengal's Hooghly district, into anxiety and uncertainty.

With no official communication from Pakistani authorities, the family is pinning its hopes on the recent military-level dialogue.

"It has been 20 days. We have no information except that he's in Pakistan. With the DGMOs speaking now, we hope this issue will be raised alongside the ceasefire and peace discussions," Sahu's wife Rajani told reporters.

Rajani said she has been seeking help from officials and leaders and had even travelled to Pathankot and Ferozepur to meet BSF officers.

"After my return from Pathankot, I had hoped that my husband would return soon. When the Pakistani Ranger was detained on the Indian side, we had hoped that he would be released soon. But nothing happened," she said.

The Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday deliberated on various aspects of the May 10 understanding reached between the two sides on cessation of hostilities.

The breakthrough has renewed hopes in Sahu's household, which has been awaiting positive news for nearly three weeks.

Rajani said she also spoke to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who personally called her on Sunday evening.

"The chief minister assured me of every possible effort to bring my husband back. She also enquired about my health and said the government would provide medical assistance to my elderly in-laws, if required," she said.

Pointing to the Pakistani Ranger apprehended by Indian forces in Rajasthan on May 3, she

expressed hope that a possible prisoner swap might pave the way for her husband's return.

"We are hopeful that the authorities concerned will consider this case humanely and act swiftly," she said.

After India launched 'Operation Sindoor', Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damage to several 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.

Schools in border areas of Punjab to remain shut on May 13

Chandigarh, May 12 (PTI) Schools in border areas of Punjab will remain closed on May 13 as a precautionary measure following the suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan, officials said on Monday.

These districts are Amritsar, Pathankot, Fazilka, Ferozepur and Tarn Taran.

In Pathankot and Amritsar, colleges and universities will remain shut on Tuesday, they said. However, authorities in Amritsar said universities and colleges can take classes online.

Meanwhile, schools will reopen in Gurdaspur, Sangrur and Barnala districts on Tuesday.

In Ferozepur and Fazilka districts, schools will remain shut for the next 48 hours as a precautionary measure.

Schools in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Pathankot, Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur districts, that lie on the border with Pakistan, remained shut on Monday. In Pathankot and Gurdaspur, colleges and universities also remained closed.

A semblance of normalcy was observed in the border areas of Punjab on Monday with markets teeming with people even

though schools in some districts remained shut as a precautionary measure following the suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

New Delhi and Islamabad reached an understanding on Saturday afternoon to halt military actions with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

District authorities have said the situation was under control and did not clamp blackouts in the border districts but urged people not to give credence to any rumour and to stay calm. Pathankot, among border districts, had seen multiple drone attacks, launched by Pakistan, which were thwarted by the Indian security forces.

"Situation is currently peaceful. Stay calm and stay alert to messages from the district administration," said a message from the Ferozepur deputy commissioner.

According to an advisory issued by the Gurdaspur district administration on Monday, "Switch off lights voluntarily at 8 pm. Avoid moving outside unless necessary. Stay calm. Schools will reopen tomorrow."

Last rites of BSF officer killed in Pak firing performed with full state honours in Bihar's Saran



Saran (Bihar), May 12 (PTI) The last rites of BSF sub-inspector Mohammed Imtiaz, who was killed in Pakistani firing near the international border in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector, were performed with full state honours at his native village Narayanpur in Bihar's Saran district on Monday evening.

A large crowd gathered to pay their respects as the mortal remains of SI Imtiaz reached the village around 1 pm, even as security personnel carrying the officer's body had a tough time managing the emotionally charged villagers.

The convoy stopped at several places where a large number of people gathered to pay their last respects.

Amidst slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande

Mataram' and 'Shaheed Mohammed Imtiaz Amar Rahe' by people, the mortal remains of the officer were received by his grieving family at their village.

Besides locals, people from adjoining villages also gathered at Narayanpur to pay their last respects to the brave soldier.

Imtiaz's mortal remains arrived at Patna airport in the morning, where he was given a guard of honour by security personnel.

"I am proud of my father and salute all those who sacrificed their lives for the country," his son Imran told reporters at the airport.

"My father was a very strong person. I last spoke to him at 5:30 am on May 10 (Saturday). He had suffered an injury to his right leg," he said. Sub-inspector Imtiaz succumbed to his

injuries later that evening.

Imran demanded that Pakistan be taught a proper lesson for the terror attacks in India. "Pakistan must be taught a proper lesson. Our government should give such a befitting reply that no son has to lose his father again," he said.

Several political leaders and officials were present at the airport to pay their respects, including Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav, state BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, Bihar JD(U) chief, Umesh Kushwaha, ministers and senior administrative officers.

Interacting with reporters at the airport, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "Sub-inspector Imtiaz was killed while giving a befitting reply to Pakistan at the international border in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector. We are safe today because of brave people like him. The country will always remember their sacrifice".

Meanwhile, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said CM Nitish Kumar was likely to visit Narayanpur village on Tuesday.

Sources said Kumar was likely to hand over a cheque of Rs 21 lakh to the bereaved family members.

Wheat production intact unlikely to be hit by weather challenges Agri Min



New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) India's wheat production remains intact at a record 115.3 million tonnes this year, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said, asserting that the second advance estimate is unlikely to be impacted by any weather incidents.

During a weekly review of agricultural activities, Chouhan highlighted that the wheat crop has nearly completed its maturity stage across all growing states.

"The heat wave or high temperatures will actually expedite the harvesting process. Thus, the second advance estimates are unlikely to be impacted..." an official statement quoted the minister as saying.

The agriculture ministry's second estimate, released in March, projected a record wheat output of 115.3 million tonnes for 2024-25 - approximately 2 per cent higher than the previous year's 113.3 million tonnes.

Wheat harvesting has been fully completed in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana,

Rajasthan, and Gujarat, with partial harvesting remaining in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar as of May 2.

The minister said that food stock in the central pool is at a "satisfactory" level, exceeding buffer requirements.

To date, wheat stock has reached 177.08 lakh tonne, higher than the buffer requirement of 74.60 lakh tonne. Similarly, rice stock has reached 389.05 lakh tonne against the buffer norm of 135.80 lakh tonne, the statement added.

The minister also took stock of the progress of sowing of Zaid crops, which are short-duration summer crops that are grown between and during the Rabi and Kharif seasons, generally between March through June.

As of May 2, area sown to paddy has increased to 32.02 lakh hectare from 28.57 lakh hectare in the year-ago period, while pulses acreage increased to 20.67 lakh hectare from 18.47 lakh hectare.

The area of moong and urad has also increased, the statement added.

Chouhan also emphasised the procurement of key pulses like tur, urad, gram, and lentils, directing officials to ensure timely support price payments to farmers.

"Sowing time is still available for tomato, onion, and other crops. Given the current good market prices, we expect to achieve normal area coverage," the statement said.

PM did not mention Trump, US; for first time a third country interfered in our matter: Sibal

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi neither mentioned the US nor President Donald Trump in his address to the nation despite them "interfering" in India's conflict with Pakistan.

Sibal also said the prime minister did not even state how the understanding with Pakistan on halting military hostilities was reached.

Sibal's attack came after Modi's address to the nation in which he sternly warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail and sent a clear message to the world - terror and trade, terror and talks cannot go together.

"Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the prime minister said.

Modi's assertions about not doing trade with Pakistan came minutes after US President Donald Trump said that he told India and Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict.

Reacting to the prime minister's remarks, Sibal said, "We all laud the courage of the armed forces. People of the country salute them for giving a befitting reply to Pakistan. Whenever such terror attack (Pahalgam) takes place, our army will give a befitting reply."

"Some questions arise from the prime minister's address. He neither mentioned the US nor President Trump. Everyone knows that we were told that on May 10, 3:30 pm DGMO Pakistan called our DGMO and then at 5:30 pm Trump made a post on social media. He (Trump) claimed that the US mediated the ceasefire...and we were talking with India and Pakistan for the last 48 hours," Sibal said at a press conference here.

The independent Rajya Sabha MP also referred to Trump's remarks just ahead of the PM's address to attack Modi.

President Trump on Monday claimed that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, adding that he told the two countries America will do a "lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

"And we helped a lot, and we helped a lot with trade. I said, 'Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys. Let's stop it. Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade,'" he claimed.

Referring to Trump's remarks, Sibal said Modi did not speak anything on that also.

"He (Modi) said that we have established a new dimension with Operation Sindoor. Yes, for the first time in India's history, a third country interfered in our matter and told us that they will decide what is to be done...you don't even mention how this understanding was reached (with Pakistan)," Sibal said.

"The second thing was that Modi said if Pakistan does such a thing again, we will give a befitting reply, which means terrorism has not been ended, all terrorists have not been killed and it can happen again. Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to say something, Pulwama happened under whose watch? Pahalgam happened under whose watch? Who will take responsibility for it?" Sibal said.

President Trump did not even mention terrorism in his remarks as if it is not an issue, the former Congress leader said.

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

Make sure travel agents do not misuse Emergency Quota: Railway Ministry tells zonal officers



New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Any request received from travel agents for seat or berth reservations in trains under Emergency Quota shall not be entertained, the Railway Ministry told the zonal officers concerned after it received instances of its misuse.

"Instances of attempt to get the accommodation released out of Emergency Quota unauthorised have been brought to the notice of this office," the ministry said in a written communication to principal chief commercial managers of all 17 railway zones.

The ministry had issued detailed guidelines in 2011 for streamlining the procedure for release of accommodation (seats, berths in trains) out of Emergency Quota, and whenever it receives complaints

regarding its misuse, it reiterates the important points for officers concerned to follow.

"The existing guideline regarding the allotment of Emergency Quota issued from time to time should be followed in true spirit," the Ministry said.

It added, "The written requests for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota must be signed by a Gazetted Officer."

According to the ministry, after receiving a request for release of accommodation out of Emergency Quota, the signatory should be asked to mention his/her name, designation, telephone number/mobile number, and mobile number of any one of the passengers.

It has further advised that every

officer/section/federation will maintain a register containing the details of application for Emergency Quota, in which all such requests shall be diarised indicating all the journey details and also the source from whom the request has been received.

"The diary number of the request entered in the register shall also be indicated on the requests for Emergency Quota," the circular said, adding that it would be the responsibility of the person forwarding or signing the requisition to ensure the credentials of the party travelling.

Cautioning the officials to refrain from inappropriate requisitions, the ministry said, "Requests for release of berth out of Emergency Quota received from the travel agents shall not be entertained."

The ministry has also suggested periodic inspection of the PRS (passenger reservation system) centres by officers to check illegal activities and prevent the nexus between touts and officials working in the reservation offices.

"With a view to prevent the malpractices, reservation requests received from various quarters should be checked from time to time and in cases where there is doubt about the genuineness of the requests/letter, the position may be checked up by speaking to the persons concerned on phone for ensuring the genuineness of the requisition," the circular said.

It added, "The requisition slip with overwriting/cutting and remarks such as 'V. V. IMPT', 'MUST', or 'ADJUST' must be cross-checked with the forwarding reference authority."

The ministry has also urged the officials concerned to keep a record of all the requisition slips for three months from the date of journey.

"In no case any officer should give the blank signed requisition forms to his personal staff for release of berth out of Emergency Quota," it said.

The ministry has also urged the officials concerned to keep a record of all the requisition slips for three months from the date of journey. "In no case any officer should give the blank signed requisition forms to his personal staff for release of berth out of Emergency Quota,"

All our military bases, systems remain fully operational: IAF

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Indian Air Force on Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions if the need arises.

Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said the Indian military's fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure, but it was a "pity" that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists. "We have also iterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure," he said.

"However, it is a pity that the Pakistan military chose to intervene and bat for the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind."

Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt

Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod were addressing a media briefing on 'Operation Sindoor'.

He said India's robust air defence system effectively foiled Pakistan's attempts to attack Indian military installations.

On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, Air Marshal Bharti said, "I would like to emphatically state that, in spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise."

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' early May 7 to destroy seven terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in a strong

retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

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 effect from 5 pm that day.

The Director General of Air Operations said India's robust air defence (AD) system comprises a large variety of AD sensors, and weapon systems from point defence weapons like the LLAD guns, shoulder-fired MANPADS and short-range SAMS (Surface-to-Air Missile Systems) and longer range SAMs held in our inventory.

"Additionally, the numerous waves of drones and UCAVs (Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles) employed by Pakistan were also thwarted by the indigenously developed soft and hard-kill counter-UAS systems and the well-trained Indian AD personnel," he said.

"All this was brought together as an efficient and effective AD environment, by the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the IAF, which accords us Net-Centric Op capability," he said.

"I would like to place on record the performance and efficacy demonstrated by even the older and battle-proven AD weapons like the Pechora, OSA-AK and

the LLAD guns, in countering the Pakistani threat vectors in the current operations."

Air Marshal Bharti said another highlight of 'Operation Sindoor' has been the stellar performance of indigenous AD weapons like the Akash system. The IAF also showed some images of damages inflicted by the Indian military on Pakistan.

Vice Admiral Pramod said the Indian Navy maintains a credible capability to detect, identify and neutralise any aerial platforms that threaten the naval units at sea. 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.

"In the current standoff, the

presence of our aircraft carrier with a large number of Mig 29 K fighters and airborne early warning helicopters prevented any suspicious or hostile aircraft to close the carrier battle group within several hundred km," Vice Admiral Pramod said.

"Over the past few years, and most importantly immediately after the cowardly incident by the Pakistani sponsored terrorist attack at Pahalgam, we had validated our anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence capability in a complex threat environment using a cross platform cooperative mechanism," he added.

Lt Gen Ghai said there has been total synergy between the three services during Operation Sindoor.

Tarigami urges govt to provide jobs to kin of cross-border shelling victims, Seeks compensation for losses

Srinagar, May 12: Expressing deep concern over the suffering of people living along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, on Monday urged both the Government of India and the J&K administration to urgently prioritize the rehabilitation of families affected by recent cross-border shelling.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar today, Tarigami said that border villages in Uri, Poonch, Rajouri, Kupwara, and other areas have faced devastation due to skirmishes. "These people have lived through fear, destruction, and loss. It is the government's responsibility to ensure their safe return, provide adequate compensation, and help rebuild their lives with dignity," he said.

He emphasized that the damage to homes, crops, and livestock must be assessed thoroughly and that the affected should be compensated fairly. "These villages have not only lost shelter but also livelihoods. In areas like Rajouri and Poonch, entire homes have been reduced to rubble. These families deserve a roof over their heads," Tarigami added.

The CPI(M) also extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, stating, "We stand with every family that has suffered loss. In this hour of pain, our solidarity is with them, and we will continue to raise their voice."

He also called for immediate support for families who lost loved ones in the shelling. "The next of kin of those killed must be provided government jobs without delay to ensure their families can survive and rebuild," he urged.

Tarigami appealed to the Government of India to take full responsibility for leading the rehabilitation efforts and to extend all possible assistance to the J&K administration. "This is a time to stand with the people in their hour of grief and need," he said.



LG visits residence of former MLC in Jammu, expresses condolences

JAMMU, MAY 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Council, Late Ramesh Arora, in Karan Nagar, Jammu today. The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

DyCM visits Trewa Arnia, expresses condolences to Rifleman Sunil Kumar's family

JAMMU, MAY 12: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today expressed heartfelt condolences to the grieving family of Rifleman Sunil Kumar who laid his life in the line of duty.

The Dy CM visited Rangpur Trewa village in Arnia to express his condolences to Rifleman Sunil Kumar's family. He paid homage to the martyr, saying that his supreme sacrifice for the nation will always be remembered.

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

Satish Sharma pays homage to BSF martyrs at Jammu

JAMMU, MAY 12: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, today paid heartfelt tribute to the brave soldiers of Border Security Force (BSF) during a solemn wreath laying ceremony held at Shahid Smarak, BSF Frontier Headquarters, Paloura Camp, Jammu.

The ceremony was held in honour of Constable Deepak Chingakhm, who laid down his life in the line of duty on May 11, 2025, during unprovoked cross-border firing along the International Boundary in R.S. Pura, Jammu.

The Minister along with senior BSF officials and dignitaries, laid wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence, paying deep respect to the supreme sacrifice of the young soldier.

Earlier, Satish Sharma paid floral tributes to Sub-Inspector Mohammad Imteyaz, another valiant BSF officer who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that our nation stands indebted to these brave hearts whose courage and dedication safeguard our borders. Their sacrifices will always be remembered and serve as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

The tribute ceremony was attended by BSF personnel, civil and police officials, family members of fallen soldiers, and locals who expressed gratitude to the nation's defenders.

