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KIYG 2025: SABINA, A DAILY-WAGER'S DAUGHTER, PEDALS HER WAY TO THREE MEDALS... : PAGE-11

Pakistan launches 300-400 Turkish drones, attempts to strike 36 locations



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) In a significant escalation of hostilities, Pakistan launched a coordinated and unprecedented attack on India late on May 8, deploying between 300 to 400 Turkish-made drones alongside heavy artillery shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a joint media briefing with senior military officials, confirmed the scale and intent of the assault, calling it a direct strike on India's military infrastructure. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, flanked by Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, revealed that the drones-manufactured by Türkiye's Asisgard-were launched across 36 targeted locations with the aim of disabling critical Indian defence facilities. The incursions were timed with high-calibre shelling along the western front, indicating a well-orchestrated military operation by Pakistan.

In a tactical move to avoid immediate Indian retaliation, Pakistan operated the drones within civilian aviation corridors, exploiting the presence of commercial air traffic as a shield. "Their intention was not just aggression-it was deception, risking civilian lives to cover military actions," Wing Commander Singh stated.

India responded swiftly. Four of its own armed drones were deployed, successfully destroying a Pakistani aerial defence radar installation. According to the Defence Ministry, both kinetic and non-kinetic countermeasures were used to neutralize the drone threats and prevent any damage to key installations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and surrounding areas.

The offensive triggered power outages and heightened fear in several towns and cities across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. Surveillance and air defence systems remain on high alert as security forces continue to monitor the situation closely. Civilians in border regions have been advised to stay vigilant as the potential for further escalation remains high.

This large-scale breach is being viewed as a turning point in cross-border tensions, signaling a dangerous shift toward drone-centric warfare.

Jharkhand on high alert amid Indo-Pak tensions, security tightened at key installations

Ranchi/Bokaro, May 9 (IANS) Amid tensions between India and Pakistan following the Indian Army's Operation Sindoor, security has been heightened across Jharkhand, with all public and private institutions, along with police and administrative agencies, placed on high alert to prevent any untoward incident.

Acting on directives from the Union Home Ministry, security patrols and surveillance have been intensified at sensitive locations, including major railway stations, airports, industrial units, and other public places across the state.

Advisories have been issued to government and private sector offices and workshops, instructing all staff to remain alert and be aware of emergency protocols. Employees have been briefed on precautionary and rescue measures in case of any contingency.

In Ranchi, the Sadar Sub-Divisional Magistrate has imposed prohibitory orders in several critical areas. These include the Chief Minister's residence, High Court, Vidhan Sabha, the HEC, Project Bhawan, and Nepal House.

The orders ban unauthorised demonstrations, rallies, or processions. It will remain in effect till July 4 or until further notice.

The public has also been prohibited from carrying any kind of weapon, including firearms, swords, bows and arrows. The use of loudspeakers without prior permission is also banned during this period.

In a significant travel advisory, passengers flying out of Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi have been asked to arrive at least three hours prior to their scheduled departure, in view of intensified security checks.

Meanwhile, at the Bokaro Steel Plant, the CISF has ramped up internal security. All gates of the plant are now under strict monitoring, and no entry is permitted without a valid gate pass and ID verification.

Checking has been extended beyond the main gate to include all office entry points within the plant premises.

The Head of Communications at Bokaro Steel Plant confirmed that these measures are precautionary, undertaken in view of the current national security situation. He urged all personnel to comply fully with the security protocols issued by the government.

Indian carriers cancel flights to 24 airports till May 15 as tensions flare up

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Indian carriers on Friday announced that flights to 24 airports had been cancelled till May 15, following a notification from aviation authorities on the continued closure of multiple airports in the country.

Keeping the escalating India-Pakistan conflict in mind, the government has extended the closure of 24 airports till May 14.

Air India said its flights to and from the following stations - Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Bhuj, Jamnagar, and Rajkot - "are being cancelled till 0529 hrs IST on 15 May, pending further updates".

"Customers holding valid tickets for travel during this period will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges or a full refund for cancellations," said the airline.

Low-cost airline IndiGo said that in accordance with the latest directives from the relevant authorities, "please be advised that all flights to and from the following destinations will remain cancelled until 0529 hours on 15th May 2025 due to temporary airport closures: Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Leh, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Bikaner, Rajkot, Jodhpur, and Kishangarh".

The airline further stated that these precautionary measures have been instituted with "your safety and security as our highest priority. We remain fully committed to providing you with unwavering support while navigating this situation together".

PM takes stock of 'Operation Sindoor' in huddle with Doval, 3 service chiefs, veterans



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, CDS General Anil Chauhan and the three service chiefs in the backdrop of the ongoing 'Operation Sindoor'.

Apart from discussing the future course, PM Modi is believed to have discussed the continuous violation of the ceasefire by Pakistan in the sectors along the Line of Control and the border.

The PM's engagement with military commanders and strategists also involved an extensive interaction with veterans. Those who took part in the discussions included former Air Force Chiefs, Army Chiefs, and Navy Chiefs, sources said.

Earlier, the Indian Armed Forces briefed media persons about the violation of airspace by Pakistan on Thursday night and the forceful response given by the Indian side.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said Pakistan's army fired around 300-400 drones on the intervening nights of May 8 and May 9 at about 36 locations along the Western border. The drones are apparently Turkey-made. However, evidence to this effect is awaited.

"The possible purpose of such large-scale aerial intrusion was to attempt infiltration and test India's air defence system and collect intelligence," said Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, during a special press briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on 'Operation Sindoor'.

On Thursday night, Pakistan targeted multiple cities, including military installations, with a volley of drones and missile attacks, however, all were repulsed by India's robust air defence system, and this left the Pakistani Army flustered and panicky.

The women officers of the Indian Armed Forces informed that the forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done; however, "initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones". Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said: "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistani army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border with the intention of targeting military infrastructure. It also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control. However, all their attempts were neutralised by us via kinetic and non-kinetic means."

Pakistan's contrasting claims on Indian drone strikes expose duplicity



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Rattled by Indian military strikes on terror bases inside its territory, the Pakistan government and its army have gone into overdrive to save face, first, by launching drones and UAVs on Indian territory and then, activating its propaganda machinery to spread fake and fabricated impression that it got an edge over Indian forces in the military face-off.

In a bid to project it as the superior force, Pakistan is only exposing its duplicity. The contrasting claims by the Pakistan Army and its Defence Minister Khwaja Muhammed Asif regarding Indian drone strikes has caught the attention of netizens, and this has only made them a laughing stock.

DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif claimed that Pakistan Army shot down at least 12 loitering munitions sent by India.

However, the Defence Minister is heard claiming in a video that they didn't shoot Indian drones to avoid leaking the strategic positions of their military assets.

On May 8, Pakistan Army spokesman Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that as many as 9 different places in Pakistan were targeted by Indian drones. He claimed that Pakistani forces shot down 12 Harop drones, adding that they didn't cause much damage. He also claimed to have images of debris of drones shot by Pakistani forces.

On May 9, the Pakistani Defence Minister reportedly claimed that India used stealth technology to enter Pakistani airspace and Pakistan didn't intercept it knowingly.

The vial video on social media, shows him stating: "We didn't intercept Indian drones because we didn't want to reveal our locations."

A day ago, Khwaja Asif faced an embarrassing situation as a US journalist (working with a leading media outlet) questioned him about Pakistan's claims of shooting down Indian jets.

When asked whether he had proof to back the claims, he pointed to social media posts.

"You're the defence minister, sir. The reason to talk to you today, is not to talk about content all over social media," the journalist quipped.

Seven terrorists killed as BSF foils infiltration bid from Pak in J&K's Samba



Jammu, May 9 (IANS) Seven terrorists were killed on Friday by troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) during a foiled infiltration bid on the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district.

BSF sources said a heavily armed group of terrorists, aided by fire cover by Pakistan rangers, tried to infiltrate into the Indian side of the International Border in Samba district.

"Seven terrorists have been killed during this foiled infiltration bid. The operation is still going on in the area," sources said.

After its drones and low-range missiles fired at target defence installations were neutralised by the alert troops in Jammu, Samba, R.S. Pura and other places, terrorists aided by Pakistan troops made an unsuccessful infiltration attempt in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on the border.A BSF spokesman said a major infiltration bid from across the International Border was foiled around 11 p.m. on Thursday evening. The intruding terrorists were forced to withdraw back into the Pakistan side of the border.A woman was killed and another injured in Pakistan's heavy mortar shelling on civilian areas in the Uri sector of Baramulla district late Thursday evening.

Officials said a vehicle travelling from Razerwani to Baramulla was hit by a shell fired from across the Line Of Control (LoC) near Mohura. In this incident, a woman identified as Nargis Begum was killed while another woman, Hafeeza Begum was injured. Pakistan Army continued resorting to heavy mortar shelling in Uri, Tangdhar, Poonch and Rajouri on the LoC and in Samba on the International Border.Drones and low-range missiles fired at Jammu airport as well as other defence installations in Jammu city failed as these were neutralised in the air by an efficient air defence system put in place by the Armed Forces.

Pakistan's 2 JF-17 jets shot down by India

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, India has shot down Pakistan Air Force's two JF-17 aircraft after Pakistan tried to attack multiple locations in Jammu and Punjab, government sources said.

Earlier on Thursday, Pakistan made attempts to target several locations in India; however, Indian air defence guns shot down the intruding drones.

India also shot down Pakistan's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) inside its Punjab province, sources said, adding that it fell on their side.

Meanwhile, drone attacks have also been foiled in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur and Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and a drone was shot down in Akhnoor.

Two Kamikaze drones were also shot down in Poonch.

According to sources, the Indian SAM (Surface-to-air missile) shot down the fighter jets near the Sargodha air base.

New low even for Pakistan: India hits out at Islamabad for targetting religious places



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) As Pakistani troops continued resorting to heavy mortar shelling on the Indian side along the Line of Control (LoC), India on Friday slammed the rogue nation for specifically targetting religious places labelling it as a "new low even for Pakistan".

"We have seen the Pakistani side targetting and shelling places of worship with a particular design, including gurdwaras, churches and temples. This is a new low even for Pakistan," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said during a special media briefing on Operation Sindoor in New Delhi.

Misri not only highlighted Pakistani Army's attack on a Gurdwara in Poonch - which resulted in the death of some local members of the Sikh community, including the Ragi of the Gurdwara - but also the shelling on Christian schools, exposing Pakistan's false claims of not targetting any religious places.

"We do have some information about this extremely regrettable and condemnable incident. During heavy shelling across the Line of Control in the early morning of 7th May, a shell fired from Pakistan landed just behind the Christ School run by the Carmelites of the Mary Immaculate Congregation in Poonch. Tragically, the shell fired from Pakistan hit the home of two students of the Christ School. Both students unfortunately lost their lives, and their parents were severely injured," he said.

"Another Pakistani shell struck a Christian Convent of Nuns belonging to the Congregation of Mother of Carmel, damaging water tanks and destroying solar panel infrastructure. Several priests, nuns, school staff and local residents took refuge in an underground hall beneath the school during the shelling by Pakistan. The school was fortunately closed at that time otherwise more losses would have occurred," the Foreign Secretary detailed. The Indian Army on Thursday strongly condemned the killing of innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, vowing that such attacks will be met with resolute and punitive action.

Pakistan's "provocative and escalatory actions" continued on Thursday night as it targetted Indian cities and civilian infrastructure in addition to the military targets.

"The official and blatantly farcical denial of these attacks carried out by Pakistan, made by the Pakistani state machinery, is yet another example of their duplicity and the new depths they are sinking to in their quest for disinformation," Misri mentioned on Friday.

Indian Army should seize PoK and separate Balochistan: Saryu

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, May 9: Saryu Roy, MLA of Jamshedpur West, made a bold statement suggesting that if a full-scale war is declared, the Indian Army should not only take control of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) but also work towards separating Balochistan from Pakistan. He emphasized that this would instill confidence among the Indian public.

Roy also advocated for the right of Baloch people to self-rule.

Speaking to the media after participating in a rally supporting the Indian Army, where participants raised slogans like "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Indian Army Zindabad," Roy noted the significant shift since 2014, under Prime Minister Modi's government.

He pointed out that while Pakistan had previously sent militants into India, our armed forces were now effectively neutralizing these threats at the border.

Roy also referenced the recent Pahalgam attack, stressing that the entire country stood united in supporting the Indian Army, which is providing a robust response to Pakistan's provocations.(w/nkm)

Congress delegation seeks relief on permit fees for Ola, Uber drivers

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: Led by District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey, a delegation from the East Singhbhum District Congress Committee submitted a memorandum to the District Transport Officer (DTO) of Jamshedpur.

The delegation raised serious concerns regarding the financial burden faced by owners and drivers of Ola and Uber vehicles due to the mandatory five-year lumpsum payment of permit fees.

The delegation stated that this policy has left many drivers in financial distress, with some reportedly on the verge of starvation.

As per current rules, failure to pay the five-year fee in one go results in a Rs 10,000 penalty, compounding the problems of many low-income vehicle owners.

Dubey urged the transport authorities to consider introducing a quarterly permit fee slab to ease the burden.

He also highlighted safety risks, pointing out that drivers, while avoiding police checks, often attempt to flee, leading to potential road accidents.

The DTO responded positively, acknowledging the validity of the concerns and assured the delegation that a departmental proposal would be initiated.

Dubey further announced that a higher-level delegation will soon meet the Transport Minister of Jharkhand to press these demands. (w/nkm)

"Waqt Ke Paar": A tribute to the courageous life of Kumari Chhaya

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, May 9: The inspiring life of late writer and educator Kumari Chhaya is set to be immortalized in an upcoming book titled "Waqt Ke Paar" (Beyond Time), which will be released on her first death anniversary on May 17.

The book not only captures her contribution to literature and education but also chronicles her unwavering spirit in the face of cancer. Described as a deeply emotional and reflective tribute, the book explores Chhaya's life, her passion for writing and teaching and her battle against a life-threatening illness.

Despite her suffering, she continued to write, proclaiming, "Life is not over yet," until her final days. "Waqt Ke Paar" is not just a biography; it's a message of hope to all those struggling through adversity.

It is a continuation of the legacy Chhaya left behind through her previous works, including "Ek Pyali Chai," "Meri Umeed Ki Ore," "Zindagi Abhi Baaki Hai," and "Chai Sa Humsafar."

This book serves as a conversation with readers, offering insight into resilience, hope and the power of words that live on beyond death. It is a tribute that invites readers to reflect, remember and find strength in her story. (w/nkm)

Tribal villages get infrastructure boost in East Singhbhum

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, May 9: East Singhbhum district is undergoing a major transformation under the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, with development initiatives focused on 399 tribal-dominated villages. The campaign emphasizes improvements in education, healthcare, sanitation, roads and livelihoods.

In the first phase, approval for housing for the homeless is underway, alongside the construction and beautification of hostels and Anganwadi centres. The district has identified land for 12 new Anganwadi centres in Dhalbhumgarh and Dumaria blocks. The tender process has been completed and construction is set to begin this month.

Chanchala Kisku, a Sevika at the upcoming Anganwadi centre in Namosol, expressed her joy: "We had to send children to Singhpura earlier. With this centre, we will finally have the resources to manage nutrition and daily activities locally."

Additionally, the welfare department has approved the beautification of seven tribal residential schools and hostels in Gudabandha, Ghatshila, Baharagora and Chakulia blocks. This includes new hostels, upgraded facilities and improved learning environments. Plans are also in place to set up Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres (TMMCs) in villages like Devshol, Junbani, Karakata and Khejuriya. These centres will promote tribal economic self-reliance by facilitating market access and better pricing for tribal products.

District Magistrate Ananya Mittal emphasized the administration's commitment: "We are ensuring that each deserving beneficiary gets access to education, healthcare and livelihood through these schemes."

ITDA Project Director Deepankar Choudhary added, "Our goal is holistic development of tribal communities. TMMCs will empower local producers and strengthen the rural economy."

Through this campaign, East Singhbhum is witnessing a shift toward inclusive growth, ensuring tribal populations have access to basic services and economic opportunities. (w/nkm)

PM-Janman Scheme transforms lives of Sabar f3amilies

Jamshedpur, May 9: The PM-Janman scheme is transforming the lives of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in East Singhbhum, with a sharp focus on improving housing, health and livelihood. The administration is actively working in Sabbar-majority villages to elevate living standards and promote tribal self-reliance. A total of 1,679 Sabar families are targeted under the housing scheme, with 1,218 receiving approvals. Of these, 1,165 families have received the first instalment, 652 the second and 373 the third. Already, 142 homes have been completed. Beneficiary Raju Sabbar shared, "We used to live in a thatched hut. During rains, it was miserable. Now, with a concrete two-room home under PM-Janman, life is better and safer for my family."

To further support the community, 17 Multipurpose Centers will be constructed in five blocks, including locations like Digha, Ramchandrapur and Chutnipani. These centres will serve as hubs for education, skill development and community engagement.

"The scheme is being implemented to reflect the government's intent of holistic tribal development," said Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal. "All departments have been instructed to identify and connect eligible beneficiaries to ensure impactful and inclusive growth." Project Director Deepankar Chaudhary added, "PM-Janman is not just about infrastructure. It's about empowering families, ensuring sustainability and bringing dignity to the most marginalized." (w/nkm)

Operation Sindoor: India's historic act of retaliation

Mukesh Mittal

Jamshedpur, May 9: Pahalgam Attack: A dark day of terror. In a horrifying act of terror, pilgrims undertaking the Amarnath Yatra were brutally targeted by militants in Pahalgam. The attackers asked the names of the passengers before mercilessly executing 28 innocent people. This wasn't just an act of terrorism-it was a direct assault on the soul of India. India's response: Launch of Operation Sindoor

India responded to this barbaric attack within just 15 days through a covert military operation named Operation Sindoor. In this daring mission, Indian Air Force and special forces destroyed nine major terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). This swift strike shattered the backbone of cross-border terrorism.

United politics: National interest above all

Operation Sindoor witnessed an extraordinary moment of political unity in India. Both the ruling and opposition parties stood together, expressing full support for the military operation. In a rare show of consensus, Parliament passed a unanimous resolution declaring PoK as an integral part of India and calling for its eventual integration. Pakistan's economic collapse: A crumbling fortress

Pakistan is facing a deepening economic crisis. Its foreign reserves are dwindling, inflation is skyrocketing and the harsh conditions imposed by the IMF have crippled the common people. In such a fragile state, Pakistan cannot endure prolonged conflict. This is the opportune moment for India to reclaim PoK and formally integrate it. Lessons from history: India answers its invaders

India is the land of emperors Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka-rulers known for striking first. Modern India is following the same path-no longer waiting to be attacked but launching strategic offensives. This is the doctrine of the new India. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: The next front?

The people of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are suffering under Pakistan's oppressive rule. India must lend moral and strategic support to their freedom struggles. Doing so would further weaken Pakistan's military and political grip while strengthening India's geopolitical influence.

India's new doctrine: Decisive and bold "India does not strike first"-that notion is now history. Today's India enters the enemy's stronghold to eliminate terror at its source. Operation Sindoor has redefined this mind-set. India now plans, strikes and emerges victorious. One nation, one resolve

Operation Sindoor demonstrated the unbreakable unity of India's people, armed forces, media and political parties. This unity is India's true strength-its greatest power.

Conclusion: No turning back

Operation Sindoor is not just a military strike-it is the symbol of a resurgent India. The liberation of PoK is no longer a distant dream. The struggle for Balochistan's freedom is now a strategic possibility. India must seize this historic opportunity.

Now is the time... …for India to reclaim its lost land. …to uproot terrorism from its origin. …to lead South Asia towards true peace. Jai Hind.

Tiranga Yatra held in honour of brave soldiers

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: A Tiranga Yatra was organized this evening under the leadership of Dharmendra Sonkar, Acting President of the East Singhbhum District Congress Committee, to honour the valor and sacrifices of the Indian Army. The rally began at the Post Office in Bistupur and proceeded to the Bistupur traffic signal.

Hundreds of youth participated, waving the national flag and chanting slogans that echoed across the streets.

The rally reflected their outrage against terrorism and their pride in the armed forces.

Speaking on the occasion, Sonkar said, "We are proud of our brave Indian Army. Their sacrifice and dedication to the nation inspire us every day."

The event saw the presence of several key Congress leaders including Bablu Jha, Ajitesh Ujjain, Javed Jamal, Shashi Bhushan, Azam Safi Badshah, Amit Dubey, Anil Karmakar, Shamim, Monu Singh, Sunil Singh and Karan Sonkar. (w/nkm)

East Singhbhum Youth Congress holds Jai Hind Yatra

Jamshedpur, May 9: The East Singhbhum Youth Congress organized a Jai Hind Yatra from Baradwari Ramleela Ground to Sakchi Golchakkar Chowk to unite citizens and bolster national spirit.

