



India foiled Pak attempts to target religious places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

It was "new low even for Pakistan" as it targeted places of worship and sent 300 to 400 drones in 36 locations attacking Indian military installations on Thursday. The failed attempt spanned from Leh to Sir Creek and sending of drones was violation of Indian airspace, Government said here on Friday.

Making these assertions here, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said targeting places of worship was with a particular design. He also said Pakistan's farcical denial of its attempts to target installations in India is another example of its duplicity. Addressing the media, he said Pakistan's attack on places of worship and its "preposterous" to put the blame on Indian armed forces is reflective of Islamabad's evil design and efforts to deceive and mislead the world.

Citing Pakistan's attack on a gurdwara in Amritsar and its subsequent attempt to blame it on Indian armed forces, Misri said Islamabad's thinking that India would attack its own cities is the kind of "deranged fantasy" that only the Pakistani state can come up with.

The foreign secretary blasted Pakistan's provocative and escalatory actions to try and target Indian cities and civilian infrastructure using drones on Thursday night.

Misri especially hit out at Pakistan for its "blatantly farcical denial" of these attacks saying it is yet another example of Islamabad's duplicity and the "new depths" that it is plumb to in its "quest for disinformation". Misri was severely critical of Pakistan for targeting religious places with an aim to give a communal colour to the current situation, and pointed to an incident of Pakistan attacking a gurdwara in Poonch and another religious place in Amritsar. "Instead of owning up to these attacks, Pakistan made the preposterous and outrageous claim that it was the Indian armed forces and the Indian Air Force that was targeting cities like Amritsar



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, during a high-level meeting on the security situation in New Delhi

and trying to put the blame on Pakistan," he said.

"This is nothing but a desperate attempt by Pakistan to disown its acts of aggression; but it is also true to its efforts to deceive and mislead the world. It will not succeed," Misri said. He said that "we would attack our own cities" is the kind of deranged fantasy that only the Pakistani state can come up with. Perhaps they do it because they are well versed in such action as their history would show, he said.

Misri described it as a "blatant lie" Pakistan's allegations of India targeting the Nankana Sahib Gurdwara using a drone. "This is again yet another blatant lie and part of Pakistan's disinformation campaign. As we saw in the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan is again trying desperately to impart a communal hue to the situation with an intention to create discord," he said. "Again, we are not surprised. India's steadfast unity in itself is a challenge to Pakistan," he said. Misri said in view of the existing security scenario, the Kartarpur Sahib corridor has been suspended.

On India's strikes on Bahawalpur's Markaz Subhan Allah - the nerve centre of Jaish-e-Mohammed linked to the killing of Daniel Pearl, a journalist with The Wall Street Journal, Misri said the terror outfit was "directly or indirectly" responsible for his death. "Bahawalpur is the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group that is proscribed by the UN. Its leader Masood Azhar, a proscribed individual," he said, responding to a question. "You brought up the connection with the tragic death or killing of Daniel Pearl of the Wall Street Journal.

The JeM was in some way directly or indirectly responsible for the death of Daniel Pearl," he said. "But the real connection is through Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the British Pakistani jihadi who was held in India but was finally released in 2000 and he was the person who lured Daniel Pearl to his...Murder," Misri said.

Addressing the media at the press briefing, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said Pakistan conducted an unprovoked aerial assault on May 7 at approximately 8.30pm.

Enemy drones lose sight in India

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Pakistan, for the second consecutive night, launched drone swarm attacks on multiple locations across several North Indian cities of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan. At the time of going to press, the Indian air defence systems were able to successfully neutralise the threat.

According to ground reports, a suspected drone attack was also reported from Srinagar airport and in the holy city of Amritsar near the revered Golden Temple late Friday evening. Both these attacks were thwarted successfully.

The attack came a day after India thwarted attempts by the Pakistan military to hit Indian military installations and religious sites using drones and missiles. The sky was lit up in the Baramulla district as the Indian military shot down Pakistani drones. Blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the Jammu region and south Kashmir as many parts of the Union Territory plunged into darkness. In Srinagar, mosque loudspeakers were used to persuade locals to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure.

Officials said the drones were also engaged in Udhampur and Nagrota of Jammu and Punjab. Heavy cross-border shelling was underway along the International Border (IB) in Suchetgarh and Ramgarh sectors of Jammu and Samba districts.

From Srinagar and Jammu to Punjab's multiple districts and Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan, a vast stretch of the border areas plunged into darkness with public announcements made, urging people to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure. According to defence sources, "Drones have been sighted at 26 locations ranging from Baramulla in the North to Bhuj in the South, along both the International Border and the Line of Control with Pakistan. These include suspected armed drones posing potential threats to civilian and military targets".

The locations include Baramulla, Srinagar, Avantipora, Nagrota, Jammu, Ferozpur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Lalgarh

Jatta, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bhuj, Kuarbet and Lakhi Nala", they added.

Sirens rang out in Pokaran, and a complete blackout was imposed in the region. The blackout in Jodhpur, originally scheduled to begin at midnight, was implemented immediately. Barmer, Sriganganagar, and Phalodi also went completely dark.

According to them, an armed drone targeted a civilian area in Ferozpur, resulting in severe injuries to members of a local family. The injured have been provided medical assistance, and the area has been sanitised by security forces.

Defence sources maintained the Indian

In Samba, a major infiltration bid was supported by the Pakistani Rangers. According to BSF, cover fire was provided to them from a nearby Pakistani Rangers post

Armed Forces are maintaining a high state of alert, and all such aerial threats are being tracked and engaged using counter-drone systems. The situation is under close and constant watch, and prompt action is being taken wherever necessary.

Earlier, the alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) foiled a major infiltration attempt along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district in the early hours of Friday, killing seven heavily armed terrorists.

The beleaguered Pakistan army had also fired 300-400 drones on Thursday across several Indian cities. The attacks were intercepted by India's air defence systems, including the S-400 missile defence system, preventing significant damage. "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistan army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border to target military infrastructure. Not only this, the Pakistani army also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control. Around 300 to 400 drones were used to attempt infiltration

at 36 locations," said the Government.

"The possible purpose of such large-scale aerial intrusions was to test air defence systems and collect intelligence. Forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done. Initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones..." the Government added.

In Jammu, the drone attack was launched by the Pakistan army around 8.00 p.m. Jammu city plunged into darkness after blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the region.

"Intermittent sounds of blasts, probably heavy artillery, can now be heard from where I am," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X. He also posted a picture of the city in darkness, captioning the post as, "Blackout in Jammu now. Sirens can be heard across the city." "It's my earnest appeal to everyone in & around Jammu please stay off the streets, stay at home or at the nearest place you can comfortably stay at for the next few hours. Ignore rumours, don't spread unsubstantiated or unverified stories & we will get through this together," the Chief Minister added.

In Samba, the major infiltration bid was supported by the Pakistani Rangers. According to BSF, adequate cover fire was provided to the group of terrorists from a nearby Dhandhar post of the Pakistani Rangers. The suspicious movement of a heavily armed group of infiltrators was caught on camera with the help of thermal imagers by the BSF troops around 11.00 p.m. near the Samba border.

Confirming the same, the BSF spokesman of the Jammu frontier posted on X. "At around 2300 hours on 8 May 2025, BSF foiled a major infiltration bid at the International Boundary in Samba district, J&K".

A video also showed BSF troops causing extensive damage to the Pakistani post Dhandhar while killing at least seven terrorists to foil a major infiltration bid.

Tension between the two neighbours soared after the Indian Armed Forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, PoK, in response to the April 22 attack.

The Bystander



Don't bring women Army officers' morale down: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday asked the Centre not to release from service Short Service Commission (SSC) women Army officers challenging the denial of Permanent Commission to them asking not to "bring their morale down" in "the prevailing situation". A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh which posted a batch of pleas filed by 69 officers for hearing in August, said they should not be released till the next hearing.

"In the prevailing situation let's not bring their morale down. They are brilliant officers, you can use their services somewhere else. This is not the time that they be asked to roam around in the Supreme Court. They have a better place to be and serve the country," Justice Kant said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said it was an administrative decision based on a policy to keep the armed forces young.

She urged the SC not to grant any stay on their release and said the Indian Army needed young officers and every year only 250 personnel were granted permanent commission. Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for Colonel Geeta Sharma, referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who had briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor on May 7 and May 8. Guruswamy said Colonel Qureshi had to approach this court for a similar relief related to permanent commission and now she has made the

country proud. The bench without commenting much on the submission said the case before the top court was purely a legal one, having nothing to do with the achievements of the officers. In its February 17, 2020, the top court said absolute exclusion of women from all

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor

positions, except staff assignments, in the Army was indefensible and their blanket non-consideration for command appointments without any justification couldn't be sustained in law.

The SC, which allowed permanent commission to women officers in the Army, said an absolute prohibition of women SSC officers to obtain anything but staff appointments evidently did not fulfil the purpose of granting permanent commission as a means of career advancement in the Army.

The top court also referred to the distinctions achieved by women officers, and put out an example of Col Sofia Qureshi's achievements.

Since the 2020 verdict, the top court has passed several orders on the issue of permanent commission to women officers in Armed Forces and similar orders were passed in the case of Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.

Airport closures extended

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Centre on Friday extended the closure of 24 airports in northern and western parts of the country until May 15 leading to major disruptions in air travel. Airports including Chandigarh, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bhuntar, Kishengarh, Patiala, Shimla, Dharamsala, Bathinda, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Leh, Bikaner, Pathankot, Jammu, Jamnagar, Porbander and Bhuj are among others, which have been temporarily closed for civilian flights.

Several airlines have also issued travel advisories for passengers and asked for them to remain updated on airport closures and enhanced security protocols. Air India in a post on X on Friday stated, "Following a notification from aviation authorities on continued closure of multiple airports in India, Air India 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."

Air India also said 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.

In a post on X, IndiGo said in accordance with the latest directives from the relevant authorities, all flights to and from 10 destinations will remain cancelled until 0529 hours on May 15 due to temporary airport closures.

Capital's siren Abhyaas

VAISHNAVI MISHRA ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government's Directorate of Civil Defence on Friday conducted testing of an air raid siren in the national Capital amid rising tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad.

The testing of the siren followed the Delhi Government's direction that all 11 districts of the Capital need to deploy air raid sirens, including manual and electrical, at important and critical locations and conduct trials.

The drill began at 3 pm and sirens were sounded at least twice for 15-20 minutes each. However, it was noticed by people that the sound of the first round of siren testing was low and some did not even notice it. People were also instructed to take shelter, preferably in the basement of buildings.

Officials said that this was a drill to

keep everything prepared in case of an untoward incident. "Accordingly, it is requested that adequate publicity may be made through social and electronic media so that the general public are advised to stay calm and not to panic during the said exercise," the order signed by district magistrate (Central) G. Sudhakar reads.

The Station House Officer (SHO) in Daryaganj also made public announcements on Friday morning saying: "Today, at 3 pm, there will be checking of air raid sirens at PWD HQ. The sirens will be heard at a radius of 4 km. Do not panic since this is only checking. Later on, whenever we use this, it would be a warning sign. But not today"

Delhi police teams were deployed to check the preparedness of the staff as well as equipment, an officer said.



Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma during the testing of an air raid siren installed atop the PWD building at ITO in New Delhi

1971 war memoirs

Jammu: Same theatre, new technology

ANIL ANAND ■ Jammu

As the sky lit the border city of Jammu, my home town, with Pakistani drones and other projectiles making futile bids to find targets in the City of Temples, it became reminiscent of the theatre of war one witnessed during my childhood and teens in 1965 and 1971. The only difference was the technology on display.

Circa 1965 — Pakistan thrust a war on India, my father was posted in hilly town of Batote, a safer place where I was studying in fifth class. But soon we were in Jammu on the first available opportunity as, perhaps, my father wanted all of us to see the remnants of armed conflict and become part of the social milieu engaged in relief work. He took us on a pilgrimage to a bombing site outside the then small Jammu airport followed by a visit to Srinagar (Kashmir) where a local-



ity Batmaloo, near the house of my maternal uncles, had been burnt to flush out the Pakistani infiltrators. The local

Kashmiris had played an important role in informing about the infiltrators under Operation Gibraltar. Back to Jammu: Our first task was to get familiar with the black-outs and related drills followed by getting in touch, there were hardly any phones those days, with relatives and friends to know their well-being. It was not an easy task as whenever we ventured out sirens went full-steam warning of air-raids. Nevertheless, soon we got accustomed to this culture and how to tuck ourselves to safe zones. Then followed the Herculean effort to find out the extent damage caused either by the air raids or the situation in the nearby borders.

The only source of news was the All India Radio - Radio Kashmir, Jammu as it was known then in Jammu and Kashmir. However, since the news bulletins were limited, most of the time it was the rumour mill at work.

Operation Sindoor: Pakistan in a quandary

GEN ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA ■ New Delhi

Thursday was a long night; the night of the Generals. Pakistan unleashed its tentative

response to India's lethal precision strikes on 7 May against nine terrorist infrastructure targets across the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in the heart of Punjab, including the infamous dens of Muridke and Bahawalpur. The strikes caused immense hurt and pain to the military state as India escalated the intensity of punishment through Operation Sindoor, compared to the earlier Uri and Balakot reprisals.

Pakistan's retaliation was targeting 36 military and aviation installations stretching from Leh to Sir Creek with 400 Turkish drones designed to test India's layered air defence systems. These were accompanied by intense cross border shelling that lit up the blackouts in Jammu and Kashmir (J and

K) notably Srinagar, Pathankot and Jammu. While India succeeded in blunting the drone strikes, several civilian and military casualties occurred. Rawalpindi had made a similar futile attempt but on a lower scale on Wednesday night too.

In his interview to the BBC Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif made a farcical denial of the drone attacks demonstrating Pakistan's perfection in obfuscation and disinformation that is floating like confetti during Christmas. Indian media is not lagging behind this. As in the Middle East, drones and precision guided missiles are primary weapons of a stand-off war. The Indian Air Force is in the lead along with missile firing units. Not crossing the LoC or the IB does not lower or enhance the legitimacy of offensive strikes but reduces risks of attrition. Pakistan stonewalling acquisitions of drone strikes is crafted to show that its response to Operation Sindoor is still in the making and that it will be delivered at a time and place of its choosing.

India has maintained its domination of the escalation matrix. It is Pakistan which has to make the next move. Pakistan has pledged a 'one notch up' retribution. Delhi has changed the terms of escalation post Balakot and served Islamabad with a warning that any misadventure will have consequences. This was not the case during Balakot, where India had announced an end of its operations after the initial strikes. A Pakistani 'one notch up' response threatens to attract an Indian counterstrike. So here is the quandary: "Pakistan has to escalate to de-escalate risking an Indian riposte". Delhi has responded to Rawalpindi's testing of air defence systems with caution but selectively degraded adversary's air defences.

Asif told the BBC we did not respond as we did not wish to reveal our air defence locations. This is funny. While avenging Operation Sindoor the General will have to think out of the box in targeting to vindicate Pakistan military's honour and image. The ball is in Rawalpindi's court.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

We, Mohinder Kumar Ahuja S/O Tara Chand, Kamlesh Ahuja W/O Mohinder Kumar Ahuja R/O H. No. 556, Sector 17, HUDDA, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar declare that we had evicted our son Abhishek Ahuja from our moveable and immovable properties on 06.10.2022 through newspaper when he was out of our control. Now our son Abhishek Ahuja is in our control, hence we cancel the eviction of our son. In future he will be entitled to our property.

I, Vikas S/O Rajender R/O Majri Patti, Village Ujhana, Tehsil Narwana, Distt. Jind, inform I have changed my name from Vikas to Vikas Singh for all future purposes.

I, Bhano, W/O Hawa Singh, R/O House No. 175, Village Chamrada, Tehsil Israna, District Panipat, declared that my name is Bhani Devi and date of birth is 20/03/1946 in my husband's army records and my name is Bhano in my documents. Both these names are mine. Hence, I should be known and identified as Bhano in future. And my date of birth should be changed from 20/03/1946 to 01/01/1949.

I, Suriyaprakasam T (Rank Nk 16127172w Is Serving In Unit: 415 (I) Engr Sqn C/O 56 Apo) Son Of Thavaprakasam Resident Of 42, Middle Street, Thirumalangam Taluka, Chittalai, Po Sitalhai, Distt. Madurai, State: Tamil Nadu, Pin Code: 625706 Have Declare That My Daughter's Name In My Army Service Record Is Wrongly Mentioned As S Loganetra But My Daughter's Actual Name Is S Loganetra.

I, No. 3194000N Ex Naik Narender Kumar S/O Om Parkash R/O Vill. & P.O. Polangi, Teh. & Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my daughter name is Kumari Tamanna and her DOB 01.01.2006 are wrongly mentioned in my service records. But my daughter actual & correct name is Tamna and her correct DOB is 09.09.2005. vide affidavit dated 09.05.2025 before Notary Public Rohtak.

my name's spellings Mentioned as Mohammad Mujib and my father name mentioned as Azim Miyan. But my Correct name is Mohammad Muejeb and my wife correct name is Jareena Begam and my father's Correct name is Mohammad Ajeeb.

I, Savita W/O Praveen Kumar Goyal, 723 Gali No.8 Hansi Road, Karnal, have changed name to Savita Rani.

I, Jaibir Singh S/O Sh. Raj Singh R/O VPO Bajana khurd, tehsil Ganaur, district Sonapat declared that I have changed my minor daughter name from Nidhi to Nikki, for all future purposes. My wife Sonia has no objection to changing the name of our minor daughter.

I, Gian Chand (Adhar 233485080216) S/O Ram Lal R/O Partap Gate mohalla Kaithal have declare that my son Sanjay Khurana alias Lucky Khurana and his wife Satya Devi both are out of my control. I disown my son and his wife from all my moveable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will responsible at own risk Consented note.