Satish Sharma visits relief camps; meets displaced border residents

JAMMU, MAY 12: Demonstrating the government's commitment towards welfare of citizens affected by the recent conflict, Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited multiple makeshift relief camps set up for residents displaced due to cross border shelling by Pakistan.

The Minister visited several key locations currently housing displaced families, including Basawa Dev Sthan, GHS Dhanna Chapri, GPS Amblian, Little Flower Public School, Dhanna, Panchayat Ghar, Dhanna, Bright Future Public School, Dhanna, GMS Dhanna Ambo Shani, GPS Dhanna Dhanu, Panchayat Ghar, Dori, Baba Mai

Mal Dev Sthan, Dager and several adjoining temporary shelter sites.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the affected families to assess their immediate needs and ensure adequate provision of relief services, including food, clean drinking water, medical aid, sanitation and temporary education facilities for the children.

"The plight of our border residents is deeply concerning. We are taking all necessary steps to ensure their safety, dignity and timely rehabilitation," stated the Minister. "Every displaced family will receive the support they need until they can safely return home."

The Minister directed the

officials to strengthen supply chains for essential items, deploy additional health workers and improve the overall conditions within the shelters. He also emphasized the need to safeguard children's education during this crisis by utilizing local schools as temporary learning centers.

Accompanied by the officials from administration, local leaders, emergency response teams, NGO Society for Scheduled & Backwards with its General Secretary Tariq Mirza, Minister Sharma reaffirmed the Omar Abdullah government's resolve to provide both immediate relief and long-term support to the displaced communities.

CS takes on spot assessment of NH restoration at Ramban

RAMBAN, MAY 12: In a move to assess and expedite restoration work on the crucial Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the affected sites in district Ramban.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ramban, Kulbir Singh and SSP Traffic National Highway, Raja Adil Hamid and PD NHAI Parshotam Singh.

Dulloo along with the team inspected various vulnerable and affected spots, including Marog, Sita Ram Passi, Seri, Mehar, and Dalwas to review the extent of damage and ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, he emphasized the urgency of the situation and directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of work to ensure early clearance of stranded vehicles and resumption of traffic on this critical route.

Acknowledging the plight of those stranded, the Chief Secretary instructed the district administration to extend all necessary support to the stranded passengers. He also called upon the traffic police to provide full cooperation to the executing agency, facilitating seamless restoration operations.

Dulloo asked for prioritizing the movement of passenger vehicles and trucks carrying perishable goods once the road reopens. He highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to minimise inconvenience and mitigate the impact resulting from the disruption.

Jal Shakti Minister visits Ul Uloom, assesses damages

POONCH, MAY 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, visited Jamia Zia Ul Uloom Poonch, and assessed the damage caused there by recent cross-border firing in the region.

The Minister expressed deep shock and concern over the unfortunate loss of Qari Muhammad Iqbal due to shelling from across the LoC.

Maulana Syed Habib briefed the Minister on the extent of damage caused by shelling in Poonch and specifically at Zia Ul Uloom.

The Minister praised the institute's management who along with NGOs and administration, made commendable efforts in assisting the people during adversity.

CS visits Dr Thapa's home to pay homage

JAMMU, MAY 12: In a solemn gesture of solidarity and respect, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the residence of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa (JKAS), Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty due to cross-border shelling in Rajouri.

Expressing profound grief over the untimely loss, the Chief Secretary extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, acknowledging the officer's exceptional dedication and sacrifice. He emphasized that Dr. Thapa's service to the community and his unwavering commitment towards his responsibilities will always be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

On the occasion, Dulloo observed that his service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief, he added.

The Chief Secretary assured the family of all possible support from the administration, reiterating the commitment to stand by the family during this difficult time. He also interacted with the family members, offering words of comfort and assurance of continued support.

Dulloo also said that the tragic loss of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa has not only created a void in the administrative fraternity but has also left a lasting impact on all those who knew him for his dedicated service and kind nature. His contributions towards development of Rajouri and his selfless service will always be remembered as a testament to his commitment and courage.

Dulloo visits GMC Jmu to assess health of cross-border shelling victims

JAMMU, MAY 12: In an outreach to the citizens affected by the recent shelling incidents in the border districts of the Jammu region, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today visited Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to enquire about the well-being of the injured admitted there.

Expressing solidarity with the victims and their families, the Chief Secretary personally interacted with each of the injured patients, assessing their recovery by moving bed to bed and engaging in heartfelt conversations.

During the visit, Chief Secretary Dulloo also entered the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to check on the health status of two critically injured patients. He conveyed his



deep concern for their recovery and encouraged the medical staff to prioritize the best possible treatment for all those affected.

Highlighting the administration's commitment to the welfare of its citizens, Dulloo directed the Principal of the College to ensure effective and timely medical care. He reassured the victims and their family members that the government stands firmly with them during these testing times, pledging full support towards their recovery and well-being.

He also appreciated the whole-hearted efforts of the medical staff and urged them to maintain the highest standards of care, emphasizing that every effort should be made to accelerate the recovery process.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized that the administration remains vigilant and proactive in addressing the needs of those affected by such unfortunate incidents, reiterating that collective efforts are being made to minimize suffering besides expeditious recovery of all of these victims.

Association of Indian Diplomats, NCW condemn trolling of Misri; Tharoor, Owaisi, others back FS

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who faced trolling on social media in the wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions, has received support from veteran diplomat Nirupama Menon Rao, a body of Indian diplomats and a host of politicians from several parties.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also strongly condemned the trolling of Misri, his family and particularly, his daughter.

The Delhi-based Association of Indian Diplomats issued a statement on Monday, describing Misri's trolling as "appalling and completely unacceptable".

"The Association of Indian Diplomats strongly condemns the trolling and doxing of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family. This is appalling and completely unacceptable. He is an outstanding professional with an impeccable record. Strict action needs to be taken against those responsible," it said.

Leaders from the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Left parties backed Misri and deplored the online attack targeting him.

"There's no doubt that @VikramMisri is an outstanding

officer who has served the nation admirably for decades, most recently during the current crisis. I stand with him and deplore those who would insult and undermine an honest and hard-working public servant," Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said in a post on X.

A day earlier, Tharoor's party colleague, Sachin Pilot, too had come out in support of Misri.

"I condemn the social media trolling directed at family of the Foreign Secretary

@VikramMisri It's unacceptable to target our professional diplomats and civil servants -- those who work dedicatedly to serve the nation," Pilot said in a post on X.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and former foreign secretary Rao had also taken to X on Sunday to extend support to Misri.

Misri assumed charge as the foreign secretary on July 15, 2024.

"A career diplomat from the 1989 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, Ambassador Misri has served in various capacities at the Ministry of External Affairs, in the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi and in various Indian Missions abroad in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America," according to a profile of



the foreign secretary on the MEA website.

His assignments in New Delhi included work on the "Pakistan desk of the Ministry of External Affairs" and stints on the staffs of two foreign ministers (I K Gujral and Pranab Mukherjee), it said.

In the last few days, Misri has addressed a number of press briefings on Operation Sindoor.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday 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 on Saturday evening, Misri had said the director generals of military operations of the two countries agreed on the understanding during a call in the afternoon and the next talks were scheduled for 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

United States.

As Misri faced online trolling, Yadav wrote a long post on X in Hindi on Sunday and said such incidents break the morale of honest officers, who work day and night dedicated to the country.

"It is the government's responsibility to make decisions -- not individual officers'. Some anti-social criminal elements are openly crossing all limits of abusive language against the officer and his family, but neither the BJP government nor any of its ministers is coming forward to protect his honour and respect or discussing possible action against those who make such unwanted posts," Yadav said.

Rao called the trolling of the senior diplomat "utterly shameful" and said it "crosses every line of decency".

"It's utterly shameful to troll Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family over the India-Pakistan ceasefire announcement. A dedicated diplomat, Misri has served India with professionalism and resolve, and there is no ground whatsoever for his vilification.

"Doxing his daughter and abusing his loved ones crosses every line of decency. This toxic hate must stop -- stand united behind our diplomats, not tear them down.

#StopTrollingMisri #SupportDiplomats #VikramMisri #IndianDiplomacy #NoToDoxxing," she said in a post on X.

Owaisi also came out in support of Misri.

"Mr Vikram Misri is a decent, honest, hard-working diplomat working tirelessly for our nation. Our civil servants work under the executive this must be remembered and they shouldn't be blamed for the decisions taken by the executive or any political leadership running Watan E Aziz," the member of Parliament from Hyderabad said in a post on X on Sunday.

In a statement issued by National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar on Monday, the panel denounced the sharing of the personal contact details of Misri's daughter on social media, calling it a "grossly irresponsible act".

Rahatkar stressed that personal attacks on the family members of senior civil servants like Misri are not only unacceptable but also morally indefensible.

Calling for restraint and respect in both online and offline spaces, the NCW urged citizens to rise above such behaviour. "Let us choose dignity and responsible conduct," Rahatkar added.

Precautionary blackouts enforced in Punjab's Amritsar, Hoshiarpur



Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney said in a message and urged people to stay away from windows.

The Amritsar administration has urged citizens to remain calm. "We will notify you when the electricity supply is ready to be restored. Do not panic."

In Hoshiarpur district, blackout measures were enforced in Dasuya and Mukerian.

A semblance of normalcy was observed in the border areas of Punjab on Monday, with markets teeming with people even though schools in some districts remained shut as a precautionary measure following the suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

New Delhi and Islamabad reached an understanding on May 10 to halt military actions after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes

Chandigarh, May 12 (PTI) Precautionary blackout measures were enforced in Punjab's Amritsar and Hoshiarpur districts on Monday. Electricity has also been switched off in some areas of Jalandhar, officials said.

"As a precautionary measure, lights have been switched off in some areas around Suranassi as there have been reports of drone sightings. We are verifying them. There is no (total) blackout as of now.

There is nothing to worry, as confirmed by armed forces officers. They are on regular vigil as always," Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said in a message at 9:15 pm.

Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan.

An air-raid siren was sounded in Amritsar, which lies along the border.

"We are alert. We are enforcing a blackout," Amritsar Deputy

Declare cross-border smuggling of drugs, arms as acts of terrorism: Amritsar MP in letter to PM



Amritsar, May 12 (PTI) Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare cross-border smuggling of drugs and arms as "acts of terrorism".

In a letter to the prime minister, Aujla sought urgent national action against cross-border smuggling of drugs and arms.

"I write to you with grave concern and a deep sense of urgency regarding the ongoing and escalating crisis of cross-border drugs and arms smuggling in the border areas of Amritsar

district," he said in the letter.

"More than two lakh people have lost their lives so far due to the drugs menace spreading in this region. Shockingly, over 90 per cent of the deceased are from the Sikh community, reflecting the disproportionate impact this crisis has had on the people of Punjab," the Amritsar MP said.

This is a sustained and deliberate assault on youngsters, families and the future of Punjab. It is nothing short of an act of terrorism and, in every

sense, an act of war, he added.

Despite the availability of improved technology, drones carrying thousands of kilogrammes of drugs and dangerous weaponry are entering Indian territory, the Congress leader noted in his letter to the prime minister.

"A large section of the young generation now seeks to leave India, fleeing from the despair caused by the rampant drug abuse and lack of safety. Even tourists visiting Punjab have fallen victim to this growing narco-terrorism network," he said.

"It is equally alarming that there are strong indications of the involvement of complicity of certain officials, bureaucrats and elements within the system, who are enabling these smuggling operations," he added.

Aujla mentioned that his letter was not just an appeal but a demand on behalf of the people of the border belt.

PM's address signals policy shift, Pak can't shun responsibility for terror attacks now: Fadnavis

Mumbai, May 12 (PTI) Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indicated a departure from the past by making it clear that India will not make any distinction between terrorists and a government harbouring them.

In his first address after Operation Sindoor, Modi sent a strong message to Pakistan that it can no longer evade responsibility for terror attacks, Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur.

"Prime minister Modi made it very clear that if a non-state actor is involved in a terror attack, the government of that country will be held accountable and will face consequences.... This is a crucial shift, because Pakistan has always claimed before global forums that such acts were carried out by non-state actors and not linked to their government," said Fadnavis.

The PM articulated three "new normals", he said.

"Prime minister Modi clearly stated that every terrorist attack on Indian soil will be treated as war against India and will invite strong retaliation. Second, India will no longer tolerate nuclear

blackmailing. And third, there will be no distinction between terrorists, their supporters, and the government harbouring them," said Fadnavis.

The third point marked a clear departure from the past, said Maharashtra chief minister.

"When the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack happened, the Indian government had urged the international community to hold Pakistan accountable. But our demand was not accepted, and Pakistan was treated separately. Today, our prime minister has ended that ambiguity," the BJP leader said.

Modi set out India's policy, resolve and strategic position with clarity, he said, adding, "We all saw the precision, accuracy and strength of Operation Sindoor. I thank and congratulate our armed forces, and I also congratulate prime minister Narendra Modi for his decisive leadership."

The way India entered Pakistani territory, targeted its military installations in Punjab province and carried out the operation shows our strength, Fadnavis said, claiming that Pakistan got scared and contacted India to request a ceasefire.

Delhi Police busts fake trading app racket; arrests four, including two private bank employees

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Delhi Police has busted a racket running a fake trading app and arrested four people, including two private bank employees, for allegedly facilitating fraud worth lakhs through forged documents and shell companies, police said on Monday.

The arrested accused have been identified as Aman Kumar, Rahul Tyagi, Ankit Nagar and Abhishek Singh. Police have recovered four mobile phones, 11 cheque books and three PAN cards from their possession.

The action follows a complaint filed by a Patel Nagar resident who alleged he was duped of Rs 16.70 lakh after being lured into investing the amount via a fraudulent trading application promoted through a social media advertisement, they said.

According to police, the complainant clicked on the advertisement and was redirected to a messaging group where he was persuaded to invest in the app.

The complainant said he

initially invested Rs 10,000 and the app showed fake profits, prompting him to make further deposits to the tune of Rs 16.70 lakh. When he attempted to withdraw the money, he was removed from the messaging group.

Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR and launched a probe.

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions revealed that the amount has been distributed across multiple bank accounts, including one under the name of a private agency in a Noida-based private bank.

Police traced this account and arrested Aman Kumar (29), a Hapur resident. Aman had opened the fraudulent account and sold it to cyber criminals for commission, they said.

Aman's interrogation led to the arrest of Rahul Tyagi (39), another Hapur resident, who allegedly arranged fake bank accounts for cyber fraudsters.

A raid at Tyagi's residence in Noida Sector-7 led to the

recovery of 11 cheque books and three PAN cards issued in fictitious names, police said.

"Further investigation revealed the use of forged documents to float shell companies, which were then used to open current bank accounts. Two private bank employees -- Ankit Nagar (31) and Abhishek Singh (26) -- were found to be involved in facilitating these account openings without proper verification," a police statement said.

"The accused persons floated fake firms to open current accounts in private sector banks using forged documentation. These accounts were then sold or rented to cyber criminals, enabling the laundering of cheated funds. The role of the bank officials was crucial in bypassing due diligence processes," read the statement. Further investigation is underway to trace other persons and accounts involved in the racket, police added.

Punjab's 'war against drugs' campaign: Over 10,000 drug smugglers held, 398 kg heroin seized

Chandigarh, May 12 (PTI) Punjab Police have registered 6,280 first information reports and arrested 10,444 drug smugglers since March 1, as ongoing "Yudh Nashian Virudh" to eradicate drug menace from the state completed 72 days, officials said on Monday.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had asked the police commissioners, deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police (SSPs) to make Punjab drug-free state.

Since the launch of this campaign, Punjab Police under Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav's directions have been conducting different operations, including cordon and search operations, night domination and raids at drug hotspots across the state, said an official statement issued

here.

Giving details, Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla, who has been monitoring these operations, said that police teams have recovered 398 kg heroin, 186 kg opium, 117 quintals poppy husk, eight kg 'charas', 135 kg 'ganja' (cannabis), 2.5 kg ICE (crystal methamphetamine), 1.2 kg cocaine, 23.57 lakh intoxicant pills/tablets and Rs 8.58 crores drug money from their possession.

Meanwhile, the state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy -- enforcement, de-addiction and prevention (EDP) -- to eradicate drugs from the state, said the statement, adding Punjab Police as part of de-addiction has convinced 104 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment.