Led by Shashi Singh, the in-charge of Jharkhand Youth Congress, the event saw a large turnout of participants, including several senior members. In her speech, Shashi Singh urged the public to remain united during difficult times and assured that the Youth Congress would stand strong against any adversities. "We are one, we stand together and we will face every challenge with determination," she said. The rally was filled with slogans of "Jai Hind" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai."

Prominent members of the Youth Congress, including Satyam Singh, Sanjeev Ranjan and Neeraj Singh, were present, along with a significant number of youth workers. The event emphasized the importance of national unity and pride in the face of challenges.(w/nkm)

BJP pays tribute on Maharana Pratap's birth anniversary

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, May 9: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers from Jamshedpur Metropolitan unit celebrated the birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap at the Marine Drive roundabout by garlanding his statue and offering floral tributes. The event was led by district president Sudhanshu Ojha. Workers raised slogans such as "Maharana Pratap Amar Rahein" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," showcasing their patriotic spirit.

Speaking at the occasion, Ojha said, "Maharana Pratap's life is a symbol of courage, self-respect and unwavering devotion to the motherland. He preferred eating grass bread and living in forests rather than bowing to the Mughals. His sacrifices inspire our armed forces even today as they fight terrorism through operations like Sindoor."

Several other BJP leaders were present, including district vice-president Sanjeev Sinha, Babua Singh, Rajeev Singh, Renu Sharma, Pappu Singh, Krishna Sharma Kali, media incharge Prem Jha, OBC Morcha president Sagar Rai and others.(w/nkm)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

CPM/GSU/S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-GSU-2024-25-GS-2, Date: 07.05.2025. Name of work:** Upgradation/Modernization of infrastructure of existing Goods Shed at Patasahi (PSJ) and Rangra (RGZ). **Tender Value:** ₹ 23,74,49,959. **EMD:** ₹ 13,37,300. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0. **Date of Opening:** 02.06.2025. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-142)**

KCC celebrates 164th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, May 9: On May 9, 2025, the Bengali Department of Karim City College, Sakchi, organized an event to commemorate the 164th birth anniversary of the Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. The event was presided over by Dr. Mohammad Riyaz, Principal of the college.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, the head of the Bengali Department, highlighted the immense contribution of Tagore, who wrote national anthems for three countries: India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He pointed out that although Tagore gained worldwide recognition after receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature, his work had already been translated into several major languages across the world. Dr. Riyaz, in his address, praised India for producing many great personalities, including Tagore, whose legacy continues to inspire millions.

The program featured various performances by students, including a welcoming song by Udita Tiwari and Rakhi Rajak, a poetry recital by Haradhan Kumar and Vijay Kumar and a vote of thanks by Dr. Om Prakash Singh Dev. The event was attended by several faculty members and a large number of students.(w/nkm)

e-Auction Notice for Various Assets over Chakradharpur Division

For & on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for following assets categories over Chakradharpur Division. The draft of e-auction notice in this regard are enclosed, which is notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website. The details of the e-auction are as follows: **Sl.No.; Category; Catalogue No.; Date of Auction; Auction Start Time & Auction Closing Time** are as follows: **1**; Advertisement; **ADVT-VW-OOH-25**; 20.05.2025; 11:45 hrs. & 13:05 hrs. **2**; Miscellaneous; **MISC-CKP-MAY-25**; 21.05.2025; 12:00 hrs. & 13:20 hrs. **3**; Advertisement; **ADVT-CKP-MAY-2**; 21.05.2025; 10:00 hrs. & 11:10 hrs. Interested parties to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the site and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-141) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur

South Eastern Railway
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The 164th birth anniversary of Kobi Guru Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated at The Milanee on Friday.

Woman killed on suspicion of black magic in Jharkhand, four arrested

Khunti (Jharkhand), May 9 (IANS) In a shocking incident driven by superstition, a 40-year-old woman was brutally murdered in Jharkhand's Khunti district on suspicion of practicing black magic, officials said on Friday.

Police have arrested four persons in connection with the crime, which took place in the Murhu police station area.

The victim, identified as Budhni Purti, a resident of Patradih village, was found dead in her home on the morning of May 7. Her throat had been slit and multiple injuries inflicted by sharp weapons were visible on her body, indicating a brutal assault.

Within 36 hours of the incident, Murhu police cracked the case and arrested four accused.

According to Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Varun Rajak, the prime accused is Etwa alias Lor Singh, a resident of the same village as the victim.



Driven by superstition, Lor Singh believed that Budhni was practising black magic and blamed her for his infant daughter's recurring illness.

"Lor Singh's daughter, aged around eight to nine months, had been frequently falling ill. Under the influence of superstition, he assumed that Budhni was a witch and responsible for his daughter's condition," the SDPO said.

Fueled by this belief, Lor Singh allegedly conspired to kill Budhni. He called three of his associates from nearby villages to assist in the crime. On the night of May 6, the group entered Budhni's house while she was asleep and attacked her with sharp weapons, resulting in her death.

The other accused have been identified as Ernius Odeya alias Tatau, resident of Buruma village; Gansa Hassa Purti alias Roga, resident of Kevada village; and Praveen Mundu alias Taklu, resident of Longa village under Adki police station limits.

All four accused were produced before a court and sent to judicial custody on Friday.

Under the direction of senior police officials, a special investigation team was formed, comprising Sub-Inspectors Vimal and Kanchan Kumar Kushwaha. The team used technical surveillance and inputs from area residents to trace and apprehend the suspects.

Police have also recovered a tangi (a traditional axe) and another sharp weapon believed to have been used in the murder.

Tributes to Tagore through dance, art and youth talent

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: A vibrant cultural program was organized by Biswajit Manimela to mark the 164th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, celebrating the poet's creative legacy through dance, art and youth participation.

The event featured captivating classical dance performances where artists brought Tagore's literary brilliance to life through expressive choreography. Shekhar Dey, noted social worker and owner of Shreeleathers, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he reflected on Tagore's life, philosophy and lasting literary contributions, describing him as a global visionary who shaped modern Indian thought.



Children's competitions in painting, essay writing, poetry and speeches added an interactive and educational element to the celebration. Young participants creatively expressed Tagore's ideals and messages, winning praise from judges and audiences alike. Winners in each category were honored with prizes, acknowledging their creativity and understanding of Tagore's teachings.

Additionally, students who excelled academically in the 2024-25 session were awarded cash prizes, adding to the enthusiasm and motivation among the youth.

The event served as a meaningful initiative to bridge Tagore's timeless wisdom with the aspirations of today's generation, with enthusiastic participation from guests, artists and students alike.



Congress workers participate in Tiranga Yatra to support India's strike on Pakistan and express solidarity with the armed forces, in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Friday, May 9, 2025.

National seminar on smart manufacturing concludes at BIT Sindri

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, May 9: A five-day national seminar on "Smart and Sustainable Manufacturing: Industry 4.0 and Beyond" concluded on Friday at BIT Sindri, drawing wide participation from researchers, scientists and industry professionals across the country. The event was organized by the Department of Production and Industrial Engineering and aimed at advancing discussions on the future of manufacturing technologies.



Prof. Prakash Kumar, Head of the Production and Industrial Engineering Department and the chief organizer of the seminar, highlighted the seminar's core objective - to foster innovation in modern manufacturing through automation, digitalization and sustainability. "The focus of this seminar was not only on smart manufacturing practices but also on how we can make these innovations environmentally sustainable," he said.

Prof. Kumar also stressed the need for greater synergy between academic research and industrial application to drive forward-looking solutions. The seminar featured multiple technical sessions, expert talks and panel discussions that explored the evolving landscape of Industry 4.0 and laid out pathways for India's manufacturing sector to remain competitive and eco-conscious in the global market.

Sona Devi University marks Rabindranath Tagore's 164th birth anniversary

Mail News Service

Ghatshila, May 9: Sona Devi University today celebrated the 164th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate and literary icon Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at its campus in Ghatshila. The commemoration focused on the theme, "Rabindranath Tagore's Philosophy, Emotions and Literary Contributions," and was jointly hosted by the university's departments of Bengali, History and Political Science.

The event featured Prof. Mitreshwar, former Head of the History Department at Ghatsila College, as the chief guest. In his keynote address, Prof. Mitreshwar described Tagore as "the embodiment of original consciousness" and praised his unique ability to connect with people across languages and regions. He highlighted Tagore's early poetic work Bhanusingher Padavali, written in Maithili, as an example of his inclusive literary vision.



"Without Tagore's creations, Bengali culture would be incomplete," Prof. Mitreshwar said, noting the enduring influence of Tagore's writings on India's cultural and philosophical landscape. The university community paid rich tributes to Tagore's legacy through speeches, recitations and discussions that underscored his relevance in today's times.

Court acquits Akhilesh Singh and 12 others

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: A Jamshedpur court has acquitted notorious gangster Akhilesh Singh and 12 other accused due to lack of evidence in a 2014 assault case linked to a firing incident at the civil court premises. The verdict was delivered by ADJ-III Anand Mani Tripathi on Friday. Singh, who appeared via video conference from Dumka Jail, had been accused of assaulting two individuals who allegedly attempted to shoot him in the court premises on May 24, 2014.

The assailants, Sarabjit Singh and Ravindra Singh, had reportedly tried to open fire on Akhilesh Singh during his court appearance, but the weapon failed to discharge. In response, Singh's supporters allegedly chased and brutally beat the attackers inside the court complex. Based on a complaint by then Sitaramdera police station in-charge Sunil Kumar Chaudhary, an FIR was filed against Akhilesh Singh and others for assault and attempted murder. A total of 16 witnesses were examined during the trial.

The court acquitted the accused citing insufficient evidence. Other accused, including Subhash Barua, Sonu Singh, Prince Singh, Amresh Singh and several others, were also cleared. One accused, Sachin Singh, had died during the trial, while some remain absconding. (w/nkm)

Global experts showcase cutting-edge healthtech at BIT Mesra

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 9: An international conference on "Frontiers in Translational Bioengineering for Healthcare" concluded at BIT Mesra with renowned national and international experts presenting groundbreaking innovations in health technology and biomedical research.

Prof. Soumen Das from IIT Kharagpur shared insights on 'Organ-on-a-Chip' and 'Lab-on-a-Chip' technologies, highlighting their potential to replace animal trials and transform personalized medicine.

Prof. Harishkumar Madhyastha from Miyazaki University, Japan, discussed the use of polymeric nano materials in regenerative medicine, especially in wound healing.

CDRI Lucknow's Prof. Atul Goyal introduced fluorescent labelling systems and the future of biodegradable bone implants. IIT Guwahati's Prof. Dipankar Bandopadhyay emphasized rheological studies in diagnostics, focusing on blood viscosity and mucin interactions.

Dr. Naresh Kumar Mani (MAHE, Manipal) demonstrated cost-effective paper-based sensors and chemical testing methods, while Dr. Gorachand Dutta (IIT Kharagpur) presented a non-invasive saliva-based electrochemical sensor for malaria detection. IIT Indore's Prof. Ram Bilas Pachori showcased advanced neural signal processing for schizophrenia diagnosis.



Prof. Supten Sarbadhikari from BIS provided a critical overview of digital health and biomedical informatics and Prof. Ravi Prakash Tiwari (MNNIT Allahabad) discussed foundational principles and applications of biomechanics.

The conference successfully bridged academic innovation and healthcare needs, fostering collaborations that promise to shape the future of medical technology and patient care.

Two accused acquitted in 2016 firing case in Bistupur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: A Jamshedpur court on Friday acquitted Vivek Yadav alias Vipul and Vijay Kishore Pandey in a 2016 firing case due to lack of evidence. The verdict was delivered by Judge Namita Chandra after hearing testimonies from eight witnesses. The case was related to a firing incident involving Aditya Kumar Singh, a national-level athlete residing on Dimna Road, Mango.

According to Singh's statement, the incident occurred on April 3, 2016, when he was in Modi Park with friends. Around 8:00 PM, as he was about to leave, assailants in a black SUV opened fire. Singh sustained a bullet injury to his waist. His friend Yusuf Khan rushed him to Tata Main Hospital on a borrowed scooter. Khan later informed police that four to five men, including Arshad and Mohit Tiwari, were in the vehicle. The attack was allegedly linked to a prior dispute involving a video recorded by Singh's friend's brother.

Despite these claims, the court found the evidence insufficient to convict the accused. Defence counsel Narendra Prasad successfully argued for their release. The incident had caused significant concern in the locality at the time. (w/nkm)

10 years of PMJJBY: Low-cost life insurance a big help for families in Jharkhand, say beneficiaries

Ranchi, May 9 (IANS) As the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) marks a decade since its inception, stories from across India underscore the scheme's tangible impact on the ground, especially in regions like Jharkhand's Koderma and Sahibganj districts where thousands have found security and solace in its simple yet effective design.

In Koderma alone, nearly 1.31 lakh individuals have enrolled in PMJJBY, a government-backed life insurance scheme that provides a guaranteed cover of Rs 2 lakh at an annual premium of just Rs 436.

Local beneficiaries speak of the policy as more than just insurance -- it is a "gift from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the poor", said one resident, reflecting the sense of relief and dignity the scheme brings in times of personal loss.

Beneficiaries in the district acknowledge the harsh unpredictability of life -- accidents, illnesses and unforeseen tragedies that often leave families shattered and financially vulnerable.

For them, PMJJBY has offered a critical financial cushion. "Life and death are not in our hands, but this scheme ensures that our families are not left helpless," said another resident.

While life insurance products from both the public sector and private insurers are available in the market, PMJJBY stands out due to its affordability and no-frills access.



As pointed out by a beneficiary, "No private company offers a Rs 2 lakh cover at just Rs 436. This is only possible through PMJJBY and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana."

The integration of PMJJBY with the broader Jan Dhan Yojana ecosystem has further streamlined access.

Citizens with Jan Dhan accounts can easily enrol and claim benefits from PMJJBY and other linked insurance schemes through their bank.

Nivas Kumar, a bank manager in the district, highlighted that a single account could unlock multiple benefits for families.

"In case of accidental death, the nominee can claim benefits under PMJJBY, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and even schemes linked to the RuPay card," he noted.

In Sahibganj, too, the scheme's relevance continues to grow. Gopal Ghosh, a local beneficiary, praised the initiative as a vital government intervention.

"Under this scheme, a cover of Rs 2 lakh is given. For families with no safety net, this is life-changing," he said.

Ayodhya Kumar, a manager at UCO Bank, added that people are increasingly recognising the scheme's welfare-oriented nature.

"It's not just about the money. It's about knowing that someone will be there for your family if something happens to you," he said.

As PMJJBY enters its second decade, voices from Koderma and Sahibganj call for greater awareness and outreach to ensure that more citizens can benefit.

"It is a boon for the poor and middle class," a resident said. "The only need now is to ensure every eligible person knows about it and signs up," he added.

MLA Purnima Sahu distributes pension certificates to 200 beneficiaries



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 9: More than 200 senior citizens and widows in Jamshedpur have received the gift of financial security, thanks to the proactive efforts of East Jamshedpur MLA Purnima Sahu. In a distribution ceremony held at her Agrico-based residential office on Friday, MLA Sahu personally handed out pension approval certificates to eligible beneficiaries from various parts of the city. Taking the initiative herself, Sahu's office had collected pension applications and forwarded them to the Jamshedpur Circle Officer's office to ensure timely approval. Now that the beneficiaries have received official certification, regular pension payments will begin to be deposited into their bank accounts, offering much-needed financial relief. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Purnima Sahu expressed her happiness and emphasized the importance of supporting the elderly. "Our senior citizens are the foundation of our society. It is my responsibility to ensure that their lives are lived with dignity and security," she said. "Seeing a smile on their faces makes all my efforts worthwhile."Grateful beneficiaries praised the MLA's initiative, expressing heartfelt thanks for her dedication and hands-on involvement in improving their lives. The event underscored her growing grassroots connection and commitment to welfare programs. (w/nkm)

BJP criticizes university renaming as 'political drama'

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 9: The Jharkhand government's decision to rename Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University (DSPMU) as Veer Budhu Bhagat University has stirred sharp political backlash, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accusing the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) of playing "political drama" for electoral gains.

The BJP argued that the move undermines both the legacy of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and the contribution of tribal freedom fighter Veer Budhu Bhagat. Established in 1926 as Ranchi College and later upgraded to a state university in 2017, the institution was named after Dr. Mukherjee during the tenure of former Chief Minister Raghubar Das. The BJP believes that changing the name of such a historic institution disregards the foundational legacy it carries.State BJP President and Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi said, "The renaming neither honours Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee nor does it adequately respect Veer Budhu Bhagat. The government should have created a new university in Budhu Bhagat's name to truly honour his legacy." He added that such decisions harm institutional stability and distort historical respect. BJP spokesperson Ajay Sah also criticized the move, accusing the JMM-led government of consistent neglect toward genuine tribal icons. He claimed that naming public institutions after political figures rather than tribal heroes has become a trend under this administration.

The BJP has called for an immediate rollback of the renaming decision and urged the state to establish a new university dedicated to Veer Budhu Bhagat. "We will fully support this initiative if the government genuinely wants to promote education and preserve the legacy of a tribal freedom fighter," Marandi said.

BJP's Minority Front holds workshop on Waqf Reform Act

Jamshedpur, May 9: The BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar Minority Front organized a workshop at Khalsa Club in Golmuri to raise awareness about the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, as part of their ongoing Waqf Reform Campaign. The event was attended by senior BJP leaders, including Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Ajay Sah, along with local community members. Sah highlighted the key benefits of the reform, which aims to bring transparency and accountability to Waqf property management. He explained that the Act would enable the digital registration, audit and monitoring of Waqf properties, curbing corruption and mismanagement.

Additionally, it ensures that Muslim women are represented in Waqf boards and protects the rights of minority Muslim communities such as the Bohra and Ahmediya groups. "This reform will safeguard religious rights while addressing property misuse and ensuring welfare for marginalized sections of society," Sah stated. District President Sudhanshu Ojha emphasized the importance of the reform in empowering impoverished Muslim communities, particularly women and children, by directing more resources toward education, healthcare and welfare initiatives.

The workshop concluded with a thank-you speech from District General Secretary Sanjeev Singh and Minority Front District President Manjit Singh Gill. The event was seen as a significant step toward inclusivity and empowerment within the community. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand woman jumps into well with three children, all kids dead; mother critical

Giridih (Jharkhand), May 9 (IANS) In a heart-wrenching incident in Jharkhand's Giridih district, a woman allegedly attempted suicide by jumping into a well with her three young children, leading to the death of all three minors, officials said. The woman, identified as Aarti Devi, survived the incident but is in a critical condition and undergoing treatment at a local hospital.The tragic event occurred in Khaslodih village under the Deori police station limits.According to initial reports, Aarti Devi, wife of Sonu Chaudhary, left her home on Friday morning with her children -- Avinash Kumar (6), Rani Kumari (3), and Phool Kumari (2). She reportedly threw the children into a nearby well located in an agricultural field before jumping in herself. Locals working in the fields spotted her in the act and immediately raised an alarm. Family members and villagers rushed to the scene and managed to pull all four out of the well after about 30 minutes of effort.They were taken to the Deori Government Health Sub-Centre, where doctors declared the three children dead. Aarti Devi was referred for further treatment and remains in a critical condition. Preliminary investigations suggest that a family dispute may have prompted the woman's drastic step, although no official confirmation has been made as yet.Aarti's husband, Sonu Chaudhary, works as a labourer in Hyderabad and had recently returned to the village to attend a family wedding. He was not present at home when the incident occurred.

On being informed, he rushed to the spot and is inconsolable.The woman's mother-in-law, Sushma Devi, has denied any domestic discord.Following the incident, Deori Police Inspector Pascal Toppo and Station Incharge Rishi Sinha reached the village with a police team.

Vinod Mukhi becomes 'One-Day Headmaster' at school

Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 9: In an initiative aimed at fostering leadership among students, Vinod Mukhi, a class 10 student from Utkramit High School Pathanmara, was appointed as the school's 'One-Day Headmaster' on Friday.

