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administrative roles. This is expected to enhance scientific capabilities and eliminate redundancy.

For the Town Planning Organisation (TPO), the focus is on strengthening town planning functions to meet the growing demands of modern urban development. The restructuring includes creation of specialised units, establishment of policy cells, and realignment of field offices for better coordination and project execution, the meeting was informed.

The Architects Organisation, established in 1971 and responsible for high-value infrastructure projects across J&K, will also undergo structural changes to revitalise its functioning and align with present-day infrastructural needs.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), which has seen a significant expansion in functions following the 74th Constitutional Amendment, currently faces manpower and budgetary constraints. The proposed reorganisation aims to redefine its administrative setup for better efficiency and service delivery.

In the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for Jammu and Kashmir, the proposed restructuring addresses staffing gaps, administrative overlaps, and urban sanitation issues. The proposals discussed place particular emphasis on the creation of posts relating to environmental protection and rationalisation of enforcement and revenue staff.

Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has already received approval from its Board for its restructuring proposal, which has been forwarded to the Administrative Department for further consideration.

Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) shall see a detailed comparative restructuring of both gazetted and non-gazetted posts to enhance project execution capabilities and improve policy implementation across expanding urban areas.

The meeting was also told about the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) reorganisation which focuses on strengthening technical manpower and introducing reforms to improve scientific waste management, drainage, and sanitation systems.

The meeting also reviewed the newly framed recruitment rules of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, formulated in light of the reorganisation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the implementation of these proposals would significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Housing and Urban Development Department, generate substantial financial savings, and streamline urban governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

He affirmed that the reforms are aligned with the broader vision of sustainable urban development, transparency and administrative efficiency.

Summer vacation in...

of the concerned districts, are instructed to arrange for the disposal of urgent criminal cases during this period within their respective jurisdictions, reads an order issued by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Schools in 30...

and Kathua districts.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, in retaliation to the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in south Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The heavy cross-border shelling and air strikes that followed had pushed both the countries to the brink of war, triggering widespread fear and precautionary shutdowns. The two countries agreed for a pause in hostilities on May 10.

While most schools in Jammu region reopened by May 15, those in close proximity to the borders had remained closed to ensure students' safety as India continued to keep vigil.

"Rest of the schools along the Line of Control and International Border reopened today," said an official on Monday.

Zonal education officers have been instructed to ensure that safety and security guidelines are strictly adhered to in their respective jurisdictions, he said.

India-Pakistan conflict...

repudiation of the US' suggestion for mediation between India and Pakistan.

The US leader had even claimed that his country stopped a likely nuclear war that could have killed millions of people.

Several members, mostly from the opposition, raised questions related to the Pahalgam terror attack, whether Pakistan used Chinese platforms, the hostile stand of Türkiye and Azerbaijan against India, Pakistan's success in getting an IMF loan, and social media-dominated discourse on a host of issues.

An opposition member asked why the Indian government has not come out strongly to rebut Trump.

The foreign ministry, though, has made it clear in its earlier briefings that India and Pakistan agreed on the cessation of firing bilaterally, a point reiterated by Misri who noted the decision was taken at the DGMO-level talks at the request of the neighbouring country.

Replying to queries from members, Misri said the conflict between India and Pakistan was always in the conventional domain, and there was no nuclear signalling by the neighbouring country.

Tharoor told reporters after the three-hour meeting, which he said was attended by a record 24 members, that the committee unanimously expressed solidarity with Misri in the face of "unwarranted attacks" he had faced online after the two sides agreed to stop military actions.

As Misri and his family had been at the receiving end of trolls' vitriol, the committee expressed support for his good service to the nation. The committee wanted to pass a formal resolution but the IFS officer requested against it.

Some MPs, the sources said, asked if Pakistan used Chinese platforms in the conflict.

Misri said it did not matter as India hammered Pakistani air bases. To a question about Pakistan managing to secure a loan from the IMF, he said India opposed it but different countries are guided by their own interests, sources said.

To questions about Türkiye's adversarial stand against India, he said the country had traditionally not been a supporter of India and added that he did not foresee any chance of improvement in Indo-Pak ties due to the neighbouring country's continuous display of hostility.