Public Notice

It is inform to general public the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded in Municipal Council birth records as Inaya Fatima while as her actual name is Parya Chishti. Now, I am applying for its correction of the same if anybody have any objection may file the same to the office of Executive officer Birth records Municipal Council Anantnag within Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Salman Chishti
F/O Parya Chishti
R/O Gulsanabad Anantnag
Cell no: 9066075187

(SA)

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly mentioned in my driving licence bearing no JK0520140045026 as Mudassir Ahmad Magray instead of Mudassir Ahmad Magray. Now I have applied for Correction of the same. If any person have any objection in this regard may file the same to office of ARTO Sopore within the period of Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mudassir Ahmad Magray
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Magray
R/o Chandil Wanigam

(LT)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of date of birth certificate of my ward namely Sahil Abbas Ganie who was born on 08-09-2008 at Home. If anybody have any objections, He/She may contact for the same at Registrar Deaths and Births Block Development Beerwah within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Nazir Ahmad Ganie
F/O Sahil Abbas Ganie
R/O Iskanderpora Tehsil Beerwah

(BNM)

Real Kashmir FC defeats Downtown Heroes in Srinagar Premier League

SRINAGAR, May 12: Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Downtown Heroes in the ongoing Srinagar Premier Football League at TRC Ground on Monday.

The win came after a tightly contested match that showcased determination and skill from both sides.

The My Youth My Pride Srinagar Premier Division Football League is being organized by the District Football Association Srinagar and features the top football clubs from the district. Monday's match saw RKFC's reserve team put up a strong fight to clinch the win. The team management of Real

Kashmir FC praised the squad for their spirited performance, especially highlighting their discipline and teamwork on the field. The club, owned by Arshid Shawl, has been steadily making a mark in Indian football circles.

RKFC's reserve team continues to impress, coming off the back

of a commendable run in the recently concluded I-League, where the senior team secured third place among the country's top football clubs.

With this win, Real Kashmir FC has added crucial points to their campaign in the Srinagar Premier League, boosting morale as they aim for the title.

از نیابت گام
مضمون درخواست: مرس باو، مریم باو، ظہور احمد ملک اولادان غلام حسن ملک ساکتہی
پورہ چارہ تحصیل گام، برادرسول EWS، بچن ساکان
اشتہار بچراہ آکھہی ہر خاصہ وعام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں ساکتہی کا نقذات با حصول EWS غنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔
ساکتہی کا اظہار ہے کہ اس کے پاس دیہہ نما میں یاد ہے کہ باہر کوئی بھی جائیداد زرعی یا غیر
زرعی موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکتہی کے کا نقذات دفتر نما میں زیر کارواں ہیں۔ زیر بحث غنیکٹ
بچن ساکان کے اجرا کرنے میں ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اندر ایک
ہفتہ نما میں پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔
تحریر اصرار نائب تحصیلدار گام
BNM

Left parties back Misri, Brittias writes to home minister demanding probe into online trolling faced by FS

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Left parties on Monday slammed the trolls targeting Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, with the CPI(M) questioning the BJP-led government's silence over the issue and its leader, John Brittias, writing to Home Minister Amit Shah for an inquiry into the online attacks faced by the senior diplomat.

In a post on X, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) shared an image quoting a report on Misri and his daughter being trolled online.

"Why is the government silent? Shame on the trolls," the CPI(M) said.

Brittias, the parliamentary party leader of the CPI(M) in the Rajya Sabha and a member of the Parliamentary Panel on External Affairs, condemned the barrage of

online attacks targeting Misri and his family, and requested the home minister to take action.

Brittias said the coordinated online assaults, far from being isolated acts of malice, reveal a disturbing pattern of digital defamation aimed at discrediting the very custodians of the country's constitutional and administrative order.

"It is distressing that his articulation of policies and decisions, duly approved by the ruling dispensation, has been misconstrued and cynically weaponised to personally vilify him. It is, therefore, deeply alarming that Shri Misri has been singled out for a vile torrent of abuse on social media, with his children even being dragged into the

mire of toxic commentary," the Left leader said.

He also mentioned the targeted campaigns of cyber hate and abuse against Himanshi Narwal, the widow of naval officer Lieutenant Vinay Narwal who was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, over her call for communal amity, and Arathi, the daughter of slain tourist N Ramachandran, who faced cyber bullying for expressing gratitude to local Kashmiris, who came to her aid during the April 22 terror strike.

Brittias urged the home minister to order an immediate inquiry into the online trolling of Misri and the bereaved family members of Pahalgam terror attack victims.

"I also request your good self to instruct the investiga-



tion authorities to investigate the source, intent and patterns of digital abuse and take punitive measures against the perpetrators of these heinous actions, and ensure protection for public officials and citizens alike," the CPI(M) leader said.

In a post on X on Sunday, Brittias called Misri "one of the finest officers" in India.

"Not surprised the way hate and hatred heaped on one of the finest officers of this nation. Vikram Misri discharged the functions assigned by the govt. If parivar

handles are unhappy about the ceasefire they should turn it on their leaders who misled with their hawkish postures!" he said.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) claimed that the foreign secretary is being targeted for saying "terrorists want to divide India on communal lines, and people of India defeated that with unity".

"It's clear who hates our unity and democracy," the CPI said in a post on X.

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya questioned why Misri was being trolled for a decision taken by the government.

"Faced with relentless abusive trolling by the jingoistic RW, India's Foreign Sec-

retary has had to protect his X handle. Why should the FS be trolled for a decision taken by the PM? Is it because he thanked the Indian people for foiling the communal design of the terrorists?" Bhattacharya asked in a post on X.

Misri, who faced trolling on social media in the wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions, has received support from political leaders, former bureaucrats and defence veterans.

Making the announcement on Saturday evening, Misri said the director generals of military operations of the two countries agreed on the understanding during a call in the afternoon and the next talks were scheduled for May 12.

WITHOUT FEAR THERE'S NO LOVE: Air Marshal quotes Ramcharitmanas on Op Sindoor

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) At a serious military briefing, one doesn't expect high literature and text from epics to be quoted by a battle-hardened air warrior to drive home a point.

Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal A K Bharti, though stunned and captivated a large gathering of generally cynical journalists by quoting a couplet from Ramcharitmanas to expound on Lord Rama's patience and anger at the Sea God.

Without reading from any paper, the Air Marshal fluently recited the couplet - 'Vinay Na Manat Jaldhi Jad, Bhaye Teen Din Beet, Bole Ram Sakop Tab, Bhai Bin Hoi Na Preet'.

Translated in English, the couplet reads, "The ocean remained unmoved by humble requests, three days passed. Then Lord Rama, with rising anger, declared without fear, there can be no love."

This couplet refers to the time when Lord Rama waiting for the Sea God to grant him the passage to Lanka loses patience after three days and becomes angry. He declares that love does not exist without fear and lifts his bow. Only then does the Sea God appear and helps Lord Ram.

"What message is being given... So, a hint is enough for an intelligent person," Bharti said, as the room broke into applause.



The display of literary prowess was triggered by a reporter's question whether there was any symbolism or messaging in using the Sanskrit hymn dedicated to Lord Shiva in the briefing on Sunday and a famed poetry of 'Rashtrakavi' Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on epic Mahabharata on Monday.

Before the briefing started, the military played on a big screen, a key verse from 'Krishna ki Chetavani', part of Dinkar's timeless classic 'Rashmirathi' in a rock music style rendition, juxtaposed with the images of the Indian military assets - missiles, naval platforms, weapon system, air de-

fence system - with subtitles.

"Jab nash manuj pe chhata hai, pehle vivek mar jata hai... Hit-vachan tune nahin maana, maitri ka mulya nahin pehchana... Antim sankalp sunaata hun. Yachana nahin ab rann hoga, jeevan jai ya ki maran hoga," the lyrics played out with subtitles carrying words - 'Prepared', 'Each move detected', 'Every step watched', 'Tracked', 'Monitored'.

In English, it roughly translates as - "When doom hovers over a man, the first thing that vanishes is wisdom...you did not heed wise words, did not recognise value of friendship... announcing last resolve. There will be war and not pleading, glory to life or death it will be".

Before the briefing by the military on Sunday, Shiva Tandava Stotram was played on the big screen, setting the tone for the press conference.

A montage of images showing damage inflicted by the Indian military under Operation Sindoor played with subtitles such as - 'heed our advice', 'terrorism will have a cost for Pakistan', 'heavy', 'inevitable', 'unaffordable'.

During Monday's briefing, sounds of a powerful rendition of 'Krishna ki Chetavani' poem echoed through the hall - a metaphor-laden message delivered to Pakistan by the Indian military with a poetic precision.

A collage of images of

wreckage of Pakistani drones destroyed by the Indian armed forces under Operation Sindoor and a montage of videos showcasing India's military's prowess in all three domains - land, air and sea - played on a large screen along with music.

The message was loud and clear - India's zero-tolerance for terrorism and its resolute stand to protect the nation's sovereignty and integrity and ensure safety of its citizens.

Director General Military Operations (DGMO), Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, and Director General of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral A N Pramod, also briefed the media on Operation Sindoor that was launched early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The top IAF officer pointed to footage of wreckage of Turkish drones and other aerial assets destroyed by the Indian armed forces and the robust air defence posture maintained by the forces.

"Our counter-UAS, our trained air defence operators are fully capable and our indigenous capabilities have demonstrated that whichever technology may come, we are prepared to counter. And I don't need to say much, you have seen with your very eyes, what eventually they have met with," he said.

Congress demands answers from govt on Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Congress on Monday demanded answers from the government on whether the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack have been arrested or killed and who was responsible for the security lapses that led to the incident, in which 26 people lost their lives.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress general secretary Bhupesh Baghel asked whether there has been a change in the country's foreign policy to allow third-party intervention in matters between India and Pakistan.

He accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of politicising the April 22 Pahalgam attack on social media and asked if US President Donald Trump announcing cessation of firing between India and Pakistan was a diplomatic failure.

The Congress leader also raised questions on the government's leadership and accused it of playing with the emotions of people.

Baghel asked why a special session of Parliament or an all-party meeting chaired by the

prime minister is not being convened.

He said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would not attend all-party meetings anymore if Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not attend those.

Baghel said in 1971, then prime minister Indira Gandhi showed the world that India will not bow down before anyone.

He said the armed forces are deployed on the border with the same spirit today.

The former Chhattisgarh chief minister said whenever there was any crisis, the Congress stood with the country, keeping politics aside and putting national interest above everything else.

"In 1971, Indiraji rejected pressure from America and defeated Pakistan. Even today, we have the same pledge, as one needs nationalism and not politics in the fight against terrorism. I want to ask the government if we have changed our policy under pressure from America," he said.

Baghel said the Congress has cancelled all its political rallies, postponed the Save Constitution ral-

lies and instead, taken out 'Jai Hind yatra' to unite people in the fight against terrorism.

"The government should respond on why a special session of Parliament is not being convened. The government should spell out if the terrorists behind the Pahalgam terror attack have been eliminated or nabbed," he said.

"Who is taking responsibility for the security lapses in Pahalgam, which the government has admitted at the last all-party meeting... Is the home minister resigning?"

"Due to the change in the foreign policy, the government is playing with the emotions of people as it is agreeing to whatever America is dictating and not even countering it," the Congress leader claimed.

Baghel said the manner in which Trump announced the military understanding between India and Pakistan to stop firing at each other in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, the country is feeling cheated and insulted and that is why the Congress is demanding a special session of Parliament.

Businessman held for 'objectionable' video on Pahalgam terror attack



Surat, May 12 (PTI) Police have arrested a 40-year-old businessman in Surat city of Gujarat for allegedly posting an objectionable video on a social media platform related to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, an official said on Monday.

The man, identified as Dipen Parmar, was arrested on Sunday by personnel of the Amroli police station after he posted a video on Facebook with a message that the "Pahalgam terror attack was premeditated and the leaders of terrorists live in India".

Through his video, posted on Facebook page 'Jago India', Parmar tried to convey a baseless and misleading message, the Amroli police said in a statement.

Police registered an FIR against Parmar under section 197 (1) (D) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for publishing false or misleading information that jeopardises the sovereignty, unity and integrity, or security of India, and subsequently arrested him, it said.

Terrorists struck in the picturesque Baisaran in Pahalgam which is the favourite hotspot of tourists from across the country, gunning down 26 people and injuring several others.

India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7 and destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Pope Leo XIV urges release of imprisoned journalists, affirms gift of free speech, press

Vatican City, May 12 (AP) Pope Leo XIV on Monday called for the release of imprisoned journalists and affirmed the "precious gift of free speech and the press" in an audience with some of the 6,000 journalists who descended on Rome to cover his election as the first American pontiff.

Leo received a standing ovation as he entered the Vatican auditorium for his first meeting with representatives of the general public.

The 69-year-old Augustinian missionary, elected in a 24-hour conclave last week, called for journalists to use words for peace, to reject war and to give voice to the voiceless.

He expressed solidarity with journalists around the world who have been jailed for trying to seek and report the truth. Drawing applause from the crowd, he asked for their release.

"The church recognises in these witnesses - I am thinking of those who report on war even at the cost of their lives - the courage of those who defend dignity, justice and the right of people to be informed, because only informed individuals can make free choices," he said.

"The suffering of these imprisoned journalists challenges the conscience of nations and the international commu-



nity, calling on all of us to safeguard the precious gift of free speech and of the press."

Leo opened the meeting with a few words in English, joking that if the crowd was still awake and applauding at the end, it mattered more than the ovation that greeted him.

Turning to Italian, he thanked the journalists for their work covering the papal transition and urged them to use words of peace.

"Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others," he said.

"In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say 'no' to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war."

After his brief speech, in which he reflected on the power of words to do good, he greeted some of the journalists in the front rows and then shook hands with the crowd as he exited the audience hall down the central aisle. He signed a few autographs and posed for a few selfies.

It was in the 2013 audience with journalists who covered the election of history's first Latin American pope that Pope Francis explained his choice of name, after St. Francis of Assisi, and his desire for a "church which is poor and for the poor!"

Airstrike in central Myanmar kills up to 22 people at bombed school, reports say

Bangkok, May 12 (AP) An airstrike by Myanmar's military on a village in the country's central Sagaing region hit a school on Monday, killing as many as 20 students and two teachers, according to a member of a resistance group, an aid worker and media reports.

The morning attack on Ohe Htein Twin village in the region's Tabayin township, also known as Depayin, also wounded dozens of students, they said.

Neither the military government nor state-controlled media have released information about the reported airstrike.

The military has increasingly used airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

More than 6,600 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces since then, according to figures compiled by nongovernmental organisations.

A member of the White Depayin People's Defence Force resistance group fighting against army rule told The Associated Press that a fighter jet dropped a bomb directly onto a school, where many students from primary to high school levels were studying after 9 am.

The area is about 115 kilometres northwest of Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city.

The resistance fighter, who rushed to the site of the attack to help the victims, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was



afraid of being arrested by the military. He said that 20 students and two teachers were killed in the attack on the school, which is operated by the country's pro-democracy movement, and about 50 others were wounded. Three nearby houses were damaged.

He also said that there had been no recent fighting in the area, though Sagaing is a stronghold of the resistance.

Nay Phone Latt, a spokesperson for the opposition's National Unity Government, told the AP that he received the same information on the number of casualties, and that the death toll could rise. The organization is the main opposition group coordinating resistance to military rule.

He accused the military of deliberately attacking civilians in monasteries, refugee camps, schools and hospitals, with the excuse that resistance fighters were sheltering at such sites, though this was not the case and the bombings were intended to alienate the people from the resistance movement.

The death tolls from Monday's bombing reported by independent Myanmar media ranged from 17 to more than 20. A volunteer in Tabayin assisting displaced people who asked not to be identified because of fear of government reprisals said he received the information from the ground that 12 students were confirmed dead and around 30-50 others were wounded.

Sagaing region, near the border with India, has been a stronghold of armed resistance, and the military in recent years has stepped up airstrikes against the local pro-democracy People's Defence Forces. The resistance has no effective defense against air attacks.

In September 2022, aerial attacks by the military's helicopters against a school and village in Let Yet Kone village in the same township, killed at least 13 people, including seven children.

Airstrikes in April 2023 killed as many as 160 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony held by opponents of army rule outside Pazigy village in Sagaing region's Kanbalu township.

Airstrikes in Myanmar garnered increased attention recently when numerous reports deemed credible by the United Nations and human rights groups said that they continued to be carried out in the wake of Myanmar's devastating March 28 earthquake, after which the military and resistance groups declared ceasefires to facili-

UN Global Road Safety Week: WHO urges members for safer road design, lower speed limits



New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The WHO has urged all member states, the civil society, the private sector and communities to push for people-centred mobility policies, safer road design, safe vehicles and lower speed limits on the occasion of the 8th UN Global Road Safety Week.

The UN Global Road Safety Week is marked biennially, starting on the third Monday of May.