The move is part of the district's efforts to develop leadership qualities in active students.Headmaster Saura Mahanti handed over the responsibilities to Vinod, who oversaw school operations for the day. Vinod ensured that classes ran on time, the school premises remained clean and the mid-day meal program was carried out efficiently. In a short meeting with the teachers, he learned about the management aspects of running the school."I feel proud and excited to lead the school for a day. It has been a memorable experience that has made me realize the importance of responsibility," said Vinod. "In the future, I hope to become a headmaster and set an example for others."(w/nkm)

Chandil block hosts carom talent competition

Seraikela, May 9: The Carom Talent Competition 2025-26 for Chandil Block was held on Friday at the Block Resource Center under the guidance of the Jharkhand Education Project. The event was attended by Block Education Extension Officer Dinesh Kumar Dandapat, who encouraged the participants and stressed the importance of sports for developing both mental sharpness and physical fitness.In the Under-19 Boys' singles event, Rahul Singh claimed the first prize, while in the doubles event, Rahul Das and Karan Karmakar emerged victorious.

In the girls' category, Munka Maahi and Sushila Tudu & Gulanchi Soren claimed the top spots in their respective events. Under-17 Boys' singles and doubles were also fiercely contested, with Sudhanshu Singh Munda and his partner Aditya Thapa winning in their category.The event concluded with the distribution of certificates and medals by Dinesh Kumar Dandapat to the winners.(w/nkm)

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e-Procurement Cell
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Building Construction Department, Building Division, Jamshedpur.

e-Procurement Notice
(Notice)

Tender Ref. No.-BCD/EE,Building Div.Jamshedpur-14/2025-26-Date:- 09.05.2025

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	बिरसानगर स्थित 10 शय्यावाले अस्पताल के उन्नयन की योजना।	81,32,380.00	6 Months
i	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	30.05.2025	
ii	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय	09.06.2025 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे	
iii	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय	10.06.2025 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे	
iv	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता।	Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Jamshedpur.	
v	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	9199002161	
vi	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	9199002161	

- इस निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना/बदलाव/संशोधन का अवलोकन http://jharkhandtenders.gov.inij किया जा सकता है।

Note : New Updated UCAN Registration is mandatory for all Bidders.

Nodal Officer,
e-Procurement Cell,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Building Construction Department,
Building Division, Jamshedpur

PR 352095 Building(25-26).D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
(जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई)

आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मिशन वात्सल्य योजना अंतर्गत झारखण्ड सरकार की एक कार्यक्रम के रूप में व्यक्तिगत पालन पोषण देखरेख (फोस्टर केयर) कार्यक्रम चलाई जा रही है। इस कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य है, परिवार विहीन बच्चों को पारिवारिक घरेलू वातावरण में उचित देखरेख, प्यार, अपनापन, पहचान एवं भावनात्मक सुरक्षा प्रदान करना। यह कार्यक्रम बच्चों को परिवार में देखभाल प्रदान करने हेतु एक अस्थायी व्यवस्था है। ऐसे बच्चे जिनके माता–पिता तो है, लेकिन वे अपने बच्चों को किसी कारण वश परिवार आधारित देखभाल देने में सक्षम नहीं होते है या ऐसे बच्चे जिनको दत्तकग्रहण (गोद लेना) में नहीं भेजा जा सकता है, उन बच्चों को 18 वर्ष आयु पूर्ण होने तक किसी अन्य परिवार में पालन पोषण हेतु परिवार से जोड़े रखने हेतु सहयोग प्रदान कि जाती है ।

पालक माता–पिता की पात्रता–1. पति–पत्नी भारतीय तथा झारखण्ड का नागरिक हो। 2.पति–पत्नी दोनों उस बच्चें को पालने के लिए तैयार हो। भावी माता–पिता की अधिकतम आयु (दोनों को मिलाकर) 120 वर्ष, जिसमे एक व्यक्ति की आयुन्यूनतम 35 वर्ष तथा अधिकतम आयु 65 वर्ष से अधिक ना हो। 3. भावी माता–पिता का कोई आपराधिक रिकॉर्ड नहीं हो। 4. भावी माता–पिता शारीरिक व मानसिक रूप से स्वस्थ हो।

बच्चों की पात्रता–1. 06 से 18 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के बच्चें। 2. जिसके माता– पिता न हो। 3.जिनके माता–पिता बच्चों के समुचित देखभाल में असमर्थ हो।

***** पालन–पोषण (फोस्टर केयर) योजनान्तर्गत आवेदन हेत भावी माता–पिता इस QR- Code को स्केन करके आवेदन कर सकते है–

या फिर इससे सम्बंधित विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु बाल कल्याण समिति एवं जिला बाल संरक्षण ईकाई, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा से निम्नलिखित पते पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

समाहरणालय भवन, तीसरा तल्ला, R–3,चाईबासा
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम (झारखण्ड), पिन– 833201
फोन– 9955131364 , 9693864384, 9973816202

PR 352080 West Singhbhum (25-26)_D

कार्यालय – अधीक्षक, एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर
Email ID : superintendentmgmmch@gmail.com

पत्रांक – 2155/2025 दिनांक –09/05/2025

—: Corrigendum :—

Providing for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Medical Gas Pipe Line System (MGPS) at newly constructed 500 bedded M.G.M. Medical College Hospital, Jamshedpur at Dimna हेतु प्रकाशित ई–निविदा सं0 2142 दिनांक 07-05-2025] 2025_MGM_1000886_1, PR No. 351989 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(24-25)_D में निम्नलिखित संशोधित किया जाता है –

eProcurement System Government of Jharkhand में Tender Details ds Work/Item(s) **Title & Work Description** में भूलवश "Operation and Manintenance of HVAC System at Newly Constructed 500 bedded MGM Medical College Hospital Jamshedpur Dimna" टंकित हो गया है के स्थान पर **"Operation and Manintenance of Medical Gas Pipe Line System (MGPS) at Newly Constructed 500 bedded MGM Medical College Hospital Jamshedpur Dimna"** पढ़ा जाय।

निविदा से संबंधित शेष तकनीकि बिन्दु एवं कंडिका यथावत रहेगी।

अधीक्षक
एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल
जमशेदपुर

PR 352072 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare)25-26*D

कार्यालय जिला शिक्षा पदाधिकारी, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

मॉडल विद्यालयों में वर्ष 2025 के लिए नामांकन प्रवेश परीक्षा हेतु निर्धारित परीक्षा केन्द्र में परिवर्तन की सूचना

दिनांक 11.05.2025 को मॉडल विद्यालयों में नामांकन प्रवेश परीक्षा, 2025 निर्धारित है। उक्त परीक्षा के आयोजन हेतु **गुरूनानक उच्च विद्यालय, मानगो, जमशेदपुर** को परीक्षा केन्द्र निर्धारित किया गया था। सचिव, झारखण्ड अधिविद्य परिषद्, राँची के पत्रांक JAC/मॉडल वि0/5132/21/SECY/457/25 दिनांक 08.05.2025 के द्वारा परीक्षा केन्द्र गुरूनानक उच्च विद्यालय, मानगो को परिवर्तन कर **आदिवासी +2 उच्च विद्यालय, सीतारामडेरा, जमशेदपुर** निर्धारित किया गया है। अर्थात् दिनांक 11.05.2025 को उक्त परीक्षा आदिवासी +2 उच्च विद्यालय, सीतारामडेरा, जमशेदपुर में निर्धारित समयानुसार आयोजित होगी।

जिला शिक्षा पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 352105 School Education and Literacy(25-26).D

कार्यालय, असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
फोन न0–06582–259859, ईमेल–cswestsinghbhum@gmail.com

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

विज्ञापन संख्या– 01/ART-CBSA/2025 के माध्यम से झारखण्ड राज्य एड्स नियंत्रण समिति अन्तर्गत ART सेन्टर सदर अस्पताल, चाईबासा के लिए विभिन्न पदों पर संविदा आधारित नियुक्ति हेतु प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों का समिति द्वारा स्क्रूटनी के पश्चात् विज्ञापन के अनुरूप योग्यता एवं अर्हत्ता पूर्ण करने वाले (योग्य) अभ्यर्थियों एवं योग्यता तथा अर्हत्ता पूर्ण नहीं करने वाले (अयोग्य) अभ्यर्थियों की सूची जिला के वेबसाईट– www.chaibasa.nic.in एवं सिविल सर्जन, प0 सिंहभूम के कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर प्रदर्शित किया गया है। जिला चयन समिति के निर्णयानुसार योग्य अभ्यर्थियों की अन्तर्वीक्षा (Interview) दिनांक 17.05.2025 को सदर अस्पताल, चाईबासा में पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से ली जायेगी।

अन्तर्वीक्षा में शामिल होने हेतु अभ्यर्थी अपने साथ फोटोयुक्त पहचान पत्र एवं वांछित प्रमाण–पत्रों की मूल प्रति लाना अनिवार्य है, अन्यथा अन्तर्वीक्षा में शामिल होने से वंचित किया जायेगा।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा
पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 352120 West Singhbhum(25-26)#D

कार्यालय, असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक–सह–मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,सरायकेला–खरसावाँ
Email ID- cs.saraikela6@gmail.com

पत्रांक...853..../स्था0 सरायकेला, दिनांक...08.05.2025....

अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

सदर अस्पताल, सरायकेला के अन्तः कक्ष विभाग, प्रसव विभाग, अन्य भर्त्ती मरीजों तथा जननी शिशु सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत अस्पताल में भर्त्ती मरीजों के लिए समय पर नाश्ता/भोजन उपलब्ध कराने हेतु 100/– (एक सौ रूपये) मात्र अधिकतम राशि एवं विशेश भर्त्ती मरीजों के लिए 125/– (एक सौ पच्चीस रूपये) मात्र अधिकतम राशि प्रति मरीज प्रतिदिन के दर से डाईट चार्ट के अनुसार तथा राज्य से निर्धारित मूल्य/दर पर जिले में विभिन्न प्रकार के प्रशिक्षणों/कार्यक्रमों/बैठकों में उपस्थित Trainer and Trainee को नश्ता/भोजन आपूर्ति कराने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है। निविदा दिनांक– 20.05.2025 के अपराह्न 04:00 बजे तक मुहरबंद लिफाफे में निविदा शर्तों के अधीन निबंधित डाक/स्पीड पोस्ट के माध्यम से निविदा स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। दिनांक– 24.05.2025 के अपराह्न 02:30 बजे निविदा खोली जाएगी। निविदादाता स्वयं या अपने प्रतिनिधि के माध्यम से इस अवसर पर उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। निविदा विवरणी एवं शर्तें सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ के सूचना पट्ट एवं सरायकेला NIC के Website – www.seraikella.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक
–सह–मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ

PR 352088 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare)25-26*D

कार्यालय–जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

आवश्यक सूचना

जिला परिवहन कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर में निबंधित **Passenger Motor Cabs** वाहनों का पथ कर का भुगतान नहीं किये जाने के कारण महालेखाकार, झारखण्ड, राँची के अंकेक्षण दल द्वारा निम्न वाहनों के विरूद्ध आपत्ति दर्शाया गया है।

अतः उपरोक्त वर्णित परिप्रेक्ष्य में निम्नांकित वाहनों के स्वामी को निर्देश दिया जाता है कि प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिनों के अन्दर अपने वाहनों पर बकाया पथ कर का भुगतान किया जाना सुनिश्चित करेंगे अन्यथा निम्नांकित वाहनों पर मोटर वाहन अधिनियम के सुसंगत धाराओं के अर्न्तगत कार्रवाई की जायगी।

Non realisation of tax and one time tax on passenger cabs

Sl No	Regn No	DOR	DOP	Vehicle Class	Sale Amount	seats	Tax paid upto	Total
321	JH05AZ7085	05-07-14	29-04-14	Motor Cab	627000	7	04-04-19	61009
322	JH05AZ9895	31-07-14	25-07-14	Motor Cab	580420	7	29-07-21	30729
323	JH05BA2568	11-10-14	11-08-14	Motor Cab	643826	10	10-07-19	61219
324	JH05BA4531	01-09-14	30-08-14	Motor Cab	275200	4	20-07-19	26031
325	JH05BB3122	03-11-14	28-10-14	Motor Cab	142167	5	05-04-19	14804
326	JH05BB6419	08-11-14	21-10-14	Motor Cab	509000	7	07-05-19	51810
327	JH05BB7163	19-11-14	29-10-14	Motor Cab	620000	8	18-08-19	59344
328	JH05BC2158	21-01-15	06-01-15	Maxi Cab	450000	8	20-04-19	47385
329	JH05BC3598	30-01-15	22-10-14	Motor Cab	524626	5	03-09-19	49340
330	JH05BC3768	06-02-15	15-01-15	Motor Cab	596000	7	05-02-22	28854
331	JH05BD1870	20-03-15	03-11-14	Motor Cab	456310	7	19-06-19	45149
332	JH05BD4372	09-04-15	06-04-15	Motor Cab	914122	8	08-04-19	100595
333	JH05BD5729	11-04-15	07-04-15	Motor Cab	595742	5	08-09-23	16406
334	JH05BD6083	09-04-15	30-03-15	Motor Cab	812017	8	08-07-19	84163
335	JH05BD8608	18-03-15	17-03-15	Motor Cab	233402	4	11-01-20	21303
336	JH05BD9251	27-02-15	16-02-15	Maxi Cab	748000	14	26-08-19	73722
337	JH05BE2714	01-05-15	13-04-15	Maxi Cab	350000	8	31-10-19	33761
338	JH05BE6693	10-06-15	03-06-15	Motor Cab	299658	7	18-02-23	10787
339	JH05BE7785	05-05-15	27-04-15	Motor Cab	488652	7	04-02-24	11209
340	JH05BF0177	29-07-15	22-05-15	Motor Cab	446317	5	06-06-19	48068
341	JH05BF1098	10-08-15	06-07-15	Maxi Cab	720000	14	09-08-23	21977
342	JH05BF3606	06-08-15	03-08-15	Maxi Cab	429800	8	05-11-19	43090
343	JH05BF4349	07-08-15	01-08-15	Motor Cab	737000	10	06-08-19	78274
344	JH05BF5182	28-07-15	26-06-15	Maxi Cab	419900	8	27-04-19	46790
345	JH05BF8343	23-07-15	09-07-15	Maxi Cab	375350	8	22-04-20	33470
346	JH05BG1834	15-09-15	29-06-15	Motor Cab	580082	5	09-11-21	33166
347	JH05BG4468	08-10-15	19-09-15	Maxi Cab	429800	8	07-04-19	50004
348	JH05BH6401	16-11-15	18-10-15	Motor Cab	512877	7	15-11-23	15017
349	JH05BH8603	31-10-15	16-10-15	Maxi Cab	530000	14	15-04-20	49162
350	JH05BJ1248	11-01-16	07-01-16	Motor Cab	514210	7	10-01-22	30540
351	JH05BJ4185	30-01-16	22-01-16	Maxi Cab	337105	8	29-04-21	24884
352	JH05BK1780	16-02-16	15-02-16	Maxi Cab	377105	8	15-05-22	20503
353	JH05BK1967	08-03-16	05-03-16	Maxi Cab	480000	8	07-09-19	53738
354	JH05BK2032	16-02-16	15-02-16	Motor Cab	496008	7	15-08-19	56094
355	JH05BK5402	26-03-16	26-03-16	Maxi Cab	377105	8	25-12-20	31253
356	JH05BM3364	11-07-16	01-07-16	Maxi Cab	312000	8	31-03-22	18889
357	JH05BM6863	17-06-16	18-12-15	Motor Cab	588754	9	17-09-19	64042
358	JH05BM8151	17-06-16	14-06-16	Maxi Cab	466530	8	16-03-20	48021
359	JH05BM9372	23-06-16	28-04-16	Maxi Cab	697631	14	27-04-21	53572
360	JH05BN0218	08-08-16	02-08-16	Maxi Cab	384736	8	07-02-20	41127
361	JH05BN6750	26-07-16	28-05-16	Maxi Cab	740212	13	27-02-21	59447
362	JH05BN7477	27-07-16	25-07-16	Motor Cab	594000	10	26-04-21	47202
363	JH05BP3828	18-10-16	13-10-16	Maxi Cab	384736	8	17-04-19	49847
364	JH05BQ3684	26-11-16	22-11-16	Maxi Cab	396220	8	25-02-23	19103
365	JH05BQ3990	14-12-16	10-12-16	Maxi Cab	716403	13	13-09-21	53859
366	JH05BQ5432	30-11-16	05-05-16	Maxi Cab	795300	13	04-05-19	97747
367	JH05BR3509	09-01-17	06-01-17	Maxi Cab	423493	8	08-04-19	56838
368	JH05BR7515	16-01-17	13-01-17	Motor Cab	536548	7	15-04-19	72010
369	JH05BR7538	20-01-17	17-01-17	Maxi Cab	423493	8	19-04-19	56357
370	JH05BS1219	21-03-17	11-03-17	Maxi Cab	484900	8	10-09-20	48553
371	JH05BS1982	22-03-17	16-03-17	Maxi Cab	494943	8	15-06-21	41170
372	JH05BS6818	02-03-17	25-02-17	Maxi Cab	484900	8	24-02-21	43457
373	JH05BT3155	15-05-17	31-03-17	Motor Cab	427171	8	29-04-19	57851
374	JH05BT3514	02-05-17	22-04-17	Motor Cab	578192	5	21-01-23	30772
375	JH05BT4185	13-04-17	31-03-17	Maxi Cab	298029	5	29-12-19	35070
376	JH05BT6300	17-05-17	31-12-16	Maxi Cab	782496	7	24-08-21	60413
377	JH05BT6505	17-04-17	31-03-17	Maxi Cab	440500	8	29-06-20	46328
378	JH05BT8642	03-05-17	31-03-17	Maxi Cab	295400	5	29-12-20	27583
379	JH05BT8954	05-05-17	31-03-17	Maxi Cab	433633	8	29-06-19	56750
380	JH05BT9888	19-05-17	13-05-17	Motor Cab	984700	9	23-08-19	126202
381	JH05BU5219	06-07-17	23-06-17	Maxi Cab	490200	8	02-04-19	69006
382	JH05BU8492	12-06-17	17-05-17	Maxi Cab	516002	8	08-09-19	65908
383	JH05BV0159	28-08-17	19-08-17	Maxi Cab	480300	8	18-08-23	22200
384	JH05BV1040	28-08-17	25-07-17	Motor Cab	620811	5	17-04-19	87046
385	JH05BV1853	01-09-17	19-02-17	Motor Cab	250291	4	18-05-19	33058
386	JH05BV2180	24-08-17	31-07-17	Maxi Cab	329096	5	29-04-19	46070
387	JH05BV3499	08-08-17	30-06-17	Motor Cab	691828	5	29-04-19	96047
388	JH05BV5584	21-08-17	14-07-17	Motor Cab	736447	9	13-02-22	53501
389	JH05BV5737	31-07-17	04-07-17	Maxi Cab	490200	8	26-04-19	68183
390	JH05BV6909	23-08-17	27-07-17	Maxi Cab	868000	14	20-05-19	119668
391	JH05BW3816	11-10-17	21-09-17	Motor Cab	299833	5	20-09-19	39192
392	JH05BW5265	18-10-17	16-09-17	Maxi Cab	507000	8	11-04-19	72823
393	JH05BW6436	11-10-17	22-09-17	Motor Cab	453675	5	21-09-19	59302
394	JH05BW8590	17-10-17	27-09-17	Motor Cab	344300	5	26-03-21	32458
395	JH05BX2394	13-11-17	31-10-17	Motor Cab	319004	5	29-04-19	45754
396	JH05BX2910	06-11-17	17-10-17	Motor Cab	778906	7	30-04-21	71535
397	JH05BX3254	31-10-17	13-10-17	Motor Cab	376500	5	12-04-19	54448
398	JH05BX4229	17-11-17	03-11-17	Maxi Cab	490000	8	02-11-19	63478
399	JH05BX6207	04-12-17	30-11-17	Maxi Cab	886300	14	03-06-20	102070
400	JH05BX6683	14-11-17	28-10-17	Maxi Cab	450900	8	09-05-19	64453

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR 352026 Transport (25-26)D

Block-level Carom Talent Competition 2025-26 held

Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 9: The Block-Level Carom Talent Competition 2025-26 was organized on Friday at the Block Resource Center, Seraikela, by the Jharkhand Education Project. The event began at 10:00 AM and concluded by 2:00 PM. District Education Officer Kailash Mishra and Block Education Extension Officer Dinesh Kumar Dandapat attended the event.

The competition was held in two categories: Under-17 and Under-19, with both boys and girls participating.



The DEO praised the initiative, highlighting how the state government's guidelines are providing students with opportunities to excel not just in academics but also in sports. The competition not only offered entertainment but also contributed to the overall development of the students' skills.

Winners in various categories were awarded by the DEO. The event was a success thanks to the efforts of Seraikela Block Program Officer Santona Jena, Block Resource Teacher Gautam Kumar and several other teachers and physical educators who played key roles in organizing the event.

