

# S.O.S. Int'l defers PoK March, condemns India's ceasefire with Pakistan as a missed opportunity for National Security

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: S.O.S. International, a prominent organization advocating for the rights of refugees displaced from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK), convened an urgent meeting of its office bearers and district heads on Sunday at Jammu, focused on the organization's response to the India-Pakistan ceasefire and the ongoing struggle for the liberation of PoK.

On May 6, 2025, S.O.S. International, led by Chairman Rajiv Chuni, announced a peaceful march from Jammu to PoK to demand reclamation of ancestral lands from Pakistan's illegal occupation. Mr. Chuni highlighted Pakistan's use of PoK as a terrorist hub, enabling cross-border attacks that have killed countless Indians.

"PoK is not just a territory; it is our homeland," he asserted. The announcement galvanized PoK refugees and supporters who saw this as a matter of justice and sovereignty. However, military tensions between India and Pakistan forced a halt to the plan.

After India's targeted mili-



S.O.S. International, led by Chairman Rajiv Chuni at a meeting.

tary strikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK, war erupted between the nations, compelling S.O.S. International to postpone the march for safety. "Our intention was to assert our rights peacefully, but the outbreak of war necessitated a temporary pause," said Chuni.

On May 10, 2025, India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire, halting hostilities. Though the ceasefire ended active conflict, it was met with outrage from PoK refugees and S.O.S. International, who saw it as a premature compromise that ignored the core issues of occupation and terrorism.

At the Rehari Colony meeting, Chuni expressed deep disappointment over the ceasefire, stating it was accepted without achieving the liberation of PoK or dismantling Pakistan's terror infrastructure.

"This war presented a historic opportunity to reclaim PoK and eradicate the terror ecosystem that threatens our security. The government has prioritized short-term political interests over long-term national welfare and justice for PoK refugees," he said. Chuni questioned the rationale behind the ceasefire, highlighting that Pakistan's occupation and terror support remain

untouched. "Why did our government stop short of smashing the terror camps and reclaiming our land?" he asked. "This decision risks prolonging the suffering of PoK refugees and emboldens Pakistan."

He added that the central leadership had vowed to sacrifice their lives for PoK, and now, after 78 years, a genuine opportunity had emerged to retrieve it but all in vain.

"The leadership has always said Kashmir is our internal issue-then why has India allowed US interference this time? Most of the people killed in cross-border firing in Poonch were refugees from PoK. That means we are just living to die. This is clearly not acceptable to us," he stated.

S.O.S. International stressed that the ceasefire impacts all of India, not just PoK refugees. Allowing Pakistan to retain control of PoK and its terror infrastructure, they argued, undermines national security and betrays the sacrifices of the armed forces. "The nation has united around 'PoK is ours' and 'zero tolerance for terrorism.' This

ceasefire, without tangible gains, weakens those resolves," said Chuni.

He also warned against political motivations behind the ceasefire, cautioning that while such gains may be temporary, the consequences of missing this chance to secure PoK and eliminate terrorism will be long-lasting.

Chuni urged the Government of India to reconsider its stance in future talks with Pakistan, saying, "We will not rest until PoK is reunited with India and the scourge of terrorism is eradicated."

He also appealed to the people of India to stand in solidarity with PoK refugees and support their struggle. "This is not just our fight; it is a fight for the soul of our nation. PoK belongs to India, and we must ensure that no compromise undermines our sovereignty or security," Chuni said.

Prominent among those who attended today's meeting includes Prof. N. N. Sharma, V. K. Datta, Ved Raj Bali, Amarjeet Singh, Jagjeet Singh, Shanti Devi, Daleep Chib, Ashok Sharma, Vipin Sharma, Bimla Devi, D. V. Gupta and others.