This year, the theme urges the world to make walking and cycling safe for everyone.

Walking and cycling are an integral part of the multimodal transport systems in the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2020-2030. Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, said.

They also promote healthy and sustainable cities and lifestyles, she added.

"Globally each year, road-traffic crashes take a devastating toll on our

communities, claiming the lives of nearly 1.2 million (12 lakh) people and leaving up to 50 million (five crore) more with non-fatal injuries. These tragedies are not mere statistics. They are the loss of children, parents and loved ones, and are largely preventable," Wazed said.

"Road-traffic injuries are now the leading cause of death among young people aged five to 29 years, and they continue to be a pressing public health concern in our WHO South-East Asia Region," she said.

"In 2021 alone, our region accounted for more than 3.3 lakh deaths from road crashes, representing 28 per cent of the global total," she added.

Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and operators of two- and three-wheelers, made up for 66 per cent of those fatalities, Wazed said.

This year's theme is a timely call to action.

"Pedestrians and cyclists already account for more than one in four road-traffic deaths. Ensuring their safety is not only a matter of saving lives, prioritising walking and cycling supports physical activity, which is a key modifiable risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as heart diseases, stroke, diabetes and cancers. Walking and cycling also support mental well-being, helping to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety," Wazed said.

Road safety is an important element of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidance for healthy cities.

"In our region, the WHO partnership for healthy cities has been working extensively, with megacities, such as Mumbai and Bangkok, to address road safety and promote safe transportation. This includes improved designs of pedestrian walkways, through the assessment of hundreds of kilometres of roads and sidewalks and through universally inclusive designs for accessible walkways," Wazed said.

Creating safe, inclusive and accessible roads for all in the densely populated cities of South-East Asia is challenging, she pointed out.

"However, doing so will support the population, especially the most vulnerable, through improved community well-being and environmental sustainability. When we integrate road safety with the promotion of physical activity, we address interconnected challenges — injuries, non-communicable diseases, mental health and even climate change," she said.

Trump promises to order that US pay only price other nations do for some drugs

Washington, May 12 (AP) President Donald Trump says he'll sign an executive order on Monday that, if implemented, could bring down the costs of some medications — reviving a failed effort from his first term on an issue he's talked up since even before becoming president.

The order Trump is promising will direct the Department of Health and Human Services to tie what Medicare pays for medications administered in a doctor's office to the lowest price paid by other countries.

"I will be instituting a MOST FAVOURED NATION'S POLICY whereby the United States will pay the same price as the Nation that pays the lowest price anywhere in the World," the president posted Sunday on his social media site, pledging to sign the order on Monday morning at the White House.

"Our Country will finally be treated fairly, and our citizens Healthcare Costs will be reduced by numbers never even thought of before," Trump added.

His proposal would likely only impact certain drugs covered by Medicare and given in an office — think infusions that treat cancer, and other injectables. But it could potentially bring significant savings to the government, although the "TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS" Trump boasted about in his post may be an exaggeration.

Medicare provides health insurance for roughly 70 million older Americans. Complaints about US drug prices being notoriously high,

even when compared with other large and wealthy countries, have long drawn the ire of both parties, but a lasting fix has never cleared Congress.

Under the planned order, the federal government would tie what it pays pharmaceutical companies for those drugs to the price paid by a group of other, economically advanced countries — the so-called "most favoured nation" approach.

The proposal will face fierce opposition from the pharmaceutical industry.

It was a rule that Trump tried to adopt during his first term, but could never get through. He signed a similar executive order in the final weeks of his presidency, but a court order later blocked the rule from going into effect under the Biden administration.

The pharmaceutical industry argued that Trump's 2020 attempt would give foreign governments the "upper hand" in deciding the value of medicines in the US. The industry has long argued that forcing lower prices will hurt profits, and ultimately affect innovation and its efforts to develop new medicines.

Only drugs on Medicare Part B — the insurance for doctor's office visits — are likely to be covered under the plan. Medicare beneficiaries are responsible for picking up some of the costs to get those medications during doctor's visits, and for traditional Medicare enrollees there is no annual out-of-pocket cap on what they pay.

A report by the Trump

administration during its first term found that the US spends twice as much as some other countries in covering those drugs. Medicare Part B drug spending topped USD 33 billion in 2021.

More common prescription drugs filled at a pharmacy would probably not be covered by the new order.

Trump's post formally previewing the action came after he teased a "very big announcement" last week. He gave no details, except to note that it wasn't related to trade or the tariffs he has announced imposing on much of the world.

"We're going to have a very, very big announcement to make — like as big as it gets," Trump said last week.

He came into his first term accusing pharmaceutical companies of "getting away with murder" and complaining that other countries whose governments set drug prices were taking advantage of Americans.

On Sunday, Trump took aim at the industry again, writing that the "Pharmaceutical/Drug Companies would say, for years, that it was Research and Development Costs, and that all of those costs were, and would be, for no reason whatsoever, borne by the suckers' of America, ALONE."

Referring to drug companies' powerful lobbying efforts, he said that campaign contributions "can do wonders, but not with me, and not with the Republican Party."

"We are going to do the right thing," he wrote.

Could eating chicken heighten cancer risk? Experts weigh in on latest claims



Images Monitoring Desk

A recent study conducted in southern Italy presented some surprising findings that linked the regular consumption of poultry to potential increases in gastrointestinal cancers and all-cause mortality. This has caused one question to arise — is eating chicken really as healthy as we think it is?

The study's findings indicated that exceeding the weekly recommended amounts — that is, eating more than 300 grams (g) of poultry, such as chicken and turkey, per week — resulted in a 27% higher risk of all-cause mortality compared to eating moderate amounts.

Moreover, the research suggested that higher poultry intake was linked to a 2.3% increase in the risk of gastrointestinal cancers, with a higher observed risk among men at 2.6%. The findings were published in the journal *Nutrients*.

What has concerned consumers is that these findings contrast with current established dietary guidelines, such as the Mediterranean diet, of which poultry is an important component.

However, should such results make people reconsider their diets? Could the results be overestimated? What

"The study was not able to identify the specific type of poultry (for example, was the consumed protein processed deli meat or was it a grilled chicken breast). The processing of meats in general may change their health risks. We would need more studies assessing various types of poultry and various types of red meat to truly assess significant differences between the two,"

should consumers watch out for when interpreting the results of similar studies on nutrition?

Medical News Today spoke to two experts — Wael Harb, MD, board certified hematologist and medical oncologist at MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Orange Coast

and Saddleback Medical Centers in Orange County, CA, and Kristin Kirkpatrick, MS, RD, dietitian at the Cleveland Clinic Dept of Department of Wellness & Preventive Medicine in Cleveland, OH, and senior fellow at the Meadows Behavioral Healthcare in Wickenburg, AZ, to find out more.

Causation vs. correlation when interpreting findings

Both experts reiterated that an association from an observational study is not enough to draw definitive conclusions about a dietary item and its links to cancer.

"The findings are interesting, but as this is an observational study, it doesn't prove causation. The broader body of evidence still supports moderate poultry consumption as part of a balanced diet," Harb told MNT.

Harb underscored that poultry played an important role in healthy diets and advised caution when interpreting the results.

"This study raises important questions, but we need to interpret it with caution. Poultry has long been a core part of healthy eating patterns like the Mediterranean diet, which is associated with reduced cancer and heart disease risks," says Harb.

Another important point to consider is that cancer, as a disease, is very complex and multifactorial, meaning it is hard to pinpoint its causes to one factor.

"Studies show that the development of cancer from one person to another is complex and encompasses multiple factors, including but not limited to genetics, environment, diet, physical activity, exposure to toxins, and even age and inflammation. Therefore, we need to look at any study and try to assess how it can be translated to our lifestyle," said Kirkpatrick.

"If you smoke, for example, the first step before cutting chicken out may be quitting smoking. This is just one example of how we can assess data," she added.

Is it the poultry itself or the additives causing cancer?

How food items are cooked or whether other additives such as oils and spices are added can change the "healthiness" of a food source. The two experts said the potential cancer risks associated with eating poultry could be more closely connected to those aspects, rather than the poultry itself.

"When poultry is grilled, fried, or cooked at high temperatures, it can form compounds like heterocyclic amines (HCAs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which have been linked to cancer risk. However, these compounds also occur in red meat and processed meats, so the issue may lie more in cooking methods than the type of meat itself," Harb explained, highlighting that how a good is cooked could result in the release of cancer-causing chemicals.

Kirkpatrick further explained how a food item is processed and cooked can impact the potential benefits or risks of consuming it.

"For example, a frozen chicken nugget may be considered ultra-processed, and breaded and fried chicken may pose risks from the process of high-heat frying as well. Both may differ in their impact on health when compared to a plain chicken breast that is baked," she said.

White vs. red meat: Which is healthier?

The study has also fed into a

long-standing debate about whether white meat is healthier than red meat.

Although white meat, such as chicken and turkey, has lower fat content and a higher protein-to-fat ratio than red meat, this does not necessarily translate into lower cholesterol levels.

In fact, a 2019 study found that white and red meat may both have similar effects on blood cholesterol levels, specifically LDL or "bad" cholesterol and apolipoprotein B (apoB).

The current study also fails to identify the specific type of poultry consumed and its links to heightened cancer risk.

"The study was not able to identify the specific type of poultry (for example, was the consumed protein

"We need well-designed prospective studies that account for cooking methods, levels of processing, and overall dietary habits. It would also help to examine biological markers of carcinogen exposure in people with high poultry intake. Given that the risk was higher in men, gender-specific research would be important too," he said.

How much poultry is it safe to eat per week?

Kirkpatrick said that these results are not enough to change current recommendations for healthy eating.

"This study would not cause me to stop recommending poultry to my patients, especially in those patients that are making other beneficial lifestyle changes alongside poultry

"Studies show that the development of cancer from one person to another is complex and encompasses multiple factors, including but not limited to genetics, environment, diet, physical activity, exposure to toxins, and even age and inflammation. Therefore, we need to look at any study and try to assess how it can be translated to our lifestyle,"

processed deli meat or was it a grilled chicken breast). The processing of meats in general may change their health risks. We would need more studies assessing various types of poultry and various types of red meat to truly assess significant differences between the two," Kirkpatrick said.

What should future studies on food and cancer investigate?

The study did have several limitations, such as not accounting for the sources of the poultry consumed, the potential impacts of pesticides on plant and animal crops, antibiotic and hormone usage in industrially raised poultry, as well as cooking methods, meat preparation, and dietary patterns.

"Limitations the authors cited was lacking information on specifics of the poultry consumed/ cooking methods, as well as lack of data on physical activity — which shows positive impact to mortality from other studies," Kirkpatrick said.

Harb said that the type of follow-up research needed would have to address multiple unanswered questions.

consumption — such as a dietary pattern high in fruits, vegetables, fiber, whole grains, healthy fats, and other forms of protein such as beans and lentils, or wild fatty fish," she told us.

Regarding what is considered healthy and safe by the United States, Harb reminded that current guidelines recommend no more than 300 g per week as a limit.

"Based on what we know, the current guideline of 300 grams of poultry per week is reasonable — especially if the poultry is skinless, minimally processed, and not cooked at high temperatures," says Harb.

However, for those with certain health conditions or a family history of cancer, a lower intake may be more appropriate.

"For those who are particularly health-conscious or have a family history of cancer, staying closer to 200 grams per week and incorporating more fish, legumes, and plant proteins may be a prudent option," Harb said.

(Courtesy: Medical News Today)

From the Front page ...

Operation Sindoore...

terrorists they have been feeding and nurturing all these years will swallow Pakistan itself. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to root out terrorism."

India will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and terrorists, Modi said, warning of decisive action in case of any misadventure.

"This is not an era of war, but this is not the era of terror either," Modi said, as he paid glowing tributes to the armed forces for successfully forcing Pakistan to plead for peace after eight of their airbases were heavily damaged.

"Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the prime minister said.

Modi's assertions about not doing trade with Pakistan came minutes after US President Donald Trump said that he told India and Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict.

Trump also suggested that the conflict between the two countries could have spiralled into a nuclear war, killing millions of people.

Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after they promised to stop their misadventure.

The prime minister termed the Pahalgam attack as the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was personal pain for him, but the enemy has now realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the forehead of our women".

Addressing the nation, Modi said Operation Sindoore was not just a name but, through it, the whole world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered. "Pakistan wiped the sindoor off our sisters' foreheads. We wiped out the universities of terror running in Pakistan," he said, dedicating the valour of armed forces to mothers, sisters and daughters of this country.

Outlining the 'new normal', he said India will give a befitting response to any terror attack on its own terms by targeting the terror havens.

He said, "Secondly, India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will launch precise attacks on terror sites being nurtured under the protection of nuclear blackmail."

Thirdly, he added, the country will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the patrons of terrorists.

"Pakistan has to dismantle its terror infrastructure. There is no other way to peace," the prime minister said.

With terror infrastructure destroyed in a big way and terror sites left in ruins, India considered stopping military actions after Pakistan said it would desist from any terror or military action, he said.

"The Pahalgam attack was the most barbaric face of terrorism, it was a personal pain for me. We gave the armed forces full liberty to raze terrorists to dust," he said.

"When our missiles and drones destroyed terror sites in Pakistan, not only their buildings but their spirit was also demolished. When 'Nation First' is our resolve, steely decisions are taken," he said.

Pakistan slumped into gloom after the Indian attack on terror camps, "but they dared to attack us rather than helping fight terrorism. More than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered in the Indian attack," Modi said.

"The entire world saw how Pakistani drones were downed by our military might. India has struck at the heart of Pakistan, our missiles attacked with precision to damage their air bases," he said.

Modi reiterated that terror and talks, and terror and trade cannot go together. Blood and water, he added in a reference to India putting in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, cannot flow together.

"I will tell world leaders too that this is our stated policy that if dialogue will occur, then it will be on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir," he said, adding that terror sites targeted by India were also linked to the 9/11 terror attacks in the US and the London tube bombing.

In the broadcast, Modi saluted the armed forces, intelligence agencies and scientists and ended his speech by raising the slogan of "Bharat mata ki jai" three times.

The prime minister lauded the unity shown by the country against the terror attack, which he said was aimed at creating communal divide as well because the terrorists carried out religious profiling of victims. "Our unity is our biggest strength," he added.

After India eliminated dreaded terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan in an east strike, Pakistan sank into despair and attacked India in desperation instead of cooperating in the action against terrorism, he said.

Religious places like gurdwaras and temples, civilians in their homes and military facilities were targeted, he said, adding that Pakistan ended up unmasking itself as the world saw its drones and missiles being brought down like "straws" by India's air defence system.

He said Operation Sindoore has unveiled a new dimension of India's capabilities as the armed forces not only put up a "glorious performance in deserts and mountains but also proved their superiority in the new age warfare".

PM Modi said destruction was inflicted on Pakistan beyond its imagination in three days and began pleading across the world for an escape route.

Asserting that India will continue to take decisive steps to protect itself and its citizens, he said indigenous weapons have proved their superiority in the conflict and added that their time has come.

Lord Buddha, whose birth anniversary fell on Monday, showed the path to peace but "it passes through shakti" (power), he said, adding that it is a must for India to be powerful to be peaceful and prosperous.

Using power is also at times necessary for peace and this is what India has done in the past few days, he said.

PM Modi proven...

and trade, terror and talks could not go together. "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji today demarcated the boundary for Bharat's enemies through the example of Operation Sindoore, in which our armed forces razed the very edifice of terrorism in Pakistan's backyard," Shah said in a post on X.

The country's armed forces made Pakistan shudder with their might and set a new normal of zero tolerance for terrorism, he added. "Modi ji has reiterated our resolve that Bharat will strike back the very moment our enemies dare to make a mistake," Shah said.

The nation salutes the unparalleled valour of the armed forces, the home minister said in a separate post, describing them as "destroyers of the country's enemies and the shield of Bharat".

"We also salute our first line of defence, the courageous personnel of the BSF (Border Security Force). The bravery of our forces will forever be etched in our glorious history," he said.

The prime minister has proven, time and again, that no enemy of Bharat can go unpunished, Shah said as he congratulated Modi for his exemplary leadership in delivering justice to the "departed souls of our innocent brothers".

In his address, the prime minister called Operation Sindoore India's new policy against terrorism.

"It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi said.

Congress asks if PM...

Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "The prime minister, his drumbeaters, and his apologists should answer."

"The prime minister's much-delayed address to the nation was completely upstaged by President Trump's revelations a few minutes earlier. The prime minister was completely silent on them. Has India agreed to US mediation? Has India agreed to a 'neutral site' for a dialogue with Pakistan? Will India now give in to US demands for opening Indian markets in autos, agriculture, and other areas?" Ramesh asked.