The winners of the Block-Level Carom Talent Competition 2025-26 in Seraikela are as follows: In the Under-17 Boys Singles category, Ganesh Mardi emerged as the winner, with Shiva Barik securing the runner-up position. In the Under-17 Girls Singles, Salma claimed the top spot, while Rukmini finished as the runner-up. The Under-17 Boys Doubles event saw Jiten Hembram and Damo Sawaiya taking first place, with Deep Rawat and Krishna Soy as the runners-up. For the Under-17 Girls Doubles, Radhika Hembram and Rajni Jamuda were crowned winners, while Archana Kumari and Shreya Banra finished as runners-up. In the Under-19 Boys Singles category, Dheeraj Tanti emerged victorious and Rahul Pal was the runner-up. Priya Swarnakar won the Under-19 Girls Singles, with Sanjana Chaki as the runner-up. Finally, in the Under-19 Boys Doubles, Rohan Pal and Sumit Mahato took home the top prize, with Nikhil Pathak and Ashish Mahato finishing as runners-up. (w/nkm)

Abua Adhikar Manch salutes Army's valour in 'Operation Sindoor'

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 9: Abhishek Shukla of Abua Adhikar Manch issued a strong statement applauding the Indian Army's recent airstrike, "Operation Sindoor," conducted against terrorist camps in Pakistan.

In a press release, he described the action as a "necessary and courageous step" by the Indian government, reinforcing its firm stance against terrorism.

"This operation clearly reflects India's unwavering commitment to counter-terrorism," said Shukla.

"The Indian Army has shown the world that any hostile act against our nation will be met with a resolute response."

He added that the strike sends a dual message-not just to cross-border terrorists but also to those within the country who attempt to sow discord through communal and caste-based hatred.

"Operation Sindoor is a warning to all those who challenge India's integrity," he stated.

Expressing pride in the Indian armed forces, Shukla said, "If any anti-national force dares to threaten India's unity, they will face a firm and fitting reply."

The statement underscores growing civil society support for the military and calls for national unity against threats to sovereignty. (w/nkm)

Cyber awareness program held in Seraikela

Mail News Service



Seraikela, May 9: A Cyber Awareness Program was held on Friday at the Seraikela District Court under the guidance of Ramashankar Singh, Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority.

The main objective of the program was to educate the public about cyber security and online threats.

Experts discussed the best practices for online security and methods to prevent cybercrimes.

Key speakers included DSP Pradeep Oraon, APP Kapil Samad, Cyber Sub-Inspector Danish Iqbal and others, who provided valuable insights into protecting oneself from cybercrimes and highlighted the importance of cyber laws. District Legal Services Authority Secretary Tausif Meraj emphasized the need for technical proficiency and awareness of the IT Act's provisions, designed to safeguard against fraudulent online transactions.

This program played a crucial role in raising awareness about cyber threats and educating people on how to safeguard their online activities. (w/nkm)

District Selection Committee meeting for external medical services

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, May 9: A meeting of the District Selection Committee for acquiring external medical services was held today at the District Collectorate in Chaibasa, under the chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Kuldeep Chaudhary. The meeting was aimed at enhancing health services under the Ayushman Bharat and Abua Swasthya Yojana.

The Jharkhand state government had formed the committee to ensure better and stronger healthcare services in the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary gathered detailed information from the attending doctors, including general practitioners, specialists and consultants, regarding their availability to provide services at the district hospital, sub-district hospitals and community health centres. The discussion also covered incentives and benefits for the professionals as per the state government's resolution.

A range of specialists, including oncology consultants, cardiologists, gynaecologists, anaesthetists and general medicine experts, will be recruited for this purpose to strengthen the healthcare system in the region. (w/nkm)

MYM organizes blood donation camp on World Thalassemia Day

Chaibasa, May 9: On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day, the Chaibasa branch of Marwari Yuva Manch organized a blood donation camp at the Sadar Hospital. The event was successfully managed by the blood donation coordinator, Ajay Mohit, who urged everyone to participate in the noble cause of blood donation. The camp collected 15 units of blood, contributing to the local community's need for blood supplies. The event also provided certificates, juice and snacks to the donors. Key members of the Marwari Yuva Manch, including Advisory Committee member Purushottam Sharma, President Ashish Chowdhury, Secretary Basant Khandelwal and several other members, were present at the event, making it a successful initiative. The camp received a positive response from the local community, supporting the cause of blood donation. (w/nkm)

Weekly public darbar held for resolving complaints

Seraikela, May 9: The weekly public darbar was conducted today by Deputy Commissioner Ravishankar Shukla at the district office in Seraikela. The darbar aimed to address personal and social grievances from citizens. Various issues, including land disputes, compensation for acquired land and pollution-related problems, were raised by the public.The Deputy Commissioner instructed the relevant officers to take appropriate action on the complaints and ensure that eligible individuals receive benefits from government welfare schemes. Some issues, such as pending compensation and pollution-related complaints, were resolved on the spot, while others were forwarded to the concerned departments for further action. This initiative reflects the district administration's commitment to solving issues and ensuring timely delivery of services to the public. (w/nkm)

Four illegal liquor dens destroyed

Seraikela, May 9: Acting on a tip-off, the Excise Department, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner and Excise Officer Saurabh Tiwari, raided illegal liquor manufacturing units in Jamjoda village under the Gamharia Police Station area.

Four illegal distillation units were dismantled and 2,500 kg of raw Mahua was destroyed on the spot. Additionally, around 105 litres of illicit liquor stored in plastic jars were seized. (w/nkm)

Mangilal Rungta School shines in carom talent competition

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, May 9: Students from Mangilal Rungta Plus Two School excelled in the Carom Talent Competition for the year 2025-26, held under the Jharkhand Education Project at the Block Resource Center, Sadar, Chaibasa. In the 17-year age category, Amit Lakra won first place in the singles competition, while he and Damu Pareya clinched the first position in the doubles event.

In the 19-year age category, Sirkha Bandra secured first place in the singles and Nilambar Devgam and Mangta Alda placed second in the doubles.

In the 19-year girls' category, Deepika Pingua and Khushi Kumari won second place in the doubles competition. Gold medals were awarded to the first-place winners, while silver medals were given to those who finished second.

The school's teacher, Sweety Singh, played a key role in the success of the participants. Principal Shilpa Gupta congratulated all the winners and wished them well for the upcoming district-level competition.

Carbon Purification model wins exhibition

Seraikela, May 9: The NR Plus Two Excellence School in Seraikela organized a school-level science exhibition with the aim of encouraging students to explore scientific thinking and raise awareness about the importance of science. District Education Officer Kailash Mishra, along with other school staff, attended the event. Mishra, in his speech, emphasized the significance of such exhibitions in fostering students' interest in science. He encouraged all students to participate actively in such programs. The exhibition saw active participation from students, with the DEO praising the event's organization. The winners of the school-level science exhibition at NR Plus Two Excellence School in Seraikela were as follows: In the Junior Group (classes 6-8), Animesh Raj was awarded the first place. In the Senior Group (classes 9-10), Tapas Kumar claimed the top spot. (w/nkm)

District Youth Congress organizes Tiranga rally

Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 9: Under the leadership of District Youth Congress President Premendra Kumar Mishra, a Tiranga rally was held in Kharsawan to honour the Indian soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor and to remember the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The rally, which began from the Kharsawan Martyrs Park and passed through the local market, was filled with patriotic fervour. Young Congress members waved the Indian flag, chanting slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Jai Hind," and "Vande Mataram." Shashi Singh, the in-charge of Jharkhand Youth Congress, was the chief guest of the event.

Singh spoke about the bravery of Indian soldiers in retaliating against terrorists, emphasizing how their sacrifices made the nation proud. Premendra Kumar Mishra also expressed pride in the soldiers' courage and their role in safeguarding the country's honour.(w/nkm)

Anti-child labour task force established in Seraikela

Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 9: An important district-level meeting was held under the leadership of Additional Deputy Commissioner Jayvardhan Kumar to combat child labor. A task force has been formed at the district, sub-district and block levels, with respective officers and police station chiefs assigned to oversee inspections.

The task force will focus on conducting surprise checks at hotels, garages, shops and other establishments to free children engaged in labor and ensure their rehabilitation.

Addressing the gathering, the Additional Deputy Commissioner warned employers of child labor that strict action would be taken against them, as per the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986. The offenders could face fines of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 or imprisonment for six months to two years. He stressed the importance of rehabilitation to ensure that freed children are not forced back into labor. The children will be enrolled in residential schools and linked to government schemes such as housing, pensions and MGNREGA for the welfare of their families.(w/nkm)

Blood donation camp collects 65 units at EDIC Gamharia

Mail News Service

Gamharia, May 9: A blood donation camp was organized at the Engineering Development and Innovation Center (EDIC), Gamharia, under the joint initiative of JDC and Tata Steel Growth Shop (TGS) on Friday. The camp collected a total of 65 units of blood. The event was inaugurated by TGS GM Sharad Sharma, Tisco Mazdoor Union President Rakeshwar Pandey and General Secretary Shiv Lakhan Singh.

Speaking at the inauguration, GM Sharma emphasized, "There is no substitute for blood. Everyone should donate blood to save lives." The camp was held under the guidance of JDC Chairman Pancham Pranlal Tank and Chief HR Manager of Engineering and Projects, Rashid Jafri. Other notable attendees included Pradeep Ghosh, Bijesh Yatindran, Amit Roy, Arun Kumar, Dr. Omprakash Pandey, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Sunil Kumar Sharma and Ashish Sharma. Admin team members Uday Shankar Pathak, Sanjay Tiwari and Vikas Verma, along with Welfare Committee members Ranjan Mishra, Prabhunath Karn, Dilip Mahato, Naveen Kumar, Omprakash Pathak and Kaushal Kumar were also present.(w/nkm)

Mobile thief arrested in Manoharpur, 7 phones recovered

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, May 9: Acting on a tip-off, Manoharpur police arrested a notorious mobile thief, Shubham Mahato, from near Undhan Chowk in Mahuldih village. Police officials said Mahato, 19, was caught while attempting to sell stolen mobile phones. On interrogation, he confessed to stealing seven Android phones from Manoharpur and Bisra (Odisha) regions. The recovered items include phones from Redmi, MI, Itel, Realme and Poco brands.

Shubham, a resident of Mahuldih Dalaki Tola, has a prior criminal record and was previously jailed under theft charges. Cases are already registered against him under Manoharpur P.S. Case No. 27/23 and Anandpur P.S. Case No. 16/23. Police have registered a fresh case (Manoharpur Case No. 16/2025) under sections 380 and 317(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He has been remanded to judicial custody.

The operation was led by the Officer-in-Charge of Manoharpur Police Station along with armed police personnel.(w/nkm)

Para-teachers demand CEC for assistant teacher appointment

Mail News Service



Seraikela, May 9: On Friday, a delegation of para-teachers, led by Kunal Das, State President of the Para-Teacher and Non-Para JETET Successful Candidates Union, met the state's Education Minister Ramdas Soren. The delegation discussed their demand for issuing a common experience certificate (CEC) for para-teachers to be considered for the upcoming assistant teacher appointments in the state.

Kunal Das pointed out that a common experience certificate was previously issued during the 2015-16 assistant teacher appointments. The para-teachers are also trained under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and have passed the JETET exams for primary and upper primary teaching levels. Despite their experience and qualifications, the JSSC has issued separate experience certificates for different categories, causing confusion. The para-teachers urged the education minister to resolve the matter, with the assurance that they would approach the court if the issue was not addressed. District President Himanshu Mahato added that many para-teachers, whose honorariums have been suspended, have been teaching in government schools for over 20 years. (w/nkm)

Students protest poor facilities at Doranda College

Mail News Service



Ranchi, May 9: Members of the Abua Adhikar Manch met with the Principal of Doranda College on Friday, May 9, 2025, to raise concerns about the deteriorating academic infrastructure and basic facilities at the institution.

The delegation, led by College President Amit Tirkey and General Secretary Diwakar Kumar Prajapati, demanded urgent improvements to support students' rights to quality education.

Amit Tirkey criticized the college administration, stating, "Students are suffering, but the administration remains asleep. Basic facilities are our right." He demanded the provision of books in line with the New Education Policy and stricter campus access control, suggesting ID cards be made mandatory.

He also raised concerns about the poor state of college washrooms.

Diwakar Prajapati emphasized the need for clean drinking water, proper fans and lighting in classrooms and regular sanitation in both the Science and Arts blocks. He urged the installation and operation of water purifiers on all floors, especially in the new college building during class hours.

The Principal acknowledged the complaints and assured that genuine demands would be addressed promptly.

However, the Abua Adhikar Manch warned of a phased protest and possible campus lockdown if no action is taken within seven days. (w/nkm)

Pakistan at wit's end

A terribly enraged Pakistan after the razing of terrorist hideouts is now taking recourse to heavy firing at the borders. The constant mischief of Pakistan in its attempts to target Indian army posts was effectively retaliated in the highly successful Operation Sindoor. Indian forces wrecked the air defence system in Pakistan's premier city Lahore and launched a drone attack on the army headquarters at eight other places including Rawalpindi and Karachi. This proves that India can attack far corners of Pakistan including its army posts and military headquarters. India had to take such measures because Pakistan made unsuccessful bids to launch missile attacks on Jammu-Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Indian army foiled these attacks with its impenetrable defence mechanism. The manner in which the Pakistani army tried to attack Indian military posts only goes to show that Pakistan is not in the mood to understand its weaknesses and is hellbent on confrontation.

In a way, India has shown a soft attitude by launching a limited drone attack but if Pakistan continues to attack common people and defence posts, India will have no other option but to destroy that country's entire defence system and put it in disarray. India should brace up for such conditions because Pakistan has no moral right to attack India. India neither has any terrorist hideouts nor terrorist launchpads. It is Pakistan that is expert in these things and it is being made to suffer for it. India should establish its armed presence in such Pakistani areas from which terrorists infiltrate across the border. Such opportunities are rare. The valiant Indian army has left the Pakistani forces in tatters. The Pakistani army is looking helpless from all counts. It also proves that the Chinese arms that Pakistan boasts of are turning out to be useless. This is the right moment to drive fear into the minds of the Pakistani defence forces that have already gone berserk after the Indian attack so that they refrain from nurturing terrorists. The whip has to be cracked on a berserk enemy. The Indian army is not in favour of expanding confrontation but if Pakistan does not see the light of day, then no softness should be shown towards it.

From the Editorial Desk

Is NSA Ajit Doval on Facebook? PIB fact check exposes fake post



Pakistan's disinformation machinery has once again come under the spotlight, this time for targeting India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval through a fake Facebook post. The post falsely claimed to quote Doval warning about an impending cyberattack from Pakistan.

The message, attributed to a Facebook account bearing Doval's name and photo, read: "Now coward country Pakistan is preparing for cyberattack secretly. Avoid clicking messages or picking up the phone from an anonymous number. And share this information with everyone. Cooperate, alert everyone. Stay awake."

However, a fact-check by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has revealed that the post is completely fake.

The PIB clarified that NSA Ajit Doval does not have any official Facebook account.

In a statement posted on X, PIB Fact Check said, "This Facebook account is FAKE. The National Security Advisor does NOT have an official Facebook account. Citizens are advised to exercise caution and not engage with any impostor or fake profiles claiming to represent them."

The PIB also urged citizens to rely only on verified government sources for any information regarding national security or other sensitive issues.

Earlier, the government on Friday trashed Pakistani social media handles claiming that a Sukhoi Su-30MKI was shot down in Muzaffarabad, and an Indian Pilot was captured.

The PIB fact check said the image being circulated by Pakistani social media handles was fake and lifted from an 11-year-old news report.

The PIB Fact Check said the image was of the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi SU-30MKI that crashed at Undre Vasti of Kulwadi village near Pune-Ahamad Nagar highway, Maharashtra, on October 14, 2014.

This attempt at misinformation is being seen as part of a broader propaganda campaign aimed at spreading panic and confusion among Indian citizens.

Securing own skies, breaching enemy airspace with ease: India's overhauled air defence system under Modi govt



The unprecedented face-off at the Line of Control (LoC) and the border areas, after India destroyed nine terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan, saw a barrage of missiles, drones and other munitions being fired from across the border on Thursday night, but India intercepted and shot all of them in the air. Not a single missile could land on Indian territory, failing to reach intended targets.

Days ago, the Indian armed forces carried out targeted and precision strikes on key terror hubs across the border, hitting and destroying them with clinical efficiency.

This sent a clear message to the world - India was not only securing its skies but also had the capability to breach enemy airspace with clinical precision.

The credit for India's overhauled air defence ecosystem goes to the Narendra Modi government, which has kept its thrust on revamping the security apparatus by phasing out the depleting war reserves and inducting a new, world-class arsenal.

The Russian S-400 systems and Rafale jets, largely, accounted for India's success in countering Pakistan's multi-pronged attack.

Interestingly, both of these became part of India's defence system under the NDA government and that, too, apparently at the insistence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The rapid, coordinated response that the armed forces showcased was because of the air defence ecosystem - built painstakingly over the past 11 years under the Modi government.

The Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid, S-400 Triumf systems, Barak-8 missiles, Akash Surface-to-Air Missiles, and DRDO's anti-drone technologies came together seamlessly to create an aerial shield that thwarted all Pakistani attempts to hit military installations in India.

When India hit terror hubs under 'Operation Sindoor', the security forces destroyed a Chinese-supplied HQ-9 air defence unit in Lahore, also damaging key radar infrastructure.

Here is how India fortified its air defence ecosystem.

The level of preparedness didn't materialise overnight. Since 2014, the government under PM Modi has systematically upgraded India's air defence architecture, made key Defence acquisitions and modernised its warfare.

Key acquisitions:

In 2024, Man Portable Counter Drone Systems (MPCDS) were installed by the Army to jam and disable hostile UAVs.

In 2018, a Rs 35,000 crore deal was struck for five S-400 Triumf squadrons. Three squadrons are now operational along the borders with China and Pakistan.

In 2017, India got Barak-8 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MR-SAM) as part of a $2.5 billion deal with Israel. They are now guarding frontline bases like Bhatinda.

The induction of indigenous Akash missile batteries and DRDO-developed counter-drone systems gave more ammo.

Indian Tech in Modern Warfare:

Loitering munitions (kamikaze or suicide drones) were ordered in 2021 and are now manufactured in India. These drones executed simultaneous, precision strikes across sectors, taking Pakistan's defences by complete surprise.

Additionally, Israeli-origin Harop drones - now locally built - were deployed to target and destroy air defence assets in Karachi and Lahore.

These platforms, combined with the strategic deployment of Rafale fighter jets equipped with SCALP and HAMMER missiles, demonstrated India's capability to project power with surgical precision.

Notably, 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message to the world that India is not just capable of defending its skies, it now controls them.

Operation Sindoor: How India aced diplomatic battle after hitting terror hubs inside Pakistan



As India decided to treat the Pahalgam massacre as the last straw and made up its mind to hit back hard on terror, the cynics and naysayers were worried about the diplomatic fallout and also expressed fears of India's 'isolation' for stepping up the heat at the border.

However, the reality is directly opposite to what they anticipated - India has aced the diplomatic battle and is clearly ahead in the battle of narratives, too.

India's military strikes on terror factories in Pakistan have garnered global support as governments and leaders across the world have backed New Delhi's right to defend its citizens and do whatever possible to wipe out terror from the region.

From United States (US) to the European Union (EU) to a few Arabic nations, all have justified India's air strikes and some even asked Pakistan to refrain from escalation.

The global support for India comes on the back of its measured, calibrated and non-escalatory strike on terror spots across the border.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, soon after Indian strikes, shared details of the operation and also explained how any collateral damage was avoided.

However, Pakistan didn't take the strikes lying down and launched air attacks on Indian military installations for two consecutive nights, though all its bids were thwarted.

India was firm and resolute in its response. It not only repulsed every attack by the Pakistani side but also launched a diplomatic offensive to brief the friendly as well as global bodies about Pakistan's brazen audacity despite nurturing terror on its soil.

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, spoke to his US and EU counterparts, soon after the missile and drone attack by Pakistan last night and told them that India will respond firmly if there was any act of escalation by the other side.

India's actions and diplomatic outreach have cut ice with the world and this is evident in the global support building towards it, with many nations issuing a statement in New Delhi's favour, and some others endorsing its fight against terror.

United Kingdom's (UK) Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, supporting Bharat's actions said that India had every reason to be outraged.

Former UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak said, "No country should tolerate cross-border terror."

Though Russia expressed concern over military escalation, however it condemned terrorism in all forms.

Israel supported India's right to self-defence, saying, "Terrorists have no sanctuary."

European Union + all 27 Member States issued a unified statement in India's favour while nations like France, Netherlands and Japan echoed support for India's right to self-defence.

