



BUSINESS | PAGE 08

No fuel shortage, oil companies assure public



WORLD | PAGE 09

Russia holds Victory Day parade

Marks 80th anniversary of defeat of Nazi Germany in second World War



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

It's been an overwhelming response: Pooja Hegde

PAK USING CIVILIAN PLANES AS SHIELDS

300-400 Turkish drones deployed to target 36 Indian locations from Leh to Sir Creek, says Centre

PTI
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said Pakistan launched between 300 and 400 Turkish drones across 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek in its failed attempt to target Indian military installations on Thursday night and also accused that country of using its civilian planes as a “shield” for its aerial attacks endangering the flights.

As Pakistan launched multiple drone attacks again on Friday night, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Pakistan’s strike on places of worship and its “preposterous” attempts 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 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.

At a media briefing, Misri slammed Pakistan’s provocative and escalatory actions to try and target Indian cities and civilian infrastructure using drones on Thursday night.



Colonel Sofiya Qureshi shows a radar screenshot displaying the route of a Pakistan civilian aircraft from Daman to Lahore even as the neighbouring country targeted India’s bordering States with drones, in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: PTI/MEA

Most drones were downed using kinetic and non-kinetic means, said Col Sofiya Qureshi of the Army and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the briefing. The remarks came amid

intensified military action between India and Pakistan following India’s strike on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under ‘Operation Sindoor’ early Wednesday in a powerful

retaliation to the Pahalgam massacre on April 22 in which 26 tourists were killed. The two military officials said Pakistan used its civilian airliners as a “shield” as it did not close its civil airspace during its at-

tempts to attack Indian installations with drones and missiles on May 7, knowing fully well that the strikes would elicit a swift response from India. (SEE PAGE 2)

(TERRITORIAL ARMY CAN BE MOBILISED: CENTRE PAGE 5)

Three killed as Pakistan continues to shell border

JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Relentless heavy artillery and mortar shelling by Pakistan continued for a third consecutive day on the volatile Jammu and Kashmir border following Operation Sindoor, claiming three lives, while the BSF thwarted a major infiltration attempt, killing seven terrorists.

Blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the Jammu region and south Kashmir as many parts of

the Union Territory plunged into darkness, officials said. Defence officials said drones were also sighted in Jammu, Samba and neighbouring Pathankot district in Punjab and they were being engaged.

In Srinagar, mosque loudspeakers were used to convey to locals to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure. Explosions were heard in areas surrounding the Awantipora air base in south Kashmir. The officials said the drones

were also engaged in Udhampur and Nagrota of Jammu and Punjab.

In a related development, heavy cross-border shelling started along the International Border in Suchetgarh and Ramgarh sectors of Jammu and Samba districts. Multiple aerial threats coming from Pakistan were intercepted in Jaisalmer for a second consecutive night. The threat prompted forces to issue a red alert and blackouts in several border districts. (SEE PAGE 2)

Andhra soldier martyred along LoC

AMARAVATI: A soldier from Andhra Pradesh has been killed in the heavy shelling by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. Murali Nayak of the Sri Sathya Sai district lost his life in the indiscriminate shelling by the Pakistan Army. The jawan, hailing from Kallithanda village under Gad-damthanda panchayat, was on duty on the front lines. His mortal remains are expected to reach his native place on Saturday. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

Pak’s F-16, two JF-17 jets downed

NEW DELHI: Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, India has shot down Pakistan Air Force’s F-16 as well as two JF-17 aircraft after Pakistan tried to attack multiple locations in Jammu and Punjab, government sources said. Earlier on Thursday, Pakistan made attempts to target several locations in India; however, Indian air defence guns shot down the intruding drones. India also shot down Pakistan’s Airborne Warning and Control System inside its Punjab province, sources said. (ANS)

US to stay out of war, says Vance

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 JD Vance said in an interview.

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

Vance quoted Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio who said Washington wants the tensions to “de-escalate” quickly. “We can’t control these countries though. Fundamentally, India has its gripes with Pakistan. Pakistan has responded to India,” he said. (PTI)

PM chairs defence meeting

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting with the top defence establishment on Friday to take stock of the security situation.

With the conflict between India and Pakistan heating up, Modi met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and the three service chiefs

and the Chief of Defence Staff to strategise over the future course of action.

The conflict with Pakistan has intensified with the armed forces responding proportionately and adequately to Pakistani attempts to target Indian installations on the intervening night of May 8-9.

Pakistan violated Indian airspace to target the military installations, Wing

Commander Vyomika Singh said at a briefing. She said Pakistan sent 300-400 drones in 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek to target Indian military installations. The drones were shot down by the Indian military.

Earlier in the day, Modi held interactions with veterans, including former chiefs of the three services, taking their feedback on the current situation. (PTI)

IPL suspended for a week

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

It’s official. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing TATA IPL 2025 with immediate effect for one week.

Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due

course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders. The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed the concern and sentiments of their players.

TG EAPCET results tomorrow

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2025 results will be declared on Sunday, May 11. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education department portfolio, will release the results.

After the results announcement, candidates can view their rank and score card on the website eapcet.tgche.ac.in/. The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad, which organised the test, conducted the EAPCET committee meeting on Friday and finalised the final keys and results announcement date.

A total of 86,762 candidates registered and 81,918 appeared for the AP entrance test on April 29-30.

LRS deadline extended

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana government has decided to once again extend the 25 per cent concession on Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) fees till May 31. The decision was taken following a lukewarm public response and facing technical hurdles in implementation.

Official orders to this effect are expected to be issued over next a couple of days. Initially launched in 2020, the LRS scheme received 25.67 lakh applications. While the previous BRS government cleared around nine lakh applications, the remaining applications were taken up after the Congress came to power. (SEE PAGE 2)

Trump hints at cutting China tariffs to 80%

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Friday floated cutting tariffs on China from 145 per cent to 80 per cent ahead of a weekend meeting among top US and Chinese trade officials as he looks to deescalate the trade war.

Top US officials are set to meet with a high-level Chinese delegation in Switzerland in the first major talks

between the two nations since Trump sparked a trade war with stiff tariffs on imports. “80% Tariff on China seems right! Up to Scott B,” Trump wrote on his social media account on Friday morning, referring to Scott Bessent, his Treasury chief, who has been a point person on trade.

The President also called on China to open its markets to the US. (AP)

Get ready for local body polls, BRS cadre told

STATE BUREAU
Khammam

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has directed the party cadres and leaders to work with people in fighting against the Congress misrule and get ready for the ensuing local body elections.

He said BRS was the only party that works for the welfare of Telangana people and the development of the

State. The Congress party which came to power with false promises during Assembly elections has failed the State on many fronts.

Many welfare schemes such as KCR Kits, Kalyana Lakshmi/Shadi Mubarak, Rythu Bandhu, Aasara pensions and others introduced by previous BRS government were halted by the Congress government, Rama Rao alleged. (SEE PAGE 2)



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