I, Rajeev Shandilya S/O Ashok Kumar R/O House Unit Number 214B, Jyoti Kunj Murari cinema Road, Bhiwani Teh & Distt Bhiwani have changed my name from Rajiv Shandilya to Rajeev Shandilya for all future purposes.

I, Bimla Devi W/o Sh Satyanarayan Army No.14271353 Nayak R/O Village Baghru Kalan, Tehsil Safidon, District Jind declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from Santosh Kumari to Santosh Devi. In future my daughter should be known as Santosh Devi for all purposes.

I, Gulshan W/O Satbir Singh R/O A-135, Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Mall Mandi, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gulshan To Gulshan Kaur.

I, Arvinder Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Vill Nahi Nagar PO Fattupur Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Arvinder Singh to Singh Arvinder. In future Singh is my surname and Arvinder is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Arvind Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Vill Nahi Nagar PO Fattupur Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Arvinder Singh to Singh Arvinder. In future Singh is my surname and Arvinder is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Kusum Lata W/O Ex 2495498-N Sep-Roshan La. R/O Village -Matogri, PZ Chhaba, Teh-Sunni, Distt-Shimla P-171301(Himachal Pradesh) declare that in my husband service record, my date of birth wrongly written as 28/03/1985. My correct DOB is 26/06/85. Concerned note.

I, Arvind Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Vill Nahi Nagar PO Fattupur Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Arvinder Singh to Singh Arvinder. In future Singh is my surname and Arvinder is my given name. Concerned note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Yashab s/o Mangal Singh, Vill Palkwah, Distt Una (HP) declare on my documents by mistake my name & DOB is written as Jashab (20-8-2008), but my right name is Yashab & DOB is 4-9-2006.

I, Monika Punia W/o Pardeep Kumar R/O H.No. 159 Near Central Jail Dev Nagar Colony Bhiwani have Change my Name from Monika to Monika Punia Plz Noted.

I, Poonam Rani W/o Robin Lekh R/O H.No.13, New Model Town, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Poonam Rani to Poonam Lekh.

I, Parveen Gupta W/o Nareish Kumar R/O 422, Tilak Nagar, Amritsar-143001 Pujab Have Changed My Name From Paras To Paras Mahajan, Plz Note.

I, Naresh Gupta S/O Kundan Lal Mahajan R/O 422, Tilak Nagar, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name From Nareish Gupta To Nareish Kumar. Plz Note

I, Gurmit Masih S/O Yaqub Masih R/O 54, Ram Tirth Road, Essa Nagar, Batala, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur, Punjab-143505 have changed my name from Gurmeet Masih to Gurmit Masih. Concerned Note.

I, Mohinder Kumar Munjal S/O Shri Sant Lal R/O House No. 613, Sector 9-11, Hisar Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Mohinder Kumar to Mohinder Kumar Munjal for all future purposes.

I, Mohinder Kumar Munjal S/O Shri Sant Lal R/O House No. 613, Sector 9-11, Hisar Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Mohinder Kumar to Mohinder Kumar Munjal for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I S Latha is legally Wife of No. JC-314549X Rank NB Sub Name S Senthil Kumar of Unit 22 Engr Regt. C/o 56 Residing at H.No 10/35, Mookaiyoor Road. Opp. Govt School, Madhavvan Nagar, Sayalgiudi, P.O. Sayalgiudi, Distt. Ramanathapuram State Tamil Nadu Pin-623120 Declare That My Date of Birth 07.04.1985

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, Parveen S/O Jaljeet R/O 1372, Kathura (89), Sonapat, Haryana-131301 Have Changed My Name To Parveen Narwal.

I, GS No. 172803X, Rank : Office Suptd. Name : Manga Ram, resident of Village – Lahri Mahantn, Post Office – Sunder Chak, Tehsil & District - Pathankot, Punjab, have changed name of my son from Manish to Manish Kumar as per Matriculation certificate and Affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate Pathankot vide No. IN- PB33292411480846X Dated 09-05-2025.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Jamine Duggal D/O Shri Ram Duggal, R/O Plot No. 800, Sira Road, Dhandur Bir Hisar, Haryana, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jamine Duggal to Jamine for future. Any responsibility in this regard will be mine.

I, Raghubir Singh S/O Vajeer Singh R/O Bhankhar, Bhankhar Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name from Raghubir Singh to Raghbir Singh.

I, No. 15142125 A Ex-Nk Gurdas Singh - Vpo - Lehra Bega, Teh & Distt - Bathinda, Declare that Name of my mother is wrongly given in my army records as Nasib Kaur but his correct name is Naseeb Kaur, My Mother adhar card No. 403267028221

I, Ranbir Singh S/O Hawa Singh R/O B-4, PWD B&R, Colony, Sira, have changed my minor Daughter name from Aarvi to Aarvi Verma for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

I, Misero Devi Am Legally Mother Of Service No 14815165 N Rank Ex Sep (Mt) Himmat Singh Presently Residing At House No 1437, Sector 23-B, Chandigarh-160023 And Permanent Address House No 24168, Guru Ki Nagari, Street No C-3, Bathinda-151001, Have Changed My Name Spelling From Mijro Devi To Misero Devi And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2025 At Notary Chandigarh.

I, R C Thakur S/O Punjab Singh R/O House No 1119, Sector 19-B Vtc Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From R C Thakur To Rattan Chand

I, Narayan S/O Sh Mahavir Singh R/O House No 35 Amrit Kunj Colony, Khuda Ali Sher Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Narayan To Narain Singh.

I, Rajkumar Devi W/O Ram Awadh R/O House No 2033/A Small Flats Dhanoo Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumari Devi To Ram Kali.

I, Binita Devi wife of Pradeep Singh, 56, resident of near Primary School Bhavpur, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh pin 274406, while earlier my address was Ward No. 12, Krishna Colony, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents my name is Binita Devi and in some Venita Devi. Now I have changed my name Venita Devi to Binita Devi.

I, Ram Paul Bains S/O Sh. Gurdas Ram Bains R/O H.No 1458-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ram Pal Bains to Ram Paul Bains.

I, Deepak Singal S/O Ram Niwas Singal R/O H. No. 1151/23, DLF Colony, Rohtak have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singal.

I, Himanshu S/O Rajeew Kumar R/O 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonapat, Haryana have changed my name to Himanshu Saroha for all future purposes.

Punjab To Buy Anti-Drone Systems; Cabinet Ministers Deployed in 6 Border Districts

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid escalating tensions on the India-Pakistan border, the Punjab Government on Friday rolled out a sweeping set of decisions that mark a pivotal moment in the state's internal security, social welfare, and economic diversification agenda. At the heart of these moves is a bold announcement by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann — Punjab will procure its own anti-drone systems to neutralize threats posed by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) used for smuggling drugs, arms, and potentially hostile surveillance.

The Government, in a Cabinet meeting convened on war footing, also decided to extend the 'Farishtey Scheme' to the victims of war and terrorism, ensuring them free emergency medical care and legal protection. Further bolstering readiness in the six sensitive border districts, Cabinet Ministers have been deployed across these areas to prevent hoarding, ensure uninterrupted supply of essentials, and coordinate directly with local administrations and the armed forces.

The Cabinet also took significant socio-economic decisions, including implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees appointed on or before 2014, promotion of maize cultivation under an ambitious crop diversification initiative, and creation of a state-wide land pool to fast-track urban development and affordable housing.

The developments of the intervening night of May 8 and 9 mark a turning point in Punjab's governance narrative. While the threat of cross-border hostility looms, the Mann-led Cabinet has responded with both resolve and reform. "Punjab has always stood firm for the Tricolour and for India's sovereignty. We will not only defend our borders but also care for our people and build a stronger, self-reliant state," said Mann.

Punjab to Deploy 9 Indigenous Anti-Drone Systems on Pak Border

Faced with a surge in drone intrusions

from Pakistan, Punjab has decided to take matters into its own hands. The state will install nine anti-drone systems along its 532-kilometre border with Pakistan to intercept and neutralize aerial threats. The systems, which will cost Rs 51.41 crore, aim to thwart the smuggling of narcotics, arms, and explosives — an issue that has become increasingly sophisticated with UAV technology.

Chief Minister Mann, speaking after the emergency Cabinet meeting, said: "The BSF has anti-drone systems in place, but we will buy our own to supplement border defence. Drones will be shot down the moment they cross into Punjab." He emphasized Punjab's strategic vulnerability as it shares not only a long border with Pakistan but also lies close to Afghanistan, a key heroin source. Sources indicated that the anti-drone systems will not only protect civilians and security forces but also safeguard VIP movements within the state. "This is not just about drugs anymore — it's about national security," said an official from the CM's office.

'Farishtey Scheme' Extended to Victims of War, Terrorism

In a landmark move, the Cabinet approved the expansion of the Farishtey Scheme, previously focused on road accident victims, to include victims of war and terrorism. Under this scheme, victims will receive free, immediate treatment at government and empaneled private hospitals. Additionally, any citizen who helps transport these victims will receive legal immunity, commendation certificates, and could be rewarded monetarily. Mann said: "We want people to come forward without fear. In war or terrorist attacks, every second counts. Let's save lives together."

Ministers Deployed to Border Districts to Curb Panic, Hoarding

With tensions high and reports of stray missile debris surfacing in Punjab's border villages, the government acted swiftly to prevent public panic and black-marketing. No less than 10 Cabinet Ministers were dis-

patched to Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka to take stock of ground realities, coordinate with District Administrations, and ensure availability of essentials like LPG, petrol, diesel, and food grains. Mann reassured the residents, "There is no shortage. Don't panic-buy. If anyone tries to hoard or black-market, complain directly to your DC. Our Ministers are on the ground for your safety."

Land Pooling Scheme Approved to Fast-track Urban Estates, Housing

In another significant decision, the Cabinet cleared a simplified land acquisition and pooling policy to enable faster development of urban estates across Punjab. The policy allows for direct purchase and land pooling, wherein landowners are compensated through residential or commercial plots instead of cash, facilitating smoother and more transparent acquisitions. The new mechanism, approved under the 2011 Revenue Department's Land Purchase Policy, involves a committee-driven process to verify titles, invite objections, and carry out acquisitions in a time-bound manner. It is expected to unlock thousands of acres for infrastructure projects and affordable housing. The spokesperson said: "The policy will help bring down the cost of housing and ensure the timely completion of infrastructure projects. It is pro-people and pro-development."

OPS to Benefit Thousands of State Employees

In a long-awaited decision, the State Cabinet approved the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme for government employees who joined on or before 2014. The move is expected to benefit thousands of employees, offering them a guaranteed post-retirement pension as opposed to the uncertainty of the National Pension System (NPS). The decision fulfills a key demand of employees' unions, who have been pressing for a rollback to OPS in the wake of rising inflation and financial insecurity post-retirement. Punjab becomes one of the few states after Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to take this politically significant step.

Maize Cultivation Gets Cabinet Backing Under Crop Diversification Plan

In a boost to agricultural diversification, the Punjab Cabinet gave the green light to promote maize cultivation as an alternative to the highly water-intensive paddy crop. The move aimed at saving groundwater, improving soil health, and offering economic alternatives to farmers locked into the rice-wheat cycle. Mann said that the government

has written to the Centre, requesting Rs 17,000 per acre as diversification assistance. Agencies like NAFED and MARKFED will be roped in to ensure minimum support price (MSP)-like procurement for maize, allaying farmers' fears about unsold produce. "If a farmer switches to maize, the government will stand with him. We will ensure every grain is procured," Mann said.

Land Pooling Scheme Approved to Fast-track Urban Estates, Housing

In another significant decision, the Cabinet cleared a simplified land acquisition and pooling policy to enable faster development of urban estates across Punjab. The policy allows for direct purchase and land pooling, wherein landowners are compensated through residential or commercial plots instead of cash, facilitating smoother and more transparent acquisitions. The new mechanism, approved under the 2011 Revenue Department's Land Purchase Policy, involves a committee-driven process to verify titles, invite objections, and carry out acquisitions in a time-bound manner. It is expected to unlock thousands of acres for infrastructure projects and affordable housing. The spokesperson said: "The policy will help bring down the cost of housing and ensure the timely completion of infrastructure projects. It is pro-people and pro-development."

Emergency Preparedness in Hospitals, Fire Stations Reviewed

Apart from new policy decisions, the Cabinet undertook a comprehensive review of emergency services in the border districts, assessing readiness levels of hospitals, fire stations, ration stockpiles, and the emergency response network. All tahsildar and kanungo vacancies in border districts have been filled, and regular coordination is ongoing with the Army and BSF.

Mann said, "We have done a detailed readiness review. Hospitals are stocked. Fire brigades are on alert. From Pathankot to Fazilka, every district is prepared."

Punjab Govt deploys Senior IAS Officers in All Districts, Leaves Cancelled

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Swinging into action amid border tensions, Punjab Government on Friday ramped up administrative preparedness by deploying senior IAS officers across all districts and activating a high-level State Control Room to ensure seamless delivery of essential services and public safety.

Following the Chief Minister's assurance to the people that they will not face any inconvenience, Chief Secretary KAP Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with administrative secretaries, police chiefs, and deputy commissioners. During the meeting, it was decided that each district will be overseen by a senior IAS officer responsible for closely monitoring critical services such as health, food and civil supplies, electricity, water, transport, education, and infrastructure. These officers will also coordinate with military authorities to maintain robust civil-military relations.

A State Control Room has been activated, with 15 IAS and PCS officers deputed on rotation to oversee operations, supported by nodal officers from each key department. The Home Department has been designated as the nodal agency for coordinating with the Union Government in any emergency. Strict directions have been issued to prevent hoarding and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities. "The Food and Civil Supplies Department has been instructed to take strict legal action against those attempting to hoard goods," the Chief Secretary said, adding that advance funds have already been released to districts based on assessed needs. All officers have been directed to cancel any pending leave and remain stationed in their assigned areas. "The state government is fully alert and prepared to tackle any situation. Our objective is clear — people should not suffer due to administrative delays or lack of coordination," said Sinha. Senior IAS officers have been deployed to key districts, including DK Tiwari in Moga, Tejveer Singh in Sangrur, Jaspreet Talwar in SAS Nagar, and Priyank Bharti in Ludhiana, among others, ensuring top-level oversight across Punjab's 23 districts.

Fire Brigade Gears Up for Emergency Response

Punjab Government has also moved swiftly to strengthen its emergency response mechanism, placing the state's Fire and Emergency Services on the highest level of alert. Local Government Minister Dr Ravjot Singh announced that all leaves of Fire Brigade personnel have been cancelled with immediate effect. Officials have been directed to remain deployed round the clock, particularly at sensitive installations across the State. Calling war a "major emergency", Dr Ravjot emphasized the critical role of fire brigades in ensuring civilian safety and managing disaster situations. "All equipment must be checked, mock drills conducted, and seamless coordination established with the Army," Dr Ravjot instructed, adding that officials must keep their mobile phones active and remain in constant touch with their superiors and local administrations.

Dr Ravjot said that the state government has activated every available resource to respond swiftly to any crisis. He directed Fire Brigade officials to work closely with Deputy Commissioners to position fire tenders strategically for immediate deployment.

Cabinet Ministers will also undertake inspections of fire stations and hospitals to assess ground-level readiness. Emphasis has been laid on reviewing emergency plans regularly and ensuring the availability of essential supplies and manpower. To enhance operational efficiency, the Government will engage local vehicle repair workshops for emergency maintenance services — available round-the-clock. Fire officials have also been asked to refer to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) protocols to guide relief operations. Additional Chief Secretary Tejvir Singh underscored the need for professional dedication, calling on officers to maintain written duty rosters and report any shortfall in equipment or manpower without delay. "We are equipped, but preparedness must be dynamic and responsive," he said. At the same time, the Punjab Fire Brigade Department has activated helpline 112 for immediate assistance. Additionally, contact numbers of district-level fire officers have also been released to ensure rapid public access in case of emergencies.

Punjab's Border Districts on Edge; Pathankot, Ferozepur under attack

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid the rapidly escalating military conflict between India and Pakistan, the Punjab Government has sounded a high alert in all six border districts — Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Ferozepur, Fazilka, and Tarn Taran — following multiple cross-border drone intrusions, explosions, and security breaches over the past 48 hours.

The situation turned tense late Thursday evening when multiple series of explosions were reported near Ferozepur and Pathankot, and also in Fazilka. Residents witnessed flashes of light in the sky followed by loud blasts. Blackout orders were immediately enforced in Ferozepur, Amritsar, and Pathankot. Sirens were sounded across towns, directing people to switch off lights and remain indoors.

Eye-witnesses in Ferozepur reported repeated blasts around 8:15 pm, suspected to be from intercepted Pakistani drones, which were later confirmed to have been shot down by the Indian Army. Similar attacks were reported in Pathankot, where the S-400 air defense system neutralized enemy drones.

Early Friday morning, two drones were downed near Khassa in Amritsar. Pathankot had also witnessed explosions around 4:30 am, and a search operation led to the discovery of a bomb near the airbase and a drone near Karoli village.

Meanwhile, in Bathinda — home to Asia's largest military cantonment — Pakistan attempted a drone strike on the Army cantonment area during the night of May 8-9. Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh confirmed during a Ministry of External Affairs briefing that the UAV was intercepted before causing any damage.

The fallout has been severe. Rocket debris was recovered in Bathinda's Tungwali village and Hoshiarpur's Kamahi Devi area. Explosions were heard in Uchi Bassi — home to an Army camp — as well. In Faridkot, internet services were suspended for 13 hours to curb misinformation, and restored later.

In view of persistent threats, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced the deployment of nine anti-drone systems across the border zones. The state has also cancelled all IAS offi-

cers' leaves and barred them from leaving headquarters.