US President Trump backed India's sovereignty and right to respond to terror while Vice-President J.D. Vance urged for de-escalation, emphasising that "it is a regional issue."

A couple of Islamic nations also stood with India, though they refrained from explicitly calling out Pakistan for its terror acts.

Saudi Arabia said it was concerned about rising tension and emphasised on avoiding civilian harm.

UAE and Qatar called for calm and reaffirmed opposition to terrorism. Iran urged peace and said "targeting civilians or using terror is unjustifiable."

Bangladesh however backed India's right to self-defence.

The message from the world community, therefore, largely remains in favour of India.

It widely believes that the Indian military establishment acted with restraint and resolve, avoiding wider conflict and it is Pakistan which is behind the escalating row.

India-Pakistan tensions trigger selloff in stock markets, Sensex falls 880



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp decline on Friday as rising tensions between India and Pakistan spooked investors.

The selloff came after Pakistan fired eight missiles at Indian cities in response to India's precision strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Fortunately, all the missiles were successfully intercepted by Indian air defence systems.

At the closing bell, the Sensex fell by 880.34 points, or 1.10 per cent, to close at 79,454.47, while the Nifty slipped 265.80 points or 1.10 per cent, to settle at 24,008.

"Nifty traders appeared to embrace risk-off trades amid India-Pakistan tensions, as the index fell from its recent consolidation zone," Rupak De of LKP Securities said.

The Nifty managed to stay above the 24,000 mark as the index found support around the 21-day exponential moving average (EMA), he added.

Among Sensex's 30 stocks, ICICI Bank led the losses, falling 3.09 per cent during the intra-day session, followed by PowerGrid, which was down 2.61 per cent, Bajaj Finance, which declined 1.84 per cent, and Reliance Industries, which also dropped 1.84 per cent.

However, a few stocks managed to post gains. Titan led the pack with a 4.25 per cent rise, followed by Larsen and Toubro at 4.02 per cent, Tata Motors with 3.86 per cent, State Bank of India at 1.39 per cent, and Asian Paints, which edged up 0.2 per cent.

Investor sentiment was hit across the board. The Nifty Bank, financial services, and realty indices each dropped more than 1 per cent, with the realty sector emerging as the worst performer, plunging nearly 2 per cent.

Other key sectors such as auto, IT, energy, pharma, FMCG, healthcare, and oil and gas also ended the day in the red.

Despite the overall weakness, a few sectors bucked the trend. Nifty PSU Bank, consumer durables, media, and metal stocks managed to close with gains, offering some support to the market.

In the broader market, the Nifty Midcap 100 index ended flat, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 slipped 0.61 per cent.

Additionally, the rupee traded in a volatile range of 85.90 to 85.35 amid ongoing border tensions between India and Pakistan, with signs of escalation keeping market participants cautious.

"Any fresh developments on the geopolitical front are likely to have a significant impact on the rupee's direction," said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

PMSBY's cumulative enrolments surged by 443 pc since 2016: Centre



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) The cumulative enrolments under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMBSY), -- an accident insurance scheme -- has surged by 443 per cent, since 2016, said the Union government on Friday, as the scheme marks a decade of launch.

The scheme provides financial stability and affordable security in case of accidents and loss of lives at just Rs 20 per year.

"Ensure financial stability for your loved ones with PM Suraksha Bima Yojana! Cumulative enrolments under PMSBY have risen by 443 per cent, from 9.40 Cr in March 2016 to 51.06 Cr in April 2025. Affordable security at just Rs 20 per year!" the Ministry of Finance said in a post on social media platform X. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana has become a cornerstone of the government's efforts to provide financial safety to the public. The scheme was officially launched on May 9, 2015, in Kolkata. It covers all Indian residents and non-resident Indians (NRIs) between the ages of 18 and 70, provided they have a valid bank account.

In the unfortunate event of partial disability due to an accident, the scheme offers Rs 1 lakh directly to the individual's account.

In the tragic case of death caused by a road accident or any other unfortunate incident, the family or heirs of the deceased are entitled to a financial support of Rs 2 lakh.

SIP inflows hit all-time high of Rs 26,632 crore in April: AMFI data



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) India's mutual fund industry saw a historic surge in systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions in April, with investors pouring in a record Rs 26,632 crore last month, according to data by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) released on Friday.

This marks the highest-ever SIP inflow for any month, the report said.

In April, 1.36 crore SIP accounts were either closed or matured as part of this process. However, investor interest remained strong. The number of active SIP accounts grew to 8.38 crore in April, up from 8.11 crore in March, showing that people are still keen on building long-term wealth through mutual funds.

April also saw the creation of 46 lakh new SIP accounts, higher than the 40.19 lakh new accounts opened in March.

AMFI said the spike in account closures was due to a planned clean-up and is likely to reduce sharply from May onwards.

"The sustained inflows underscore improving investor sentiment, supported by strong corporate earnings, resilient macroeconomic fundamentals, and a continued tilt towards equities as the preferred asset class," said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India.

Notably, the absence of any major new fund launches during the month indicates that investors largely allocated capital to existing schemes -- a testament to their confidence in the long-term growth prospects of Indian equity markets, he added.

The record-breaking investment came even as the industry undertook a large clean-up of inactive accounts.

Despite a slight dip in inflows into equity mutual funds, the overall mutual fund industry continued to grow rapidly.

Total assets under management (AUM) reached an all-time high of Rs 70 lakh crore in April.

This is a big jump from Rs 65.74 lakh crore recorded in March -- showing strong investor confidence in the market.

Large-cap mutual funds, which had faced outflows in recent months, bounced back with net inflows of Rs 2,671.46 crore in April.

This was a slight increase from Rs 2,479.31 crore in March. According to the report, this suggest that investors are regaining interest in these relatively stable funds.

Mid-cap funds attracted Rs 3,313 crore during the month, a minor drop from Rs 3,438.87 crore in March.

Meanwhile, small-cap funds continued to perform steadily, drawing Rs 3,999.95 crore in April, only slightly lower than the Rs 4,092 crore they received the month before.

Swiggy slips into deep losses at Rs 1,081 crore in Q4 FY25, up 95 pc



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Online food delivery platform Swiggy further slipped into deep losses at Rs 1,081 crore in the fourth quarter of last financial year (FY25), a whopping 95 per cent increase from Rs 554 crore net loss in the same quarter in FY24, its financials showed on Friday.

On an annual basis, Swiggy's losses widened by 35 per cent in FY25 -- from Rs 2,350 crore in FY24 to Rs 3,116 crore in FY25, according to the company's regulatory filing with the stock exchanges.

Consolidated adjusted EBITDA loss increased to Rs 732 crore (on-year) due to significant growth investments in Quick commerce, said the company.

Revenue was up at Rs 5,609 crore in the March quarter, from Rs 3,668 crore in Q4 of FY24.

"FY25 was a year of many firsts for Swiggy. We launched multiple new apps, across Instamart, Snacc and recently, Pyng; all of which are aimed at opening up new user-segments and markets. Our food delivery engine delivered best-ever results across innovation and execution, driving category-leading growth and rising profitability in lockstep," said Sriharsha Majety, MD and Group CEO, Swiggy.

"Our out-of-home consumption business turned profitable in Q4, within just two years of its integration. Overall, we remain focused on growth, on the back of delivering unparalleled convenience to consumers," Majety added.

Swiggy's food delivery business Gross Order Value (GOV) continues to grow in line with guidance at a healthy 17.6 per cent to Rs 7,347 crore (on-year).

Swiggy Instamart accelerated its GOV growth to 101 per cent, clocking Rs 4,670 crore in Q4. Average order value increased by 13.3 per cent to Rs 527.

Instamart added 316 new darkstores, its highest-ever during a quarter, driving up active dark-store area to 4 million square feet, in line with guidance.

Swiggy said its average monthly transacting user (MTU) increased 35 per cent YoY to reach 19.8 million, with 35 per cent of all users utilizing more than one service on the platform.

India's retail sector surges with 169 pc growth in Q1 2025: Report



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) The Indian retail sector witnessed 169 per cent growth (year-on-year) in the January-March quarter, as strong momentum in new retail store openings continued to play out in major metropolitan cities, a report said on Friday. On a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis, gross leasing activity in the retail sector noted an uptrend of 9 per cent, according to the report by JLL India.

While demand for retail spaces continued unabated across the top seven cities, the infusion of new retail spaces also totalled to a new high. During Q1 2025, 3.1 million square feet was leased by retailers in shopping malls and high streets across top seven cities. On the supply front, Q1 2025 witnessed new retail space additions of 2 million sq ft.

In terms of geographic spread of leasing volume, Bengaluru and Hyderabad together accounted for 60 per cent of the overall India leasing activity. Prominent high streets across both these cities witnessed vibrant leasing in suburban micro-markets with larger store size requirements coming from retailer categories such as daily needs and grocery, food and beverages and fashion and apparel, said the report.

Among retailer categories, fashion and apparel continued to remain the frontrunner in India's retail landscape.

"The segment accounted for a significant 31 per cent share of the leasing activity in Q1 2025. Brands catering to contemporary and fast fashion dominated the space take-up as both existing and new entrants in the Indian retail scene fast expanded brick and mortar footprint to serve the growing needs of younger demographic," said Dr Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India, JLL.

During the quarter, domestic retailers continued to lead retail space take-up with an 86 per cent share.

The quarter also saw 8 new brands of international origin open their first retail store in the country.

SBI to sell 13.19 pc stake in Yes Bank to Japan's SMBC for Rs 8,889 crore



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) India's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), announced on Friday that it will sell a 13.19 per cent stake in private lender Yes Bank to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for Rs 8,889 crore.

The move is part of a strategic shift as SBI trims its holding in Yes Bank, which it had acquired during the latter's financial crisis in 2020. SBI will offload over 413 crore shares of Yes Bank at Rs 21.50 per share.

"Pursuant to Regulation 30 and other applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we advise that the Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of the Bank, in the meeting held on May 9, has accorded approval to divest 4,13,44,04,897 equity shares of Yes Bank Limited (YBL), being equivalent to approximately 13.19 per cent of YBL's shares, to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) at Rs 21.50 per equity share," SBI said in its stock exchange filing.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals from bodies such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and is expected to be completed within a year.

SBI currently holds a 23.97 per cent stake in Yes Bank as of March 2024. After the deal with SMBC goes through, its stake will reduce to 10.78 per cent.

The bank disclosed the development in a stock exchange filing, stating that its executive committee approved the sale in a meeting held on May 9.

Federal Bank also announced a separate deal to sell a 0.5 per cent stake in Yes Bank at the same price of Rs 21.50 per share, amounting to a total value of Rs 357.5 crore.

Other countries see merit in India's rural governance models at World Bank meet



Washington, May 9 (IANS) India's SVAMITVA scheme and Gram Manchitra platform stood out as scalable models for inclusive economic transformation at the World Bank Land Conference 2025, with nations keen to replicate the Rural Governance Models.

India marked a strong and impactful presence at the conference with the presentation of the SVAMITVA scheme, under which 68,000 sq. km of rural land was surveyed, out of which Rs 1.16 trillion worth has been monetised. In the four-day conference held from May 5 to 8, in Washington D.C., India assumed the role of a Country Champion under the leadership of Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

CCPA issues 13 notices to digital marketplaces against listing, sale of walkie-talkies



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Friday issued 13 notices to leading digital marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho and OLX against the listing and sale of walkie-talkies on their platforms without proper frequency disclosure, licensing information, or Equipment Type Approval (ETA). Walkie-talkies are being sold on e-commerce platforms without mandatory and clear disclosures regarding the requirement of a wireless operating license or compliance with applicable laws, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. A preliminary analysis further revealed an alarming volume of such listings across these platforms, including approximately 467 listings on Amazon, 314 on Flipkart, 489 on Meesho, and 423 on TradeIndia, indicating the widespread scale of the issue.

SBI, PNB other banks say ATMs, digital services operating smoothly



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) India's top banks, including the State Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank, said that their ATMs and digital services were fully functional and all operations were normal.

The announcement by the banks came in response to fake social media reports claiming that ATMs are likely to be shut in the coming days amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

"All our ATMs, CDMs/ADWMs and digital services are fully operational and available for public use," the State Bank of India said in a post on X.

India's biggest bank also told its customers not to rely on unverified information.

Punjab National Bank also said: "All our digital services too are operating smoothly, ensuring a seamless banking experience from the comfort of your home."

Similar messages have been posted by the Canara Bank, the Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda, and the Punjab and Sindh Bank.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting on cybersecurity preparedness of banks and financial institutions in the evening, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, Indian Oil has said it has ample fuel stocks across the country, and our supply lines are operating smoothly.

There is no need for panic buying-fuel and LPG is readily available at all our outlets, it said.

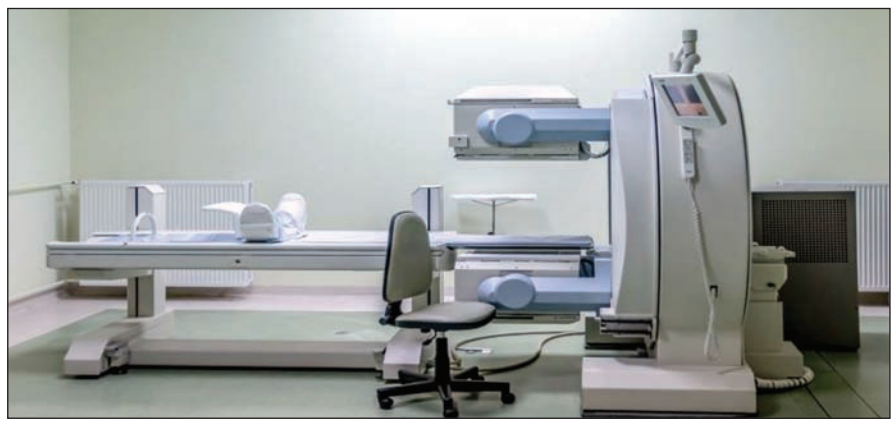
"Help us serve you better by staying calm and avoiding unnecessary rush. This will keep our supply lines running seamlessly and ensure uninterrupted fuel access for all," the national oil giant said in a statement.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which represents 90 million traders, also said on Friday that there is no shortage of foodgrains or other essential items in the country. All commodities are abundantly available in the markets, and the government has adequate reserves. Therefore, no citizen needs to hoard or stockpile goods. Just like during the Covid period, traders will not only maintain the supply chain but, if needed, also ensure delivery of essentials to people's doorsteps/

CAIT Secretary General and Member of Parliament from Delhi's Chandni Chowk, Praveen Khandelwal, assured that traders will strictly follow all government advisories and will not allow any room for panic, rumours, or unrest under any circumstances.

"Just as our brave soldiers are guarding the borders, the traders of the nation are determined to act as soldiers on the economic front, ensuring that the country's supply chain remains uninterrupted under all circumstances," he added.

AI-led innovation driving growth in India's radiology sector: Report



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) India is witnessing a significant uptick in the adoption of diagnostic radiology devices, with a major rise in accelerated adoption of AI-powered technologies and remote monitoring solutions, according to a report on Friday.

The report by 1Lattice, a tech-enabled market intelligence firm, also attributed the growth to rising disease burden, increased investment in healthcare infrastructure.

It revealed that India has registered 1.48 lakh radiology devices, with Maharashtra (20,590), Tamil Nadu (15,267), and Uttar Pradesh (12,236) leading the charge.

These figures reflect a broader trend toward modernisation and digitisation of diagnostic services, even beyond urban centres.

"Radiology is evolving from being a hospital-based specialty to a cornerstone of primary and preventive care. The convergence of AI, portability, and remote monitoring is unlocking access, improving accuracy, and reshaping the delivery of diagnostics across India's healthcare system," said Sanjay Sachdeva, Director - Healthcare and Lifesciences, 1Lattice.

Radiology's impact is further enhanced by AI-powered Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM), enabling real-time tracking and reducing the need for frequent in-person visits through remote health monitoring.

Globally, the radiology equipment market is poised for strong growth. The global market is projected to rise from $34 billion in 2025 to $43 billion by 2030, reflecting a 5 per cent CAGR.

On the other hand, the Indian radiology equipment market is poised to grow from $7.1 billion in FY2025 to $13.5 billion by FY2030, outpacing global growth with a 10 per cent CAGR, the report said.

The growth drivers include technological advancements in digital radiography and ultrasound; a rise in chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular conditions; government schemes like Ayushman Bharat and the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

As healthcare delivery in India becomes more decentralised and tech-driven, radiology will be central to driving outcomes through timely and accurate diagnosis.

However, the sector still faces challenges, including the high cost of advanced equipment, uneven access between urban and rural areas, and ongoing concerns around radiation exposure, the report said.

Study shows young adults not as happy as before



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Young adults across the world between the ages of 18 and 29 are struggling, not only with happiness but also with their physical and mental health, according to a new study.

The study showed that young adults are struggling with perceptions of their own character, finding meaning in life, the quality of their relationships, and their financial security, Xinhua news agency reported.

The data, collected by Gallup primarily in 2023, was derived from self-reported surveys of more than 200,000 people in over 20 countries and published in the journal Nature Mental Health.

The study was one of a collection of papers based on the inaugural wave of data from the Global Flourishing Study, a collaboration between researchers at Harvard and Baylor University.

The study found that the participants had relatively low measures of flourishing on average until age 50.

"It is a pretty stark picture," said lead author Tyler J. VanderWeele, of the study. The findings raise an important question, he said: "Are we sufficiently investing in the well-being of youth?"

The condition was found to be similar in a number of countries, including the UK, Brazil, and Australia. But the difference between younger and older adults was largest in the US, The New York Times reported, citing the researchers.

"Young adulthood has long been considered a carefree time, a period of limitless opportunity and few obligations. But data from the flourishing study and elsewhere suggests that for many people, this notion is more fantasy than reality," said The Times in its report about the study.

"Study after study shows that social connection is critical for happiness, and young people are spending less time with friends than they were a decade ago," Laurie Santos, a psychology professor at Yale and host of "The Happiness Lab" podcast, was quoted as saying.

"Plus, like folks of all ages, young people are facing a world with a whole host of global issues, from climate to the economy to political polarisation," Santos added.

Increasing urban vegetation can save over 1.1 mn lives from heat-related deaths: Study



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Amid increasing global warming and heat-related deaths worldwide, a new study has shown that expanding urban vegetation cover by 30 per cent could save over one-third of all deaths caused due to heat, saving up to 1.16 million lives globally.

Researchers from Monash University in Australia showed that increasing vegetation levels by 10 per cent, 20 per cent, and 30 per cent would decrease the global population-weighted warm-season mean temperature by 0.08 degrees Celsius, 0.14 degrees Celsius, and 0.19 degrees Celsius, respectively.

It can also prevent 0.86, 1.02, and 1.16 million deaths, respectively.

While increasing greenness has been proposed as a heat-related death mitigation strategy, "this is the first modelling study to estimate both the cooling and modifying effects of greenness, providing a more comprehensive assessment of its benefits in mitigating heat-related mortality," said Professor Yuming Guo from the varsity.The findings, published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health, are based on a 20-year modelling study of the impact of increasing greenness in more than 11,000 urban areas from 2000 to 2019.

Urban areas in Southern Asia, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Asia were found to have the greatest reduction in heat-related deaths.

"These findings indicate that preserving and expanding greenness might be potential strategies to lower temperature and mitigate the health impacts of heat exposure," Guo said.

Heat exposure is a major public health threat and is increasing due to climate change. Between 2000-2019, heat exposure was associated with 0.5 million deaths per year, accounting for 0.91 per cent of global mortality. According to Guo, estimates of heat-related deaths are projected to range from 2.5 per cent in North Europe to 16.7 per cent in South-East Asia during 2090-99, "under the most extreme global warming scenarios."

Studies show that greenness has a cooling effect on temperature, via shading surfaces, deflecting radiation from the sun, and evapotranspiration (evaporation from both the ground and plants) which promotes air convection.

Drink black tea, eat berries, apples to age healthy



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Want to age healthy? Higher intakes of black tea, berries, citrus fruits, and apples may help, according to global research.

Researchers from Edith Cowan University (Australia), Queen's University Belfast (UK), and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (US), found that foods rich in flavonoids could help to lower the risk of key components of unhealthy ageing, including frailty, impaired physical function and poor mental health.

"The goal of medical research is not just to help people live longer but to ensure they stay healthy for as long as possible," said Dr Nicola Bondonno, Adjunct Lecturer at Edith Cowan.

Previous studies have showed people who have a higher flavonoid intake tend to live longer, and they are also less likely to get any of the major chronic diseases such as dementia, diabetes, or heart disease.

"Our research shows that people who consume more flavonoids tend to age better," Bondonno said.