# Natrang stages political satire 'Topian'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Keeping the theatre spirit alive and endorsing the belief 'Show must go On', Natrang amid tensions staged a hard hitting political satire 'Topian' written by Mani Madhukar and directed by Neeraj Kant here at Natrang studio theatre. It is pertinent to mention that Natrang is performing non-stop theatre every Sunday since last 22 years which is a record in the country. Most appropriate and timely presentation on the contemporary political scene of the country, the play is a dig on the lusty politicians who can change colors faster than a chameleon just to ensure that they remain in power. For them, the mission is to befool the public and for that they have the requisite theatrical art, know-how, expertise and the excellence to transform themselves to any color or attire as per the situation and the requirement. Human civilization has witnessed a lot of social and political revolutions, each time thinkers and philosophers have sold new political thoughts and doctrine of governance. But ironically the same faces have made their way to power just by hiding real faces in new masks. They have been changing the color of their



Natrang artists performing in a play.

caps and not their mind set.

In the backdrop of the story of two neighbors who pledge to change the political scene are shown looking for alternatives. Each time they come across a person they meet only those wearing different caps and attire offering them a variety of manifestos. Each time they identify him as a different person and expect a different ideology from him. This way they succumb to his tactics. Over time when they find that nothing is changing, the slogans of socialism are furthering the divide between rich and poor; quality of life is deteriorating day by day and the security of life and property is at the mercy of God. Both muster courage and strip the person selling those dreams. Surprisingly inside clothes they find that he is the same person and every time he used to come to them in

different attire.

The playwright has successfully portrayed that the politicians are the same; they only change their caps and their colors just to befool the public. They can be friends and enemies at the same time, their equations and confrontations change for lust of power. This absurd play posed a big challenge before the young actors of Natrang but interestingly their handling of the characters surprised many. Aryan Sharnaplayed the central character of the play who frequently changes into different colors was beautifully portrayed by him.

The two neighbors were played by Adaksh Bagal and Kartik Kumar. Both gave engrossing performances. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Randhawa inspects JDA parks in Trikuta Nagar, emphasizes development, public welfare



MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa interacting with officials during visit to JDA park.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, today conducted an extensive visit to various Jammu Development Authority (JDA) parks across the Trikuta Nagar area. Accompanied by senior officers and field teams from JDA, the inspection was aimed at addressing ongoing issues and accelerating the pace of developmental works in the parks.

During his visit, Ch. Randhawa interacted with local residents and park users

who shared their concerns regarding maintenance, lighting, pathways, and availability of recreational facilities. The MLA took serious note of the grievances and directed JDA officials to prioritize the improvement of basic amenities, including the installation of new benches, repair of walking tracks, upgradation of children's play areas, and strengthening of security measures. Speaking to the media, Ch. Randhawa said, "Public parks are the lungs of

our urban areas. They are essential for the well-being of our citizens, especially children and the elderly. I have instructed the JDA teams to ensure timely completion of developmental works and to maintain high standards of cleanliness and safety."

The MLA also emphasized the need for developing green spaces in line with modern landscaping trends and encouraged active participation from local residents and welfare associations in park upkeep.

JDA officials assured that immediate action will be taken on the directives issued during the visit, and a detailed development plan for all parks in Trikuta Nagar will be rolled out in phases.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa reaffirmed his commitment to the overall development of the Bahu constituency and called for coordinated efforts to enhance public spaces for the benefit of all citizens.

# Katra Chamber promotes pilgrimage tourism in GITB Jaipur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAIPUR: The Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department made a remarkable impression at the recently concluded Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB) 2025, held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This premier travel mart, renowned for its global scale and participation from over 50 countries, served as a powerful platform to promote India's diverse tourism offerings, with special emphasis on pilgrimage tourism in Katra, the revered gateway to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

The J&K Pavilion was led by Vikas Gupta, Director of Tourism, alongside Owias Mushtaq, Additional Secretary, Sana Khan, Under Secretary, and Arif Lone, Assistant Director, who showcased the Union Territory's immense tourism potential to an international audience of particular focus was



Katra Chamber members at GITB 2025 held in Jaipur.

Katra, a spiritual hub that continues to attract millions of devotees each year and remains one of the cornerstones of J&K's pilgrimage tourism.