Other precautionary civic restrictions are now in place. Mohali have imposed early market closures and banned fireworks and laser beams, while the state government has postponed all National Lok Adalats scheduled for May 10 across Punjab.

Public transport has also been curtailed with Himachal Road Transport Corporation suspending services to Jammu, Amritsar, Pathankot, and Jalandhar. Similarly, Punjab Roadways has halted all bus services from Hoshiarpur to Jammu.

As Punjab remains on edge, the state machinery is also on full alert, preparing for contingencies and reinforcing its frontline against further aggression.

Mohali Boosts Air Raid Alert System Amid Rising Threats

In response to public concerns and several complaints over inaudible air raid sirens amid heightened India-Pakistan tensions, the Mohali Administration has initiated a major upgrade of its early warning system.

Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal told The Pioneer that orders have been placed for five long-range sirens with a 15 km coverage range. "These will be functional by Saturday evening," she said, adding that 34 additional sirens with a two-km range were installed on Friday across key subdivisions.

Of these, 30 have been allotted to Kharrar and 20 to Zirakpur and Dera Bassi, where residents had earlier complained of silent or ineffective alerts. Currently, only 10 limited-range sirens are operational in Zirakpur and Dera Bassi, prompting urgent intervention.

New installations are being placed at municipal offices, BDPOs, gurdwaras, and key government buildings. Officials are preparing shift rosters to ensure 24/7 monitoring and manual operation where needed.

"High population density has made older sirens ineffective," said an official, admitting that there is still no integrated mechanism and current systems are standalone and not synchronized across subdivisions.

Medical, Paramedical Institutions to Remain Functional

Even as Punjab enforces a three-day clo-

sure of all educational institutions due to escalating border tensions, state's medical, paramedical, and allied health institutions have been exempted to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services and training. Approximately 10,000 students under the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS) will continue both academic sessions and clinical duties. The decision, officials said, reflected the critical need for trained manpower during emergencies.

"In crisis — whether pandemics or potential wartime situations — the pressure on hospitals multiplies. Medical and paramedical students play a vital support role," said BFUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr Rajeev Sood, adding, "They assist in surgeries, manage patient care, and keep essential services running."

Drawing parallels with the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Sood highlighted how student involvement had helped bolster healthcare delivery when the system was overwhelmed. "This is a similar moment. The presence of medical trainees in hospitals is non-negotiable."

Punjab Governor launches statewide blood donation drive

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on Friday launched a statewide special blood donation drive from the headquarters of the Punjab Red Cross Society here in the wake of a military conflict between India and Pakistan. The drive is being simultaneously organised across all 23 districts of Punjab, aiming to ensure prompt availability of blood in case of any emergency. Addressing the gathering, the governor stated, "Punjab is a border state and given the current sensitive situation, the role of the Red Cross becomes even more crucial. This drive is not merely about donating blood, it is a test of our social unity and humanitarian values." He emphasised that in any crisis, the first and foremost need is immediate medical assistance and blood availability. Organisations like the Red Cross rise to the occasion by serving the sick, the weak, and the needy selflessly, thereby upholding the true spirit of humanity.

Guidelines for Public, markets issues by Chandigarh Admn

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In the backdrop of tension between India and Pakistan, the Chandigarh administration has issued guidelines for the public, including familiarising them with the emergency siren signals.

Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav issued an order on Friday, directing that all shopping malls, cinemas, restaurants, clubs and shops (except medical stores) shall remain closed from 7 pm on May 9 till 6 am on May 10. He briefed reporters about the preparedness measures being undertaken across the Union Territory (UT) due to the prevailing situation.

The DC also issued an order prohibiting the bursting of any kind of fireworks, firecrackers or the like by the public during marriages, religious festivals and celebrations or any other kind of activities in the jurisdiction of UT Chandigarh. This order shall remain in force from May 9 and shall be effective till July 7.

The noise made by such firecrackers can create panic amongst the public and may lead to deterioration of the law and order situation, according to the order. The DC told reporters that while schools have been ordered to remain closed on Friday and Saturday, all coaching institutions up to Class 12 shall remain closed until further notice.

The DC expressed sincere appreciation to the residents of Chandigarh for their exemplary cooperation over the past two days. The citywide blackout observed on Thursday evening as well as the mock drill

conducted earlier were both executed successfully, he said. Giving details of the guidelines regarding emergency sirens, Yadav said the public is advised to familiarise themselves with these siren signals.

The Red Alert Siren is a fluctuating, high-low pitched tone lasting approximately five minutes, signifying an imminent air attack or emergency situation. The All Clear Siren is a single, continuous tone indicating the cessation of threat and return to normalcy.

These sirens may be activated at any time, day or night, based on the evolving situation. The administration is in the process of augmenting the volume of existing sirens and installing additional units to ensure comprehensive citywide coverage, the DC said. He said various points were observed during the recent blackout exercise and they merit immediate attention. All solar-powered lights must be manually deactivated during blackout periods. Similarly, certain night-vision cameras emit light during operation and property owners are advised to disable this feature during blackout hours.

Also, all commercial lighting, including illuminated signage, shop hoardings and display lights, must be turned off during blackout periods. As part of the contingency plan for public safety and should the need arise, several hotels and 'dharmsalas' have been earmarked for use as emergency rescue and shelter centres, Yadav said.

The Chandigarh administration has issued directives to prevent hoarding and profiteering in essential commodities. All government employees, particularly those

engaged in essential services, are directed to remain stationed in Chandigarh, as their services may be requisitioned without prior notice, the DC said. He said residents are strongly advised to rely exclusively on official communication channels for authentic and timely information.

"It is important to note that emergency announcements, including blackout alerts, may be issued on very short notice — ranging from five to ten minutes. Citizens are, therefore, requested to remain alert and act promptly upon receiving such communications," he said.

The Health Department of UT Chandigarh has taken various steps to manage any kind of disaster or emergency in Chandigarh. The Control Room for Disaster Management has been set up at the GMSH-16 Hospital, Chandigarh. A dedicated nodal officer for the control room has been appointed, and the required staff for handling have been put up on rotational duties, an official statement said.

Leaves of all staffers have been cancelled and rotational duty rosters have been prepared for those of the Health Department, it said. The fleet of ambulances has been strengthened and equipped with the required equipment, manpower and medicines. All medicines that are required to cope with any disaster have been procured. A detailed inventory of the equipment, consumables and medicines has been made.

The elective procedures or surgeries have been reduced. However, emergency procedures will be done as required. The Blood Bank has organised special camps to increase the number of blood units in its stock for any exigency, the statement said.

Haryana Govt asks DCs to maintain smooth supply & distribution of essential commodities

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Friday issued orders to the Deputy Commissioners and all the District Food and Supplies Controllers regarding the maintenance of smooth supply and distribution of essential commodities such as food items, petrol, diesel, fodder, and other daily necessities in the State.

An official spokesperson said that this was done taking cognizance of the rumours that are causing hoarding of essential commodities such as food items, petrol, diesel, fodder, and other daily necessities even though there is no panic and there is no shortage of essential items in the State. "To safeguard public interest and maintain smooth availability of essential goods, the Deputy Commissioners and District Food and Supplies Controller have been directed to maintain smooth supply of all essential commodities including the current stock position, retail prices, and any measures being undertaken to ensure adequate availability and price stability of all essential commodities including pulses, all petroleum products such as Motor Spirit (Petrol), High Speed Diesel (HSD) & LPG," the statement said. The spokesperson said that an advisory has also been issued by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department to the Deputy Commissioners to remain vigilant and keep a close watch on supply and distribution, including the current stock position, retail prices, and any other measures being undertaken to ensure adequate availability and price stability. Furthermore, all petroleum dealers in their jurisdiction have been advised to keep a max-

imum stock of the petroleum products, maintain close liaison and coordinate with the District level Coordinator of the Oil Industry who will ensure availability of adequate stocks of petroleum products at all terminals and outlets in the State. The spokesperson further said that the Deputy Commissioners and all the District Food and Supplies Controller

have been advised to keep a close watch on the supply and distribution of all petroleum products in their jurisdiction and take necessary action under Control Orders, if required, so that no artificial scarcity is allowed to take place and the unscrupulous elements do not resort to hoarding and black marketing of these commodities.

Aerial threat alert sounded in Ambala & Chandigarh

PNS ■ AMBALA/CHANDIGARH

In view of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, a potential aerial threat alert was issued by the Air Force Station in Ambala and Chandigarh on Friday morning. Following the alert, the district officers concerned advised the residents to remain indoors and away from balconies.

In Ambala, the Deputy Commissioner, Ajay Singh Tomer, said that an air warning threat alert had been received from the Air Force Station. Sirens were sounded and all residents had been advised to remain indoors and away from balconies and venture out in case of urgency only for the next two hours, he said.

This was the first such alert sounded in Ambala during the ongoing conflict. On Thursday night, the Deputy Commissioner advised the residents to immediately respond to the situation. "Keeping in view the ongoing emergency situation, all the residents are requested to immediately respond to the sound of the siren and switch off all the lights and also are advised not to venture outside or on the rooftops," he added.

Tomer said that all educational institutions, including schools, colleges, ITIs, polytechnic institutes, will also remain closed in the district till May 10.

In Chandigarh, a potential aerial threat alert was also issued on Friday by the Air Force Station, prompting authorities to initiate emergency protocols across the city. Sirens were sounded in multiple areas following the warning, signalling residents to take immediate precautionary measures.

Talking to Journalists, Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said, "This is a precautionary measure in view of an air warning received from the Air Force Station. The sounding of air warning sirens is also part of preparatory measures. Citizens are advised to stay calm, remain inside their homes, ignore the rumours and await further instructions from official sources."

He further said, "Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, and security measures have been heightened across key locations in the city. We are fully geared up to deal with any exigency arising out of the current situation following escalating tension between India and Pakistan."

Guru Granth Sahib Saroops Shifted from Border Villages to Safer Sanctuaries

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

As tension escalates along the India-Pakistan border, an extraordinary spiritual and humanitarian effort is quietly unfolding in Punjab's border belt — the dignified shifting of over sacred saroops (copies) of the Sikh holy scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib, from vulnerable villages to safer locations.

In Fazilka, Gurudwara Singh Sabha has become a temporary sanctuary for the 50 revered saroops brought from villages within five kilometers of the border, where fear and uncertainty loom.

This initiative, guided by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), underscored the deep spiritual sensitivity and reverence with which the Guru Granth Sahib is held. "So far, more than 50 saroops have been respectfully

brought from various border gurdwaras and housed here," confirmed Bhai Jagjit Singh, a member of SGPC's Dharam Prachar Committee. The transfer is being carried out using specially arranged paliki buses provided by Abohar-based Sukhmani Sewa Society. At every arrival, ardas (prayers) are offered for peace and to avert war.

However, the relocation has not been without emotional resistance. In Gurdaspur's border village of Kahna, SGPC members faced a wave of heartfelt protest from local Sikh families who refused to part with the saroops.

"We'll protect Guru Sahib with our lives. If we have to leave our village, the Guru will go first, but we won't allow any harm to the saroop," said Satnam Singh, a local resident. The SGPC respected the villagers' faith and did not proceed with the transfer.

A similar operation is underway in Amritsar and Tarn Taran, where 27 saroops have already been respectfully moved to Gurudwara Ramsar Sahib. Officials are working with utmost caution and coordination to ensure dignity and sanctity are preserved throughout the process.

Back in Amritsar city, despite border tensions and missile attack fears, the Golden Temple remains calm. "The environment in Guru's house is completely peaceful," said Bhagwant Singh, manager of the Golden Temple, urging devotees not to be swayed by rumours.

"Langar is running 24/7 and arrangements for lodging are in place. Devotees should come fearlessly and seek blessings."

While spiritual sanctity is being safeguarded, these unprecedented relocations also reflect the anxiety shadowing Punjab's border villages.

नगर निगम ट्रेडर (सार्वजनिक सूचना)
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक की ओर शाखा के सार्वजनिक के रिजर्व में नई प्रोपर्टी आरंभ की है...

Zonal Office - 1st Floor, Jai Kartar Bhawan, Near Circuit House, Ludhiana - 141001, Ph.: 0161-2775883
Subject:- Break Open of Lockers having due Rent / Fees in Arrears since more than 3 Years.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of Locker Holder, Locker No., Branch Name, Branch Code, Branch Address, Branch Contact No., Branch E-mail. Lists locker holders and their details.

Whereas, the above-mentioned Locker holders of respective branches shown in the corresponding row have committed default in payment of contractual locker fees/rent (which is subjected to change periodically) and have failed to contact the branch despite various notices and communications by the bank on the registered address available on bank's record...

चुनाव सूचना
चुनाव तिथि 08.07.2025
चुनाव कार्यक्रम दो गोरवाल बहुउद्देशीय प्राथमिक कृषि सहकारी समिति लि. गोरवाला, तहसील डबवाली, जिला सिरसा

Table with 4 columns: क्र., कार्यक्रम, दिनांक, समय, स्थान. Details election schedule for various committees.

नगरपालिका सहायक सार्वजनिक कार्यकारी अधिकारी, रोहतक
विद्युत वितरण अंश जमा
विद्युत-रोहतक की 3400 टोलर 10.06.2020 को कि कलेक्टर पत्नी श्री बालकान सिंह किशोरी कलान...

चुनाव सूचना
चुनाव तिथि 01.07.2025
चुनाव कार्यक्रम दो बिज्जवाली बहुउद्देशीय प्राथमिक कृषि सहकारी समिति लि. बिज्जवाली तहसील डबवाली, जिला सिरसा

Table with 4 columns: क्र., कार्यक्रम, दिनांक, समय, स्थान. Details election schedule for various committees.

नगरपालिका सहायक सार्वजनिक कार्यकारी अधिकारी, रोहतक
विद्युत वितरण अंश जमा
विद्युत-रोहतक की 3400 टोलर 10.06.2020 को कि कलेक्टर पत्नी श्री बालकान सिंह किशोरी कलान...

Canara Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
CANARA BANK Recovery & Legal Section Regional Office Panipat-132103, Ph. 0180-4088335, Mob: 7015926780, EMAIL: ropptrec@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(6) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

DATE OF E-AUCTION IS 26.05.2025 (12:30 PM TO 1:30 P.M.)
(with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

Large table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Branch Name & Address of the Borrower(s), Brief Description of Movable / Immovable Property/ies, Total Liabilities as on specified Date, Reserve Price (In Rs.), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.), Details of A/c No. (IFSC CODE, Possession notice). Lists multiple auction items.

Other terms and conditions:
a) The property is being sold with all the existing and further encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property to his satisfaction...

Editor's TAKE

A humble shepherd with a global vision

Revered for his humility, Pope Leo XIV is poised to shape a new chapter for the Church

In a historic and unexpected turn, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been elected as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church, taking the name Pope Leo XIV. His election on May 8, 2025, marks the first time an American has ascended to the papacy, signaling a significant shift in the Church's global orientation.

Born in Chicago in 1955, Pope Leo XIV brings a rich tapestry of experiences to the papacy. His extensive missionary work in Peru, where he served as a bishop, and his leadership roles within the Augustinian order and the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops, reflect a deep commitment to pastoral care and global outreach. Known for his reserved demeanor and thoughtful deliberation, he is often described as a "bridge builder" who seeks unity within the diverse tapestry of the Catholic Church.

His choice of the name Leo XIV pays homage to Pope Leo XIII, renowned for his advocacy of workers' rights and social justice. This selection underscores Pope Leo XIV's dedication to continuing a legacy of compassion and inclusivity.

Pope Leo XIV's election carries significant implications for the intersection of faith and politics, particularly in the United States. He has been an outspoken critic of nationalist policies, including those associated with former President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, especially concerning immigration and social justice issues. While maintaining traditional Church teachings on matters like same-sex marriage and abortion, he emphasises the importance of pastoral sensitivity and the dignity of every individual.

His nuanced positions reflect a commitment to upholding doctrinal integrity while engaging with contemporary societal challenges. This approach aims to foster dialogue and understanding within a polarised global landscape.

The process leading to Pope Leo XIV's election was marked by thoughtful deliberation among the College of Cardinals. Following the death of Pope Francis in April 2025, 133 cardinal electors convened in the Sistine Chapel, engaging in a conclave guided by centuries-old traditions and the apostolic constitution *Universi Dominici Gregis*. After four ballots over two days, Cardinal Prevost emerged as a consensus candidate, reflecting a desire for continuity with Pope Francis's reformist agenda and a commitment to global inclusivity.

In his inaugural address, Pope Leo XIV emphasised themes of unity, peace, and pastoral care. He called for the Church to be a beacon of hope and a bridge in a fractured world. His leadership is expected to continue the synodal approach championed by his predecessor, promoting greater lay participation, environmental stewardship, and a compassionate outreach to marginalised communities.

As the Catholic Church embarks on this new chapter under Pope Leo XIV, his blend of humility, global experience, and commitment to social justice positions him to navigate the complexities of the modern world while staying rooted in the timeless teachings of the faith.

The Catholic Church, one of the oldest institutions in human history, has undergone profound transformations over the centuries — spiritually, politically, and culturally. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostolic tradition, the Church has had to continuously adapt to changing times while maintaining its theological foundations. In its early centuries, the Church faced persecution before eventually becoming intertwined with state power in the Roman Empire. The medieval period saw it wield immense political influence, often blurring the lines between spiritual authority and temporal control. However, this power was challenged by events such as the Great Schism and the Protestant Reformation, which forced the Church to re-evaluate its structures and doctrines.

The 20th century marked a particularly significant era of change. The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) was a watershed moment, modernising Church practices — introducing the use of vernacular languages in liturgy, promoting ecumenical dialogue, and encouraging greater engagement with the modern world. This opened the Church to a more pastoral and inclusive approach, focusing not only on doctrinal purity but also on social justice, human rights, and global outreach.