Trump on Monday reiterated his claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, telling the south Asian neighbours that the US would do a "lot of trade" with them if they ended the hostilities.

Ramesh, a former Union minister, said Modi should immediately have a meeting with leaders of all political parties - something he had studiously avoided in the last 20 days.

"The months ahead will demand both painstaking diplomacy and a collective resolve. One-liners and dialogue-baazi are poor substitutes," he asserted.

"We applaud and salute our armed forces unreservedly. They have done the country proud. We are 100 per cent with them at all times. But the prime minister has still much to answer for," Ramesh said.

Congress media department in-charge Pawan Khera noted Trump's statement came a few minutes before the prime minister's address and called it "very disturbing".

He said no Indian would accept what Trump said and "we expected that the prime minister would clarify and respond".

"We need a clarification from the government of India on whether this operation was stopped due to trade," Khera said, noting that India did not trade with "sindoor" and it was not possible to do trade with "sindoor".

"We want to know on what terms mediation was done. Why did you not respond to what Donald Trump said on Kashmir? There are several questions in the minds of the country and there is a need for a collective resolve. There were two opportunities and two such all-party meetings were held but unfortunately the prime minister did not attend," the Congress leader said.

"We again demand that there should be a special session of Par-

liament and there should be a collective resolve from all. Only the prime minister can create such a collective resolve. There will obviously be no sensitive issues discussed in that, but political issues will be raised," he added.

There is a need to know what the nation gained and what it lost. This question remains to be answered, Khera asserted.

Asked if the Congress was dissatisfied with the prime minister's address, he said, "We are all satisfied in view of the armed forces action and we salute them but we have to discuss politically with the prime minister and there are several questions to be asked."

These questions can be answered only through a collective discussion and a collective resolve would emerge and that collective resolve is the need of the hour, he stressed.

Khera also said there had been several governments in the past and all of them attempted to de-hyphenate India and Pakistan as the two countries could not be equated.

"But, in the last few days, India and Pakistan have been equated and hyphenated by America and this is what we object to," the Congress leader said.

"In the eyes of the entire world, the US has hyphenated India and Pakistan. We have strong objections to that," he added.

In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoore, Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after it promised to stop its misadventure.

The prime minister termed the Pahalgam attack the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was a personal pain for him but the enemy had realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the foreheads of our women".

The prime minister also said Operation Sindoore was not just a name but, through it, the entire world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

"India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan, the future will depend on their behaviour. Operation Sindoore is now India's new policy against terrorism, a new line has been drawn," he said.

India, Pak...

boundaries and forward areas. In the conversation over the hotline, the two officers focused on continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a "single shot" or initiate any "aggressive and inimical" action against each other, according to an Indian readout.

The nearly 45-minute talks took place two days after the two DGMOs reached an understanding on halting all military actions.

The arrangement reached on May 10 came after four days of intense hostilities that saw the two sides targeting each other's military installations with drones, missiles and long-range weapons that raised fears of a wider military conflict.

"Talks between DGMOs were held at 5:00 PM. Issues related to continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action against each other were discussed," the Indian Army said.

"It was also agreed that both sides consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the borders and forward areas," it said in a statement.

The talks over the hotline were previously scheduled at 12 noon. However, it started at around 5 pm.

Though there were cases of violation of the understanding by the Pakistani military on May 10 night, there were no such incidents on Sunday night.

"The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu & Kashmir and other areas along the international border," the Army said in a brief statement earlier.

"No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said.

Under Operation Sindoore, India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damage 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.

Hours ahead of the DGMO talks, the Indian Air Force said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions if the need arises.

Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said the Indian military's fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure, but it was a "pity" that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists.

"We have also iterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure," he said. "However, it is a pity that the Pakistan military chose to intervene and bat for the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind," he added.

Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral A N Pramod addressed the media briefing on 'Operation Sindoore'.

The Air Marshal said India's robust air defence system effectively foiled Pakistan's attempts to attack Indian military installations.

On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, he said, "I would like to emphatically state that, in spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise."

Last night...

between the Indian and Pakistani militaries along the Line of Control and the International Border.

The Indian Army said this on Monday morning. "The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the International border," it said in a brief statement.

"No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said.

India launched Operation Sindoore on early May 7 to destroy seven 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 Sindoore'.

India and Pakistan on Saturday announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with effect from 5 pm that day.

There were some violations by the Pakistani military on Saturday night.

32 airports...

Airlines, including Air India, AirIndia Express, IndiGo and SpiceJet, issued travel advisories' updates to their customers following the opening of the civil flight operations from these 32 airports.

In a statement on Monday, state-owned AAI said the 32 airports that were closed for civilian aircraft operations starting May 12, progressively on select routes, beginning with Delhi - Chandigarh, Delhi - Jammu - Delhi and Delhi - Amritsar - Delhi.

Civilian light operations from the 32 airports across northern and western India, including Srinagar and Amritsar, were suspended from May 9 to May 15. The AAI along with other aviation authorities had issued a series of Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS), announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across northern and western India for all civilian flight operations.

Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in 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.

Air India in a statement on Monday said, "Air India will progressively resume flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot starting Tuesday, May 13." It also said that bookings for these sectors are now open.

Air India Express, in a statement, said it "will gradually reinstate flight operations from previously closed airports, following the lifting of NOTAMS by the authorities."

Starting Tuesday, services will resume on routes including Hindon-Bengaluru, Jammu-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar, and Srinagar-Delhi, it added.

Operations on Hindon-Mumbai are planned to resume the day after, AirIndia Express said, adding the reinstatement of other flights, including international services from Amritsar, is expected to follow from May 15.

"Following the government directives, the recently closed airports are now available for airlines operations," IndiGo said in a statement.

The Gurugram-based airline also said it has reopened its flight bookings and resumed operations starting May 12, progressively on select routes, beginning with Delhi - Chandigarh, Delhi - Jammu - Delhi and Delhi - Amritsar - Delhi.

Over the course of the next few days, more flights will resume gradually across the network, IndiGo said.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet in a travel advisory said, "Flight restrictions to/from Leh, Srinagar, Jammu, Dharamshala, Kandla & Amritsar have been lifted." "Flights will resume soon," the airline added.

Suspected drones...

district of Jammu region on Monday, an Army said.

This fresh incident of drone activity along the borderline comes barely hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first address to the nation following Operation Sindoore and the meeting of the DGMOs of India and Pakistan.

The Army, however, said there is no need to be alarmed.

"A small number of suspected drones have been observed near Samba in J&K. They are being engaged," it said.

In the backdrop of the situation, several areas witnessed black-outs in Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Jammu.

Lights were switched off at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi and along its track as a precautionary measure, sources said.

Trump claims his...

sources in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved.

Trump said that India and Pakistan "were going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop."

"I'm very proud to let you know that the leadership of India and Pakistan was unwavering, powerful, but unwavering in both cases, having these they really were from the standpoint of having the strength and the wisdom and fortitude to fully know and to understand the gravity of the situation," Trump said.

The US President said he told India and Pakistan that America will do "a lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

"And we helped a lot, and we also helped with trade. I said, 'Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys. Let's stop it. Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade'."

Trump added that "People have never really used trade the way I used it, that I can tell you. And all of a sudden they (India and Pakistan) said, 'I think we're going to stop.'"

"And they have, and they did it for a lot of reasons, but trade is a big one. We're going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan. We're going to do a lot of trade with India. We're negotiating with India right now. We're going to be soon negotiating with Pakistan, and we stopped a nuclear conflict," Trump said.

"I think it ... could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that. I also want to thank Vice President (J D) Vance and Secretary of State (Marco) Rubio for their work and efforts, they worked very hard on that," Trump said.

Trump went on to say that "we did some great things with trade with India and Pakistan. Really helped the situation. Very heated situation. Could have lost millions of people, more than millions, I mean, many millions of people. And they want to do business with America, but we never used our powers that way. Never knew how. We never had people that knew how to do that."

On Saturday, Trump announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night of talks mediated by the United States."

Later, in a post on Truth Social, Trump offered to work with India and Pakistan for a "solution" on Kashmir, while crediting Washington for helping the two nations arrive at the "historic and heroic decision" of stopping the conflict.

Trump 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."

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.

US, UK discuss...

expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continued efforts to improve communications," the read-out added.

Rubio also reaffirmed the US position on the Russia-Ukraine war, saying "our top priority remains bringing an end to the fighting and an immediate ceasefire."

India always advocates...

Sinha said during his visit to the shelter and lodgement centre at Sahib Bandgi Ashram in Mishriwala area of Jammu.

"With Operation Sindoore, we have avenged Pahalgam. I am proud of our soldiers and armed forces. Our war was to teach Pakistan a lesson," he said.

Sinha met the families displaced by the recent cross-border shelling and reassured them of the government's full support.

"Our armed forces have time and again demonstrated their capability to respond decisively to any threat posed by Pakistan. This country harbours and exports terror, causing immense suffering through its actions in our territory," he added.

He said the nation stands in solidarity with the victims and reaffirmed the Government of India and Union Territory administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens. Speaking of retaliatory military action, the LG said, "On the night of May 6-7, our armed forces executed a precise and powerful strike through Operation Sindoore."

"The operation not only demonstrated our unwavering resolve and commendable restraint but also demolished terror factories across the border and avenged the killing of innocent civilians in Pahalgam," Sinha said.

He also underlined India's firm stance on its sovereignty and territorial integrity and said, "We will never compromise on our sovereignty. Our resolve is to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem from Jammu and Kashmir."

He expressed gratitude to individuals and organisations extending help to the affected families.

He assured that new bunkers would be constructed as per updated assessments to ensure the safety of residents living near the border.

LG, minister pay...

Pakistani troops. BSF Inspector General (Jammu Frontier) Shashank Anand and other senior BSF officials, police and civil officers also attended the ceremony to pay floral tributes to the slain constable.

Constable Deepak Chingakhm suffered fatal injuries during cross-border firing along the international border in the R S Pura area of Jammu district on May 10 and attained martyrdom on May 11.

A solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at BSF headquarters in Jammu, and later his mortal remains were dispatched to his family for the last rites.

The LG laid a wreath at the mortal remains and said "I salute the brave son of Mother India, BSF Constable Deepak Chingakhm, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

He further said, "We share the grief of the family and stand in solidarity."

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

LG meets family...

Forty-five-year-old Hussain was killed and two others, including a young girl, were injured when Pakistani forces resorted to shelling in Kheri Keran village of Bantlab area on the outskirts of Jammu on May 7.

The shelling came in the wake of Indian Army's strikes on nine terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, carried out in response to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

Accompanied by former minister and BJP leader Sham Lal Sharma, the Lieutenant Governor visited Kheri Keran village to meet the bereaved family and assured them of all possible assistance.

"() offered my heartfelt condolences and assured the family of all assistance and support from administration," Sinha said on X.

Family members of the deceased demanded that Zakir Hussain's name be included in the list of martyrs since 1947.

"We demand his name be recognised among martyrs and that the family be allotted a petrol pump for sustenance," a family member told reporters.

They also urged the administration to enhance the compensation, stating that the Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia amount announced so far is insufficient to secure the future of Hussain's children.

The situation across Jammu and Kashmir remained largely peaceful on Monday with no ceasefire violations reported overnight, marking the first calm night in over two weeks.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to halt all military action on land, air and sea with immediate effect, following four days of intense cross-border hostilities that brought the nuclear-armed neighbours to the brink of a full-scale war.

the frontline to remain vigilant and not touch anything suspicious.

"They should immediately report any suspicious objects to the authorities for proper disposal," he said.

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday asked the residents of border villages not to rush back as residential areas were yet to be sanitised and cleared of any unexploded shells.

More than 1.25 lakh residents of villages close to the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts were evacuated to safety as their homes were at a very high risk of being targeted in Pakistani shelling.

"Do not return to frontline villages. Lives are at risk as unexploded munitions remain (scattered) after Pakistani shelling," police said in an advisory on Sunday.

"As many as 41 lives were lost in explosions of leftover shells near the LoC in 2023 alone," they had said, highlighting the dangers of civilians rushing back to villages.

Poonch district accounted for 18 of the 25 total fatalities since Wednesday. It also recorded injuries to 50 people.

The Pakistani shelling began shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoore, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to avenge the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. However, hours later, New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching the agreement.

Those who left...

They had left their homes when shelling was taking place. Now that the shelling has stopped, they can return to their homes," Abdullah told reporters here.

Accompanied by his cabinet colleague Javed Rana, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Aijaz Jan, the chief minister on Monday reached out to those affected by the Pakistani shelling in the Poonch and Surankote areas, and emphasised the need for setting up bunkers in the region.

Abdullah, who was also accompanied by his sons Zamir and Zahir, described the recent escalation along the Line of Control (LoC) as a "war-like" situation, with Poonch district suffering the heaviest shelling.

"For the last three-four days, there was a kind of war-like atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir. Among all the areas that faced the brunt of the cross-border shelling, Poonch was the worst affected," he said.

The National Conference (NC) leader said this is the first time that shells have fallen right in the middle of towns and heavy bombardment has taken place. "We have lost 13 precious lives. My purpose for coming here today is, at the very least, to reach those homes where this tragedy occurred," he said.

Abdullah met with members of the local civil society and commended the people of Poonch for maintaining communal harmony in the face of adversity. "Despite the difficult circumstances, they upheld the legacy of unity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs," he said.

Replying to a question on the indiscriminate nature of the shelling, the chief minister clarified that religious places were not specifically targeted, but areas near madrassas, temples, dargahs and gurdwaras were hit. "Their firing was random and reckless," he said.

Abdullah emphasised the need for preparedness to prevent future casualties. "If such a situation arises again, we must ensure that such loss of lives does not happen. We have received several constructive suggestions from the civil society and we will begin working on their implementation," the chief minister said.

Replying to a question on Pakistan's motives, he said, "I do not have a magic wand to read their intentions. I can only comment based on ground realities. It has been 24 hours since the ceasefire began and so far, it is holding."

He dismissed the Pakistani military's propaganda, saying, "They will continue to push propaganda, but the reality is known to you, to me and to the world."

Abdullah said the administration in all the affected districts - Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora - have been directed to assess the structural damage and submit reports for compensation.

"Our priority so far has been saving lives, but now that the ceasefire is in place, assessments will begin and relief will follow. As per the proforma, we will give compensation," he

Tax dept notifies all 7 ITR forms for assessment year 2025-26

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The income tax department has notified all seven income tax return forms for assessment year 2025-26.

While ITR forms 1 and 4, which are filed by small and medium taxpayers, were notified on April 29; ITR-7, filed by trusts and charitable institutions, was notified on May 11.

One important change has been introduced in ITR-1 and 4, which was notified on April 29, relating to the reporting of capital gain income from listed equities.

Now, salaried individuals and those under the presumptive taxation scheme, having long-term capital gains (LTCG) of up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a financial year, will be able to file ITR-1 and ITR-4, respectively. Earlier, such persons/entities were required to file ITR-2.

Under the I-T law, LTCG of up to Rs 1.25 lakh from sale of listed shares and mutual funds is exempt from tax. Gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh/ annum are subject to 12.5 per cent tax.

The last date for filing ITR for individuals and those who



do not have to get their accounts audited is July 31.

One change which has been introduced in ITR forms 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 pertains to rationalisation of capital gains tax. In Schedule Capital Gains (LTCG) of the ITR, capital gains must now be split based on whether they arose before or after July 23, 2024.

In the Budget presented on July 24, 2024, the government had proposed to lower long-term capital gains tax on real estate to 12.5 per cent without indexation benefit, from 20 per cent with indexation.

Indexation benefit allows taxpayers to arrive at the cost price of the property after ad-

justing for inflation.

With this, individuals or HUFs who purchased houses before July 23, 2024, can opt to pay Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG) tax under the new scheme at the rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation or claim the indexation benefit and pay 20 per cent tax.

Also, in ITR-3, which is filed by individuals and HUFs having income from profits and gains of business or profession, the threshold for reporting assets and liabilities under 'Schedule AL' has been raised from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore, thus reducing the disclosure burden on middle-income taxpayers.

ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers.

Sahaj can be filed by a resident individual having annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest) and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000 a year.

Sugam can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms (other than Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)) having a total annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh and income from business and profession.

ITR-2 is filed by individuals and HUFs not having income from profits and gains in business or profession, but having income from capital gains.

ITR-5 is filed by firms and Limited Liability Partnership and Cooperative Societies. ITR-6 is filed by companies registered under the Companies Act.

ITR-7 is filed by trusts and charitable institutions.