The study, which analysed data from 62,743 women and 23,687 men over 24 years, found that women with the highest flavonoid intakes had a 15 per cent lower risk of frailty, a 12 per cent lower risk of impaired physical function, and a 12 per cent lower risk of poor mental health compared to those with the lowest intakes.

While fewer associations were observed in men, higher flavonoid intake was still linked to a lower risk of poor mental health.

"Flavonoids are well known for reducing oxidative stress and inflammation, supporting blood vessel health, and even helping to maintain skeletal muscle mass -- all of which are important for preventing frailty and maintaining physical function and mental health as we age," said Professor Aedin Cassidy from Queens.

Further, the study showed that participants who increased their intake of flavonoid-rich food by three servings a day had a 6 per cent to 11 per cent lower risk across all three ageing outcomes in females, and a 15 per cent lower risk of poor mental health in males.

"Overall, these findings underscore the potential for simple dietary modifications to impact the overall quality of life and contribute to the optimisation of healthy ageing," added Professor Eric Rimm from Harvard.

Scientists create hair-like electrode to monitor brain's electrical activity

New York, May 9 (IANS) A team of researchers in the US has created a hair-like device for long-term, non-invasive monitoring of the brain's electrical activity.

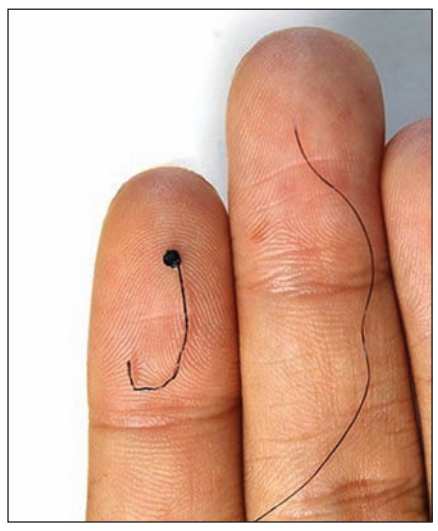
The lightweight and flexible electrode attaches directly to the scalp and delivers stable, high-quality recordings of the brain's signals, said the team from Penn State University.

The future of electroencephalography (EEG) monitoring may soon look like a strand of hair, in place of the traditional metal electrodes, a web of wires and sticky adhesives.

EEG is critical for diagnosing and assessing neurological conditions like epilepsy and brain injuries.

In some cases, clinicians need to monitor brain waves for longer periods of time, for example, to evaluate seizures, sleep disorders and conditions that affect the blood vessels and blood flow in the brain.

The researchers described the new electrodes, which were shown to maintain stable performance for over 24 hours of continuous wear, in a study published in the journal npc biomedical



innovations.

This technology holds promise for use in consumer health and wellness products, in addition to clinical health care application, according to the researchers.

"This electrode allows for more consistent and reliable monitoring of EEG signals and can be worn without being noticeable, which enhances both functionality and patient comfort," said Tao Zhou, senior author of the paper published in npj Biomedical Innovations journal.

EEG monitoring is a widely used method to measure the brain's electrical activity, Zhou explained.

The traditional EEG monitoring process, however, can be a cumbersome - and sometimes messy - affair. Its limitations make it difficult to use for continuous, long-term monitoring.

The conventional EEG electrodes are rigid, too, and can shift when someone moves their head, even slightly, which can compromise the data uniformity.

To address these limitations, the research team designed a small monitoring device that looks like a strand of hair and is made from 3D-printed hydrogel material.

One end is the electrode. It looks like a small dot and captures the brain's electrical signals from the scalp. There's a long, thin wire-like component that extends from the electrode, which connects to the monitoring system.

The device also uses a 3D-printable bioadhesive ink that allows the electrode to stick directly onto the scalp without the need for any gloopy gels or other skin preparation.

This minimises the gap between the electrode and scalp, improving the signal quality.

The lightweight, flexible and stretchable nature of the device also means that the device stays put - even when combing hair and donning and removing a baseball cap - and can be worn for longer periods of time, making it suitable for chronic monitoring.

The team found that the new device performed comparably to gold electrodes, the current standard electrodes used for EEG.

However, the hairlike electrode maintained better contact between the electrode and skin and performed reliably for over 24 hours of continuous wear without any degradation in signal quality.

"You don't have to worry if the position of the electrode has changed or if the impedance has changed because the electrodes haven't moved," Zhou said.

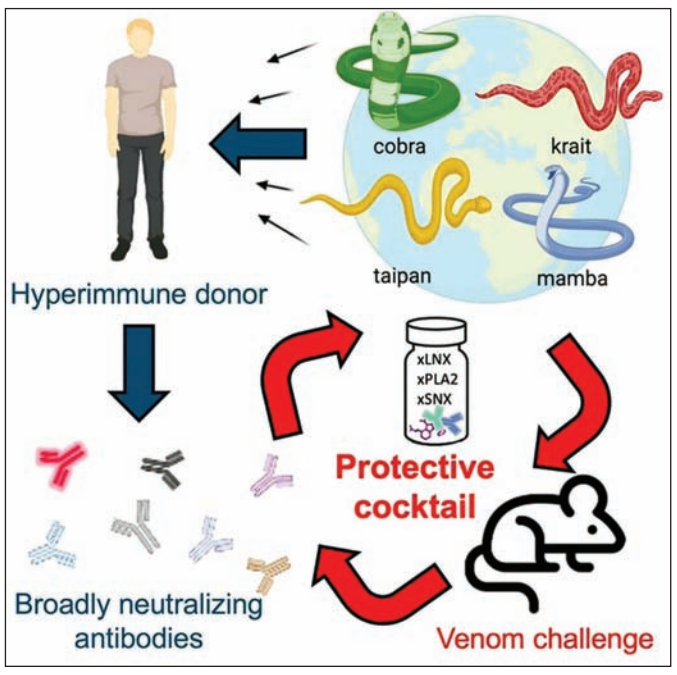
Human antibodies neutralise neurotoxins of 19 of world's deadliest snakes

New York, May 9 (IANS) By using antibodies from a human donor with a self-induced hyper-immunity to snake venom, scientists have developed the most broadly effective antivenom to date, which is protective against the likes of the black mamba, king cobra, and tiger snakes in mouse trials.

Described in the Cell Press journal Cell, the antivenom combines protective antibodies and a small molecule inhibitor and opens a path toward a universal antiserum.

While exploring, scientists stumbled upon someone hyper-immune to the effects of snake neurotoxins.

"The donor, for a period of nearly 18 years, had undertaken hundreds of bites and





self-immunisations with escalating doses from 16 species of very lethal snakes that would normally a kill a horse," said first author Jacob Glanville, CEO of Centivax, Inc.

After the donor, Tim Friede, agreed to participate in the study, researchers found that by exposing himself to the venom of various snakes over several years, he had generated antibodies that were effective against several snake neurotoxins at once.

"What was exciting about the donor was his once-in-a-lifetime unique immune history," says Glanville. "Not only did he potentially create these broadly neutralising antibodies, in this case, it could give rise to a broad-spectrum or universal antivenom."

To build the antivenom, the team first created a testing panel with 19 of the World Health Organization's category 1 and 2 deadliest snakes across the elapid family, a group which contains roughly half of all venomous species, including coral snakes, mambas, cobras, taipans, and kraits.

Next, researchers isolated target antibodies from the donor's blood that reacted with neurotoxins found within the snake species tested.

One by one, the antibodies were tested in mice envenomated from each species included in the panel.

In this way, scientists could systematically build a cocktail comprising a minimum but sufficient number of components to render all the venoms ineffective.

To strengthen the antiserum further, the team added the small molecule varespladib, a known toxin inhibitor, which granted protection against an additional three species.

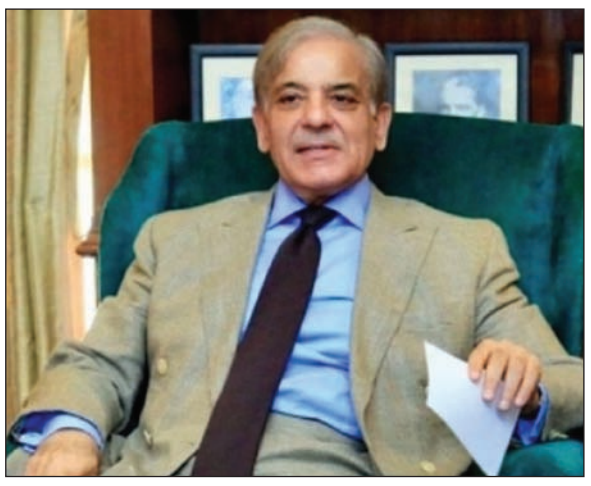
Finally, they added a second antibody isolated from the donor, called SNX-B03, which extended protection across the full panel.

"By the time we reached 3 components, we had a dramatically unparalleled breadth of full protection for 13 of the 19 species and then partial protection for the remaining that we looked at," said Glanville.

With the antivenom cocktail proving effective in mouse models, the team now looks to test its efficacy out in the field, beginning by providing the antivenom to dogs brought into veterinary clinics for snake bites in Australia.

Further, they wish to develop an antivenom targeting the other major snake family, the vipers.

Pak begs for 'loans amid heavy losses' on X, Islamabad says account 'hacked'



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) As India continued to successfully defend its territories and people from massive aerial attacks from across the border, Pakistan on Friday begged the international community for "more loans", citing "heavy losses inflicted by the enemy".

In a post on the X social media platform, the Economic Affairs Division of the Pakistani government said the "government of Pakistan appeals to International Partners for more loans after heavy losses inflected by enemy".

"Amid escalating war and stocks crash, we urge international partners to help de-escalate. Nation urged to remain steadfast," the official Economic Affairs Division X handle posted.

Later, the Pakistani government backtracked from its post, claiming that this particular X handle has been "hacked".

Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs said it did not tweet the post on X and claimed that their "X account has been hacked".

The post came ahead of the crucial meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on Friday (US time) to decide on the bailout package for Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India's executive director at the IMF will put forward the country's position during the meeting of the board of the global body. "I'm sure that our executive director will put forward India's position," he said at a media briefing.

"The decisions of the board are a different matter...But I think the case with regard to Pakistan should be self-evident to those people who generously open their pockets to bail out this country," he said.

Misri further noted that many of the 24 bailout packages sanctioned by the IMF for Pakistan had not reached a successful conclusion.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan armed forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire Western border on the intervening night of May 8 and May 9, Indian Army officials said.

Pakistani troops also resorted to numerous ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The drone attacks were effectively repulsed and a befitting reply was given, the Indian Army said in a statement.

India on Thursday night neutralised Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations.

Iran denies US media claim of identifying secret nuclear facility

Tehran, May 9 (IANS) Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Friday rejected a Fox News report claiming to have identified a new secret nuclear facility in Semnan province.

In a post on X, Araghchi dismissed the "Very Scary Satellite Images" touted by Fox News as part of an effort by Israel to derail the forthcoming indirect talks between Tehran and Washington.

"Like clockwork, more Very Scary Satellite Images are being circulated as Iran-US indirect nuclear talks are set to resume," Araghchi said.

Fox News reported that it had exclusively obtained satellite imagery purportedly showing a previously undisclosed Iranian nuclear weapons facility, a 2,500-acre compound codenamed "Rainbow Site" that the network said has been disguised as the chemical producer Diba Energy Siba and active for more than a decade, Xinhua news agency reported.

The rebuttal comes on the eve of the fourth round of Oman-mediated indirect talks on Iran's nuclear programme and US sanctions relief. To date, delegations from both sides have met three times, twice in Muscat on April 12 and April 26 and once in Rome on April 19.

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth meets President Putin, thanks Russia for support in fight against terror



Moscow, May 9 (IANS) Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, representing India at Russia's 80th Victory Day celebrations marking the end of World War 2 in Moscow, also met Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit.

Seth expressed India's gratitude for Russia's continued support in the global fight against terrorism.

Taking to social media, the Indian minister shared photos of his interaction with President Putin and other moments from the Victory Day event.

"I am honoured to meet President Vladimir Putin during my visit to Russia. Represented India at the banquet organized on the occasion of the 80th Victory Day anniversary. Expressed gratitude for Russia's support in India's fight against terrorism led by Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji", he said on his X handle.

Seth, who is the BJP MP from Ranchi, arrived in Moscow on Thursday. He was welcomed by Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar and Major General Oleg Moiseyev of the Russian Defence Ministry.

During the visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin.

According to information shared by the minister, the discussions focused on strengthening bilateral military and military-technical cooperation.

"We had a productive discussion on further enhancing defence ties through existing institutional frameworks. India and Russia agreed to continue regular consultations and expand cooperation in view of the evolving global security landscape," Seth said.

Brazil expresses concern over India-Pak tensions; rejects all forms of terrorism



Brasilia, May 9 (IANS) The Government of Brazil, reiterating its stance on denouncing all forms of terrorism, expressed grave concern about the military actions in the Kashmir region following escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The remarks came after the Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor, targeting nine high-value terror locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the dastardly April 22 terror attack, which left 26 innocent civilians dead.

"As expressed in the statement of April 23 regarding the attack in Kashmir on the previous day, the Government of Brazil reiterates its repudiation of all acts of terrorism. Brazil calls on the parties involved to exercise the utmost restraint in order to prevent an escalation of tensions," Foreign Ministry of Brazil said in a statement on Thursday.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises Brazilian nationals to refrain from non-essential travel to Kashmir and adjacent regions. Itamaraty is monitoring the situation of Brazilians in the area. There are no reports of Brazilian victims," the statement added. On Thursday, President Lula de Silva of Brazil called Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing support and solidarity with India in its fight against terrorism and conveying condolences at the loss of lives in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India.

EAM Jaishankar conveys wishes on Europe Day; highlights expansion of India, EU strategic partnership



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Friday extended his wishes to Kaja Kallas the Vice-President of the European Commission, and the European Union (EU) on Europe Day, appreciating the consistent growth of the Strategic Partnership between India and the EU.

"Greetings to EU High Representative/Vice President Kaja Kallas and the European Union on Europe Day. Value the steady expansion of our Strategic Partnership," EAM posted on X.

Earlier, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, accompanied by the European Union College of Commissioners, visited India from February 27 to February 28. This was the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners together to India. The EU and India reinforced strategic ties during the landmark visit of the European Commission delegation to India in February. Europe Day, held on May 9 every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the 'Schuman Declaration', a historic proposal made by Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, in 1950 that laid out the foundation of European cooperation. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

This year, the EU celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and the 25th anniversary of the EU's motto: United in Diversity. Meanwhile, as Pakistan fired several missiles on Indian cities, accelerating military tensions, EAM Jaishankar spoke to Kallas late Thursday, asserting India's strong resolve to firmly counter any escalations.

"Discussed ongoing developments with EU High Representative/Vice President Kaja Kallas. India has been measured in its actions. However, any escalation will get a firm response," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X.

On Thursday, the European Union (EU) and its 27 member states unequivocally condemned the heinous Pahalgam terrorist attack, stating that every state has the duty and the right to lawfully protect its citizens from acts of terror.

American-Jewish community thanks India for eliminating Islamist terrorist Abdul Rauf Azhar



Washington/New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Operation Sindoor, targeting nine high-value terror locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) also brought the much-awaited justice to friends and family of American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl.

Reports suggest that Islamist terrorist Abdul Rauf Azhar, a co-conspirator in the 2002 abduction and brutal murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl and also the IC-814 hijacking mastermind, was also among the dozens of terrorists eliminated in the counter-terrorism offensive that destroyed 'Markaz Subhan Allah', the JeM terror headquarters and training facility in Pakistan's Bahawalpur, on Wednesday.

Several noted personalities and people from all walks of life took to social media, are now thanking India for giving justice to Pearl by neutralising Azhar, brother of UN proscribed terrorist and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar.

"India delivered justice for the brutal murder of American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl by eliminating Abdul Rauf Azhar, the Jaish-e-Mohammed commander and key conspirator behind Pearl's kidnapping, torture, and beheading," American Activist Amy Mek posted on X.

"Abdul Rauf Azhar wasn't just a terrorist; he was the brother of Masood Azhar, JeM's founder, and a mastermind behind some of the most heinous Islamic attacks. He conspired to murder Daniel Pearl," she added.

"Operation Sindoor struck at the heart of terror, hitting Jaish-e-Mohammed strongholds and sending a clear message: India will not stand by while radicals slaughter non-Muslims. To India, we say Thank You. Thank you for standing strong against Islamic terror and taking the fight directly to the jihadis," Mek said further.

Former US Special Envoy Ellie Cohanim also extended her gratitude to the government of India

"For too long we did not see justice for the evil beheading of Daniel Pearl. Personally grateful to the government of India. Daniel Pearl forever memorialised by his last words echoing thousands of years of Jewish history & persecution: "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish"," Cohanim posted on X. American author Pamela Geller, international human rights Lawyer Arsen Ostrovsky and Israeli journalist Emily Schrader also took to social media, thanking India for fighting against Islamic terror."India Kills Muslim Terrorist Who Beheaded Jewish-American Wall Street Journal Reporter Daniel Pearl THANK YOU, INDIA!" Geller wrote.

Albanese urges elected party MPs to have 'laser-like' focus on working for Australians



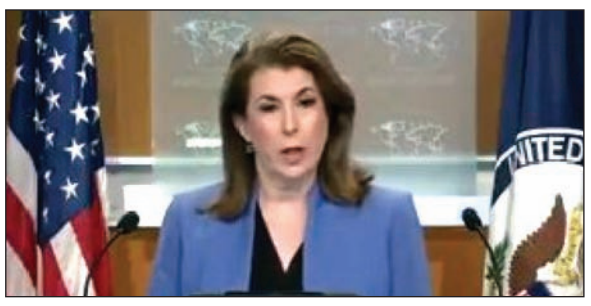
Canberra, May 9 (IANS) Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has urged the elected Members of Parliament (MPs) of his Labor Party to maintain a focus on working for all Australians after winning re-election.

Albanese on Friday convened the Labor caucus, comprising all of the party's elected members of both houses of parliament, in Canberra for the first time since winning a second term in power at last Saturday's federal election in a landslide result.

Addressing the caucus, Albanese welcomed the party's new elected parliamentarians to Canberra and asked members of both houses to retain a "laser-like focus" on working for the Australians who voted for them and those who did not.

"We want to see them lifted up, and given opportunity," Albanese said. "We seek power in order to deliver for the people who need Labor to be in government."

US says its message to India, Pak is to de-escalate and talk



Washington, May 9 (IANS) The US on Thursday said its message to India and Pakistan amid the current tensions following the Pahalgam terrorist attack has been two fold: de-escalate and keep talking. Referring to the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's calls to India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif earlier in the day, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at the daily briefing that US has been focussed on "two things".

"That it should not escalate, and communication was fundamentally key, that there should be talks, that there should not be silence, and that America, obviously was at the centre of this, in speaking with a variety of leaders of both countries over the last two days," Bruce said.

She also said: "The message from the Secretary, and, I think, from the US as a whole in general, is that the violence should stop that military action, war, as we've seen in that region, certainly in the Middle East, has clearly, for generation, proven that it is not a solution, because it never ends. There has to be a change in that regard. So obviously, when it comes to solving a problem, this administration has made itself clear that war, the military, more violence is not a solution. Diplomacy is a solution." Asked if Secretary Rubio has offered to mediate, Bruce said the situation is "very delicate and dangerous" and "where there's negotiations happening, we are not going to be speaking about the details".

She went on to say that "it's important to not put details in the middle of the media, the worldwide media, when the work is being done privately between leaders, and we need to really try to keep it that way". When asked if a statement in the readout of Secretary Rubio's call with Prime Minister Sharif -- that called Pakistan to end any support for terrorism -- was an endorsement of Indian position that Pakistan has been a supporter of terrorism, Bruce said, "Well, you know, obviously in today's world, that's a call that we've been making for decades. It is the dynamic that we've seen in the Middle East disrupting lives. And clearly what happened in Kashmir is awful, and we've all of course, we send our condolences. The world has rejected the nature of that kind of violence overall, of course, and certainly the President has and continues to but at this moment in time, there is, like one thing that has to stop, which is a back and forth and a continuation of this. And that is what we're focused on right now."

India-Pakistan conflict is 'none of our business', says US Vice-President Vance



Washington, May 9 (IANS) US Vice-President J.D. Vance has said that the conflict between India and Pakistan is "fundamentally none of our business," though he and President Donald Trump are encouraging both the countries to de-escalate.

"What we can do is try to encourage these folks to de-escalate a little bit, but we're not going to get involved in the middle of war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it. You know, America can't tell the Indians to lay down their arms. We can't tell the Pakistanis to lay down their arms. And so, we're going to continue to pursue this thing through diplomatic channels," Vance, who has been a proponent of US disengagement from international conflicts, said in an interview with Fox News.