In recent decades, under popes like John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and especially Francis, the Church has further grappled with issues like secularism, clerical abuse, gender roles, and the role of laity. Pope Francis's emphasis on mercy, care for the poor, and environmental stewardship has redefined the Church's mission for many in the 21st century.

Now, with the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first American pontiff, the Church stands at another pivotal juncture. His leadership signals a continued embrace of reform, cultural diversity, and moral courage in facing the world's pressing social and political challenges. Through centuries of change, the Catholic Church has shown a remarkable ability to evolve — slowly, at times painfully, but always with a deep concern for its spiritual mission and global relevance.

India's power and resolve

The Prime Minister's decision to rely on the armed forces reflects a deeper commitment to professionalism, affirming that India's future depends on capable, values-driven experts and globally aligned views

After almost two weeks of the Pahalgam massacre, India retaliated by carrying out cross-border strikes with precision and depth. According to a press release under Operation Sindoor, altogether nine terror camps and headquarters of Jaish and Lashkar were targeted in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. While India showed its strong will to strike back by carrying out cross-border strikes, the strategic message was beyond punishment this time.

Until now, India's strike-back pattern suggested punitive deterrence with a limited hitting range. Uri strikes in 2016 and Balakot Strikes in 2019 demonstrated India's capability to enforce punitive deterrence against Pakistan by sending the strategic message that any undesirable behaviour will be met with a swift and severe response. In fact, after the Parliament attacks, India launched Operation Parakram, which was also an attempt to demonstrate an act of punitive deterrence, but punitive deterrence became an ineffective strike-back option as Pakistan built a perception that India's deterrence behaviour could be sustained with the ability to counter-strike as they were credible and had a limited hitting range. Pakistan's perception was demonstrated in Operation Swift Retort when Pakistan swiftly acted the next day after the Balakot strikes by breaching India's airspace with JF-17s and attempting to carry out air strikes on non-military targets in J&K. While the escalation ladder was in a pretty controlled state from both sides. Still, India's larger objectives of enforcing deterrence against Pakistan remain quite faint as both states resorted to punitive deterrence, almost seroing down the effectiveness of deterrence on Pakistan. Consequently, Pakistan didn't learn its lessons. It continued its terror operations in J&K and even shaped its sub-conventional tactics to such an extent that it could launch deep terror strikes with an element of plausible deniability. Creating offshoots and front organisations like The Resistance Front.

The echo to configure strong offensive deterrence was found in former Chief of Army Staff General Krishnaswamy Sundarji's vision paper — India's Army Perspective Plan 2000. He argued that for Pakistan, we have to adopt a maximised offensive deterrence ranging from seizure of territory to destruction of Pakistan's military and economic capabilities. Similarly, another former Chief of Army Staff, General Sundarajan Padmanabhan, who oversaw India's Operation Parakram, said, "Perpetrator would be punished so severely that its continuation thereafter in any form would be in doubt." Both the Generals echoed, maximum and credible deterrence against Pakistan, not aiming to punish



Pakistan but to escalate deterrence and offensive measures to such extent that Pakistan's sub-conventional warfare capability gets eroded but this erosion requires continuity in delivery of credible deterrence such as done in Operation Sindoor.

Operation Sindoor demonstrated three key swift shifts from earlier striking patterns. First, India expanded its striking horizon by going beyond Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and striking deep inside Pakistan by targeting key cities — Bhawalpur and Muridke. Second, multiple targets increase operational selectivity, which was limited to only one or two camps until now — third — Attempt to push Multi Domain

Deterrence against Pakistan. India's five-point diplomatic strike after a few days of attack which notably included keeping the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance to isolating Pakistan's diplomatic and economic potential was an attempt to bring double squeeze strategy into play by exploiting and exacerbating Pakistan's internal weakness at one end and strategically isolating at the global stage — miserable failure of Pakistan at UNSC closed-door meeting despite launching renewed decades-old narrative of "false flag" is one testament of strategic isolation.

Earlier, India's isolatory approach towards Pakistan had demonstrated ordinary diplomatic measures, but this time India attempt-

to demonstrate some extraordinary diplomatic measures, adding the actual element of multi-domain deterrence. Overall, this time, India's strategic response demonstrated its capability to impose a sustained, credible and multi-dimensional deterrence against Pakistan.

Operation Sindoor echoes the beginning of a shift from immediate deterrence to long-term credible deterrence against Pakistan. The idea of long-term credible deterrence can push Pakistan to the margins if India continues to develop its long-term deterrence by adding more credibility by precisely striking the Octopus — the head of terror outfits in future. This shift in deterrence against Pakistan will force Pakistan to realise the new strategic reality that any misadventure would be met with an overwhelming response, not limited to plain responses. India's Operation Sindoor also gives a glimpse that India is also chalking a path of integrated deterrence and gradually departing from the traditional notion of deterrence, a similar move that the United States did in its National Defence Strategy after realising increasing threats and risks to its strategic security especially after 9/11 and began to sharpen its integrated deterrence in modern time after realising increased threat from rising threat from Russia and China in a heightened strategic completion environment.

The threat of the escalation ladder spiralling is one major issue in the retaliation cycle between India and Pakistan. This gets further aggravated if the Pakistan leadership is strongly tilted towards Islamic generals — from Zia, Musharraf, Parvez Kayani, to Asim Munir. Though India has already made it clear that its actions are calculative, precise, and non-

escalatory, targeting only terrorists, Pakistan has tried to play with fire when it comes to controlling escalations from unprovoked offensives at the border to launching nuclear rhetoric. After India's thunderbolt response, Pakistan's top echelons may be in a dilemma in delivering a reaction while considering the escalation factor, as the onus of escalation is now on Pakistan. Last year, Pakistan carried out limited air strikes in response to Iran's retaliatory response against anti-Iran terror groups in the bordering region of Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistan might opt for limited air-to-cross-border strikes but may also exercise in-depth strikes. At present, Pakistan is attempting to flare up by indiscriminate shelling against civilians in J&K's bordering regions. Poonch is one of the worst-hit areas by Pakistan's shelling.

Whatever Pakistan's response, Asim Munir must realise that he is already suffering with high costs, with his nation getting humiliated and bleeding. If Munir attempts to deliver a miscalculated response, then the escalation ladder might spiral, and he might get consumed by his fire. Pakistan must also realise that it does not have many options; it cannot afford to put its strategic security at more risk, especially when Pakistan's western frontier is almost smoked by TTP and Baloch fighters. It's high time that Pakistan realises that now, higher costs and risks are involved in coercing India after it has demonstrated a swift shift in its deterrence against Pakistan by showing both power and resolve.

(The writer is an advocate and a columnist. Views are personal)

The Power of choice and faith

SECOND Opinion

BY BARBARA O'NEILL

My journey into the world of mental health began early, shaped by personal experience and a natural call to care. I was just 18 or 19 when I found myself taking care of my mother, who was wheelchair-bound. At the same time, I was studying psychology at night, and it quickly became clear that nursing — especially psychiatric nursing — was where my heart belonged. Even while enjoying the life of a young adult, I was deeply curious: What causes mental illness? What pushes a person to the edge?

One case I'll never forget involved a man admitted in utter crisis. His wife had left him, his business collapsed, his home was destroyed in a fire, and his son became a paraplegic — all in a short span of time. He had reached breaking point. But with coordinated care from social workers, financial advisors, and mental health professionals, his life began to mend. Just a week later, he walked out of the facility with a bag in his hand and hope in his heart. That experience taught me a vital truth: with the right support, people can recover even from the depths of despair.

At 25, my path took a spiritual turn when I became a Christian. Around the same time, I developed a deep interest in natural remedies and a holistic approach to raising my children. A pivotal moment came when I was given a book

called *Psycho-Dietetics*, published in 1976. It explored how American doctors were using minerals, vitamins, and lifestyle changes to support mental health. That book lit a fire in me. It launched a lifelong pursuit of natural, empowering, and faith-aligned ways to support the mind.

I've always believed in raising independent thinkers — emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. I didn't spoon-feed my children; I wanted them to think, question, and grow strong from within. That same principle guides my approach to care: give people tools they can use on their own, not just within the walls of a clinic. In recent years, especially amid global upheaval and restrictions, many people have started to look inward and upward for answers. The need for holistic self-care — mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual — has never been clearer. People are realising that healing is not just something that happens in a doctor's office; it starts with taking responsibility for one's own well-being.

Mental health is complex, but one truth remains: our mindset matters. Depression is often a state of mind — though this may be difficult to hear, it carries weight. Therapies like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) help us see that while we can't always change our circumstances, we can choose our responses. Gratitude, even in suffering, is one of the most powerful tools. In a world gripped by fear and uncertainty, we must remember the profound power of choice. It is central to mental freedom, parenting, and spiritual growth. When we choose to trust God in adversity, we're not simply holding onto hope — we're resisting fear itself. But this choice also reveals a deeper spiritual truth: God is not a tyrant. He gives us freedom,

even when it means people sometimes choose wrongly and others suffer. Still, in reclaiming our minds from destructive patterns, this freedom becomes our greatest strength. We are not victims of our thoughts. We can choose what we focus on. As Dr Neil Nedley says, "The mind stayed on Him is a choice." Sometimes, that choice starts with "fake it till you make it." It may sound hollow, but it's a powerful truth-repetition creates reality. Just like going to the gym builds identity over time, practicing hope reshapes our inner dialogue.

Living in the present is also vital. We're often bogged down by regrets or fears of tomorrow. But as one speaker said, "Love today. Love where you are. Love what's happening — because you'll never have that moment again." Gratitude brings healing. Even when self-critical, pause and reframe. Maybe your feet look odd — but they carry you. You are free.

Lastly, mental wellness is deeply rooted in the physical laws of health, where simple, consistent habits yield profound results. Breathing through the nose, rather than the mouth, enhances oxygenation and naturally filters the air we take in, supporting clearer thinking and calmness.

Regular movement, exposure to sunlight, and quality sleep are equally vital — research shows that just ten nights of six-hour sleep can reduce brain function by up to 50 per cent. Hydration and proper nutrition, particularly with omega-3 fatty acids, form the building blocks of cognitive and emotional balance. Faith doesn't remove fear, but it gives us the courage to keep walking, step by step.

(The author is a world renowned holistic healer and advocate of transformative wellness. Views are personal)

Leaderspeak



Our response was targeted and measured. It is not our intention to escalate the situation. However, if there are military attacks on us, there should be no doubt that it will be met with a very very firm response. As a neighbour and close partner, it is important that you have a good understanding of the situation.

S JAISHANKAR, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Letters to the Editor

Caste census must bridge gaps

Madam — The move to conduct a caste-based census must be viewed with thoughtful consideration. Data can be a tool for progress if it promotes fairness and opportunity, not division. Global principles emphasise equal dignity, social cohesion, and the recognition of merit beyond inherited identity. While marginalised communities deserve focused support, categorising citizens primarily by caste may risk reinforcing societal barriers.

Instead, emphasis should be placed on gathering data related to education, employment, and healthcare disparities. Nation-building thrives when every citizen feels valued as part of one collective future. Let us ensure that any data collection fosters inclusion, not fragmentation. Policy must balance historical realities with a shared vision for equity and unity. Progress lies not in highlighting our differences but in bridging them meaningfully.

In conclusion, the call for a caste-based census must be grounded in a vision that uplifts rather than divides. While acknowledging historical injustices, we must prioritise data that addresses real developmental gaps — education, employment, healthcare — without deepening social fault lines. The aim should be to craft policies that empower the marginalised while reinforcing our shared national identity. India's progress depends on fostering unity through inclusion, not fragmentation through labels.

HASNAIN RABBANI | MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma calls it a day gracefully

Madam — Unfortunately, an underachiever in Whites called it a day for reasons known only to him. India captain Rohit Sharma has retired from Test cricket. It comes after reports in the Indian media that he would be removed as captain for the Test series in England this summer. Rohit gave nonchalant joy whenever in form and in mood. Retires when still good enough to play for couple of years.

In his test Career, Sharma played 67 Test matches, scoring 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, including 12 centuries and 18 half-centuries. As a captain he succeeded Virat Kohli as Test captain in 2022 and led India in 24 matches, winning 12. In his ODI Career Rohit Sharma will continue to play ODIs and has recently led the team to the 2025 Champions Trophy title.

His T20 Career ended as he retired from T20 internationals after India's victory in the 2024 — T20 World Cup. A graceful exit, Rohit Sharma bows out of Test cricket with 4,301 runs in 67 matches, 12 centuries, and a captaincy that saw India win half of his 24 Tests in charge. Though his departure follows whispers of a captaincy change, Rohit exits with dignity intact, still capable, still cherished. Having led India to triumphs in the 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy, his legacy lives on. Sometimes, it is best to leave them wanting more.

JAYANTHY SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

Operation Sindoor: Precision Strike

Madam — On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, a precision military strike targeting nine terrorist hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). This decisive action followed the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists. Between 1:05 AM and 1:30 AM, Rafale Jets armed with SCALP missiles hit camps run by Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Notably, Indian forces avoided Pakistani military targets, signaling a calculated and focused counterterrorism mission. The operation highlights India's evolving military doctrine — marked by swift retaliation, strategic restraint, and intelligence-based targeting.

It reinforces India's stance of measured but firm responses to cross-border terrorism while bolstering its defense credibility. Geopolitically, the strike comes amid Pakistan's internal instability and raises the risk of regional escalation. Islamabad is likely to seek diplomatic support, especially from China and Turkey.

China's stance will be closely watched, given its Indo-Pacific ambitions. Western nations, particularly the US, may support India's right to self-defense while calling for calm. Beyond immediate security implications, Operation Sindoor could influence economic and diplomatic ties, including trade dynamics and water-sharing talks. As India aligns military action with broader national strategy, its assertive posture may mark a significant shift in South Asia's geopolitical landscape.

AMARJEET KUMAR | HAZARIBAGH

PAKISTAN LEANS ON CHINA FOR ARMS SUPPLIES

Since the US having cut off arms supplies to Pakistan in the wake of the changed geopolitical situation in Afghanistan, cash-strapped Islamabad has been increasingly leaning on China in recent years to fill the gap.

According to data compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China was the largest supplier of military hardware to Pakistan, accounting for as much as 81 per cent of the country's total imports, followed by the Netherlands at 5.5 per cent and Turkey at 3.8 per cent. Turkish President Erdogan expressed solidarity with Pakistan amid rising tensions with India following Operation Sindoor.

The total arms imports from China between 2019 and 2023 alone were valued at \$5.28 billion, which accounted for 63 per cent of Pakistan's total arms imports, according to SIPRI data.

Pakistan has been getting defence hardware from China that ranges from fighter jets for the air force to sub-

marines and frigates for the country's navy and artillery guns for the Pakistan Army. The JF-17 Thunder fighter jet is a flagship project of China-Pakistan military cooperation. The JF-17 is currently a mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force after the US stopped supplying its F-16s. Production of the jets started in 2007, and deliveries are ongoing, with each delivery introducing upgraded modern variants.

In 2015, Pakistan ordered eight Type-041 Yuan-class conventional submarines from China, four of which were to be built in China, and four to be made under license in Pakistan at Karachi Shipyard. Delivery schedule for these submarines runs from 2022 to 2028, with the deal valued at \$5 billion. Pakistan has also got Chinese SH-15 155mm self-propelled artillery guns for deployment to the Indian border. With this the Pakistan having full support of mighty China currently which is worrisome for India.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Please send your letter to theletterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

Victory's veil: The allied legacy of moral evasion

Eighty years on, the Allied victory is still hailed as a triumph over tyranny — but behind the celebration lies a legacy of deceit, injustice, and moral compromise. The victors fashioned a postwar world less defined by liberation than by selective memory and calculated impunity

FIRST Column

When President Harry Truman read the plea from Manhattan Project scientists urging a reconsideration of the atomic bomb's use on Japan, his response likely showed no moral hesitation or remorse. Instead, his actions reinforced a postwar global order based not on liberty, but on selective memory and perverse exoneration.

Eighty years after Victory in Europe Day, the dominant Western narrative continues to present the war's outcome as a triumph of virtue, ignoring the uncomfortable ethical compromises and strategic duplicities that underpinned it. The mythology of liberation has become sacrosanct, while the darker aspects — such as rendition, racial internment, scientific justification of war crimes, and indifference to colonial sacrifice — remain marginalised or erased. The obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — while dressed in the procedural lexicon of wartime necessity — was, in fact, the Western world's inaugural postbellum moral abdication. The bombings were less a denouement of global conflict and more a vulgar display of technological supremacy calculated to dissuade Soviet assertiveness. The horror, therefore, was not simply that a nuclear Rubicon had been crossed, but that it was done with an exultatory grin, and later justified with the antiseptic language of 'strategic imperatives'. It is no longer speculative fiction but a matter of record, buried in declassified memoranda, that alternatives existed — namely, Japan's increasing willingness to consider surrender if the Emperor were retained. Truman's decision was not an exigency of war, but a deliberate theatricality of dominance. The supposed Allied moral high ground crumbled further when Operation Paperclip was set into motion.

Over 1,600 Nazi scientists, including unrepentant perpetrators of ghastly human experimentation, were clandestinely ferried into the United States under the auspices of national security and scientific utility. Wernher von Braun, a man whose rockets were lubricated by the blood of enslaved labourers at Mittelwerk, became a lauded patriarch of American aerospace triumph. The apologia was monstrously bureaucratic — his past affiliations were 'scrubbed' to sanitise his assimilation into American exceptionalism. In a 1947 CIA memo, the chilling intent is laid bare: "It is not desirable that the public or press become aware..." — a line that resounds like a macabre hymn to state-sanctioned impunity. This institutional duplicity was not uniquely American.