Railways starts installing ACs in running rooms in Saharsa after loco pilots boycott their use

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The East Central Railway zone has started installing air conditioning units in running rooms at the Saharsa junction after the loco pilots refused to use them for out-of-home rest.

The loco pilots said that when the temperature was quite high on May 9, they boycotted the running rooms near the station and took rest in a crew lobby, which is meant for reporting of duty and new assignments.

The Samsatipur division, under which the Saharsa junction comes, took swift action to resolve the running staff's concern and placed an order for 273 AC machines for all rooms and common areas.

"The installation process was immediately put in place the moment the ACs delivery started and a lot of rooms are now equipped with air conditioning machines," said a railway official, adding all rooms will be fitted with ACs in a day or two.

All India Loco Running



Staff Association zonal president D.P. Srivastav said that Samastipur Division used to give contracts to private companies to offer ACs in running rooms during the summer season.

"The private companies used to remove all the ACs just after the expiry of the tender period. After that, the Railway administration used to start the process for tender for next year's summer season," he said.

Srivastav said that hiring AC on rent through a tender process was a practice prevalent only in Samastipur Division out of all other divisions.

"It was not a good practice as due to delay in the

finalisation of tender often situations arose when loco pilots had to take rest in the crew lobby. It is a good step that the division has started purchasing ACs," he added.

The loco pilots said that it was not possible to sleep comfortably in the running room since the temperatures are rising day by day and hence they were forced to occupy the AC-equipped crew lobby.

"Mail and express train drivers slept on the floor because the crew lobby is not supposed to have facilities for night rest. A sound sleep for a loco pilot is very crucial for safe train operation. The rail administration must ensure that," said a loco pilot.

Sharp rally in markets makes investors richer by Rs 16.15 lakh cr

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) Dalal Street investors became richer by Rs 16.15 lakh crore on Monday as markets skyrocketing nearly 4 per cent, after India and Pakistan announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea.

Also, a trade agreement between the US and China added to the markets' optimism.

After starting the trade on an optimistic note, the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge Sensex further jumped 2,975.43

points or 3.74 per cent to settle at 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points or 3.82 per cent to a high of 82,495.97.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped by Rs 16,15,275.19 crore to Rs 4,32,56,125.65 crore (USD 5.05 trillion) in a single day.

"Confluence of positive geopolitical and economic developments — the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, coupled with a breakthrough trade agreement between the US and China — sparked the strongest dai-

ly market rally in recent times," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 7.91 per cent. HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, ICI-CI Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Reliance Industries were the other major gainers.

Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank were the only laggards from the blue-chip pack.

"Markets staged a sharp rebound on Mon-



day, buoyed by easing geopolitical tensions after the India-Pakistan ceasefire. Benchmark indices posted their strongest single-day performance in

over four years," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory at PL Capital, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge surged 4.18 per cent and midcap index jumped

3.85 per cent.

"Markets opened the week on a strong footing, rallying nearly 4 per cent, driven by supportive global and domestic cues. The key trigger was the announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan over the weekend,

signalling easing geopolitical tensions. Adding to the positive sentiment were encouraging updates on the US-China trade deal, which further boosted investor confidence as the session progressed," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

All sectoral indices ended higher. IT zoomed 6.75 per cent, BSE Focused IT (6.74 per cent), realty (5.87 per cent), metal (5.24 per cent), teck (5.21 per cent), utilities (5.07 per cent), power (4.82 per cent) and industrials (4.24 per cent).

"Indian equities made spectacular gains on Monday, with the Nifty soaring by a record 917 points to close at 24,925 - a seven-month high. The de-escalation in India-Pakistan tensions over the weekend has significantly helped calm investors'

nerves and improve sentiments.

"On the global front, the US announced a headway in the trade negotiations with China, as both countries agreed to drastically roll back tariffs on each other's goods for an initial 90-day period," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

As many as 3,545 stocks advanced while 576 declined and 133 remained unchanged on the BSE.

'Adani scam cannot be covered up': Cong after SECI CMD sacked



New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) With the government sacking R P Gupta as the Chairman and Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India, the Congress on Monday sought to link it to charges against billionaire Gautam Adani and his associates by US authorities and said the Adani "scam" cannot be covered up.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the public sector Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) was indicted on November 20, 2024, by US authorities in the chargesheet against Gautam Adani and his close associates.

"It was based on SECI's recommendation that different states entered into purchase agreements with Adani. Bribes worth Rs 2,029 crores were then reportedly offered and promised to Indian government officials in exchange for these agreements, which were then finalised," Ramesh said.

In an implicit admission of corruption, in December 2024, SECI changed the way it issues power tenders, he said.

"Now the CMD of SECI, occupied by a

post-retirement bureaucrat appointed by the Modi government, has been sacked just a month before his tenure ends," the Congress leader said.

Meanwhile, the Indian government is yet to respond to repeated requests by the US Securities and Exchange Commission to serve summons to Adani and the other accused.

"Despite the attempts at the highest levels, the Modani MegaScam cannot be covered up," he said.

In November last year, US authorities charged Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director Vneet S Jaan with being involved in an alleged scheme to pay bribes to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts, and concealed the plan as they sought to raise money from US investors.

Adani Green Energy has said an independent review of its regulatory compliances related to an alleged breach that led to the indictment of founder chairman Gautam Adani and two company executives in a US court, did not find irregularities or non-compliances on the issue.

Bogus billing scam of Rs 1,500 cr unearthed in Punjab, says minister Cheema

Chandigarh, May 12 (PTI) Punjab's taxation department has unearthed a bogus billing scam, involving transactions worth Rs 1,549 crore by some unscrupulous traders and successfully blocked the fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims of Rs 108.79 crore, said Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday.

Sharing details, Cheema said the department detected fake billing worth Rs 900 crore in gold-related transactions in Ludhiana and blocked ITC worth Rs 21 crore.

Additionally, the claim of ITC worth Rs 12 crore was prevented after detecting fraudulent invoices amounting to Rs 226 crore in coal transactions across Mohali, Kharar, and Kotkapura, he further said.

Further enforcement actions led to the blocking of ITC worth Rs 75.79 crore by uncovering bogus transactions totaling Rs 423 crore

in Ludhiana and Mandi Gobindgarh.

In another major seizure, authorities intercepted a vehicle traveling from Ranchi to Ludhiana carrying two kg of gold without an invoice, and the investigation into this case is currently ongoing, informed Cheema.

Cheema said as part of the enforcement action, 195 GST-registered firms, including 156 centrally registered firms and 39 state-registered firms, were physically verified, revealing fraudulent paper transactions amounting to Rs 423 crore and resulting in the blocking of ITC worth Rs 75.79 crore.

A majority of the implicated firms were located in Ludhiana (100 firms) and Mandi Gobindgarh (72 firms), he told reporters here.

Highlighting enforcement actions under the Goods Services Tax regime, the finance minister revealed that the department

made notable arrests, including a high-profile case where an individual was apprehended for masterminding a racket involving fake invoicing and fraudulent ITC claims worth Rs 29.50 crore.

The firm in question had made inward supplies of Rs 163 crore in 2023-24 and 2024-25 from over 60 bogus firms.

Cheema credited the department's success in carrying out the enforcement drive to the 15 modules developed under an agreement with IIT Hyderabad, along with crucial inputs from the 'Bill Liyao Inaam Pao' scheme.

So far, 4,880 consumers have collectively won Rs 2.89 crore by uploading their purchase bills on the 'Mera Bill' app.

Meanwhile, discrepancies found in submitted bills under the GST Act led to the imposition of penalties totaling Rs 9.07 crore and the recovery of Rs 7.20 crore.

On GST collections, the



FM underscored the achievement of the AAP-led Punjab government, which collected Rs 62,733 crore in three years as against the mobilization of Rs 63,042 crore during the previous Congress-led regime in five years.

Lashing out at opposition parties, FM Cheema criticized the Congress, BJP, and Akali Dal for their unfounded claims against the

government's enforcement activities.

He said these parties allegedly colluded with tax evaders in the past to "siphon off" the hard-earned money of honest taxpayers.

He said now that the government has tightened its grip on tax evasion, these parties are desperately trying to shield them from scrutiny.

Govt terminates services of CMD, Solar Energy Corporation of India

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Centre has terminated the services of former IAS officer Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, who was serving as the chairman and managing director of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

New and Renewable Energy Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi has been given the additional charge of the CMD's post at the SECI.

The order terminating Gupta's services, which came more than a month ahead of the completion of his tenure, did not cite any reason for the move.

The 1987-batch Gujarat-cadre former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was appointed to the post on June 13, 2023 for a period of two years.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the termination of Gupta's services with immediate effect, the personnel min-



istry said in an order dated May 10.

Gupta assumed charge as the CMD of the SECI on June 15, 2023.

Before joining the SECI, he worked as the secretary in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The SECI is the leading Navratna central public sector undertaking, dedicated to the development and expansion of re-

newable energy capacity in the country.

The Centre on Monday gave the additional charge of the post of the CMD, SECI to Sarangi.

The competent authority has approved the assignment of the additional charge of the post "till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders", according to another order issued by the personnel ministry.

Delhi builder arrested for siphoning off crores from private bank

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a real estate developer for allegedly cheating and siphoning off crores of rupees from a private bank, police said on Monday.

The accused, Anil Mithas (52), a resident of Noida, is the director and majority stakeholder of a real estate group, the police said.

The private bank had sanctioned loans of Rs 100 crore and Rs 65 crore in 2016 and 2017 for the construction of projects in Noida and Gurgaon by M/s Unnati Fortune Holding Limited (UFHL).

However, it was found that Mithas had allegedly misrepresented facts and siphoned off the loan amount.

In 2019, M/s Nupur Finvest Pvt Ltd, a financial creditor, approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), alleging that UFHL had mortgaged the same 75 flats with them and later with the private bank.

The NCLT initiated insolvency proceedings and ap-



pointed an Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), who ordered an audit of UFHL.

The audit allegedly revealed major financial discrepancies from March 2014 to March 2019, showing diversion of funds to related parties, sister concerns and shell companies, the police added.

Based on these findings, a case was registered and after collecting sufficient evidence, Mithas was arrested on May 8.

He is also an accused in two other cases of cheating and one case registered by the Enforcement Directorate, the police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Border regions come back to life as fog of war lifts



New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) After teetering on the edge for nearly a week, border regions in the north experienced a less fraught day, with no shelling, no sightings of drones, and a comparatively lighter yoke of emergency measures.

New Delhi and Islamabad reached an understanding Saturday to halt military actions with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Villagers living close to the Line of Control who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by the Pakistani military started returning home on Monday.

They started their journey back to their villages after bomb disposal squads cleared the residential areas of any leftover or unexploded shells, officials said.

"We are happy that a ceasefire has been reached

between the two countries. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident of the Kalkote area in Uri.

Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi has asked the residents of villages along the frontline to remain vigilant and not touch anything suspicious.

"They should immediately report any suspicious objects to the authorities for proper disposal," he said.

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday asked the residents of border villages not to rush back as residential areas were yet to be sanitised and cleared of any unexploded shells.

In Punjab, markets teemed with people in the border areas on Monday, even though schools in some districts remained shut.

Schools in Ferozpur, Fazilka, Pathankot, Amrit-

sar, Tarn Taran, and Gurdaspur districts, that lie on the border with Pakistan, remained shut on Monday. In Pathankot and Gurdaspur, colleges and universities also remained closed.

Punjab shares a 553-km frontier with Pakistan.

"India has taught a lesson to Pakistan and it has been successful in sending a strong message to the neighbouring nation. And now Pakistan, which is a rogue nation, will not dare to cast an evil eye on our country," a grocery shop owner in Pathankot said.

Pakistan especially targeted Pathankot with multiple drone attacks, but they were thwarted by the Indian security forces.

In Ferozpur, villagers who had moved to safer places were returning to their villages.

Daler Singh, a native of Jallo Ke village near the

border, said that most residents of nearby areas had left hearth and home. "Now, most of them have returned but they remain cautious. Overall, life is normal and we are going back to our fields," he said.

A Ferozpur native said, "The situation is normal now. We hope the ceasefire holds and peace prevails."

In Rajasthan, a complete blackout was observed in the border districts Sunday night.

There were reports that some red lights, suspected to be of drones, were spotted in the sky in Barmer.

The district administration sent out an alert on X, "Incoming drone activity spotted. Please stay inside your houses and observe blackout: DM Barmer."

It, however, said no drone was shot down.

By Monday morning, an apparent sense of normalcy became palpable in the border districts with people gathering at tea stalls and shops and bantering.

Jalam Singh, a Jaisalmer local, said, "Things appear to be back to normal now. Last night was peaceful."

Jammu and Kashmir, the worst hit border, was peaceful last night with no hostilities between the Indian and Pakistani militaries.

"The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the International border," the Indian Army said in a brief statement Monday morning.

"No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said.

Kharge reiterates demand for special Parliament session to discuss Operation Sindoor, ceasefire

Kalaburagi (Karnataka), May 12 (PTI) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday reiterated his demand for the central government to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the latest developments in cross-border firing, including the recently announced "ceasefire".

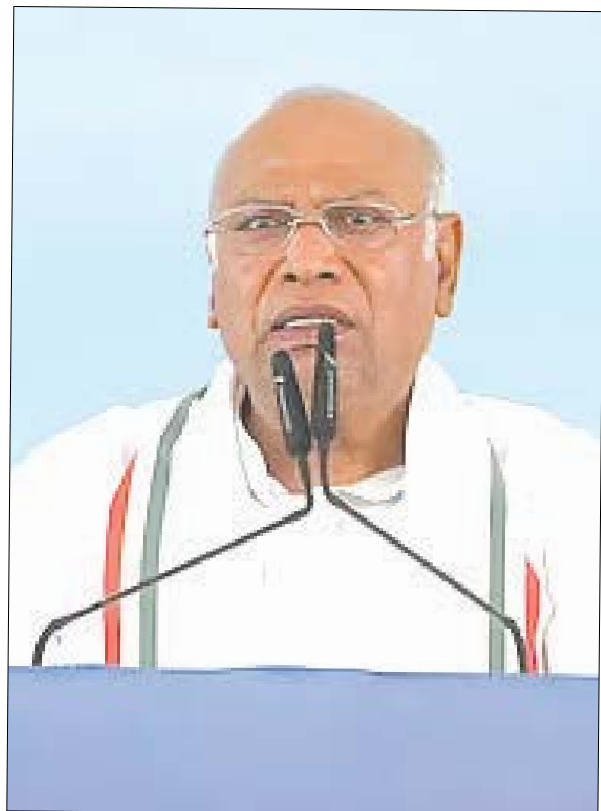
The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said that while everyone wishes for peace, the country must be defended when necessary, and the Indian armed forces have fought with full strength to do so.

"Both Rahul Gandhi and I have written to the Prime Minister, seeking a special Parliament session. We want the session to be convened to discuss what is happening in our country, in Pakistan, and other developments, along with what measures we can take to safeguard our people," Kharge said.

We want the discussion to take place. Let's see what steps the government takes, he added while speaking to PTI Vid-eos.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Kharge have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterating their demand for a special session of both Houses of Parliament.

In his letter on Sunday, Kharge conveyed the unanimous request of all opposition parties for a special session to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire announce-



ments—first from Washington DC, and later by the governments of India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to immediately halt all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea, following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Noting the ceasefire, the AICC chief said, "India keeps its promises, but Pakistan repeatedly breaks them and troubles people. They don't fight directly—they use terrorists to wage war. If they fight, we will be forced to fight. If they remain quiet, we too will maintain peace."

He added that on the occasion of Buddha Purnima—a day commemorating the birth of Gautama Buddha—everyone naturally yearns for peace, in line with the teachings of the Buddha.

"India has followed his teachings for over two thousand years. We wish for peace everywhere and hope everyone lives peacefully. But to protect the country, we must be prepared to fight—because if the country is safe, we are all safe. Our army is fighting bravely, and we salute their courage and commitment. Everyone should unite for the country and stand strong for it," Kharge said.

PM Modi delivered on promise of 'revenge beyond the imagination' of terrorists: BJP

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The BJP asserted on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered on his promise of inflicting on terrorists behind the Pahalgam terror strike a punishment beyond their imagination and razing to the ground their safe havens.

Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said Pakistan has lost under Operation Sindoor "nine terror sites, 11 air bases, over 100 terrorists, 50 soldiers and its prestige".

He noted that Modi had vowed that India would take out terrorists in their homes and tear down the terror sites.

"PM Modi's decision and our armed forces' indomitable courage have razed the terror sites to the ground. It was a promise by Modi," he said, adding that Operation Sindoor launched on May 7 has met 100 per cent of its targets.