Prominently representing the stakeholders from the region, Raj Kumar Padha, President Chamber of Tourism, Trade and Industry Katra, actively championed the initiatives aimed at promoting pilgrimage and holistic tourism in and around Katra. He was joined by several key players from the tourism industry including Arun Sharma (MTMC), Joginder (Rama

Trident), Nitin Gupta (Marriott Katra), Amritpal (Vivanta Jammu), Raneeet (Vivanta Katra), Munish (Marriott), and Shabbir Jargar (Saaj Valley)-all of whom contributed to the dynamic representation of the region's hospitality and service sectors.

The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries including Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Tourism and Culture Government of India, Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister Rajasthan, Pravati Parida, Deputy Chief Minister Government

of Odisha, Suman Berry, Vice Chairperson NITI Aayog, Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Tourism Government of Goa, Suman Billa, Additional Secretary and Director General Ministry of Tourism Government of India, Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President FICCI & CMD the Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, and Dr. Senthil Gopinath, CEO International Congress and Convention Association and several other global tourism business leaders.

With participation from over 50 countries, GITB 2025 highlighted India's growing stature as a vibrant and globally competitive tourism destination. Their presence highlighted the growing importance of collaboration between government bod-

ies, industry leaders, and global buyers in shaping the future of Indian tourism.

Raj Kumar Padha reaffirmed India's growing stature as a globally competitive tourism destination, with Jammu & Kashmir emerging as a standout region for spiritual, natural, and cultural tourism. The interactions at the event have opened new avenues for collaboration, investment, and international promotion, particularly for Katra's pilgrimage circuit, which is rapidly evolving with enhanced infrastructure, connectivity, and experiential offerings.

The participation of J&K Tourism at GITB 2025 underscores its commitment to transforming the Union Territory into a year-round destination that appeals to both domestic and international travelers, anchored by spiritual sanctity and enriched by scenic beauty.

# Dr Jitendra launches Blood Donation Camp, expresses solidarity with security forces

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: In a heartfelt expression of solidarity with India's defence forces and the larger cause of national service, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Friday launched a Voluntary Blood donation Camp at Ambedkar International Centre here and appealed to the community to come forward and voluntarily donate blood, emphasizing the creation of a "Blood Bank for National Service" in the wake of the current security situation. The Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was facilitated with the joint effort of the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Indian Red Cross Society. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that his Ministry is among the first



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh interacting with donors during Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on Sunday.

to undertake such an initiative. He underscored the vital role of the scientific community not only as innovators but also as compassionate citizens committed to national welfare.

"Modern warfare is technology-driven, and while we in the

scientific community continue contributing through innovation, it is equally our duty to respond to the call of humanity by supporting our brave forces. Blood donation is a symbolic yet powerful act of standing together in the nation's time of

need," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

Aligned with this year's National Technology Day theme - "YANTRA: Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration" - the camp highlighted the ethical and humanitarian dimensions of science, reinforcing the idea that scientific excellence must also serve social responsibility.

The camp saw enthusiastic participation from over 100 volunteers, including scientists, researchers, students, and staff from various scientific institutions. Dr. Jitendra Singh personally interacted with the donors, commending their selfless service and dispelling common myths surrounding blood donation, drawing on his medical background as a renowned endocrinologist. The Minister

also informed that similar blood donation camps will be organized across all scientific departments and institutions in the coming weeks, aiming to create a robust and diverse national blood pool that can be mobilized during emergencies.

"This initiative echoes the vision of PM Narendra Modi, who has consistently advocated for science to be embedded in societal welfare and national service," Dr. Singh added.

The Ministry of Science & Technology extends its sincere appreciation to the Indian Red Cross Society, all participating institutions, and every individual who contributed to this noble cause on a momentous day that celebrates the spirit of Indian science and its commitment to nation-building.

# BJP's activists, supporters welcome ceasefire between India and Pakistan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A meeting of the Legal Cell of Movement Kalki (Future Thinkers) was convened on Sunday under the leadership of Senior Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli.

During the meeting, it was unanimously decided that the organization will continue to provide free legal assistance to Amarnath pilgrims this year as well, continuing a tradition that has already benefitted thousands of devotees over the past two years.