The British intelligence establishment had its own euphemistically elegant form of deceit. Through the "Double Cross System," MI5 successfully manipulated German intelligence via double agents, such as the legendary Juan Pujol García, to misdirect Axis expectations about D-Day. Though tactically ingenious, this also reveals an alarming precedent: deception, once wielded in wartime, quickly transmogrifies into peacetime governance. The ability to deceive a foreign enemy soon turned inward —



domestic populations were no longer sacrosanct from psychological warfare, propaganda, and informational obfuscation. Simultaneously, the West turned a wilfully blind eye to Soviet atrocities for the sake of fragile alliances. The Katyn Forest massacre, wherein Stalin's NKVD executed over 22,000 Polish officers, was known to the Roosevelt and Churchill administrations.

Declassified communications confirm that both leaders opted for calculated silence, fearing the rupture of wartime unity. One CIA memo chillingly advised that "public disclosure not advised due to diplomatic concerns." In those words lies the DNA of postwar moral relativism: truth subjugated to expediency.

Even within the triumphant United States, the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans — a move unreplicated in scale or racial homogeneity for any other ethnic group — was executed under the pretence of national security, yet dripped with racial animus. The true indictment emerges not just

from the camps themselves, but from what came after. Thousands of Japanese American men volunteered to fight for a nation that caged their families. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, largely composed of these internees' sons, became the most decorated unit of its size in US military history. Their leader, Senator Daniel Inouye, once said, "We fought not just the enemy, but the prejudice of our own country. Still, we fought."

That their legacy was received with patronising nods rather than substantive restitution only amplifies the grotesquerie of their sacrifice. Meanwhile, British colonial troops — 2.5 million strong from India, Africa, and the Caribbean — were deployed across the world's war fronts, shedding blood for a Crown that had no intention of emancipating them.

In Burma, Indian troops bore the brunt of the jungle war, their bodies discarded in the colonial ledger as expendable assets. Their gallantry was neither commemorated with equitable pensions nor with places in British collective memory. A veteran of the Burma Campaign once lamented: "We fought for the British, yet after the war, they forgot us. My medals mean little without respect." Postwar Britain, engrossed in rebuilding its own wounded self-image, had no space for the sepia-toned loyalty of its colonial wards. Simultaneously,

the Soviet Union — while lionised for its monumental military sacrifice — was also the architect of unspeakable internal savageries. The Holodomor, the Great Purge, and mass deportations — these were not aberrations but policies. The Red Army's entry into Berlin was marked not only by military triumph but by a tidal wave of civilian rapes and looting, acts that were obfuscated or trivialised in postwar historiography.

Allied complicity in whitewashing these crimes was another ethical forfeiture. The myths of the 'liberator' prevailed, even as countless women were left psychologically eviscerated by the supposed liberators themselves. There were no clean hands in this war — not among the Allies, not among the Axis, and certainly not among the institutions that shaped the postwar order. The psychological experiments of Unit 731 in Japan, which included live vivisections and plague dissemination, should have led to Nuremberg-style prosecutions in the Pacific. Instead, many of its physicians were rewarded with amnesty by the United States in exchange for their data on biological warfare. "Data on human experimentation is valuable..." read a US Army report in 1947.

It is difficult to concoct a phrase more morally desiccated. Nor was the West's complicity confined to acts of commission; its sins of omission reverberate just as loudly. The Jewish partisans in Eastern Europe, those who rose from the ashes of ghettos to sabotage Nazi convoys and derail genocide, were rarely included in the triumphalist Allied narrative. Their resistance did not conform to the clean binaries of statehood or military discipline — it was desperate, feral, and incandescently courageous. Faye Schulman, one such partisan, wrote: "I vowed never to be taken alive again. The forest became my freedom, my gun my answer."

The war also eviscerated any illusions of gender equality. Thousands of women risked and gave — their lives in resistance movements, logistics, and espionage. Noor Inayat Khan, a British Muslim spy of Indian heritage, refused to betray her comrades under Gestapo torture and was eventually executed at Dachau. Her last known words were: "I have nothing more to say." Yet after the war, women were largely herded back into domestic anonymity, their wartime roles ossified as aberrations rather than recognised contributions to victory. The truth is that, while the West defeated fascism with the indispensable support of the Global South and poorer nations, it merely adopted fascist mechanisms, cloaked them in democratic rhetoric, and integrated them into the Cold War order. What followed was not peace, but a cover-up, where impunity was dressed as security and complicity as strategy. The moral divide between Axis villainy and Allied virtue crumbles, revealing a postwar world shaped not by justice, but by duplicity, omission, and a profound fear of moral reckoning.

(The writer is a columnist and political analyst based in Colombo. Views are personal)



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

EVEN WITHIN THE TRIUMPHANT UNITED STATES, THE INTERNMENT OF OVER 110,000 JAPANESE AMERICANS — A MOVE UNREPLICATED IN SCALE OR RACIAL HOMOGENEITY FOR ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP — WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE PRETENCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY, YET DRIPPED WITH RACIAL ANIMUS

Time for the People of J&K to Rise and Shine!

Once plagued by instability, Jammu and Kashmir is now witnessing a transformative resurgence in tourism, infrastructure, and investment, ushering in a new era of growth, opportunity, and national integration

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places on earth. It, however, has also been one of the most volatile regions due to the delusional and dogmatic mindset of our western neighbour. The result: ever since 1947, it has been subjected to periods of turmoil, instability and tremendous external pressures.

The casualties in this entire process have been the people of the State along with our brave security forces, who have defended the people from both external as well as indoctrinated internal elements. Post-Independence, the economy of the State was doing quite well, and it was driven to a large extent by the tourism industry. For decades, this sector formed a critical part of the State's economy and was the favourite destination of India's most loved entertainment source — the Bollywood movies!

As a result, the State remained in the limelight, with the most famous actors, in a way, becoming its brand ambassadors. As many as 50 per cent of the movies were shot in the State, showcasing its beauty and creating avenues of growth for various extensions of the entertainment industry.

This had a huge bearing and created fertile conditions for the coming up of tourist destinations, hotels, markets for local handicrafts, the Kashmiri 'apple' and 'dry fruits', shikara (houseboats) — all of which generated tremendous employment for the people of the State.

In 1955, over 50 thousand domestic and foreign tourists visited J&K; this number crossed 74 thousand by 1960, to over 1.5 lakh by 1968, and stood at around 5.85 lakhs in 1980. Srinagar, in the 1960s and 70s, had approximately 5-9 daily flights from many Indian cities and was relatively well connected back in the days.

According to a Government survey, J&K welcomed 7 lakh tourists in 1987, and this went down to a mere 6,000 three years later. This proves the sheer economic damage that the State suffered due to instability and mischievous propaganda of vested interests. Things improved a little post-1989, and unfortunately the region was embattled in the Kargil War in 1999. Things did take a turn for the better, and by 2010 — 30 years after 1980 — the number of tourist arrivals touched the 5-lakh mark, going on to show that despite some recovery, the State made no real progress in this area in 30 years due to the prevailing uncertainties and an environment of terror.

In 2019, when the Government took the bold step of abolishing Article 370, and firmly conveyed its position — that enough is enough — J&K once again began an era of unprecedented economic and all-round progress. The improved overall environ-



ANIL RAJPUT

ment and sentiment was first and foremost reflected through the tourist arrivals that broke all records. In 2021, 1.13 crore tourists visited the UT; 1.89 crore in 2022; this increased to 2.12 crores in 2023 and 2.36 crores in 2024. This has also resulted in many multinational and domestic hotel chains opening new properties in the UT, and the region currently offers 62,488 registered tourist beds across hotels, guest houses and houseboats.

In addition, J&K is developing 75 new tourist destinations, 75 heritage/cultural sites, 75 Sufism/religious sites and 75 adventure treks/sites — potentially attracting tourists for all the four seasons.

ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SURVEY, J&K WELCOMED 7 LAKH TOURISTS IN 1987, AND THIS WENT DOWN TO A MERE 6,000 THREE YEARS LATER. THIS PROVES THE SHEER ECONOMIC DAMAGE THAT THE STATE SUFFERED DUE TO INSTABILITY AND MISCHIEVOUS PROPAGANDA OF VESTED INTERESTS.

There has also been a massive increase in the daily flights to Srinagar, which is today witnessing around 45-50 daily flights in summer and 35-37 flights in the winters. To complete a full circle, as many as 300 movies and web series were shot in J&K in two years (2022 and 2023) — a clear signal that the atmosphere was back to the pre-1989 days. In fact, here it is critical to mention the laudable and impactful steps that the Central and the UT Government have taken since 2019: the Prime Minister's Development Package — 2015 was accelerated and 53 projects pertaining to 15 ministries are being implemented at a cost of ₹58,477 crores in various sectors such as roads, power, health, education, tourism, agriculture, skill development and much more — out of these, 29 projects have been completed with many others in advanced stages of production.

A new Central Sector Scheme was notified in 2021 for the industrial development of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of ₹28,400

crores. In addition, J&K has received investment applications of more than ₹54,000 crores, out of which projects worth more than ₹36,000 crores have been allotted industrial land. The construction work of 17,601 km of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was completed up to March 2022, and this has connected over 2,074 places. Two AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, two cancer institutes and 15 nursing colleges have been taken up and operationalised, along with reviving power projects for about 3,000 MW capacity.

Three major irrigation projects that include Ravi Canal (₹62 crore), third stage of Tral Lift Irrigation Scheme (₹45 crore) and the comprehensive flood management plan of river Jhelum and its tributaries — Phase I, costing ₹400 crores — have been completed. In addition, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has carried out recruitment in the public sector from 2019 onwards, totalling nearly 30 thousand employments. Another 5.2 lakh persons are estimated to be employed through self-employment schemes from August 2019 up to June 2022. A hundred per cent saturation has also been achieved in 17 individual beneficiary-centric schemes, including Saubhagya, Ujala, Ujjwala and Indradhanush schemes. Therefore, things really began to look up, and the period from 2019 onwards is actually the golden period for the Valley and the UT of J&K.

That is, till the recent and most unfortunate and orchestrated attack that happened at one of the UT's most famous tourist destinations — Pahalgam. It was clear that the recent development of the region, and the overall environment of prosperity, did not go well with a neighbouring state which has an evil eye on J&K — and their frustration led to this desperate attempt to damage the economy and derail the progress being made by the local population. It has always been the people of the UT who have, today and in the past, remained the biggest sufferers and have paid a steep price for such senseless acts. It is my firm belief that the best is yet to come for the Valley and its people. Ultimately, the answer for J&K's growth and a bright future lies in the local Kashmiri's resolve and ability to recognise and call out the sinister agenda of external forces. They need to awaken and defeat these evil designs for their own good, and for this to happen — cooperating and trusting the local administration, which has always tried to ensure their safety and security, along with that of their future generations — is the need of the hour!

The writer is President — Corporate Affairs, ITC. Views are personal

Indian envoy to UK calls on Pakistan to take 'off-ramp'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

India's response to Pakistan's original conflict escalation with the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam last month was "precise, targeted" and focussed solely on terror infrastructure but Pakistan has chosen to continue to escalate the matter instead of taking an "off-ramp" to end the crisis, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK has said. Vikram Doraiswami was interviewed by a series of UK media outlets on Thursday to present India's stance on the rising tensions between India and Pakistan. He told 'Sky News' that the international community can intervene by pointing out the opportunity for an off-ramp to Pakistan.

He also displayed an image live on air of US-designated terrorist Abdur Rauf leading prayers for the terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor, also presented during a briefing by Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry in New Delhi.

"Everybody knows that for the last 30 years, Pakistan has used this (terrorism) as a means of sub-critical warfare against India," said Doraiswami. "If the international community really wants to be able



The Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami

PTI

to look at this and worry about it, the simple solution is to tell Pakistan it has an opportunity for an off-ramp. These are things that the world should have com-

pelled Pakistan to do 30 years ago, and to compel them to implement their promises about taking down this infrastructure. It has not done so," he said. Asked if India

fears a further escalation of conflict in the region, the envoy asserted that the "original escalation" is Pakistan-sponsored terror groups attacking and shooting civilians in Pahalgam on April 22. "Our response thereafter was precise, targeted, reasonable and moderate. It was focused principally and solely on terrorist infrastructure. We did not strike the Pakistani military establishment. We did not strike national infrastructure, and we made it abundantly clear... that the object of this exercise was clearly to avoid military escalation - a fact actually acknowledged in a left handed way, of course, by the Pakistani side in terms of their own official statements which said that the airspace hadn't been violated," said Doraiswami.

"The logical solution would be, as we've said repeatedly, for Pakistan to take the opportunity of an off ramp, which we have made abundantly clear, including this morning, that if Pakistan stops attacking our military facilities, the matter ends there, but it is for them to decide," he said.

The High Commissioner was also pressed on media reports around Indian jets being allegedly shot down, claims that remain unsubstantiated.

Imran Khan's party files petition seeking his jail release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Friday filed a petition in the High Court here seeking his release from jail, claiming a threat to his life due to the impact of the prolonged detention on his health and in view of the current situation with India.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, in a WhatsApp message, said that the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur approached the Islamabad High Court for the release of the party founder.

Khan, 72, has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail of Rawalpindi, the garrison city, since mid-2023 in connection with multiple cases.

"The Islamabad High Court has been approached for the release of Imran Khan. An application has been filed by Chief Minister KP Ali Amin," the party said.

"It has been requested that in view of the current war situation with India, for national harmony and solidarity, and due to the fear of a drone attack in Adiala Jail, he be immediately released on parole/probation."

The court has not set any date for the hearing of the plea.

Speaking to the media at the Islamabad High Court premises, Gandapur described the PTI founder as a leader of the Muslim Ummah (community) and expressed hope for justice.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, in a WhatsApp message, said that the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur approached the Islamabad High Court for the release of the party founder

He expressed concern about the lack of law and order in the country, stating that they have knocked on all doors seeking justice.

Gandapur argued in the petition that Khan's prolonged detention due to politically motivated cases is violating the basic rights of the PTI founder.

He stated that the Constitution provides a remedy for release on parole to avoid such detention. The petitioner further mentioned that there is a risk of health deterioration due to prolonged imprisonment.

We are at war with the terrorists, India states to US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

India is at war with the terrorists and will bring justice to victims of the Pahalgam attack by holding the "lowlifes, subhuman monsters" accountable, Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra has said, underscoring that in no world would these terrorists be allowed a free pass.

"The frame and the template in which we look at is the terror template. April 22 was the most heinous terrorist act," Kwatra said in an interview to CNN on Thursday.

The interview comes as India ramps up its diplomatic offensive against Pakistan following the military confrontation triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that had cross border linkages.

"It is nobody's case to say that these terrorists should be given a free pass, and that's precisely what we did the day before yesterday, held them accountable," Kwatra said and described India's action as "a very precise, calibrated, measured response to these terrorists."

"We are at war with the terrorists, and we will, as I said, bring justice to the victims and hold them accountable," he said answering a question if India is at war with Pakistan. "Our foremost objective in this was (to) hold these lowlifes, subhuman monsters accountable and bring justice to the victims."

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, striking terror factories at nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians and for which The Resistance Front (TRF), a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility.

Underscoring the fact that four terrorists backed by Pakistan killed 26 civilians, Kwatra said "in no world would you allow such terrorists to be given a free pass. And that is precisely what we did the day before yesterday."

"We carried out a very precise, calibrated, measured response to these terrorists, to their factories, to their integrated facilities, which they run out of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. (We) took them out where they train them, they equip them, organise them, those are the facilities we took out."

"It is nobody's case to say that such terrorists should be given a free pass, wherever they are located."

He added that from a large number of Congressmen, Senators to the whole world, they all appreciate that India should respond and bring accountability for these terrorists and justice for the victims.

Kwatra asserted that the original escalation and the original breakout of ten-

sion happened on April 22, when four terrorists backed by Pakistan carried out "brutal, subhuman, monstrous kind of killings" of 26 civilians, including a Nepali national.

He said the terrorists killed the civilians on the basis of religion, identifying and killing "all non-Muslims".

"So what we did the day before yesterday was essentially our response to terror," Kwatra said, adding that India's response has been very measured, calibrated and proportionate.

Responding to a question on explosions being heard in Kashmir, Kwatra said Pakistan has again decided to stand with the terrorists. "Rather than take action against them, they are essentially lending them support," he said.

"We wouldn't be surprised if they are themselves involved in this, but that's what is the message," which Pakistan is telling the world that it is with terrorists, it is not with the rest of the civilised world, the rest of humanity.

"Pakistan's belief lies in perpetrating these proxies of terror killings, brutal killings of innocent civilians," he said.

To a comment that Pakistan has denied involvement in the attacks, Kwatra said that "denial and obfuscation" has always been the first part of Pakistan's strategy.

"They have this unique characteristic where they assume responsibility of their past actions in future, not in the present moment," he said as he asked where was Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who plotted the September 11 attacks in the US, found. The killer of American journalist Daniel Pearl or perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks found?

Responding to a question, Kwatra said that with Operation Sindoor, "we, from our perspective, had brought a certain finality to it, but it was, of course, subject to whether Pakistan has brought finality to it. Pakistan chose to escalate it further. Now it's duty-bound for us to respond to that."

When asked how concerned should the world be that the tensions between India and Pakistan could escalate into a nuclear war, the Indian envoy said, "I think the world should be concerned about the fact that Pakistan's support to terrorism and terrorist activities continues."

"I think that's what the world should be concerned about. And I think that's what the world should tell Pakistan - to stop supporting terrorism. I think that's the crux of the question," he asserted.

When asked if he thinks it could get to the point of nuclear weapons, he said: "That's for you to ask Pakistan for that." He also drew attention to what he called was "Pakistan's old habit of misinformation campaign."

US to stay out of war: Vance on India-Pakistan tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the US has said it is not going to get involved in a war that's "fundamentally none of our business."