He noted that the prime minister in his public meeting in Bihar had assured people of fulfilling their wish to attack terrorism and had promised to avenge the killing of 26 civilians, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam on April 22. Modi had vowed to deliver a revenge beyond the imagination of terrorists and this is what happened, he added.

The kind of military

and non-military action India has taken under the operation is unprecedented, and has sent a decisive message in its war against terrorism, the BJP spokesperson said.

Even Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE have backed out, and Pakistan stands isolated globally, Patra claimed, adding that India has shown that no part of the neighbouring country is beyond its reach.

To a question about the vicious trolling of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri by a section of right-wing activists after India and Pakistan agreed to stop military actions, Patra said his party respects everyone, be it armed



forces or bureaucrats, associated with the operation.

Social media is a tool, but it cannot be a basis for the country to decide its course of action, he added.

Misri was forced to make his account on X private, restricting access to only confirmed follow-

ers, after he and his family members were targeted by trolls.

Patra said India can say with pride that Operation Sindoor met its target 100 per cent and lauded the national unity behind the armed forces' action.

Not only did India kill over 100 terrorists across

nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, but its subsequent action in retaliation against Pakistan's response destroyed 11 air bases in the country, he said.

In one of these attacks on air bases, over 50 Pakistani soldiers were killed, he claimed, adding that for the first time, a country destroyed the air bases of a nuclear-powered nation.

The BJP leader said India and Pakistan have arrived at an understanding to stop military actions, but India will break it in case of future terror attacks.

Patra said India, under PM Modi, took

unprecedented actions, including the decision to put the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance.

Pakistan depends so critically on waters flowing from India that the neighbouring country's GDP and agriculture will plunge and it will become even more fragile, he said.

Referring to the launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7, he said no other country would have carried out such precision attacks aimed at terrorists and their sites within a span of 23 minutes.

The BJP national spokesperson shared details of the Pakistani air bases and terrorists taken out by India.

He said, "For the first

time, India carried out strikes in Pakistan's Punjab province, considered the heart of the country, effectively eliminating terrorists and their camps.

"Operation Sindoor successfully dismantled terror hubs affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizbul Mujahideen."

India, he added, had earlier tried to pressure Pakistan into taking action by giving it dossiers on evidence of terrorist activities emanating from its soil, as was the case after the Mumbai terror attack in 2008, but the neighbouring country paid little heed.

CPI(M) urges PM Modi to convene special session of Parliament, requests his 'personal participation'

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call a special session of Parliament in light of recent developments, and requested his "personal participation" in clarifying the government's position.

The CPI(M) joins a raft of opposition parties, including the Congress, in calling for a special session of Parliament in the wake of recent developments.

In a letter addressed to the prime minister, Baby said he was writing in light of recent developments concerning the "de-escalation of tensions and the announcement of a ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

He said, "This announcement has brought a sense of relief to all sections of our nation, as well as to the peace-loving international community. However, several pressing concerns remain unaddressed—particularly regarding the terrorist attack in Pahalgam."

The "heinous attack" in Pahalgam has "deeply shaken the conscience of the nation". Yet, the overwhelming unity displayed by citizens across the

country in its aftermath is a powerful and invaluable force, he added.

Baby said this solidarity must be harnessed to isolate terrorists and their supporters—both domestic and foreign.

"Regrettably, this moment of national unity is being undermined by virulent campaigns of hatred and jingoism, as well as the spread of misinformation by certain media outlets and elements on social media. These actions have caused significant confusion and unrest among the public," he said.

The CPI(M) general secretary said US President Donald Trump's announcement "regarding the ceasefire—made prior to any official statement from our representatives—has raised serious concerns".

India and Pakistan reached an agreement to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea on May 10 after four days of cross-border strikes that triggered fears of a wider conflict.

In a short announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had 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 Trump in a social media post while claiming that the talks between the two sides were mediated by the US.

Baby said in his letter to the prime minister, "It is an avowedly accepted policy of our country that we settle our disputes bilaterally, without allowing any third-party intervention. Therefore, this situation requires clear and authoritative clarification from the highest levels of our government."

"In the light of these issues, I urge you to convene a special session of Parliament, as already requested by the floor leaders of the CPI(M), and request your personal participation as the prime minister in clarifying the government's position," he added.

Govt should explain why US mediation was allowed: Sharad Pawar, favours all-party meeting

Mumbai, May 12 (PTI) NCP (SP) leader and former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar on Monday sought the explanation of the Central government on the "mediation" by the US in the issues concerning India and Pakistan against the backdrop of a military confrontation.

Even as Congress and other parties are demanding a special session of Parliament to discuss various developments post the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, Pawar favoured convening an all-party meeting.

"This is the first time that an American authority has spoken publicly about our domestic issue, which is not good," Pawar told reporters, apparently referring to US President Donald Trump's "ceasefire" announcement amid the Indo-Pak military confrontation.

Pawar said the Shimla Treaty is an exclusive agreement between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, which maintains that there will be no third-party intervention in issues concerning the two neighbours.

"It is an agreement between the PMS of the two countries. In this context, questions are being asked about the need for US mediation. The government should respond," he added.

He said the Shimla pact



maintains that the two countries will decide amongst themselves. "How can we give space to a third country?"

Pawar stressed that he was not against convening a special session of Parliament to discuss post-Pahalgam developments.

"I am not against a special session. But this (military issues) is a sensitive matter, and not all things can be disclosed. Some things need to be kept confidential. I feel (convening) an all-party meeting is better," the former defence minister added.

Let's see what the prime minister says, Pawar said when asked about PM Narendra Modi's scheduled address to the nation at around 8 PM tonight, his first since the start of Operation Sindoor.

Operation Sindoor was launched by India on the intervening night of May 6 and 7 to avenge the killings of 26 people in the Pahalgam terror

attack. Indian armed forces targeted nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, killing over 100 terrorists.

Pakistan's attempt to target several Indian military bases were repelled by armed forces by launching a fierce counter-attack on several military installations, including Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chuniyan.

When both countries teetered on the brink of a full-blown conflict, Trump on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire, claiming that it was a result of the US-mediated talks.

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.

'We have not hit Kirana Hills': IAF

New Delhi, May 12 (PTI) The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday trashed social media rumours that it hit Pakistan's Kirana Hills, which reportedly has a nuclear facility.

"We have not hit Kirana hills, whatever is there," Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said at a media briefing on Operation Sindoor.

He was asked about social media rumours that India hit a site called Kirana Hills that reportedly has a nuclear storage facility during its counter-offensive.

India's strikes hit an airbase in Sargodha and there were some reports that the base is linked to an underground nuclear storage facility in Kirana Hills.

Along with Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Raviv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral A N Pradmod addressed the media briefing.

US, China take step back from sky-high tariffs, agree to pause for 90 days for more talks

Geneva, May 12 (AP) US and Chinese officials said Monday they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Stock markets rose sharply as the globe's two major economic powers took a step back from a clash that has unsettled the global economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the US agreed to drop its 145 per cent tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed to lower its rate on US goods by the same amount to 10 per cent.

Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva.

The two officials struck a positive tone as they said the two sides had set up consultations to continue discussing their trade issues. Bessent said at the news briefing after two days of talks that the high tariff levels would have

amounted to a complete blockage of each side's goods, an outcome neither side wants.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Bessent said. "And what has occurred with these very high tariff... was an embargo, the equivalent of an embargo. And neither side wants that. We do want trade."

"We want more balanced trade," he said. "And I think that both sides are committed to achieving that."

The delegations, escorted around town and guarded by scores of Swiss police, met for at least a dozen hours on both days of the weekend at a sun-baked 17th-century villa that serves as the official residence of the Swiss ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

At times, the delegation leaders broke away from their staffs and settled into sofas on the villa's patios overlooking Lake Geneva, helping deepen personal ties in the effort to reach a much-sought deal.

China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides agreed

to cancel 91 per cent in tariffs on each other's goods and suspend another 24 per cent in tariffs for 90 days, bringing the total reduction to 115 percentage points.

The ministry called the agreement an important step for the resolution of the two countries' differences and said it lays the foundation for further cooperation.

"This initiative aligns with the expectations of producers and consumers in both countries and serves the interests of both nations as well as the common interests of the world," a ministry statement said.

China hopes the US will stop "the erroneous practice of unilateral tariff hikes" and work with China to safeguard the development of their economic and trade relations, injecting more certainty and stability into the global economy, the ministry said.

The joint statement issued by the two countries said China also agreed to suspend or remove other measures it has taken since April 2 in re-



sponse to the US tariffs.

China has increased export controls on rare earths including some critical to the defence industry and added more American companies to its export control and unreliable entity lists, restricting their business with and in China.

The full impact on the complicated tariffs and other trade penalties enacted by Washington and Beijing remains unclear. And much

depends on whether they will find ways to bridge longstanding differences during the 90-day suspension. Bessent said in an interview with CNBC that US and Chinese officials will meet again in a few weeks.

But investors rejoiced as trade envoys from the world's two biggest economies blinked, finding ways to pull back from potentially massive disruptions to world trade and their own markets.

Futures for the S&P 500 jumped 2.6 per cent and for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 2 per cent. Oil prices surged more than USD 1.60 a barrel and the US dollar gained against the euro and the Japanese yen.

"This is a substantial de-escalation," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist at Capital Economics. But he warned "there is no guarantee that the 90-day truce will give way to a lasting ceasefire."

Jens Eskelund, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, welcomed the news but expressed caution. The tariffs only were suspended for 90 days and there is great uncertainty over what lies ahead, he said in a statement.

"Businesses need predictability to maintain normal operations and make investment decisions. The chamber therefore hopes to see both sides continue to engage in dialogue to resolve differences, and avoid taking measures that will disrupt global trade and result in

collateral damage for those caught in the cross-fire," Eskelund said.

Trump last month raised US tariffs on China to a combined 145 per cent, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125 per cent levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the two countries boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped USD 660 billion.

The announcement by the US and China sent shares surging, with US futures jumping more than 2 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index surged nearly 3 per cent and benchmarks in Germany and France were both up 0.7 per cent.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on countries worldwide, but its fight with China has been the most intense. Trump's import taxes on goods from China include a 20 per cent charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States.

China denies reports of sending cargo plane with military supplies to Pakistan

Beijing, May 12 (PTI) The Chinese military on Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAF) has denied that its Xi'an Y-20 military transport aircraft has taken supplies to Pakistan.

After seeing a large amount of information on the internet about a "Y-20 transporting relief supplies to Pakistan", the Air Force said in a statement that such claims were untrue, a report on the official website of the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Monday.

The PLAF also posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word "rumour".

"The internet is not beyond the law! Those who produce and spread military-related rumours will be held legally responsible!" the report added.

The denial by the PLA, which shares close ties with



its Pakistan counterpart, was regarded as significant, coming two days after an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions and Islamabad's requirement for immediate replenishments.

According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has emerged as the largest weapons supplier to Pakistan, accounting for 81 per cent of arms procurement of China's all-weather ally from 2020 to 2024. The procurement included the latest jet fighters, radars, naval ships, submarines and missiles.

Both countries jointly manufacture J-17 aircraft, the mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Considering the large-scale use of Chinese weapons supplies by Pakistan and

the all-weather relationship between the two countries, the Chinese official media showed considerable interest during the last few days in the India-Pakistan military confrontation, regurgitating some of Pakistan's claims, including the downing of planes.

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

This was followed by major strikes on several Pakistan airbases a day later, virtually weakening Pakistan's ability to retaliate as India's air defence missile systems successfully thwarted a series of attempts made by Pakistan to breach Indian airspace with swarm drone and missile attacks.

While the Chinese official

media here intimately played up reports of Pakistan's claims of shooting down planes, the scale of attacks by the Indian Air Force on nine terror sites deep inside Pakistan followed by strikes on radar systems and air bases came as a surprise here.

The Indian Embassy in Beijing cautioned state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media.

On the diplomatic front, China said it will play a constructive role to bring about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

China hopes India and Pakistan will consolidate and maintain the momentum of the ceasefire, avoid renewed conflict, and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation, returning to the path of political settlement.

China stands ready to maintain communication with both sides and continue to play a constructive role in achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and safeguarding regional peace and stability, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told the media last week.

Israeli strike on school-turned-shelter kills 16 people in Gaza

Hamas says it will release last living American hostage in Gaza in a ceasefire effort

Deir al-Balah, May 12 (AP) An Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter in the Gaza Strip killed at least 16 people early on Monday, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

At least five children and four women were among those killed in the strike on a school in the Jabaliya area, the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service said. It also said that a number of people were wounded.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because its fighters operate in densely populated areas. There was no immediate comment on the latest strike.

The attack came as U.S. President Donald Trump is heading to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week.

After ending a ceasefire two months ago, Israel is intensifying the war in the Gaza Strip, where its 10-week blockade on food, medicine and other supplies is worsen-



ing a humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, Hamas said the last living American hostage in Gaza will be released as part of efforts to establish a ceasefire, reopen crossings into the Israeli-blockaded territory and resume aid delivery to the battered enclave.

Two Hamas officials have told The Associated Press they expect the release of Edan Alexander in the next 48 hours.

Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff confirmed in a message to the AP that Hamas has agreed to release Alexander as a good will gesture toward Trump.

The announcement of the first hostage release since Israel shattered a ceasefire in March comes shortly before Trump visits the Middle East this week. Alexander is an Israeli-American soldier who grew up in the United States.

Keir Starmer gets tough on migration, doubles UK citizenship wait times

London, May 12 (PTI) British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday unveiled a tough new set of policy measures, including doubling the wait time for migrants seeking citizenship from five to 10 years, to ensure immigration figures fall significantly over the next five years.

Addressing a press conference from Downing Street ahead of the Labour Party government's much-anticipated Immigration White Paper being tabled in Parliament, Starmer blamed the previous Conservative Party administration for leaving behind a "mess" of an "open borders experiment".

He went on to pledge that his government's tighter measures will create an immigration system that is "controlled, selective and fair".

"Make no mistake, this plan means migration will fall. That is a promise," said Starmer.

"Every area of the immigration system - work, family and study - will be tightened up so we have more control. Fair rules must be followed," he said, with reference to the White Paper.

The new system will end the current mechanism of automatic settlement and citizenship for anyone, including Indians, living in the UK for five years.

Instead, all migrants must spend a decade in

the UK before applying for permanent residency, unless they can show a "real and lasting contribution to the economy and society".

Under this new framework to be rolled out, "high-skilled and high-contributing" individuals, such as "nurses, doctors, engineers and AI leaders", who contribute to the UK economy, will be fast-tracked.

The new rules will also toughen language requirements across every immigration route to ensure a higher standard of English. For the first time this will also extend to all adult dependents of foreigners, by requiring them to demonstrate a basic understanding of English - "helping individuals integrate into their local community, find employment and reducing the risk of exploitation and abuse", Downing Street said.

The full package of the White Paper reforms will be laid out by UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in the House of Commons and is also expected to include a crackdown on overseas care worker numbers, including the closure of the Health and Care Visa to new applications.

The skilled worker routes will be tightened to raise the minimum qualification requirement to a graduate-level degree, with the minimum salary threshold for a visa also set to be hiked.

According to the Home

Office, access to the points-based immigration system will be limited to occupations where there have been long-term shortages, on a time limited basis.

For foreign students, including those from India, the period of their post-study work visa route to stay on after completing a degree will shrink from 24 to 18 months.

"Public services were stretched, housing costs soared, and employers swapped skills investment for cheap overseas labour. In sectors like engineering, apprenticeships almost halved while work visas doubled and communities were asked to absorb record numbers," Downing Street said.

"Backdoor routes to settlement will be closed, enforcement will be stepped up as we end abuse of the system," the statement added.

Starmer has been under considerable pressure to cut migrant numbers after the anti-immigration Reform Party's recent surge in local polls. However, he was firm on not setting an annual cap on numbers allowed into the country.

"I don't think it is sensible to put a hard-edged cap on it. That has been done in one form or another for the best part of 10 years by different prime ministers. The only thing that links those prime ministers and the various caps or quotas or limits they put in place is every single one of them failed," he said.

Food security experts warn Gaza at critical risk of famine if Israel doesn't end blockade

Tel Aviv, May 12 (AP) The Gaza Strip is at critical risk of famine if Israel doesn't lift its blockade and stop its military campaign, food security experts said in a stark warning on Monday.

Outright famine is the most likely scenario unless conditions change, according to findings by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a leading international authority on the severity of hunger crises.