"Our hope and our expectation is that this is not going to spiral into a broader regional war or, God forbid, a nuclear conflict," Vance added.

"Right now, we don't think that's going to happen."

The remarks by Vance came as Pakistan made a failed attempt to attack military establishment in Jammu, Pathankot and several other cities.

India's air defence system intercepted and neutralised at least eight missiles launched by Islamabad.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said he wants India and Pakistan to "stop" what he described as "tit for tat" actions, saying if he can do anything to "help", he will be there.

"Oh it's so terrible. My position is I get along with both. I know both very well and I want to see them work it out. I want to see them stop and hopefully they can stop now. They have gone tit for tat, so hopefully they can stop now. I know both, we get along with both the countries very well."

"Good relationships with both and I want to see it stop. And If I can do anything to help, I will be there," Trump said in response to a question on the "war" between India and Pakistan.

Trump's remarks came after the Indian military carried out strikes against terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan's Punjab province on Wednesday.

Pakistan army carried out artillery and mortar shelling targeting forward villages along the Line Of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Aly Goni shaken as family faces drone attacks in Jammu amid escalating India-Pakistan tensions



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Television actor Aly Goni has expressed deep concern after learning that his family in Jammu was directly impacted by recent drone attacks amid growing tensions between India and Pakistan.

As cross-border unrest intensifies, Goni took to social media to share his distress, shedding light on the fear and uncertainty faced by civilians in conflict-affected regions. In his post, the 'Bigg Boss' actor, who is currently out of the country, expressed his anguish, calling out the glorification of war on social platforms while innocent civilians bear the brunt of the conflict.

On Friday, Goni shared a couple of his photos with his family members and wrote, "Sleepless and shattered, stuck out of India as my family in Jammu endures last night's attack. My whole family, children, and parents face the terror of drones and unrest, yet some people glorify this war from the comfort of their homes, posting on social media. It's not that easy for those near the border. Thanks to our IAF And Indian Army praying for safety and peace."

Aly Goni, who hails from Jammu, also extended heartfelt thanks to the Indian Air Force following the recent spate of drone and missile strikes by Pakistan targeting Jammu. He shared that he has been extremely anxious about the safety of his loved ones back home. Despite his concern, Aly expressed immense relief after receiving confirmation that his family is safe, crediting the alertness and swift action of the Indian Armed Forces amid the mounting cross-border tensions.

He wrote on his X handle, "I am out of India shooting, and My family is in Jammu I was so mind F**Cked here.. thank god everyone is safe.. Thanks to our IAF."(sic)

On May 8, Pakistan launched a series of aerial strikes targeting over a dozen locations, including the Jammu civil airport, Samba, RS Pura, Arnia, and multiple military installations in the region.

Health

US sees increase in cancer incidence rates among adults under 50: Study



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) A new study by researchers at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) has revealed a concerning rise in the incidence of several cancer types among individuals under age 50 in the country between 2010 and 2019.

According to the findings, published in the journal Cancer Discovery, the incidence of 14 out of 33 analysed cancer types increased in at least one younger age group," Xinhua news agency reported.

Notably, common cancers such as female breast, colorectal, kidney, and uterine cancers saw marked increases, with some of these also rising among older adults.

"This study provides a starting point for understanding which cancers are increasing among individuals under age 50," said lead investigator Meredith Shiels, from NIH's National Cancer Institute.

"The causes of these increases are likely to be cancer-specific, including cancer risk factors becoming more common at younger ages, changes in cancer screening or detection, and updates to clinical diagnosis or coding of cancers," she added.

Using data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and national mortality records, researchers examined cancer incidence from 2010 to 2019 and mortality trends through 2022, across six age groups.

Although 14 cancers rose in early-onset age brackets, 19 other cancer types -- such as lung and prostate cancers -- declined, resulting in a stable overall cancer incidence and mortality rate, the study said.

Among the rising cancers in younger populations, female breast cancer showed the largest increase, with approximately 4,800 more cases diagnosed in 2019 than would have been expected based on 2010 rates.

Colorectal, kidney, uterine, and pancreatic cancers also contributed significantly, collectively accounting for more than 80 percent of the additional early-onset cases in 2019, the study shows.

The researchers speculated that risk factors such as increasing obesity may have contributed to some of the increases in early-onset cancer incidence in recent years.

Madhura Naik makes scathing attack on Mandana Karimi for her propaganda remark



Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Actress Madhura Naik, who is known for her work in television, has made a scathing attack on Iranian actress Mandana Karimi for the latter's unsubstantiated remarks on India's retaliatory action on terror camps in Pakistan.

Mandana had taken to the Stories section of her Instagram, and penned a long note. She falsely painted India's action as an act of terror and said that India was "bombing Pakistani Kashmir murdering civilians".

Responding to the same, Madhura penned a long note, as she wrote, "It is deeply disturbing and absolutely unacceptable that a foreign national, an Iranian woman residing in India and benefitting from its opportunities and freedoms, would dare to malign the very nation that has hosted her with dignity, respect, and inclusiveness. Her recent public statements falsely accusing India of "bombing Pakistani Kashmir" and labeling our civilizational ethos as "Hindutva fascism" are not only factually incorrect but are also steeped in dangerous propaganda aimed at inciting discord".

Madhura, who is half Israeli, called it an "irresponsible rhetoric" especially coming from someone with visibility and influence in public life, must be met with the strictest scrutiny.

She further mentioned, "It is imperative to ask: would she be permitted to speak in such a manner against her own homeland, Iran, with the same impunity? The answer is self-evident. India, unlike many other nations, offers freedom of speech, but this freedom cannot and must not be abused to vilify our national integrity, our religious beliefs, or our armed forces.

Mouni Roy: We don't stoop to terrorism

Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Actress Mouni Roy has expressed deep patriotism, denouncing terrorism and standing firmly with the soldiers defending the nation.

Emphasizing unwavering love and loyalty to the motherland, Mouni took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of the Indian flag and wrote: "Away and anxious beyond belief, we don't want this war but we don't stoop to terrorism."

"Praying every minute for the safety of our soldiers…Nothing and nobody before our motherland! JAI HIND," she added. Escalation followed India's launch of Operation Sindoor -- a series of focused and precise strikes on nine terror camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) - in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people. Mouni is currently in Scotland to shoot for Varun Dhawan's upcoming film 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' starring David Dhawan. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur, Chunkey Panday, Pooja Hegde, Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Shergill, Rakesh Bedi, Ali Asgar, Kubbra Sait, Rohit Saraf, Rajeev Khandelwal, Nitish Nirmal, and Sreeleela. For those of you who do not know, "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai" was a hit song from David Dhawan's 1999 film "Biwi No 1", featuring Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, and Sushmita Sen.



Before Scotland, Varun and Pooja flew to Rishikesh to film a sequence for "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai"

She was also seen in 'The Bhootnii" starring Sanjay Dutt, Palak Tiwari and Sunny Singh.

The storyline follows Mohabbat as she becomes the target of a quirky ghost hunter named Baba, portrayed by veteran actor Sanjay Dutt. Alongside Palak and Dutt, the film features an ensemble cast including Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Aasif Khan, and Beyounick.

Pooja Hegde on appreciation for her role in Suriya's 'Retro': It's been an overwhelming response!



Chennai, May 9 (IANS) Actress Pooja Hegde, whose portrayal of Rukmini in director Karthik Subbaraj's blockbuster film 'Retro' has come in for much praise, has now penned a post of gratitude for all her fans who have been showering her with appreciation for her performance.

Taking to her Instagram page, the actress put out a story showing what critics and fans had to say about her performance in the film and wrote, "Gratitude post- A special thank you to all those who have sent me love and appreciation for my portrayal of Rukku. It's been an overwhelming response. Thank you for the personal messages, thank you to my fans for their beautiful posts and thank you for all those Kanima reels. Love and only love back."It may be recalled that 'Retro' has already emerged a blockbuster, with the film's makers officially announcing that the film's collections had crossed the Rs 100 crore mark on May 6. More importantly, the unit held a thanksgiving meet in which actor Suriya, donated a sum of Rs 10 crore from the film's collections to the Agaram Foundation to enable more students pursue their higher education dreams.

Suriya, on the occasion, said, "There is no greater joy than sharing. It has always brought me immense fulfillment to share my success with all of you, who recognised my efforts and gave me an identity as an actor.

"The overwhelming support you've shown for the film Retro has made it a heartwarming success. Every time I face a challenging situation, it is your love and encouragement that lifts me up and keeps me going. For that, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you."

Stating tht the identity that fans had given him had inspired him to form the Agaram Foundation, Suriya said, "Now Agaram has grown into a collective movement, involving compassionate volunteers, government school teachers, donors, and academic institutions.

Ananya Panday salutes the Indian Armed Forces & their families for their courage

Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) As tension between India and Pakistan escalates, actress Ananya Panday took a moment to show her gratitude towards the Indian Armed Forces for their unmatched contribution to the safety of our country.

"Saluting the heroes of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Forces", the 'CTRL' actress wrote on her Instagram stories.

Ananya also thanked the families of the Indian forces for their unmatched sacrifice, "Heartfelt gratitude to you and your families for your unmatched sacrifice and strength. We owe you everything. #JaiHind."

Additionally, actor R. Madhavan used social media to share his concern and solidarity with the innocent amidst the escalating India-Pakistan conflict. The 'Kesari Chapter 2' actor took to social media and penned a note offering heartfelt prayers for the safety and protection of civilians caught in the crossfire.

"Salute to our armed forces. Jai Hind…May god protect them and all those that are innocent." Madhavan wrote on the



photo-sharing app.

Several other members from the film fraternity including Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Chiranjeevi, Rohit Shetty, Mahesh Babu, Nimrat Kaur, Kangana Ranaut, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonu Sood, Anupam Kher, Milind Soman, Kareena Kapoor, Kajol, and Vidya Balan applouded the courage of the India's defence during the fight against terrorism.

During the wee hours of May 7, the Indian Armed Forces attacked nine identified militant locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which they called Operation Sindoor.

The Indian forces carried Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people on April 22. After this, on May 8, Indian air defence forces successfully intercepted a series of at least eight missiles fired by Pakistan, which were reportedly aimed at critical border locations in Jammu.

Moreover, the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that 13 civilians were killed and 44 others wounded in the ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Poonch area of LoC.

Sunny Deol 'immediately' said 'yes' to Ahmed Khan's 'Lakeer'

Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Filmmaker-choreographer Ahmed Khan recalled superstar Sunny Deol's support as instrumental during a critical phase of his directorial venture "Lakeer - Forbidden Lines". He said the actor "immediately said yes to the film."

Ahmed said, "Sunny and I have been friends for decades, and his support has always meant a lot to me. During my first directorial venture, I remember getting a call from his office while I was playing football. When I went to meet him, he immediately said yes to the film."

"I didn't even have to share a full script, just the basic plotline. He loved the idea, hopped onto it and asked his team to close the shoot dates at the earliest with me," he added.

Released in 2004, "Lakeer - Forbidden Lines" stars Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty, John Abraham, Sohail Khan and Nauheed



Cyrusi. The music was composed by A. R. Rahman and the background score by Aadesh Shrivastava. The film follows Karan as a powerful man's brother who misuses his status whereas Saahil is a simple mechanic's brother. Trouble ensues when both of them fall for Bindiya and aim to gain her attention. On the acting front, Sunny is currently busy with "Border 2". On a related note, "Border 2" also stars Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty. Directed by Anurag Singh, the film is being produced by Bhushan Kumar and Nidhi Dutta, with Shiv Chanana and Binoy Gandhi as co-producers.

Falaq Naaz questions loyalty of fellow Muslim celebs for staying silent amid rising Indo-Pak tensions

Mumbai, May 9 (IANS) Actress Falaq Naaz has made a bold statement, criticizing her fellow Muslim actors in the entertainment industry for their silence during the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict.

In a heartfelt video, Falaq expressed her disappointment, questioning why certain celebrities have refrained from publicly supporting India amidst rising tensions. She pointed out that many of these actors, fearing backlash from their followers, especially from neighboring countries like Pakistan, have chosen to stay quiet, even as the nation faces a critical situation. Falaq expressed that their reluctance to speak up for their country has led to growing distrust between communities.

In the video, Falaq also emphasized that it is time for celebrities to show loyalty to India, the country that has given them success and fame. The 'Sasural Simar Ka' actress went on to point out the hypocrisy



of their actions, noting how these celebrities are quick to speak on various issues, but remain silent when it comes to national security matters or supporting India during challenging times. She urged her colleagues to take inspiration from Pakistani actors, who despite their country's role in the conflict, have been publicly supporting their nation.

In the video shared on her social media handles, Falaq could be heard saying, "Salam, namaste everyone. I hope all the people watching this video are doing well. As the situation in India is going on. I pray that everyone is doing well. Actually, I didn't want to make this video. But I couldn't control myself from making this video.

IPL 2025 suspended for one week, new schedule and venues to be announced in due course: BCCI

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that the IPL 2025 has been suspended with immediate effect, albeit for one week in the wake of the India-Pakistan border tensions. The board added that the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after assessing the situation.

"Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders," said BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia in an official statement.

The decision was taken by the BCCI on Friday after cross-border tensions intensified on Thursday night, leading to blackouts in Jammu, Udhampur and Pathankot, as air strikes and drones from Pakistan took over the skies. It led to the game between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals being called off at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala after just 10.1 overs of the first innings was completed.

With the airport in Dharamshala and other north



Indian cities closed, the players and support staff members of both PBKS and DC, along with match officials, commentators, broadcast crew members and other key IPL-related personnel were evacuated from Dharamshala by a bus taking them to Jalandhar on Friday morning, where a special train organised by the tournament is now taking them to New Delhi.

The BCCI further said the decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council, comprising Saikia and IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal, after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed the concern and sentiments of their players and also the views of the broadcaster, sponsors and fans.

"While the BCCI reposes full faith in the strength and preparedness of our armed forces, the Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders. At this critical juncture, the BCCI stands firmly with the nation. We express our solidarity with the Government of India, the Armed Forces and the people of our country."

"The Board salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation, as they lead a resolute response to the recent terrorist attack and the unwarranted aggression by Pakistan's armed forces."

"While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the Nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country. The BCCI remains firmly committed to support all efforts that safeguard India and will always align its decisions in the best interest of the nation," elaborated Saikia.

With the BCCI saying IPL 2025 has been suspended for one week, it is yet to be known if an alternate window to host the rest of the tournament will be present immediately or not and what would be the venues of the remaining games. As of now, IPL 2025 has completed 58 games, with 12 matches left to play in the league stage and followed by the playoffs.

All ten franchises have been informed of the tournament's suspension for one week by the BCCI and will start making plans to ensure the safe departure of all players, support staff and crew members once the MEA advisory comes on Friday evening.

"The BCCI thanks its key stakeholder - JioStar, the league's official broadcaster for their understanding and unwavering support. The Board is also grateful to Title sponsor TATA and all associate partners and stakeholders for coming forward with their unequivocal support for this decision and for putting national interest above all other considerations," concluded Saikia.

Special train arranged to evacuate PBKS & DC teams, other key personnel from Dharamshala



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) A special train has been arranged to evacuate both Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Delhi Capitals (DC) players and support staff members, match officials, commentators, broadcast crew members and other key personnel associated with IPL 2025, and get them to a safe place.

The development comes after Thursday's IPL 2025 match between PBKS and DC was called off after just 10.1 overs of play at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, due to the ongoing military tension between India and Pakistan. Air and drone strikes from Pakistan resulted in blackouts in Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur, all of which are in close proximity to Dharamshala.

"A special train has been arranged to evacuate both teams, broadcast crew members, match officials, commentators and other key IPL-related personnel from Dharamshala. Further details can't be shared as per security reasons and this being a high-stakes matter. The aim is get all of them to a safe place," said sources to IANS on Friday. At around 9:30pm on Thursday evening, one of the four floodlights went off and soon the ground became partially dark. That's when the players and umpires made their way back to the dressing room, even as the remaining floodlights began to be switched off.

Soon, the spectators were asked to vacate the stadium in a calm manner, a process undertaken smoothly by the local authorities and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA).

IPL 2025: Will work with BCCI to bring back the event at an appropriate time, says broadcaster

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) The IPL 2025 broadcasters JioStar said they support BCCI's decision to suspend the tournament for a week, and affirmed that they stand firmly committed to prioritising national interest over all other considerations. The decision to suspend IPL 2025 for one week came on the back of India-Pakistan border tensions.

"We, at JioStar, wholeheartedly support the BCCI's decision to suspend TATA IPL 2025 and stand firmly committed to prioritise national interest over all other considerations. At this time, we must stand united with our country, support the government and our armed forces, and extend solidarity & support to the civilians affected."

"We will work with the BCCI to bring back the tournament at an appropriate time. JioStar will work closely with all stakeholders



to ensure the transition is managed in a seamless manner and everyone involved in the tournament broadcast returns home safely," they said in a statement on Friday.

The decision to halt the tournament for a week came on the back of cross-border tensions intensifying on Thursday night, leading to blackouts in Jammu, Udhampur and Pathankot, as air strikes and drones from Pakistan took over the skies.

This led to the game between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals being called off at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, about 80kms away from Pathankot, after just 10.1 of first innings were completed.

With the airport in Dharamshala and other north Indian cities closed, the players and support staff members of both PBKS and DC, along with match officials, commentators, broadcast crew members and other key IPL-related personnel were evacuated from Dharamshala by a bus taking them to Jalandhar on Friday morning, where a special train organised by the tournament is now bringing them to New Delhi.

As of now, IPL 2025 has completed 58 games, with 12 matches left to play in the league stage and followed by the playoffs. All ten franchises have been informed of the tournament's suspension for one week by the BCCI and will start making plans for ensuring the safe departure of all players, support staff and crew members once the MEA advisory comes on Friday evening.

We salute our armed forces for shielding our nation from terrorism, says Jay Shah

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah expressed solidarity with the Indian armed forces following their response to Pakistan's aerial strikes on Thursday in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. Lauding the valour and commitment of the Indian forces, Shah saluted the country's soldiers for spearheading the fight against terrorism amid the tension with Pakistan.



"Our armed forces are our pride, and no words are enough to express their valour and commitment in protecting our motherland and people. We salute our brave men and women in the armed forces who are shielding our nation from terrorism. Let us unite to honour our heroes and build a stronger, more united India. #JaiHind," Shah wrote on his Instagram story.

India's legendary spinner Anil Kumble also echoed Shah's sentiments and praised the "unwavering courage" of the Indian armed forces. "In uncertain times, one truth remains - our armed forces stand tall with unwavering courage. Their quiet determination is India's strongest shield. I salute every braveheart who guards our tomorrow. #JaiHind," Kumble posted on X.

On Thursday, Pakistan launched aerial attacks on Jammu as well as several military stations near the western border, but India's air defence systems successfully foiled those attempts.

Pakistan attempted strikes, involving drones and missiles, triggered blackouts and sirens across several areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan.

KIYG 2025: Sabina, a daily-wager's daughter, pedals her way to three medals



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Sabina Kumari started on a modest track in Jharkhand's Chatra district, far from the assistance of an indoor velodrome. On Friday, the 18-year-old daughter of a daily-wage worker and a housewife bagged three medals in cycling on her debut in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG).

Sabina won gold medals in the girls' Keirin and Team Sprint events, respectively, as well as a bronze in the 200m Sprint.

"This is my first Khelo India Youth Games and I'm very happy with my performance and the three medals. Among them, the individual Keirin was my best," the visibly elated National Centre of Excellence trainee told SAI Media. Sabina's story is one of quiet determination, focus and hard work.

KIYG 2025: Odisha, Maharashtra bag gold in girls' and boys' Kho-kho

Gaya (Bihar), May 9 (IANS) Odisha girls pulled off a massive upset by beating defending champion Maharashtra in a close encounter 34-31 in Kho-kho competition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Bihar at the BIPARD Sports Complex here on Friday. Maharashtra, however, had sweet revenge and also maintained its dominance in the boys' final, beating Odisha 34-25.

The girls' final was fiercely contested. Led by an outstanding performance by Samarnika Sahu, who scored 12 points, Odisha emerged victorious. This win marked redemption for Odisha, which had to settle for silver in the 2024 edition in Tamil Nadu. This time, the team wrote a new chapter in Odisha's sports history.

The win was hard-earned. Odisha was trailing 10-16 at one stage but showed incredible resilience and fighting spirit to



come back strong to clinch the title.

The Odisha girls coach Chaudhury Parthasarathi Mohapatra was jubilant after the final.