While the US cannot control India and Pakistan, it can encourage the two nuclear-armed neighbours to de-escalate, Vice President J D Vance said in an interview with Fox News on Thursday.

"Look, we're concerned about any time nuclear powers collide and have a major conflict," Vance said when asked how concerned the Trump administration is about a potential nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

Vance quoted US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio who have said that Washington wants the tensions to "de-escalate" as quickly as possible.

"We can't control these countries though. Fundamentally, India has its gripes with Pakistan. Pakistan has responded to India. 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 a war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it," the vice president said.

"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. Our hope and our expectation is that this is not going to spiral into a broader regional war or, God forbid, a nuclear conflict, but sure, we're worried about these things."

"But I think the job of diplomacy, but also the job of cooler heads in India and Pakistan is to make sure this doesn't become a nuclear war. If it happened of course it would be disastrous. Right now



US Vice President J D Vance

PTI

we don't think that's going to happen," he said.

Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and their three children were on their first official visit to India when terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

Two weeks after the attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on Wednesday, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. On Thursday night, India neutralised Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones as tensions soared between the two countries amid fears of a wider military conflict.

After the Indian military foiled the Pakistani attempts, the defence ministry said India remains "fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and ensure the safe-

ty of its people".

Earlier on Thursday, Secretary of State Rubio spoke separately with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, emphasising the need for immediate de-escalation.

In his call with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continued efforts to improve communications. He reiterated his condolences for the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed the US' commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism.

In his conversation with Sharif, Rubio reiterated his calls for Pakistan to take concrete steps to end any support for terrorist groups.

In a press briefing on Thursday, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce

said Rubio underlined the need for de-escalation in his conversations with Jaishankar and Sharif.

"...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," she said.

The message from the Secretary of State and from the United States "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 generations 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, new ideas to stop generational violence and problems."

Asked if Rubio offered to mediate between the two countries, Bruce said, "We are not going to be speaking about the details. That is certainly our policy."

The US continues to urge India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible solution. Washington remains engaged with both governments at multiple levels, she said.

The US wants the perpetrators to be held accountable and are supportive of any efforts to that end, she added.

Bruce told reporters that Rubio underlined that the conflict should not escalate.

"Clearly this has been an issue for decades and... With what we saw over the last few weeks after the terrorist attack, it was not surprising but very, very disappointing. But... 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 in the centre of this in speaking with a variety of leaders of both countries over the last two days," Bruce said.

Pakistan says economic affairs ministry's X account hacked after post seeking loans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad/New Delhi

Pakistan on Friday said that the X account of its ministry of economic affairs was hacked and an appeal was posted on it for more international loans to meet the "heavy losses" caused by the current tensions with India.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a 'FAKE TWEET ALERT', saying the account was "hacked".

An official also confirmed that the X account has been hacked, and "work was going to switch off the account."

The hacking led to a fake appeal by the Economic Affairs Division of the ministry,

calling for more loans and urging the international community to help defuse the tensions with India following the Pahalgam terror attack. The tensions caused the stock market in Pakistan to tumble.

"Government of Pakistan appeals to International Partners for more loans after heavy losses 'inflicted' by enemy. Amid escalating war and stocks crash, we urge international partners to help de-escalate. Nation urged to remain steadfast," the post on the account said.

Interestingly, 'inflicted' was misspelled in the post, leading to suspicion as official handling accounts seldom make such glaring mistakes.

The post came after the Pakistan Stock

Exchange fell by more than 6,000 points on Thursday. However, the market recovered on Friday and gained more than 1,000 points in the morning trading session.

The timing of the post was also intriguing as it coincided with a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board to decide on the next installment of a \$7 billion loan agreed last year.

Pakistan is expected to get more than \$2 billion as part of the second tranche of the loans and a new loan which the fund approved to combat the impact of environmental changes. Earlier, India's Press Information Bureau had taken a swipe at the fashion the economic affairs division of Pakistan was seeking alms.

Kim supervised missile tests simulating nuclear strikes: North Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised tests of short-range ballistic missile systems that simulated nuclear counterstrikes against US and South Korean forces, state media said Friday, as the North continued to blame its rivals for escalating tensions through their joint military exercises.

The report came a day after South Korea's military detected multiple launches from North Korea's eastern coast and assessed that the tests could also be related to the country's weapons exports to Russia during its war in Ukraine.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday's tests involved a mobile ballistic missile system apparently modelled after Russia's Iskander, as well as 600-millimetre multiple rocket launchers that South Korean officials classify as ballistic due to their self-

propulsion and guided flight. Both are part of a growing lineup of weapons systems that the North says could be armed with "tactical" nuclear weapons for battlefield use. KCNA said the tests were intended to train military units operating missile and rocket systems to more effectively execute attacks under the North's nuclear weapons control system and ensure a swift response to a nuclear crisis.

The agency criticised the United States and its "vassal states" for expanding joint military exercises on and around the Korean Peninsula, which the North claims are preparations for nuclear war, and said Thursday's launches demonstrated the "rapid counteraction posture" of its forces.

Kim stressed the need to strengthen the role of his nuclear forces in both deterring and fighting war, and called for continued efforts to improve combat readiness and precision strike capabilities, KCNA said. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said



multiple missiles of various types were launched from the area around the eastern port city of Wonsan on Thursday from about 8:10 to 9:20 am, with the farthest travelling about 800 kilometres. Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs, said in a briefing the North Korean launches were possibly intended to test the performance of weapons it plans to export, as the country continues to send military equipment and troops to fuel Russia's warring against Ukraine.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters that none of the North Korean missiles reached Japan's exclusive economic zone and there was no damage to vessels or aircraft in the area.

It was the North's first known ballistic activity since March 10, when it fired several ballistic missiles hours after US and South Korean troops began an annual combined military exercise, and the country's sixth launch event of the year.

Nepal's human rights group protests outside Indian, Pakistan embassies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kathmandu

Nepalese human rights group staged demonstrations outside the Indian and Pakistani embassies here on Friday, urging both nations to end ongoing tensions and promote peace in South Asia.

The Human Rights and Peace Society organised the protests, led by activist Krishna Pahadi and HURPES president Renuka Paudel.

The group condemned terrorism and extremism, emphasising that peace is the only path forward for the region.

Demonstrators carried placards with slogans such as, "No one will win in war, only humanity gets defeated," "Terrorism is deplorable in all times," "In peace all will win," and "Let's make South Asia a war-free zone."

The activists also raised concerns over specific issues, with slogans questioning the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and Pakistan's protection of those involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

"How lawful to suspend the Indus Water Agreement?" "Why did Pakistan protect those who attacked tourists in Pahalgam?" and "Why Pakistan, who itself is victim of terrorism and extremism is harboring terrorism?" were the other slogans the placards were displaying. A memorandum addressed to the Indian government was handed over to Indian Embassy officials in Kathmandu, while a similar letter for Pakistan was sent via email after embassy officials declined to accept it, the HURPES said in a press release.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Parveen Kumar S/o Banarsi Dass Goyal, 723 Gali No.8 Hansi Road, Karnal, have changed name to Praveen Kumar Goyal.

I, Somdutt S/O Ramniwas R/O Village Sair Tehsil Guhla District Kailth Haryana have changed my name from Somnath to Somdutt.

I, Kolli Satyam is legally Father of Service No. 15327770F Rank: Hav. Name: Kolli Tirupathi Unit: 1 AER C/o 56 APO, Residing at Village Pinnavalasa, Post Badangi, Taluk Badangi, Distt. Vizianagaram (State) Andhra Pradesh, Pin-535578, have changed my name from Satyam Naidu to Kolli Satyam.

I, Vadarevu Bangaramma is legally Mother of Service No. 15328873M Rank: Hav. Name: Appalaraju Vadarevu, Residing at Village Kapugodavalasa, Post Kotabommali, Taluk Tekkali, Distt. Srikakulam (State) Andhra Pradesh, Pin-532195, have changed my name from Bangaramma to Vadarevu Bangaramma.

I, Vadarevu Simhachalam is legally Father of Service No. 15328873M Rank: Hav. Name: Appalaraju Vadarevu, Residing at Village Kapugodavalasa, Post Kotabommali, Taluk Tekkali, Distt. Srikakulam (State) Andhra Pradesh, Pin-532195, have changed my name from Simhachalam to Vadarevu Simhachalam.

I, Vadarevu Jagadhi is legally Wife of Service No. 15328873M Rank: Hav. Name: Appalaraju Vadarevu, Residing at Village Kapugodavalasa, Post Kotabommali, Taluk Tekkali, Distt. Srikakulam (State) Andhra Pradesh, Pin-532195, have changed my name from V Jagadhi to Vadarevu Jagadhi.

I, Vipin Kumar Azad S/o Raj Kumar R/o H. No. 6/30, Kalyan Nagar, Sonipat declare that my son (minor) name has been changed from Kavish s/o Sh. Vipin Kumar Azad to Kavish Kaundal S/o Sh. Vipin Kumar Azad. He should be identified by Kavish Kaundal s/o Vipin Kumar Azad in future.

I, Sahil Garg S/o Sudarshan Kumar Garg R/o House No. 10, Friends Enclave, Sant Nagar, Pitampura, North-West Delhi, New Delhi-110034 have changed the name of my minor daughter born on 14/12/2023 from Aarya Garg to Pranika Garg.

It is For General Information That I Akshita Bishnoi D/O Anil Kumar Residing at Village Teja Khera District Sirsa (125101), Haryana Declare That Name Of Mine Has Been Wrongly Written As Akshita In My B.A Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of Mine Is Akshita Bishnoi Respectively, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

It is For General Information That I Dinesh Kumar S/O Jai Chand Residing At 391a/25, Vikas Nagar, Near Nahar Kolhi, Hansi Tehsil Hansi District Hisar (125033), Haryana Declare That Name Of My Minor Son Has Been Wrongly Written As Yash In My Son Namely Yash Godara Aged About 17 Years In His 10th Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Minor Son Is Yash Godara Respectively, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

I, Jitender Pal Singh Jammu s/o Randhir Singh R/O Kharak Singh Farm, Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Minor Daughter Name Gursifat Kaur to Changed Given Name Gursifat Surname Kaur.

I, Jitender Pal Singh Jammu s/o Randhir Singh R/O Kharak Singh Farm, Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Minor Daughter Name Ishrat Kaur to Changed Given Name Ishrat Surname Kaur.

I, Rinku s/o Gurdev, Village Sainsa, Tehsil Pehowa Distt. Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Rinku Rinku.

I, Bhajan Kaur w/o Sukhdev Singh Village Bakhli Plot No.2, Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Have Changed My Name Harbhajan Kaur.

I, Harnek Singh Channe S/O Santa Singh R/O House No.-168 Near Gurudwara Basti Gobindgarh Moga Distt. Moga Punjab 142001 Have Changed My Name To Harnek Singh.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/O Kulwant Singh R/O Near Wada Gurdwara Sahib, Phoola Patti, Ghollia Kalan, Moga Have Changed My Name To Amandeep Kaur Gill.

I, Shivpartap S/O Bhupinder Singh, R/O Vpo. Andlu, Tehsil Raikot, Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Shivpartap Singh.

I, Amarjeet Kaur D/O Gurnam Singh R/O W.No.13 Green Wood Wali Gali Tibba Basti Patran Distt Patiala (Pb) have known by both names Amarjit Kaur and Amarjeet Kaur one and the same person.

I, Arapsaaz Sandhu D/O Paramjit Singh Sandhu R/O # 15, Old Jail Road, Near Trilum Beauty Avenue Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Arapsaaz Kaur Sandhu.

I, Kiranjeet Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o H.No.628, Model Town, Rahoun Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kiranjit Kaur.

I, Mona Rani @ Monu W/o Manoj Kumar R/o #154 Dalima Vihar Rajpura Distt Patiala both name are same and the one person only.

I, Sonia Chouhan W/o Gaganjit Singh R/o #55 New Lal Bagh Colony Patiala have changed my name to Sonia Maadan.

I, Army No. 4091731X, Rank NK, Name Anil Kumar, Unit of 21 Garh Rif C/O 56 APO Batalik, Residing at Vpo Sonla, Distt. Chmoli, (UK) 246446 have changed my son Name in all documents From Avanti Kumar to Avanti Kumar Vide Affidavit Dated 06 May 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sandhyarani kurni is legally Mother of Army No. 15747570A Rank Sigm Name Harshit kurni of Unit 7 IDSR C/o 56 APO Permanent address Reechhai, Post Bijora, The deori, Dist. Sagar, State Madhay pradesh Pin-470226 Declare That my Name Suneeta Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Sandhyarani kurni.

I, Sham Lal S/o Dev Raj R/o Lalheri Road, Near Sharma Medicine Traders, Dalip Singh Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sham Sharma.

I, Gurpreet Singh Chani S/o Major Singh R/o Prem Nagar Kotkapura District Faridkot have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh.

I, Hardeep Singh S/o Washakha Singh R/o Vpo. Malsian Kalan Teh-Zira Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Hardeep Singh Sandhu.

I, Sunil Kumar Chauhan S/o Tota Ram Chauhan R/O House No-44, Khushal Enclave, Patiala Road, Tehsil Derabassi, Zirakpur, Pabhat, S.A.S Nagar Mohalli, Punjab - 140603, have changed my name to Sunil Kumar.

I, Pushpa Chauhan W/o Sunil Kumar R/O House No-44, Khushal Enclave, Patiala Road, Tehsil Derabassi, Zirakpur, Pabhat, S.A.S Nagar Mohalli, Punjab - 140603, have changed my name to Pushpa.

I, No.Jc-524365W Nb Sub Ankit Jamwal resident of Village- Bharnala, Post-Shahpur, Tehsil- Shahpur, District- Kangra, State- (HP) have been changed Rajinder Singh to Rajinder Singh Jamwal Vide affidavit No.IN-PB30950834126292X dated 01 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Nomita Maity Mother of No.14687671L Hav Manik Maity resident of Village- Sikra Chakdai, Post- Kalyanpur, Tehsil- Egra, District- Purba Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721447, have changed my name from Nomita Maity to Namita Maity Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33248924514480X dated 08 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Sandeep Kumar wife of Shri Sanjeev Kumar resident of Village Bhagwanpur, Tehsil and District Rupnagar (Punjab) have changed my name from Sandeep to Sandeep Sharma after marriage.

I, Bavaliya Pravinbhai Dhanjibhai resident of Village- Vangadhra, Post-Vangadhra, Tehsil-Vinchhiya, District- Rajkot, State- gujrat, Pin-360055, have changed my Daughter name from Yashvi to Bavaliya Yashvi Pravinbhai Vide affidavit No.IN-GJ81707580509802Xdated 25 March 2025 before Executive Magistrate Vinchhiya (Gujrat)

I, Bavaliya Pravinbhai Dhanjibhai resident of Village- Vangadhra, Post-Vangadhra, Tehsil-Vinchhiya, District- Rajkot, State- gujrat, Pin-360055, have changed my Son name from Ronak Kumar to Bavaliya Ronakkumar Pravinbhai Vide affidavit No IN- GJ81710573213684X dated 25 March 2025 before Executive Magistrate Vinchhiya (Gujrat)

Ritu Rani Devi spouse of No.17013167F HMT Manjeet Singh resident of House No.603, Village-Badhawar, Post- Badhawar, Tehsil- Barwala, District- Hisar, State- Haryana, Pin-125121, have changed my name from Ritu Rani Devi to Ritu Rani Vide affidavit No.IN-PB32881215297603X dated 07 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Gitarani Pandit Mother of No.14648464H Hav Prabin Kumar Pandit resident of Village- Nijnarua, Post- Analberia, Tehsil-Contai, District- Purba Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721444, have changed my name from Gitarani Pandit to Gita Pandit Vide affidavit No.IN-PB3216825610806X dated 06 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Shalini Mother of No.2809517A Sep Wasankar Vijay Arun resident of Village- Telhara, Post-Telhara, Tehsil- Telhara, District- Akola, State- Maharashtra, Pin-444108, have changed my name from Shalini to Shalini Arun Wasankar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB32898329233450X dated 07 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Shalini Arun Wasankar Mother of No.2809517A Sep Wasankar Vijay Arun resident of Village- Telhara, Post-Telhara, Tehsil- Telhara, District- Akola, State- Maharashtra, Pin-444108, have changed my DOB from 04 Feb 1968 to 08 Feb 1967 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB32898329233450X dated 07 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.17007899F Sep Govardhana T resident of Village- Somaguddu, Post-Somaguddu, Tehsil-Challakere, District-Chitradurga, State-Karnataka, Pin-377522, have changed my Son name from Chetan GS to Chethan GS Vide affidavit No.IN-PB31604502766022X dated 03 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Kaushalya Devi spouse of No.JC-542633X Sub Rajendra Singh resident of Village- Amaoun, Post-Khatima, Tehsil- Khatima, District- Udhham Singh Nagar, State- Uttarakhand, have changed my name from Koushlya Devi to Kaushalya Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB13407248211125X dated 08 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sumanbai Rajoriya Mother of No.2809417P Hav Jeevan Kumar Rajoriya resident of Village-Kanasiya, Post- Kanasiya, Tehsil-Tarana, District- Ujjain, State- MP, Pin-456770, have changed my name & DOB from Sumanbai Rajoriya to Sujan Bai and date of birth from 25 Aug 1968 to 01 Jan 1970 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB31602607073299X dated 03 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sudipta Panja spouse of No.17010030K NK Sujit Panja resident of Village-Lalitageria, Tehsil- Tamluk, District- Purba Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721653, have changed my name from Sudipta Panja to Sudipta Samanta Panja Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33248433465279X dated 08 May 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

TRAI recommends spectrum fee for satcom operators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday released its recommendations on pricing of spectrum to be given for satellite-based internet services, suggesting a levy of 4 per cent of annual revenues as fee on operators like Elon Musk's Starlink. Operators offering services in urban areas would have to shell out an additional ₹500 per subscribers annually, TRAI said in its recommendations to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). No additional levy would be applicable for services in rural areas.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended that satellite broadband spectrum be allotted for five years, which can be extended by another two years. The 4 per cent of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) spectrum charge would be for both geostationary orbit (GSO) and NGSO (non-Geostationary orbit) operators. These would be subject to a minimum annual spectrum charge of ₹3,500 per MHz. Releasing the recommendations, TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said satcom services once available can play a vital role in taking connectivity to underserved areas where telecom networks are not available. They also play a critical role in disasters, in rescue and relief operations.