Nearly a half million Palestinians are in "catastrophic" levels of hunger, meaning they face possible starvation, the report said, while another million are at "emergency" levels of hunger.

Israel has banned any food, shelter, medicine or other goods from entering the Palestinian territory for the past 10 weeks, even as it carries out waves of airstrikes and ground operations.

Gaza's population of around 2.3 million people relies almost entirely on outside aid to survive, because Israel's 19-month-old military campaign has wiped away most capacity to produce food inside the territory.

Food supplies are emptying out dramatically. Communal kitchens handing out cooked meals are virtually the only remaining source of food for most people in Gaza now, but they too are rapidly shutting down for lack of stocks.

Thousands of Palestinians crowd daily outside the public kitchens, pushing and jostling with their pots to receive lentils or pasta.

"We end up waiting in line for four, five hours, in the sun. It is exhausting," said Riham Sheikh el-Eid, waiting at a kitchen on Sunday. "At the end,

we walk away with nothing. It is not enough for everybody."

The lack of a famine declaration doesn't mean people aren't already starving, and a declaration shouldn't be a precondition for ending the suffering, said Chris Newton, an analyst for the International Crisis Group focusing on starvation as a weapon of war.

"The Israeli government is starving Gaza as part of its attempt to destroy Hamas and transform the strip," he said.

The office of Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, did not respond to a request for comment. The army has said that enough assistance entered Gaza during a two-month ceasefire that Israel shattered in mid-March when it relaunched its military campaign.

Israel says the blockade aims to pressure Hamas to release the hostages it still holds. It says it won't let aid back in until a new system giving it control over distribution is in place, accusing Hamas of siphoning off supplies.

The United Nations denies substantial diversion of aid is taking place. It says the new system Israel envisages is unnecessary, will allow aid to be used as a weapon for political and military goals, and will not meet the massive needs of Palestinians.

The United States says it is working up a new mechanism that will start deliveries soon, but it has given no timeframe. The UN has so far refused to participate, saying the plan does not meet humanitarian standards.

Monday's report said that any slight gains made during the ceasefire have been reversed. Nearly the entire pop-

ulation of Gaza now faces high levels of hunger, it said, driven by conflict, the collapse of infrastructure, destruction of agriculture, and blockades of aid.

Commenting on the report, the head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said any delay in restoring the flow of aid "brings us closer to famine."

"If we fail to act, we are failing to uphold the right to food, which is a basic human right," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the group's October 7, 2023, surprise 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, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, whose count does not distinguish between civilians or combatants.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, first set up in 2004 during the famine in Somalia, groups more than a dozen UN agencies, aid groups, governments and other bodies.

It has only declared famine a few times - in Somalia in 2011, and South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and last year in parts of Sudan's western Darfur region. Tens of thousands are believed to have died in Somalia and South Sudan.

It rates an area as in famine when at least two of three things occur: 20 per cent of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially starving; at least 30 per cent of children six months to five years suffer from acute malnutrition or wasting,

meaning they're too thin for their height; and at least two people or four children under five per every 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

The report found that the first threshold was met in Gaza, saying 477,000 people - or 22 per cent of the population - are classified as in "catastrophic" hunger for the period from May 11 to the end of September, and another million area at "emergency" levels, meaning they face very large gaps in food and high levels of acute malnutrition.

The malnutrition and deaths thresholds were not met. The data was gathered in April and up to May 6. Food security experts say it takes time for people to start dying from starvation.

The report warned of "imminent" famine in northern Gaza in March 2024, but the following month, Israel allowed an influx of aid under US pressure after an Israeli strike killed seven aid workers.

Aid groups now say the situation is the most dire of the entire war. The UN humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said on Friday that the number of children seeking treatment at clinics for malnutrition has doubled since February, even as supplies to treat them are quickly running out.

Aid groups have shut down food distribution for lack of stocks. Many foods have disappeared from the markets and what's left has spiralled in price and is unaffordable to most. Farmland is mostly destroyed or inaccessible. Water distribution is grinding to a halt, largely because of lack of fuel.

'King' Virat Kohli announces Test retirement; says it's not easy but feels right

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

India's most successful Test captain and the fulcrum of its batting for over a decade, Virat Kohli announced his retirement from the format on Monday, ending his passionate love affair with the five-day game which celebrated him as its saviour during a global T20 surge.

The 36-year-old Kohli, who admitted that it wasn't an easy call to make, turned up in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9230 runs with 30 hundreds and 31 half centuries at an average of 46.85.

He will now only be seen in ODIs, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year after having a significant role in India's T20 World Cup win in the Caribbean.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," Kohli announced on his Instagram page, putting an end to incessant speculation about his future in the format that peaked after the tour of Australia earlier this year.

Since making his debut in 2011 as the nation's Test cap number 269, Kohli captained India to the world number one position in the format and fetched a historic series triumph in Australia in 2018-19.

Under his leadership, India won 40 of 68 Tests, making him the most successful for his country and fourth most successful overall, behind South African Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh. He also logged 20 hundreds as captain, making it the highest by an



Indian in that position.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," Kohli added.

The megastar's last Test assignment was a largely underwhelming tour of Australia in which he managed just one hundred. He ends his career well short of the 10,000 run mark, which was, at one stage, considered a formality.

The right-hander nonetheless signs off as a giant of the format with seven double hundreds, the highest for an Indian and well ahead of the legendary quartet of Sunil Gavaskar (4), Sachin Tendulkar (6), Virender Sehwag (6) and Rahul Dravid (5).

At a time when T20 leagues became the most sought after and watched showpiece in international cricket, Kohli's aura played a significant role in keeping fans hooked to Test cricket.

This was acknowledged by no less than Sir Viv Richards, with whom he was often compared for his style and aggression, that he dialled down considerably in the last few years.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever," Kohli wrote in his farewell note for the format.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy - but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'll

always look back at my Test career with a smile," he added.

His retirement continues the exodus of Indian bigwigs from the Test arena. Ravichandran Ashwin (in December) and Rohit Sharma (last week) are the others to have called it quits in the format.

In ODIs, Kohli is not expected to wind up before 2027 but his Test departure will leave a huge void in the team that is on the hunt for a new captain in the format after Rohit's sudden retirement.

Kohli recently enjoyed a fairly decent outing during the Champions Trophy, smashing an unbeaten hundred against arch-foes Pakistan and scoring 84 crucial runs against Australia in the semifinals.

India won the trophy, adding another glorious chapter to his storied ODI career of 302 games in which he has amassed 14,181 runs, dotted with a jaw-dropping 51 hundreds, at an average of 57.88.

The BCCI lauded its biggest star of the past decade by declaring that his "legacy will continue forever."

"His contributions to #TeamIndia will forever be cherished!" the Board posted on X.

From 2016 to 2018, Kohli enjoyed a golden run in Tests, averaging over 75 for two consecutive years and scoring 14 of his 30 hundreds in those three years.

His form dipped considerably in the past four of years and he stepped down from captaincy in 2022 following a series defeat in South Africa.

He later went on to say that the leadership role and the resultant spotlight affected him adversely and he quit to return to a "happy space" mentally.

A peek into Kohli's mind days before Test retirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12



Virat Kohli's retirement is a huge loss to Test cricket but his announcement on Monday was not entirely surprising. Perhaps the microscopic attention "became too much" for the superstar towards the fag end of his career in the longest format.

Kohli was credited with single-handedly keeping Test cricket alive with his exceptional commitment to the format and now expect the 'dying' ODI cricket to regain relevance with the Indian superstar only available for that form of the game.

Though Kohli had an exciting challenge ahead of him in the five-Test series in England, the end seemed near for India's most successful Test captain.

In his retirement statement, Kohli insisted it was the right decision and he was walking away with no regrets and only a smile on his face.

Considering his exemplary fitness levels, on display in the IPL where he has shown remarkable consistency, Kohli could have easily carried on for at least one more season.

In a podcast with his IPL team Royal Challengers Bengaluru last week, Kohli gave an insight into his mind when asked about giving up India captaincy in T20s and Tests. His detailed conversation with the host also gave a sneak peek into what may have been on his mind before Monday's announcement.

"At one point, it (attention) did become tough for

me because there was just too much happening in my career. I was captaining India for a period of 7-8 years. I captained RCB for nine years. There were expectations on me from a batting perspective - every game that I played," said Kohli on 'RCB Bold Diaries' podcast.

"I didn't have this sense that the attention was off me. If it wasn't captaincy, it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24x7. It did get very tough on me, and it did get too much in the end."

Known to give his all every time he steps on the field, Kohli has realised over time that the game is just a part of his life.

With that mindset, he stepped down from captaincy, and even took a one month break in 2022. More recently, he moved to the UK to be away from the constant glare on his every move.

"I stepped down (from captaincy) because I felt like if I've decided I want to be in this place, I need to be happy."

"I need to have a space in my life where I can just come and play my cricket without being judged, without being looked at as what are you going to do this season and what's going to happen now," Kohli said in that podcast.

Even when is not in

the best of forms, Kohli remains the biggest crowd puller in the game. He single-handedly lifted Test cricket out of doldrums.

He drew close to 15,000 fans to an otherwise neglected Ranji Trophy game that was witnessed in January this year. His 15-ball stay was enough to fill in the crowds for the majority of the game.

Kohli loved Test cricket but what the brought out the best in him was ODIs. With the next World Cup a couple of years away, his fans and the cricketing world would be hoping that he carries on at least till then.

In the RCB podcast, Kohli also talked about when exactly a player would feel "done" in his book.

"What happens when you're young is you feel like, if I have scored X amount of runs by the time I'm this age or whatever, things will ease out. It never happens like that. And that is the marker actually."

"When you stop feeling that nervousness or that anticipation of how things are going to unfold is when people say that you're done," he explained.

He also spoke about training his mind to keep him going in a long career.

"I've tried this on a few occasions where I've been all over the place and then I would decide, you know what? I've scored these many runs and these many hundreds and I'm going to walk out thinking that - but it makes no difference," he said.

Kohli's Test retirement makes Tendulkar's record of 100 centuries 'safe'

MONA PARTHASARATHY
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

(PTI) If there was one player who was considered worthy of bettering Sachin Tendulkar's record of 100 international hundreds, it was Virat Kohli.

When Tendulkar was asked in an award ceremony after hitting his 100th century who can break his record, he took two names: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Within a week, both Rohit and Virat retired from Test format.

Kohli, who quit the Test arena on Monday, is still 18 hundreds away from equalling the incredible milestone and now has just one format to play, may be for a maximum of two years.

In an age when the relevance of the 50-over format is a continuous debate, hitting 19 hundreds in ODIs is a humongous task.

There is a possibility of Kohli featuring in the ODI World Cup to be held



in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in 2027.

Before that, India is scheduled to play only 27 ODIs which includes a three-match series against Bangladesh in August-September.

It looks Tendulkar's record is 'here to stay'.

Tendulkar scored 51 centuries in 200 Tests and 49 centuries in 463 ODIs.

Kohli hit 30 centuries in 123 Tests, 51 in 302 ODIs and one in 125 T20 games.

Former captain Rohit has scored a total of 49 centuries, including 12 in Tests, 32 in ODIs and five in T20s.

In the list of batsmen who have scored the most centuries in international cricket, after Tendulkar and Kohli, are Australia's Ricky Ponting (71), Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (63), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (62) and Hashim Amla (55), Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (54).

Kohli's contemporaries England's Joe Root (53), Australia's Steve Smith (48) and New Zealand's Kane Williamson (48) are also at the fag end of their careers and there is no chance of them even getting close to Tendulkar's record.

Semifinal spot booked, India face Nepal with aim to top group in SAFF U19 C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
YUPIA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH),
MAY 12

Having already booked a berth in the SAFF U19 Championship semifinals, India will aim to secure the top spot in Group B when they face Nepal here on Tuesday.

India had beaten Sri Lanka 8-0 in their campaign opener last week. On Sunday, Nepal thrashed Sri Lanka 5-0, a result which also guaranteed a semifinal spot for both India and the island nation.

The home team needs just a draw on Tuesday to finish at the top in the group.

"Both teams won their first games by big margins. But we don't read too much into the scorelines. Every match is different, and Nepal have shown that they are a strong and competitive side," India head coach Bibiano Fernandes said.

"We've analysed their game and know they are well organised. For us, it's about sticking to our strengths, staying focused, and giving our best on the day," he added.

Fernandes also emphasised the importance of not getting carried away after a big victory.

"It's always important to stay grounded, especially after a win like that. The real test is to keep the same intensity and hunger against



stronger teams. The message is clear - one match at a time, no complacency, and always respect the opponent. That's how we grow as a team."

The Nepal team has a mix of their U20 and U17 players from last year. They finished runners-up in the SAFF U20 Championship and were semifinalists in the SAFF U17 Championship, after losing 2-4 to India.

Under Urjan Shrestha, who was in charge of the U20 team last year, Nepal recorded their second-biggest victory in a SAFF men's age-group tournament, mainly thanks to a solid second-half showing against Sri Lanka.

Shrestha's boys are now gearing up for a much tougher challenge in the shape of hosts India.

"It was difficult to break Sri Lanka down in the first half as they

were defending with all 10 players behind the ball. But in the end, we did succeed, so we're happy about that," said Shrestha.

"We came to watch the India match. There's a big difference. We are already in the semi-final, but we will play a tough game against India. We will improve on our mistakes in the first game and hope to continue our journey here," the Nepal coach said.

END OF AN ERA: CRICKET FRATERNITY HAILS KOHLI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Virat Kohli's Test retirement is the "end of an era" and a closure to an "epic career", the cricket fraternity said on Monday, eulogising the modern-day Indian great.

The 36-year-old ended his inspiring run in the traditional format, scoring 9230 runs from 123 matches with 30 hundreds and an average of 46.85. He will only play in ODIs now, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year.

"An era ends in Test cricket but the legacy will continue FOREVER! The former Team India Captain retires from Test cricket. His contributions to Team India will forever be cherished," the BCCI said in a post on X.

In a statement, BCCI president Roger Binny said, "Virat Kohli's name will be remembered alongside the finest ever to have graced Test

cricket. What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format of the game."

"His leadership marked a shift in how India competed overseas - with aggression, belief, and a refusal to settle for second best. He inspired a generation to take pride in the whites, and his impact on Indian cricket will be felt for decades to come."

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir said he will miss Kohli, who is also known for his bold and unapologetic passion for the game.

"A man with lion's passion! Will miss u cheeks," he posted.

The ICC hailed Kohli as one of India's Test greats.

"One of India's Test greats calls time in the longest format. Whites off, crown intact. Virat Kohli bids goodbye to Test cricket, leaving behind an unmatched legacy," the ICC said.

"Thank you for championing the

purest format during the rise of T20 cricket and setting an extraordinary example in discipline, fitness, and commitment," ICC chief Jay Shah wrote.

Former India coach Ravi Shastri said he still can't fathom that Kohli is done with his Test career.

"Can't believe you are done. You are a modern-day GIANT and were a fantastic ambassador for Test match cricket in every way you played and captained. Thank you for the lasting memories you've given to everyone, and to me in particular. It's something I will cherish for life. Go well," Shastri wrote on X.

Tennis great Novak Djokovic also took to social media to hail Kohli's career.

"Incredible innings," wrote Djokovic on his Instagram story.

Former South African cricketer AB De Villiers also sang Kohli's praise.



"Congrats to my biscotti on an epic Test career! Your determination & skill have always inspired me. True legend!" he tweeted.

Ajinkya Rahane posted on Instagram, "It's been a special journey sharing the field with you. So many great memories and partnerships together. Congratulations on an amazing Test career!"

Former teammates Yuvraj Singh and Cheteshwar Pujara highlighted Kohli's drive and dedication towards Tests.

"Test cricket brought out the fighter in you and you gave it everything! You played the way greats do, with hunger in your heart, fire in your belly and pride in every stride. Proud of what you've done in whites. Go well King Kohli!" Yuvraj wrote.

"Congratulations Virat on a Test career you can be incredibly proud of. Your passion for the format was inspiring...and it was an honour to

share the crease with you over the years, in the heat of many-a-battle, grinding it out for the country! Will cherish the several memories and partnerships together" Pujara wrote.

Harbhajan Singh remembered the tough and successful days he had shared with Kohli.

"Virat, we've shared that era...faced the grind together, lived the long days of Test cricket with pride. Your batting in whites is special - not just in numbers, but in intent, intensity, and inspiration. Good luck going forward," he tweeted.

Star Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who made his Test debut under Kohli's leadership, expressed gratitude.

"From making my Test debut under your captaincy to reaching new heights together for our country, your passion and energy will be missed but the legacy you leave behind remains unmatched," Bumrah wrote.