The ministry said in its presentation that India witnessed last year alone at least 24 terrorist attacks linked to Pakistan-based terror organisations, leading to the death of 24 security personnel and 30 civilians.

"Terrorists are found to be using military grade weapons, assistance through drones, secure communication equipment, navigational aids, steel-coated bullets and assistance in infiltration through coordinated ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops," it said, seeking to establish the help provided by the Pakistani state in terror activities.

Misri was also dismissive of the opposition's criticism of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi citing a comment by him to claim that Pakistan was informed about Operation Sindoor and asking how many planes India lost due to this.

The minister is being quoted in wrong context, he said, adding that a contact was made with Pakistan at the DGMO level only after the strikes on terror sites on May 7.

The meeting was attended by a number of lawmakers, including the TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, the Congress' Rajeev Shukla and Depender Hooda, ATMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, and the BJP's Aparajita Sarangi and Arun Govil.

The meeting's agenda was the "current foreign policy developments regarding India and Pakistan", which comes against the backdrop of the Indian armed forces carrying out Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam attack and the subsequent military actions between the two countries.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on halting all military actions on May 10.

LG Sinha reconstitutes...

The nine members include Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Prof. Kailash Mehra Sadhu, K.K.Sharma, K.N.Rai, Mukesh Garg, Dr. Shailesh Raina, Dr. Simridhi Bindroo, Suresh Haware and Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri.

HC sets aside...

petitioners for deferring cross examination of PWs 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 is allowed and their cross examination shall remain deferred until all of them are examined in chief.

While allowing the petition, Justice Rajesh Sekhri observed that true it is, that prosecution witnesses are expected to testify in their chief examination on the lines of their statements recorded, during investigation, under Sections 161 or 164 Cr.P.C., and any improvement or deviation by them from said statements, may render their depositions unworthy of credence.

However, it is the apprehension of improvisation by the prosecution witnesses in their cross examinations to circumvent the defence strategy which is to be taken into consideration by the Court at the time cross examination of a witness or set of witnesses is sought to be deferred and if that apprehension is well founded, it can ham-

per the prospects of a fair trial, a basic postulate of criminal jurisprudence. The circumstances narrated by the petitioners, in the present case, justified the exercise of discretion by the Court, in terms of sub section 3 of Section 254 BNSS.

J&K Bank CISO...

few years; the Bank has made significant strides in digital innovation while ensuring that cybersecurity remains a foundational pillar of its transformation agenda. While underscoring the Bank's relentless focus on operational resilience, regulatory compliance, and customer trust, such prestigious recognitions also showcase the Bank's pioneering role in creating a secure, resilient and digitally progressive banking ecosystem.

Girl killed, father...

buildings, officials added.

They said strong winds blew the roofs off houses while many trees and electricity poles were uprooted. Electricity was cut across the valley as a precautionary measure. Large scale damage was reported from Baramulla district in north Kashmir and many structures in Srinagar city also were damaged due to the high speed winds, officials said.

Army Chief visits...

air space after the strategic action by India early on May 7 in retaliation of the Pahalgam attack.

As part of Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army undertook rapid deployment of surveillance assets and air defence systems, in close coordination with the IAF and BSF, a senior official said.

On the western front, the desert stretching from Jaisalmer to the Kutch region witnessed a "swift and coordinated operational response" from the three forces.

"These joint actions not only blunted enemy intent, but also established a new normal in maintaining operational dominance along the western front. The calibrated positioning of weapon systems and other operational enablers, aligned with civil administration support, ensured effective area domination and neutralisation of potential threats," the senior official added.

During his interaction with soldiers of the Konark Corps, the Army chief acknowledged their valour, unwavering commitment, and dogged determination in defending the international boundary.

Gen Dwivedi praised the troops for their vigilant actions, including the "successful neutralisation of enemy drone incursions", which effectively prevented any misadventure by the adversary in the desert theatre, the senior official said.

He highlighted the Indian Army's tradition of honour and its unflinching readiness to "meet future challenges with decisive force", reaffirming the force's commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty and ensuring high operational preparedness amid a dynamic security environment, the official said.

Appreciating the fortitude of men and women serving in the harsh desert terrain amid peak summer conditions, Gen Dwivedi conveyed his and the nation's admiration for their unrelenting service in defence of national objectives, the official said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India on early May 7 destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The two sides reached an understanding on cessation of hostilities on May 10 after four days of confrontations.