Starlink earlier this week got a Letter of Intent (LoI) for the start of its services. It now has to procure a license before starting services in India.

SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Elon Musk, has already tied up with rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel to bring Starlink's broadband internet ser-



ices to India. Both Indian firms will offer Starlink equipment through their network and also support customer installation and activation on devices.

Over the past few months, rivals Jio and Airtel had come together to demand an auction for awarding spectrum for satellite services in India. Musk on the other hand lobbied for administrative allocation as per international norm. In October last year, the government sided with Musk on the issue of allocating airwaves, to be used for offering low latency internet services using satellite, at a pre-decided price through administrative route.

Both Jio, India's largest wireless carrier, and Airtel, the No 2 player in the world's most-populous nation, where

data usage is rapidly rising, feared lower entry cost will chip away some of their subscriber base.

Based on the recommendations of TRAI, the DoT would now go to the Cabinet for pricing of satellite spectrum and once approved any satcom wanting to offer services in India can apply.

Starlink is the world's largest Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) constellation operated by SpaceX. Bharti already partners with Eutelsat OneWeb, the second largest LEO constellation. Similarly, Jio Platforms has a joint venture with SES, a leading global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider.

Jio Space Technology Ltd, where Jio holds 51 per cent and SES 49 per cent,

is to use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions.

Eutelsat OneWeb, in which Airtel is the single-largest shareholder with a 21.2 per cent share, and Jio's joint venture with SES have already secured GMPCS licenses and IN-SPACe approvals.

Starlink currently operates over 6,000 LEO satellites, while Amazon's Kuiper project plans to deploy 3,236 satellites starting in early 2025.

Booking platforms halt offerings to Turkey, Azerbaijan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Amid escalating tensions with Pakistan, various online booking platforms on Friday announced suspension of new travel offerings to countries, including Turkey and Azerbaijan for their "support" to Pakistan and advised customers to avoid "non-essential" travel to these destinations, while urging Indians to exercise "utmost caution" before planning trips to sensitive regions.

Cox & Kings said it has decided to temporarily pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkey.

"In light of recent developments, we have decided to pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. This decision is driven by our commitment to uphold principles that matter deeply to us and the people of our country. We also advise Indian travellers to exercise discretion and avoid any non-essential travel to these destinations until there is greater clarity and alignment in the broader geopolitical environment," said Karan Agarwal, Director, Cox & Kings.

"Travel Advisory — Following the Pahalgam attack and escalating tensions between India & Pakistan, travellers are urged to stay aware. As Turkey & Azerbaijan have shown support for Pakistan, we strongly recom-



mend visiting only if absolutely necessary," EaseMyTrip said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, on Thursday evening. EaseMyTrip Founder and Chairman Nishant Pitti also took to X, saying he was "deeply concerned" by the recent developments and advising all its customers to exercise utmost caution and stay updated on official travel advisories before planning trips to sensitive regions.

Travomint said the company has suspended the sale of all travel packages to Turkey and Azerbaijan to support Indians' call for boycotting these two countries.

"Due to the escalating tensions with Pakistan and countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan supporting it, we at Travomint have taken a firm and responsible stand. We have decided to support the Indians' call for boy-

cotting Turkey and Azerbaijan. With immediate effect, Travomint has suspended the sale of all travel packages to these countries," Travomint Chairman and CEO Alok K Singh said in a statement.

In addition to this, he said, no cancellation fees will be charged on existing bookings to Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Emergency flight bookings will be available in case of any emergency or urgent need, Singh said. Meanwhile, Vice President of Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI) and Hotel And Restaurant Association (Western India) - HRAWI spokesperson Pradeep Shetty shared that there have been cancellations for hotels in states including Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, among others.

"There are cancellations... We are observing the situation closely," he told PTI. India on Wednesday carried out strikes on nine sites in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, marking its deepest strikes inside Pakistan in decades, in retaliation for a deadly terrorist attack two weeks before. Thereafter, Pakistan attempted to unleash drones and missiles at Indian military targets in more than a dozen cities and towns, many of them home to air force bases.

India imposes anti-dumping duty imported solar glass

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to \$ 664 per tonne on imports of a certain type of solar glass from China and Vietnam for five years in a bid to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap imports from

these two countries, according to a government notification. The duty was imposed after the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) recommended for the same after conducting a detailed probe on the dumping of 'Textured Toughened Tempered Coated and Uncoated Glass' from China and Vietnam. The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China.

आईआरएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
IREL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking - Department of Atomic Energy)
Manavakurichi, Tamil Nadu, E-mail: purchase-mk@irel.co.in
An ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001 Unit, Phone: 04651-200402
CIN: U15100MH1950G0008187

Ref: MK/P.ADVT/2025-26/01
निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE
IREL Manavakurichi Unit invites tender for the following:

Tender No.	Description
GEM/2025/B/6186960	Supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) filled in cylinders of 400-450 kgs capacity
IREL/MK/ET/01/2526	Reconstruction of various Godown and store yard in MK Plant

Bidder may download the tender document from <https://gem.gov.in>, <https://www.irel.co.in> and CPP Portal.
Any corrigendum / extension to above tender shall be hosted in above websites only.
CBC 48147/12/0002/2526 CGM & Head, MK (गुड्डा गार्ड प्रबंधक एवं प्रधान, एएके)

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदन केंद्र NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
बालानगर, हैदराबाद BALANAGAR, HYDERABAD 500 037

Advt.No/NRSC/RMT/1/2025 DT. 10.05.2025

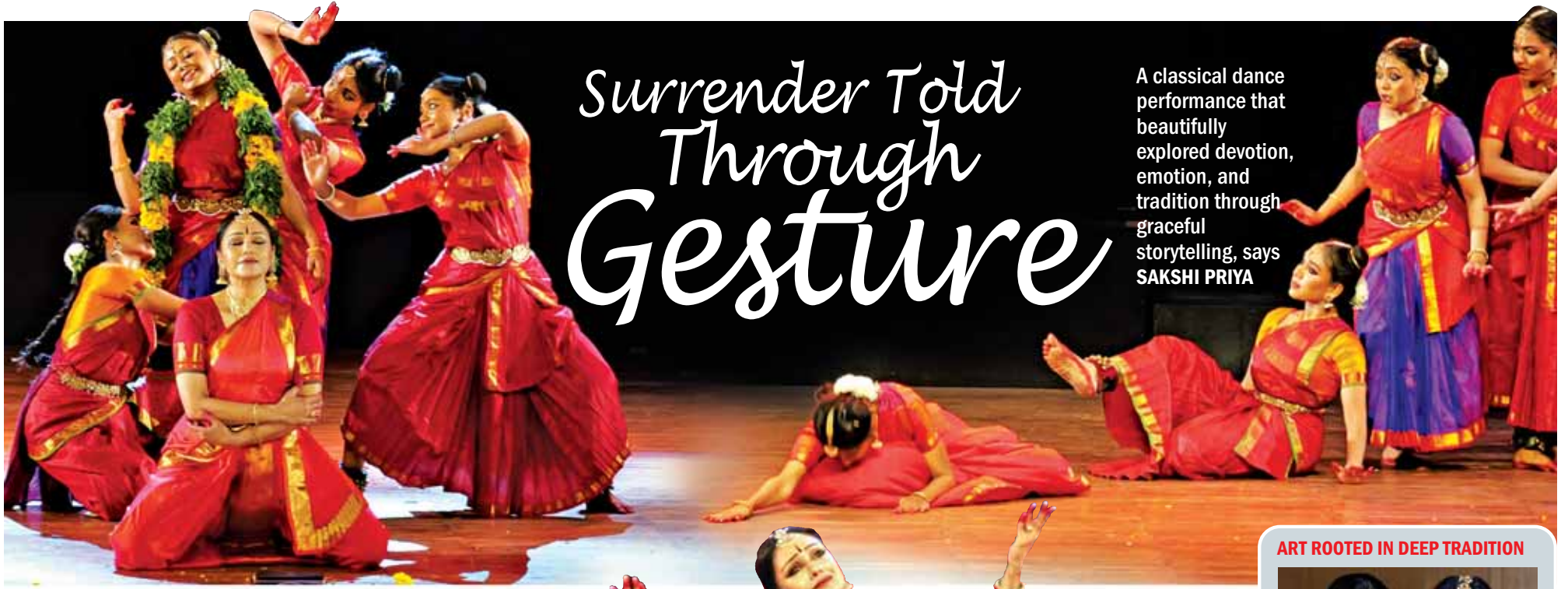
National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), one of the constituent Centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS) invites ONLINE applications for the post of SCIENTIST/ ENGINEER 'SC' under the following disciplines:-

Sl. No.	Disciplines	No. of Posts
01	Forestry & Ecology	02
02	Geoinformatics (MSc based)	02
03	Geology	05
04	Geophysics	02
05	Urban Studies	06
06	Water Resources	04
07	Geoinformatics (M.Tech based)	10

For eligibility criteria, detailed advertisement and to apply Online please visit <https://www.nrsc.gov.in>

Opening Date for On-line Registration:	10.05.2025 (1000 Hrs)
Closing Date for On-line Registration:	30.05.2025 (1700 Hrs)

CBC 49112/11/0002/2526



Surrender Told Through Gesture

A classical dance performance that beautifully explored devotion, emotion, and tradition through graceful storytelling, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

To witness true devotion is to see the soul dance and in this performance, the dancer became the voice of Andala's longing. HCL Concerts' recent presentation of *Maalyada — Andala's Sacred Garland* was an experience that left the audience quietly moved.

Choreographed by Rama Vaidyanathan and based on *Maalyada*, *The Sacred Garland*, the book by Jeysundhar D, the work drew from Andala's *Thiruppavai* and was accompanied by live music composed by Sudha Raghuraman. From the first movement, an emotional thread work through the performance. It avoided flourish and showmanship, focusing instead on a sincere portrayal of devotion. The approach resonated deeply, creating a mood that stayed well beyond the final curtain.

Nine Pathways to Bhakti

The choreography followed Nava Vidha Bhakti — the nine traditional forms of devotion, with coherence and emotional precision. Rama Vaidyanathan shared the stage with four of her disciples: Sayani Chakraborty, Reshika Sivakumar, Vaishnavi Dhore, and Shubhamani Chandrashekar. Together, they built a rhythm of gesture and meaning that gave shape to Andala's spiritual longing.

The journey began with *Shravanam*, the act of listening. Each gesture was attentive, almost reverential. In *Smaranam*, expressions carried a quiet ache, recalling Krishna with intimacy. *Sankeerthanam* brought a sense of lyrical energy, measured and full of clarity. *Pada Sevanam* offered one of the most touching moments of the evening. The portrayal of Andala at Krishna's feet carried a

stillness that seemed to hold time. In *Sakhyam*, devotion as friendship was expressed with gentle warmth, while *Dasyaminvoked* episodes from Krishna's life as the protector, each sequence distinct in mood and intention. The final section, *Atma Nivedanam*, a complete surrender, felt stripped of all ornament, pure, steady and heartfelt. The silence that followed in the auditorium was its own applause.



Music and Light in Dialogue with Dance

The live music — led by Sudha Raghuraman (vocal), Sumod Sreedharan (percussion), Raghuraman Govindarajan and Himanshu Srivastava (flute), and Sannidhi Vaidyanathan (mridangam) — provided an elegant and responsive framework. Rather than seeking prominence, the musicians supported the dancers with sensitivity. Their presence added emotional texture, allowing the audience to absorb each moment more fully.

Lighting by Gaurav Sharma played a restrained yet vital role. Gentle shifts in tone allowed the stage to adapt to each form of devotion. The production design was thoughtful, avoiding spectacle in favour of intimacy.

Celebrating Golden Year

This performance also coincided with a special milestone: this is the 50th year of Ganesha Natyalaya which is run by Rama Vaidyanathan, the Bharatanatyam institution founded by the late Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan. Celebrated through the Swarna Saroja Festival, the institution has grown from a small classroom to a cultural landmark.

The Institution has also been active in outreach, offering Bharatanatyam training to underprivileged students through collaborations with organisations such as the Guild of Service, Aravindam Foundation, and SARVAM. Over the past year alone, more than 35 events have been held across national and international platforms.

ART ROOTED IN DEEP TRADITION



Sudha Raghuraman and Rama Vaidyanathan brought together music and movement in a deeply reflective performance. Sudha's rich, emotive vocals blend effortlessly with Rama's expressive Bharatanatyam with grace and clarity rooted in artistic grace.

This context gave the performance an added layer of depth. It stood not only as an artistic interpretation of Andala's devotion, but also as a reflection of a long-standing commitment to preserving and evolving the Bharatanatyam tradition.

A Performance Rooted in Feeling

Throughout the evening, the performance avoided grand gestures in favour of quiet strength. Every movement was anchored in intention. The Performer led with clarity, allowing each dancer to bring her own energy to the stage. Rather than overpowering the space, the ensemble shaped it together, with balance, care and deep respect for the material. There was no distance between emotion and execution. Every section felt like a step in a spiritual journey, one shared between dancer and audience, saint and seeker.

A moving tribute to Andala's devotion, told with restraint and rare emotional clarity. For those present, it felt less like watching a performance and more like being invited into a sacred conversation. Few evenings in recent memory have offered such stillness, such grace, and such honesty on stage.

CAN ART STILL MOVE US TO SILENCE IN A WORLD FULL OF NOISE?

Maalyada - Andala's Sacred Garland, answers with a resounding yes — not through spectacle, but through sincerity. What stayed beyond the performance wasn't just choreography or technique, it was the emotional honesty work into each moment. This was an evening where Bharatanatyam spoke not to the intellect alone,

but to something quieter and deeper. In a time where tradition is often repackaged to suit trends, *Maalyada* held its ground — anchored in faith, simplicity and artistic integrity. The live music, careful lighting and absence of excess allowed the focus to remain on the essence of devotion. It was a moment of living it.

An Artist's Map of the Soul

BY TEAM VIVA

Some exhibitions speak; others whisper. Shinee Sharma's *The Journey of Soul* does neither — it listens. The works in this collection do not impose meaning but create space for it, drawing viewers into a dialogue with the unseen.

The exhibition is structured as a spiritual pilgrimage, beginning with *Hiranya Garbha*. Here, Sharma explores cosmic origins through a careful balance of form and emptiness. The golden tones suggest creation's first moments, while the deliberate negative space around them carries equal weight. This series establishes the exhibition's visual language — one where absence is as articulate as presence.

The Five That Form the World translates elemental energies into visual terms. Earth appears not as literal soil but through dense, textured layers of pigment. Water emerges in fluid brushstrokes that seem to ripple across the canvas.

Each element maintains its distinct character while contributing to a cohesive whole, much like the philosophical concepts they represent. In the *Maya* series, Sharma's technique becomes particularly compelling. Semi-transparent layers of paint create figures that appear



THE EXHIBITION SUCCEEDS BY CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR DISCOVERY. IN AN ART WORLD OFTEN DOMINATED BY SPECTACLE, SHARMA'S QUIET CONFIDENCE IN HER MATERIALS AND IDEAS FEELS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

solid from one angle yet dissolve when viewed differently. This literal visual trickery mirrors the exhibition's thematic concern with perception and reality. The artist's control of medium here is precise — each brushstroke serves both the immediate image and the larger philosophical inquiry. The final section, *The Gate of Liberation*, employs a restrained palette of deep blues and blacks punctuated by subtle metallic accents. The compositions are simpler but no less powerful, with geometric elements suggesting architectural thresholds. These works feel like inviting viewers to stand before them as one might at an actual gate — contemplating whether to cross, and what might lie beyond. Sharma's background in Sanskrit and philosophy informs every artistic decision, from colour choices to compositional structures.

The works reward close viewing — the texture of a particular brushstroke or the careful placement of a symbolic element often reveals deeper layers of meaning. The Tokyo showing attracted particular attention for how these deeply Indian philosophical concepts resonated with Japanese audiences.



How Paper Became Art's Living

A centuries-spanning exhibition reveals how artists have transformed humble sheets into vessels of memory and rebellion, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In an art world increasingly dominated by large-scale installations and digital spectacles, there's something quietly subversive about an exhibition that insists we pay attention to the humble sheet of paper. *Paper Alchemy: Tracing Memories* through Time does exactly this, revealing how this fragile medium has borne witness to centuries of artistic evolution in India. The exhibition opens with delicate Company School works that immediately challenge our expectations. The precision of botanical studies and architectural renderings demonstrates how paper became a meeting ground for cross-cultural exchange long before globalisation became a buzzword.

This exhibition of works on paper transforms what many consider a preliminary medium into the main event, proving that artistic significance isn't measured in square footage. These aren't dry documentation but vibrant encounters between European techniques and Indian subjects. The precision of botanical illustrations and architectural studies shows paper serving as both witness and participant in cultural exchange. The Bengal School section demonstrates paper's emotional range. Abanindranath Tagore's wash paintings use the medium's absorbency to create dreamlike images where forms emerge and dissolve like memories.