"Last time we lost to them. This time, the instruction was clear to play without any pressure. We have a good bunch of junior and senior players. I am really thrilled that our team beat the formidable Maharashtra," Mohapatra told SAI Media.

"This is a historic performance by our girls. They have shown immense determination and skill. We won gold two years ago, and we're back on top. The Odisha Government has been giving us great support, and this result is a testament to that," he said. "We came with one goal -- to become champions. Our girls turned that vision into reality," he added.

Parthasarathi Mohapatra, who coaches athletes at the High Performance Centre (HPC) in Puri, pointed out that this was not the first time Odisha had challenged Maharashtra's dominance. "Over the last three to four years, Odisha has defeated Maharashtra several times. This performance proves that we're not just contenders - we're serious challengers."

In contrast, the boys' final followed a different script. Odisha's boys, despite a strong start, couldn't keep pace with the experienced Maharashtra team and eventually lost 34-25, securing the silver medal.

"We were aiming for two gold medals, but I'm happy the boys gave their best and won silver. It's still a big achievement.

Rohit Sharma urges citizens to refrain from 'spreading or believing any fake news' as Indo-Pak tension rises

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) India ODI captain Rohit Sharma praised the armed forces for standing tall at the frontline and urged the citizens to refrain from spreading or believing any fake news amid the escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan.

On Thursday, Pakistan launched aerial attacks on Jammu as well as several military stations near the western border but those were successfully foiled by India's air defence systems.

Several sportspersons took to social media to express support for the Indian armed forces for thwarting the attacks and Rohit is the latest to join the nationwide tribute to the Indian armed forces.

Taking to X, Rohit wrote, "With every passing moment, with every decision taken, I feel extremely proud of our Indian Army, Indian Airforce & Indian Navy. Our warriors are standing tall for our nation's pride. It's important for every Indian to be responsible and refrain from spreading or believing any fake news. Stay safe, everyone!"

The attempted strike, involving drones and missiles, triggered blackouts and sirens across several areas in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. The attacks seem to be in retaliation for 'Operation Sindoor' by Indian armed forces on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, from where the attack on tourists in Pahalgam was planned which killed 26 tourists -- 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen.

We salute your bravery, sacrifice and strength: Gill, Rahul lead tributes to Indian armed forces amid tension with Pak

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Former and current Indian cricketer showered their love and gratitude on the Indian armed forces as India-Pakistan border tensions reach new heights after the Indian forces successfully repulsed attempted missile strikes and drone attacks from across the border.

India vice-captain Shubman Gill was among the cricketers who applauded the armed forces for their bravery.

"Nation is above all in such times. Our soldiers, whose valiant efforts ensure our safety, and their families, who make such sacrifices for the nation, we pray for you and all. Jai Hind," posted Gill in a message on X.

"To every member of our esteemed Armed Forces and to the families who stand behind them - we salute your bravery, sacrifice and strength. As a nation, we stand firmly behind you and thank you for protecting us. Jai Hind," wrote KL Rahul in his social media post.



On Thursday, Pakistan launched aerial attacks on Jammu as well as several military stations and Jaisalmer near the western border in Rajasthan, but India's air defence systems successfully foiled their attempts.

Pakistan attempted strikes, involving drones and missiles, triggered blackouts and sirens across several areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Immense gratitude to our armed forces for their unwavering bravery and courage to protect this great nation! Praying for the health and safety of our real heroes and their families in these tough times. Jai Hind," read the post by batter Cheteshwar Pujara on X. The 1983 World Cup-winner and former India head coach Ravi Shastri called PM Narendra Modi the 'G.O.A.T' (Greatest of all Time) while praising the armed forces.

"I have seen many United outfits in my sporting life, but this is the first time I am seeing a 1.5 billion-strong India United take the field, led by our magnificent Armed Forces and captained by the G.O.A.T., Narendra Modi Ji and his government. Take a bow. Jai Hind @narendramodi. @adgpi, @PMOIndia," posted Shastri.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), on Friday, suspended the IPL 2025 with immediate effect, albeit for one week, due to the India-Pakistan border tensions.

The decision was taken by the BCCI on Friday after cross-border tensions intensified on Thursday night, leading to blackouts in Jammu, Udhampur and Pathankot, as air strikes and drones from Pakistan took over the skies. India's spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, who share the field for the Delhi Capitals, also expressed their support for the soldiers.

"India is a peace-loving nation. I stand firmly with our nation, with our armed forces. A big salute to the Indian armed forces for carrying out a splendid attack on Pakistani terrorist bases.

"In times of challenge, the strength of a nation lies in its unity. The Indian Army shows us every day what it means to protect, serve, and stand strong. Let's stand together, support our forces, and ensure peace for all. Jai Hind," posted Kuldeep.

The attacks seem to be in retaliation for Operation Sindoor by Indian armed forces on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, from where the attack on tourists in Pahalgam was planned. Terrorists killed 26 tourists -- 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen -- near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Defence Minister reviews 'Operation Sindoor', ongoing situation with military chiefs



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday held a high-level meeting at the Defence Ministry to review 'Operation Sindoor' and assess the current security situation along the border with Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, and Defence Secretary R.K. Singh.

During the meeting, the Defence Minister was briefed on the progress of 'Operation Sindoor' -- a major military operation launched in response to terrorist attack in Pahalgam which claimed 26 lives.

The top brass also reviewed the latest developments following the operation and evaluated the situation along the border with Pakistan.Sources said that strategic planning and military preparedness were key areas of discussion.

The military leadership informed the Defence Minister of Pakistan's multiple attempts to target Indian military and civilian installations, all of which were effectively countered by Indian forces. India's armed forces have successfully retaliated, inflicting significant losses on Pakistan. Three Pakistani fighter jets were shot down in an air combat. Drone incursions and missile attacks by Pakistan were also thwarted, with several drones intercepted and destroyed.

In particular, Pakistan's missile attacks targeting Jammu and Kashmir were neutralised mid-air by India's S-400 air defence system, which shot down eight incoming missiles.

The service chiefs also briefed the Defence Minister on coordinated Pakistani attacks across a wide stretch -- from Jammu and Kashmir to Rajasthan -- including attempted strikes on military bases in Pathankot, Ferozepur, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, and Jaisalmer. These attacks involved the use of fighter aircraft, drones, rockets, and missiles.

India responded with strong retaliatory measures, including the downing of enemy aircraft.

The Defence Minister was given a detailed overview of the Indian military's deployment, weapons used in counterattacks, and the effectiveness of India's multi-layered air defence system.

Pakistan targeted Indian military bases last night, which was once again foiled by India's advanced defence systems.

The Defence Minister appreciated the preparedness and swift action of the armed forces in neutralising the threats.

President Murmu postpones Sabarimala visit amid India-Pakistan tensions

Thiruvananthapuram, May 9 (IANS) With tensions increasing on the India-Pakistan border, the proposed visit of President Droupadi Murmu to pray at the famed Sabarimala temple has been postponed, a top temple official said on Friday.

Speaking to IANS, the Travancore Devaswom Board chief P.S. Prasanth said the President's visit was planned for May 19, but now with the increased tensions, it has been postponed.

"The visit has not been cancelled but only postponed to a later date on account of the present situation our country is going through," he said.

"Now that this high-profile visit has been postponed, we have reopened the virtual Q booking for May 18 and 19, which we had blocked early this month after the visit of the President was initially contemplated. So pilgrims desiring to visit the temple on May 18 and 19 can do the pre-booking," Prasanth added.

As and when President Murmu visits the famed temple, it will be the first time that any President would have done so.

Situated on the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level, the famed Sabarimala temple is a four km uphill trek from Pampa in the Pathanamthitta district, which is around 100 km from the Kerala capital.

Currently, girls and women between the ages of 10 and 50 are not allowed entry into the hilltop shrine.

The temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is accessible only on foot from the Pampa River.

As per practice, before setting off to the holy shrine, a pilgrim normally undertakes an intense 41-day penance where he/she does not wear footwear, dons a black dhoti/black top and sticks to strict vegetarian food.

Every pilgrim carries 'Irumudi' on his/her head, which is a prayer kit that contains coconuts which are broken just before climbing the 18 steps to the shrine.

Without it, no one is allowed to step onto the holy 18 steps at the 'Sannidhanam'.

Over the years, some traditions at the famed temple have changed.

While for many years, this temple used to open only in the second half of November and close around the middle of January, it is now open for a few days at the beginning of every Malayalam month.

Omar Abdullah lauds armed forces for swift response to cross-border aggression

Jammu, May 9 (IANS) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday rushed to Jammu to take stock of the situation following heightened India-Pakistan tensions, drone attacks and intense shelling in border districts. With airports closed, the Chief Minister proceeded to Jammu by road.

Omar Abdullah commended the Indian Armed forces for their swift and effective action in repelling last night's cross-border attacks from Pakistan at multiple locations across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. He asserted that India reserves the right to defend its people and territory with full strength.

"Our security mechanisms responded with commendable speed and precision, ensuring the defense of all targeted areas. If innocent people of ours are harmed, the nation reserves every right to defend itself in any way. It is Pakistan which must stop aggression for peace to prevail. If they keep on taking the offensive, they are sure to suffer. Our forces are fully capable of giving a proportionate response," he said.

The Chief Minister visited several camps and lodgement centres in Jammu and Samba districts, including those set up at Mishriwala, Nagbani, Bishnah and Thandi Khui, to assess the relief arrangements made for the people who have been evacuated to these shelters.

Omar Abdullah was accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma and other senior officials.

FM Sitharaman takes stock of steps for cybersecurity at banks amid rising border tensions

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Finance Minister. Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday convened a high-level meeting with the Managing Directors and CEOs of public and private sector banks and insurance companies amidst emerging security concerns arising from tensions at the border.

Senior officials from the Department of Financial Services of the Ministry of Finance, the CERT-In, the RBI, the IRDAI, and the NPCI attended the meeting, which focused on reviewing the banking sector's operational and cybersecurity preparedness, including digital public-facing applications such as internet banking and UPI.

The Managing Directors and CEOs of all the banks and insurance companies apprised the Finance Minister about the measures they are undertaking, given the ongoing tensions at the border.

Bank MDs & CEOs informed that cybersecurity measures have been reinforced throughout the banking system. Anti-DDoS (Distributed Denial-of-Service) systems have been implemented by banks to protect against massive cyber-attacks. To guarantee institutional readiness, mock drills have been held encompassing cybersecurity and disaster recovery scenarios at the highest levels. They apprised that phishing attempts are being actively watched, and staff members have received several internal alerts to increase awareness.

Bank officials stated that their Security Operations Centre (SOC) and Network Operations Centres are fully operational and on high alert. These centres are coordinating closely with CERT-In and the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), facilitating real-time data sharing and threat monitoring.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister stressed the critical role of the banking and financial sector in ensuring economic stability during heightened geopolitical tensions and



challenging times.

She directed all banks to remain fully alert and prepared to deal with any eventuality or crisis, ensuring uninterrupted access to banking & financial services for citizens and businesses across the country, especially in border areas.

She remarked that banking services, both physical and digital, must function without disruption and glitches. Emergency protocols should be updated and tested to handle any arising contingencies, she added..

The Finance Minister expressed deep concern about the safety of bank employees and their families working at branches around the border areas. She directed banks to ensure their adequate safety by effectively coordinating with the security agencies.

She asked banks to ensure that citizens and businesses do not suffer under any circumstances, and priority must be given to seamless cash availability at ATMs, uninterrupted UPI and internet banking services, and continued access to essential banking facilities.

The Finance Minister directed banks to conduct regular audits of their cybersecurity systems and data centres and ensure that all digital and core banking infrastructure is fully firewalled and monitored round the clock to prevent breaches or any hostile cyber activity.

She instructed banks to designate two dedicated senior officials identified at the headquarters, one for reporting all cyber-related matters and the other to ensure operational matters, including the functioning of bank branches and the availability of cash in ATMs. Both dedicated officers should report any incident to CERT-In/relevant agencies and DFS on a real-time basis.

In this regard, banks were also asked to coordinate in real time with the RBI, CERT-In and relevant government agencies to ensure robust and agile information exchange and response, according to an official statement.

Besides, the Finance Minister directed insurance companies to ensure timely claim settlements and uninterrupted customer service.

The Finance Minister mentioned that the sponsor banks should ensure that regional rural banks (RRBs) are well-supported during these times and handhold them for any issues that they are facing.

Sitharaman reiterated that the government is firmly committed to national security and economic stability, noting that the country's banking and financial system remains robust and resilient.

India-Pakistan conflict: JP Nadda reviews emergency health systems preparedness



New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) In the wake of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review emergency health systems preparedness to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services.

Nadda called for a "a 24x7 control and command centre to monitor ongoing efforts and support states in the present times".

"All medical emergency response health systems must be adequately equipped and functional at all times," the Union Health Minister said, stating that the Health Ministry is closely monitoring the situation.

"Ensure that ground-level linkages with all state governments particularly at the district levels, especially border states, be effectively established to ensure immediate emergency healthcare, if required," he said.

During the meeting, senior officers of the Health Ministry updated Nadda about the current status of medical preparedness for handling emergency cases.

The Union Minister was also "apprised of the actions taken regarding deployment of ambulances; ensuring adequate availability of medical supplies including equipment, medicines, supply of blood vials and consumables; hospital readiness in terms of beds, ICU and HDU; deployment of BHISHM Cubes, advanced mobile trauma care units, etc," the Health Ministry said.

Further, the Ministry has advised hospitals and medical institutions "to ensure availability of essential drugs, adequate supply of blood, oxygen, trauma care kits, etc".

"AIIMS New Delhi and other central government hospitals have mobilised doctors and nurses with supplies for ready deployment," it added.

To strengthen the emergency response networks collaboratively, the hospitals have also been advised to coordinate with state and district administration, armed forces, and regional associations of doctors, nurses, paramedics, private sector hospitals, charitable institutions, etc.

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

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

Youth arrested in Rajasthan for sharing 'anti-national' content on social media



Jaipur, May 9 (IANS) Amid heightened tensions along the India-Pakistan border, the police in Rajasthan's Churu district have arrested a 22-year-old youth for allegedly sharing provocative and anti-national posts on social media, an official said on Friday.

The arrested individual has been identified as Asif Khan, son of Umed Khan, a resident of Bajragsar under the jurisdiction of Sardarshahar Police Station.

He was detained for allegedly liking, sharing, and posting inflammatory content amid the ongoing tension on the India-Pakistan border.

Superintendent of Police Jai Yadav said that the district's Cyber Desk team is actively conducting technical monitoring of all major social media platforms in the light of the current India-Pakistan tension.

During this surveillance, the team flagged suspicious activity from an account belonging to a local youth. The account was found to be circulating provocative videos, photos, and posts that could incite unrest and disrupt public order.

Acting promptly, a police team led by SHO Madanlal Bishnoi, and supervised by Additional Superintendent of Police Lokendra Dadarwal and Circle Officer Rohit Sankhla traced and arrested the accused, Asif Khan.

The Churu Police issued an advisory to all citizens, urging responsible social media behavior during sensitive times.

"In light of the current tense situation on the India-Pakistan border, we appeal to all citizens to refrain from liking, sharing, or posting any misleading, provocative, anti-national, or communally sensitive content related to army operations or movements. Strict legal action will be taken against violators," it read.

Sharing content that promotes communal disharmony, anti-national sentiments, or misinformation related to national security is a serious offence under the Indian cyber and penal laws. Authorities have emphasised zero tolerance towards such acts during national security alerts.

Tensions between India and neighbouring nation of Pakistan escalated following the armed forces' 'Operation Sindoor' which targetted terror facilities in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as well as Pakistan.

Responding to that, Pakistan tried to target several Indian locations mainly along the bordering areas. The threats were, however, negated by the Indian armed forces.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan assures adequate food supplies amid rising India-Pakistan tensions

New Delhi, May 9 (IANS) Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday assured the nation that there are sufficient food stocks and that the country is well-prepared to handle any emergencies.

His statement came in the wake of escalating tensions with neighbouring Pakistan.

Minister Chouhan emphasised that both the nation's defence forces and farmers are ready to ensure the country's security and food security.

He highlighted the significant increase in food grain production, with total output rising from 3,322.98 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24 to 3,474.42 lakh metric tonnes in the current year.

"Notably, rice production increased from 1,378.25 lakh metric tonnes to 1,464.02 lakh metric tonnes, and wheat production rose from 1,132 lakh metric tonnes to 1,154 lakh metric tonnes," the Union Minister stated.

He also reported growth in pulses and oilseeds production, with pulses increasing from 242 lakh metric tonnes to 250.97 lakh metric tonnes, and oilseeds from 296.69 lakh metric tonnes to 428.98 lakh metric tonnes.

"Additionally, horticultural crops such as potatoes, onions, and tomatoes showed positive growth," he said.

"As of May 8, the government had procured 539.88 lakh metric tonnes of rice and 267.02 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, ensuring that buffer stocks are well-maintained," he added.

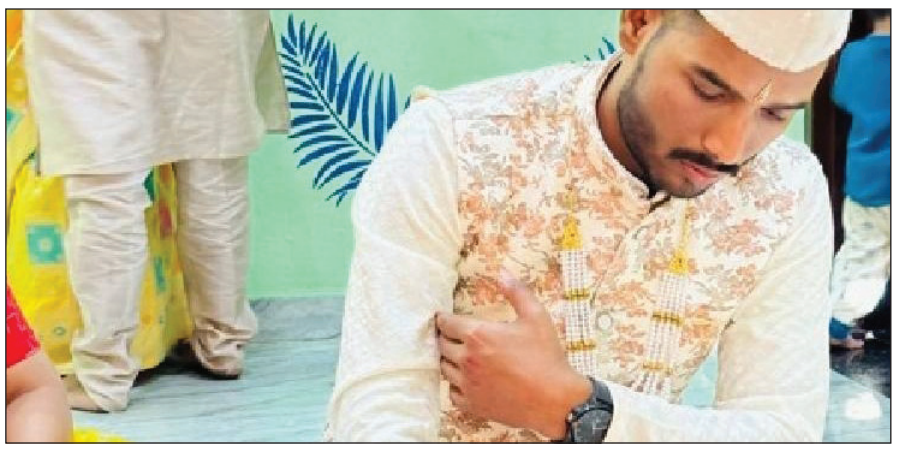
Just married, now marching: Newlywed soldiers answer nation's call

Washim/Rajgarh, May 9 (IANS) In moments when personal joy and national duty clash, only a few rise to embody the spirit of true patriotism. Two such sons of India, Krishna Raju Ambhore from Washim, Maharashtra, and Mohit Rathore from Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh, have shown the nation what unshakable dedication looks like -- leaving behind their newlywed wives to report for military duty.

Hailing from the small village of Jaulka in Washim, Krishna Raju Ambhore, just days into his married life, received a call from his unit in Uttarakhand. There was no hesitation. The moment duty called, Krishna packed his bags and prepared to leave. His bride's eyes were full of tears, but Krishna's heart was filled with resolve -- to serve and protect.

"I am posted in Uttarakhand. Our leaves have been cancelled. I received the call to report for duty yesterday. My wedding took place just four days ago. I am going back to serve the nation," Krishna Raju Ambhore told IANS.

It was around 2.30 p.m. on Friday when Krishna arrived at Washim railway station where the entire village had gathered to bid him farewell. The air was thick with emotion and patriotism. Children waved, elders blessed him, and chants of "Jai Hind" echoed through the platform. People wished him luck with one message in their hearts - "Go show Pakistan our strength."



From young to old, every eye welled up with pride. Krishna's decision has not only honoured his family but inspired an entire district. "The nation comes first, everything else after." This one line, etched into the hearts of his people, defines Krishna's sacrifice.

Meanwhile, in Rajgarh district, Mohit Rathore, an airman stationed at Isapur Air Force Station near Delhi, had come home on a 15-day leave to get married.

However, following rising tensions between India and Pakistan as a result of a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam and retaliatory Indian airstrikes - the situation escalated quickly. Drone and missile attacks from Pakistan followed, which were foiled by alert Indian forces. As a result, all leaves were cancelled.

Mohit, too, received his call of duty. And he answered.

"After the tension, I received a call that my leave had been cancelled, and I must return immediately. When I informed them that my wedding was scheduled for Thursday, they gave me permission until Saturday. Now I am leaving for duty immediately after the wedding. Defending the country in difficult circumstances is the highest duty," said Mohit Rathore.

"We are proud that he is leaving to protect the country right after his wedding. For us, the nation always comes first. May our son return safely, and may the nation always remain secure," say father Mahesh Rathore and mother Lakshmi Rathore.His marriage was solemnised on Thursday night with Vandana. As soon as the rituals ended, the family readied themselves not for celebration, but for goodbye.