Several distinguished members of the legal team participated in the meet-

ing, including Advocate Uma Kapahi, Advocate Harmeet Singh, Advocate Raghav Kohli, Advocate Bilal, Advocate Nitin, Advocate Gourav, Advocate Kunak Kohli, Advocate Nikunj Sharma, Advocate Manav Dogra, Advocate Lucky Singh, among others.

The Legal Cell also expressed satisfaction over the ongoing ceasefire situation in the country. They emphasized that timely and firm decisions by strong leadership have played a crucial role in maintaining stability and steering the nation on the right path.

Commenting on the

recent terror attack in Pahalgam, in which innocent civilians lost their lives, the Legal Cell stated that India has given an appropriate response. They condemned such cowardly acts orchestrated by Pakistan and warned that any repeat of such aggression would push the country toward an unavoidable war. The Cell urged the government to remain vigilant against such threats.

The Legal Cell of Movement Kalki reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to justice and service, standing firmly in solidarity with the nation during challenging times.

# SBSP welcomes ceasefire decision between India and Pakistan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Vivek Bali, State President Jammu and Kashmir, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), has welcomed the ceasefire decision agreed upon by India and Pakistan, hailing it as a significant step towards maintaining peace and stability in the region. This development is expected to bring relief to the people who have been suffering due to the ongoing tensions.

The potential escalation of the situation would have had severe consequences, particularly for the innocent civilians. We commend the bravery and dedication of our armed forces who have been standing strong on the borders, protecting our nation. Their valour and sacrifice are a testament to their unwavering commitment to our country's security.



Bali said "The impact of conflict on daily life is devastating. School-going children suffer the most, with their education and future being put on hold due to the uncertain situation. The stressful environment affects everyone, and the standstill of day-to-day life is a stark reality that no one should have to endure. By agreeing to a

ceasefire, both nations have taken a step towards normalizing life for their citizens"

This moment also highlights the unity and resilience of our nation in the face of adversity. The recent tensions have shown that despite our differences, we stand united in our commitment to national security and integrity. SBSP believes that this unity should now be channelled towards strengthening our defence forces, ensuring they have the best resources and support to protect our nation.

SBSP commended the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his strategic decision-making in this situation. His leadership and vision for peace, while ensuring national security, are commendable.

# BSP expresses grief over death of ADDC Dr. Rajkumar Thapa

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has expressed profound sorrow over the tragic death of Dr. Rajkumar Thapa, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADDC) of Rajouri, who was martyred in Pakistani shelling. The party has also urged the government to posthumously honor Dr. Thapa with a state award in recognition of his dedicated public service. On Sunday, BSP Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana, accompanied by other senior party leaders, visited the residence of the late Dr. Thapa to offer condolences. They met with the grieving family and expressed solidarity during this difficult time. Special condolences were extended to Dr. Thapa's father, Shri Durga Dass.

Speaking on the occasion, President Darshan Rana said,



BSP J&K leaders expressing grief with family members of Dr. Rajkumar Thapa, ADDC Rajouri.

"The untimely demise of Dr. Rajkumar Thapa has shocked everyone.

Wherever he served, he worked with sincerity for the

welfare of the people. His loss is irreparable."

He further added that Dr. Thapa was a strong believer in the ideology of Baba Saheb Dr.

Bhimrao Ambedkar and consistently worked to advance the Ambedkarite movement through his public service. Darshan Rana also demanded

that the government extend every possible support to families affected by Pakistani shelling. He proposed a compensation of at least Rs. 20 lakh for those injured, along with proper medical treatment. Additionally, he urged the government to assist in rebuilding the houses damaged during the shelling.

"In this hour of crisis, the Bahujan Samaj Party stands firmly with the affected people and will continue to demand justice and relief from the government," Rana emphasized.

The BSP also mourned the loss of soldiers and civilians martyred in the shelling. Prominent leaders present during the visit included BSP Vice President Charnjit Chagotra, State Coordinator Gourab, Zone Coordinator Darshan Thapa, District President Tarsem Lal, and other senior functionaries.