The way pigment interacts with fibers becomes a metaphor for history itself — certain details remain sharp while others fade into suggestion. Modernist works bring a different energy. The Progressive Artists' sketches and prints capture creative urgency, their spontaneous marks preserved

GREAT BANYAN ART REVEALS ITS EXQUISITE PRIVATE PAPER COLLECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN "PAPER ALCHEMY," PRESENTING 100+ MASTERWORKS THAT TRACE THREE CENTURIES OF ARTISTIC INNOVATION ON PAPER.

in ink and graphite. Souza's aggressive lines and Husain's fluid figures show artists testing ideas, using paper's immediacy to their advantage. These works remind us that some of the most vital art happens in notebooks, not just on canvases.

Contemporary artists push paper's possibilities further. Atul Dodiya and others treat the medium as raw material to be cut, layered and reconstructed. These pieces acknowledge paper's history while reinventing its potential, mirroring India's own balancing of tradition and innovation. The journey begins with pioneering British artists who shaped



early visual narratives of India. William Hodges' aquatints from *Select Views in India* (1780-1783), including *A View of a Mosque at Rajemaha*, *A View of the Jungle Terry*, demonstrate his ground-breaking approach to Indian landscapes. The Daniells' meticulous architectural studies like *Gate of the Tomb of Emperor Akbar* and *Govinda Ram Mittee's Pagoda*, Calcutta, from their *Oriental Scenery* series showcase their unparalleled documentary precision blended with artistic vision.

In an age of digital reproduction, *Paper Alchemy* feels particularly relevant. It celebrates the physical artifact while demonstrating how limitations can spark creativity. The exhibition doesn't overwhelm with spectacle, but invites a deeper engagement. Here, paper is an active collaborator in the artistic process, recording every decision and accident with equal fidelity.



Chopra, Rohit, Kohli back Indian armed forces amid conflict with Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India's sporting icons, including Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, have come out in strong support of the country's armed forces for their strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan, hailing them as "the soul of our nation."

India on Thursday night swiftly thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike its military bases with drones and missiles including in Jammu and Pathankot after foiling similar bids at 15 places in northern and western regions of the country, as tension soared between the two neighbours amid fears of a larger conflict.

"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! #OperationSindoor #JaiHind," Rohit wrote on his X account on Friday.



Modern-day great Kohli posted his tribute on his Instagram page.

"We stand in solidarity with, and salute our armed forces for fiercely protecting our country in these difficult times. We are forever indebted to our heroes for their unwavering bravery and heartfelt gratitude for

the sacrifices they and their families make for our great nation," Kohli wrote.

"We are proud of our Brave Indian Armed Forces who are fighting for our nation against Terrorism. Let's do our part and make sure to follow guidelines to ensure everyone's safety during this time,"

double Olympic-medallist Chopra posted. Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler Sindhu also paid tribute to the courage of Indian armed forces.

"To the brave men and women of the Indian Armed Forces — your courage, discipline, and sacrifice are the soul of our nation. In moments like OperationSindoor, we're reminded of the silent strength and selfless service that keep our tricolour flying high. India stands with you. Jai Hind" Sindhu posted.

Thursday's IPL match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was called off due to security reasons following air raid alerts in nearby areas, prompting the BCCI to suspend the league indefinitely.

Former opener Sehwaag blamed Pakistan for the current situation.

"War has been chosen by Pakistan when they had an opportunity to keep quiet. They have escalated to save their terrorist assets, speaks so much about them. Our forces will reply in the most appropriate manner, a manner Pakistan will never forget," Sehwaag posted on 'X'.

Monitoring situation in India, Pakistan: Cricket Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Sydney

Cricket Australia (CA) on Friday said it is "closely monitoring" the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan given that over 20 Australian players and coaches are currently involved in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Pakistan Super League.

The IPL was thrown into uncertainty on Thursday after air raid alerts in nearby cities forced the match between Delhi Capitals (DC) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) to be abandoned midway in Dharamsala.

The disruption has prompted the BCCI and IPL organisers to review the unfolding situation and consider their next steps.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to shift the remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League to the UAE due to growing security concerns.

"We continue to closely monitor the situation in Pakistan and India, including obtaining regular advice and updates from the Australian Government, the PCB, BCCI and local government

authorities" "...And maintaining communication with our players and support staff currently in the region," CA said in a statement.

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head and coaches Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin are involved in the IPL while the likes of former batter David Warner, pacers Ben Dwarshuis, Riley Meredith and Sean Abbott are competing in the PSL.

According to local media reports, several Australian players have expressed concerns about their safety and are keen to leave India as soon as possible.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday said government directives are being awaited before deciding on whether to continue with the league.

"We are reviewing the situation right now. It is an evolving situation. We haven't received any directive from the government. Obviously the decision will be taken keeping all the logistics in mind," Dhumal said on Thursday night.

However, he confirmed that Friday's match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru would go ahead "as of now."

Yashasvi Jaiswal wants to continue playing for Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has requested the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) to allow him to remain with the domestic giants, a month after asking for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to switch to Goa.

In April, Jaiswal surprised everyone by writing to the MCA to seek its approval for a shock move to Goa. On its part, the MCA too had swiftly approved Jaiswal's request.

PTI is in possession of Jaiswal's email to the MCA in which he said he is available to represent Mumbai in the next domestic season.

"I the undersigned would request your goodness to consider my request in withdrawing my NOC given to me as I had some family plans in shifting to Goa which for now has been curtailed!," Jaiswal wrote.

"So I sincerely request MCA to allow

me to play for Mumbai this season! I have not submitted the NOC to BCCI nor to Goa Cricket Association!," he added.

Jaiswal, who moved from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi to Mumbai as a young player and rose through the ranks to make his debut across formats for India over the last couple of years, was also believed to have shifted to Goa from Mumbai owing to the prospect of becoming their captain.

A packed international calendar perhaps would not have allowed the 23-year-old Jaiswal a lot of time to spend with Goa, but becoming their skipper would have given him some experience in major leadership roles.

The secretary of the Goa Cricket Association, Shamba Desai had earlier confirmed to PTI that Jaiswal would be their captain with the Goa team being promoted from Plate division to Elite ahead of the 2025-26 season.

Why scrapping of Asia Cup is best option for BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The currently suspended Indian Premier League's (IPL) 16 remaining games can be completed during a 10 to 12 days window in September as the Asia Cup is now uncertain due to the rising armed hostilities between India and Pakistan.

It would be a miracle if Asia Cup, which is supposed to be hosted by India (at a supposedly neutral venue), goes ahead given the raging conflict which was triggered by the killing of 26 people in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The nearly non-existent sporting ties are unlikely to resume at any level till tensions ease. The Asia Cup was given a 19-day window in September where at least two Indo-Pak matches were to take place apart from the possibility of a final clash between the bitter rivals which would have assured the broadcasters of high advertising revenue.

"It is extremely bad optics if cricket continues when there is a possibility of war

with a rogue nation (Pakistan). Sports can continue when everything is normal. Plus it is very natural for foreign players and coaches to be wary and wanting to return home," a senior BCCI official told PTI on condition of anonymity after the league was suspended indefinitely on Friday.

Incidentally, the Asian Cricket Council is now headed by Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi and the onus will be on him to deal with financial losses that the Asia Cup cancellation would cause.

It is understood that the BCCI top brass' decision to suspend the league was well thought out call as only a handful of matches are left which can be completed in a 10-day window with possible double-headers.

The options for BCCI?

The IPL has a dedicated window from March end to May end during which no international cricket is scheduled allowing the best of world cricket to ply their trade in the league. Now that the schedule has gone haywire, the BCCI will have to

explore the available options.

The Indian team will be touring England from first week of June to first week of August and that schedule cannot be changed. The only period that looks good right now is between the second and fourth week of September where the BCCI can also negotiate with the various cricket boards to allow their players (except for freelancers who don't need permission) to come back and complete the assignment.

Why not August?

In August, India have a six-match white ball away series against Bangladesh which could have been stalled for IPL. However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)'s 'The Hundred' will be played between August 5 to 31 where most of the top T20 players, who also play in IPL, will be taking part.

Most IPL franchise owners like Reliance and RPSG group have bought stakes in 'The Hundred'.

Also Australia will be hosting South Africa for a six-match white ball series

through the month of August so players from both countries won't be available.

Why September is best option

From August 15 till September 22, the Caribbean Premier League will also be held where some of the top West Indies players are going to take part. But during the second week of September, a fair number of West Indies players can be made available for their respective IPL teams.

England and South Africa have a six-match white-ball series from September 2 to 14. Given the cordial relationship that BCCI shares with both the ECB and Cricket South Africa, it can request them to allow the players important to their IPL teams to be released during the window.

After All SA20 is also a league that runs on investment from IPL franchises.

By end of September, India's WTC (World Test Championship) commitments against the West Indies and South Africa will commence followed by a white-ball tour of Australia in October-November.

Chelsea advances to Conference League final against Real Betis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Chelsea rested its regular starters and still comfortably advanced to the Conference League final by beating Djurgården 1-0 in their semi-final second leg. The Premier League club advanced 5-1 on aggregate to set up a May 28 title match against Real Betis, which prevailed in extra time for a 4-3 aggregate win over Fiorentina to reach its first European final.

At Stamford Bridge, midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall collected a through pass from Tyrrique George before scoring the winner with a low left-footed shot in the 38th minute.

"Amazing to be in the final," Dewsbury-Hall told TNT Sports.

"We set our sights at the start of the season to get as far as we can in this tournament and it has been a long couple of months but one more game to go and hopefully we can lift that trophy." Chelsea remains on course to become the first club to win all major European competitions. The Blues have claimed the Champions League (2012, '21), the Europa League (2013, '19), Cup Winners' Cup (1971, '98) and Super Cup (1998, '21). The final takes place in Wroclaw, Poland.

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca used only Marc Cucurella from the team that beat the new Premier League champion Liverpool 3-1 on Sunday.

Sixteen-year-old midfielder Reggie Walsh was given his first career start and drew frequent fouls from the opposition defense. When he was used as substitute in the first leg, he became the third youngest player for Chelsea, the club said. The Conference League champion is rewarded with a place in the second-tier Europa League next season, hardly a desirable bonus for Chelsea given that it is fighting in the Premier League for a Champions League spot.

Chelsea, in fifth place in the Premier League, should have fresh legs Sunday when it plays at Newcastle.

In Florence, Antony crossed for substitute Abdessamad Ezzalzouli in the 97th minute to score past goalkeeper David De Gea for a 2-2 draw that sent Betis to the final. Ezzalzouli also scored in the first-leg 2-1 victory in Sevilla last week. Betis increased its aggregate lead from the first leg to 3-1 with a goal from Antony in the 30th. The midfielder, who is at Betis on loan from Manchester United, netted with a curling free kick that hit the post before bouncing into the net for his fourth goal in the competition.

Fiorentina's equaliser — on the evening — came four minutes later from a header by Robin Gosens off a corner kick.

UAE set to decline PCB request to host PSL games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) plans to conduct the remaining Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the UAE may not succeed as the Emirates Cricket Board is "unlikely to approve" its request due to the border tensions between India and Pakistan.

A source close to the developments in the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) has indicated that the Board is set to reject the request from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which has already announced that the PSL would be held in the UAE.

The source has cited "security concerns potentially emanating from the rising tension between India and Pakistan."

It is learnt that the recent developments have made the Emirates Cricket Board "vary of being perceived as an ally of PCB," which it believes the act of hosting the PSL may suggest.

The Emirates Cricket Board has enjoyed a strong relationship with BCCI in recent years having hosted the 'India' edition of the ICC T20 World Cup 2021, editions of the IPL as well as India matches during ICC Champions Trophy

2025," the source further stated.

Dubai is also the headquarter of the International Cricket Council, which is currently headed by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

"The UAE has a diverse South Asian population which enjoys cricket. Hosting a tournament like the PSL in the midst of such tense circumstances could vitiate harmony, pose security risks and stir unnecessary friction between communities," the source said.

The PCB said early this morning that the last eight PSL fixtures, which were previously scheduled in Rawalpindi, Multan and Lahore, will now be staged in the UAE.

Schedule of matches, outlining the dates and venues, will be shared in due course, a statement said.

On Thursday, the PCB called off a scheduled match between Peshawar Zalmi and Karachi Kings at the Rawalpindi stadium.

India launched missile attacks on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir a fortnight after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

FIFA's President Infantino plans to visit Saudi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Geneva

FIFA President Gianni Infantino will go to Saudi Arabia next week during US President Donald Trump's state visit while the soccer body's 211 member federations gather at their annual Congress being held in Paraguay.

It is unprecedented in modern times for a FIFA president to skip any part of the days-long congress program, where FIFA voters in soccer's six continental bodies caucus ahead of the main meeting often called the sport's parliament.

"The FIFA president has accepted invitations to attend a series of important events with world leaders, where FIFA World Cups will also be discussed," soccer's governing body said in a statement.

Infantino also is expected to visit Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host which also is on the US President's Middle East tour schedule. Infantino's close ties to Trump during the president's first term have grown stronger in about 10 meetings together since December, including Tuesday at the White House with a task force to oversee federal plans for the 2026 World Cup being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The FIFA leader also meets regularly with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose kingdom will host the



men's World Cup in 2034. Infantino helped steer those hosting rights to Saudi Arabia in an uncontested vote last December.

Infantino is expected to return from the Middle East in time for the FIFA Congress on Thursday, the last meeting of all FIFA members before they come to the 2026 World Cup.

It also is their first meeting together since before the online votes six months ago that confirmed the Saudi bid for 2034 and sent the 2030 edition to Spain, Portugal and Morocco plus single games in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay.

He had been due Tuesday in the Paraguayan capital Asuncion to chair an in-person meeting of FIFA's ruling council. It is now moved up four days for an online session Friday that clears Infantino's schedule for the kind of geopolitical trip he has seemed to relish detailing on his Instagram account.

Infantino and FIFA have consistently said he needs to maintain good relations with the Trump administration to ensure the 48-team, six-week tournament is safe and successful. FIFA voters chose the North American bid in 2018 when it was backed by then-President Trump.

Manchester United, Tottenham reach Europa League final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Manchester

For Manchester United or Tottenham, a miserable campaign will end in Europa League glory. Despite both teams languishing in the bottom half of the Premier League, the Champions League is now just one game away.

That's the reward on offer after the two troubled English clubs advanced to the final of Europe's second-tier competition on Thursday. United beat Athletic Bilbao 4-1 in the semi-final second leg at Old Trafford and won 7-1 on aggregate. Tottenham won 2-0 away at Bodo/Glimt to seal a 5-1 aggregate victory. It sets up an all-English Europa League final for the second time in six years after Chelsea beat Arsenal to lift the trophy in 2019.

"If we don't win the final, it means nothing for us," United coach Ruben Amorim said. "It's hard to describe what it's like to be manager of this club. You want to give them (the fans) something, because we've been so disappointing in the Premier League." United came back from 1-0 down at halftime against Bilbao, with Mason Mount coming off the bench to score twice after the break. Casemiro and Rasmus Hojlund were also on target.

Dominic Solanke and Pedro Porro struck for Tottenham against Bodo/Glimt in Norway. "That is a good thing and a bad thing

The final is in Bilbao on May 21. "It's an unbelievable feeling," Spurs defender Micky van de Ven said. "We've had a tough season, but we're one game away from winning silverware." A major title, alone, would be enough to salvage what has otherwise been a season to forget for both United and Spurs. But the added prize of a place in the lucrative Champions League would put the winner back among Europe's elite next term.

That hasn't looked likely for either team for most of the campaign as they have languished closer to the relegation zone than the top five. United is 15th in the standings having lost a club record 16 games in the Premier League. It is also certain to record its worst-ever points total in the modern era, as well as its lowest finish. For Tottenham, it's even worse — sitting one place below United after a club record-equaling 19 losses in the Premier League. Now, one of those teams has the chance to effectively erase their woeful domestic form by winning the final, which will be the fourth time they have faced each other this season.

Spurs won all three of the previous encounters — twice in the league and also in the English League Cup. "We are struggling, both of us, so I don't know what is going to happen," Amorim said. "That is a good thing and a bad thing



with this team. I never know."

United's two-legged victory over Bilbao defied its performances for most of the season, which saw former coach Erik ten Hag fired in October and his replacement, Amorim, oversee 12 losses in 24 league games. Bilbao, fourth in the Spanish league, trailed 3-0 from the first leg but mounted a fightback through Mikel Jauregizar's curling long-range shot in the 31st minute at Old Trafford.

There were signs of nerves in United's play as the visitors applied more pressure,

but the introduction of Mount in the 62nd turned the game. He spun and curled a low shot past Bilbao goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala 10 minutes after coming on. Casemiro headed United in front in the 79th and Hojlund scored from close range in the 85th.

Mount got his second when he spotted Agirrezabala off his line in the first minute of stoppage time and fired home from near the halfway line.

It is United's third Europa League final in eight years, having won the competition

in 2017. United won the FA Cup last year and the League Cup in 2023 and this would be a third trophy-winning season in a row.

It would also be Amorim's first for the club after winning two Portuguese league titles with Sporting Lisbon. He described it as "massive." "For me it's the most important because it's the next one," he said. Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou insists he always delivers a trophy in his second year in charge.

That was true at his previous clubs Brisbane Roar, Yokohama F Marinos and Celtic. But even the most optimistic of Spurs fans must have questioned whether he could maintain that record, given the team's struggles this season.

Now he is one game away from coming good on his statement. Spurs led 3-1 from the first leg against a Bodo/Glimt team that became the first from Norway to reach a major European semifinal. But the trip to the Aspremyr Stadion, located north of the Arctic Circle, with an artificial playing field, meant there was still some prospect of a comeback.

Two goals in six minutes in the second half killed off any thought of that, with Solanke scoring in the 63rd and Porro adding the second. Spurs' last trophy was the League Cup in 2008. Chelsea will play Real Betis in the final of the UEFA Conference League.