There is "no expiry date" to the understanding reached between Indian and Pakistani Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) on cessation of hostilities nearly a week back, the Indian Army said on Sunday.

The clarification came following reports that the arrangement between the two militaries on stopping the hostilities was ending on May 18 evening.

Govt extends CISF's...

"temporarily" extending CISF's cover to these processes in "direct response" to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and the subsequent security scenario in the country. The CISF, according to the mandate, is only entrusted to frisk passengers and their cabin baggage.

The cargo and in-line hold baggage screening system (ILHBSS) checking is done by private security staff engaged by the airlines and airport operators.

The force is "hard pressed" for manpower while securing the 69 airports under its cover. A number of leaves have been cancelled and reserve staff has been brought onboard to undertake this temporary duty of supervising checks for cargo and in-line hold baggage screening, a senior officer said.

The spokesperson had said the enhancement of CISF's mandate was "essential" to "reinforce" security arrangements at all civil airports.

The May 9 directive also authorised CISF personnel to perform random checks and oversee access control to these "critical" facilities (airports).

About two lakh personnel strong CISF under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs is the national civil aviation security force and it has deployed around 45,000 personnel to guard 69 airports as part of its aviation security group (ASG).

New e-Zero...

Cybercrime Reporting Portal and the National Cybercrime Helpline 1930 have enabled easy reporting and prompt action on complaints related to cyber financial crimes.

The newly introduced process involves integration of I4C's NCRP system, Delhi Police's e-FIR system and National Crime Record Bureau's (NCRB) Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).

Now, complaints related to financial losses above the threshold limit of Rs 10 lakh made to NCRP and 1930 will automatically lead to registration of a Zero FIR with the e-crime police station of Delhi. This will be immediately routed to the territorial cybercrime police stations.

Complainants can visit the cybercrime police station within three days and get the Zero FIR converted into a regular FIR.

The Delhi Police and the I4C have worked together to put in place a process for registration of cases in accordance with the new provisions of Section 173 (1) and 1(ii) of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

This process of issuing FIRs electronically irrespective of territorial jurisdiction (e-Zero FIR) will initially start in Delhi as a pilot. Subsequently, it will be extended to other states and UTs.

The e-Crime Police Station of Delhi has been notified for the registration of e-FIRs and transferring them to jurisdictional police stations in Cybercrime complaints of a specified nature reported on NCRP, the statement said.

12 spies held...

officials said, adding that a probe into their financial transactions and forensic analysis of their electronic devices were also underway.

In addition to the arrests made from Punjab and Haryana, an alleged agent of Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Rampur on Sunday by the state's Special Task Force.

On May 4, Punjab Police arrested Palaksher Masih and Suraj Masih -- both residents of Ajnala in Amritsar -- for their alleged role in leaking sensitive information and photographs of Army cantonment areas and air bases in the border district to ISI.

Both were allegedly involved in collecting and transmitting crucial information such as the Army's movements, locations of BSF camps and airports, photographs, and other sensitive data to their handlers in Pakistan, police had said.

Two more persons, including a woman, were arrested by the Punjab Police on May 11 for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to Pakistani official Danish posted at the High Commission in Delhi.

The accused were identified as 31-year-old Guzala and Yameen Mohamad, both residents of Malerkotla. They were receiving payments through online transactions in exchange for sharing classified information, as per police investigation.

During questioning, Guzala allegedly confessed to having shared the confidential information about activities of the Indian Army with the Pakistani official posted at Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Guzala further revealed that she was doing it for money and the accused official had sent her Rs 30,000 in two transactions -- "Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 --" via UPI (unified payment interface), he added.

Meanwhile, Punjab Police DGP Gaurav Yadav on Monday said that two persons were arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive military information with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

"On 15th May 2025, credible intelligence inputs indicated that Sukhpreet Singh & Karanbir Singh were engaged in sharing classified details related to #OperationSindoor, including troop movements and key strategic locations in #Punjab, #HimachalPradesh, & #JammuAndKashmir - with #Pakistan's intelligence agency, #ISI," DGP said in a post on X.

The Haryana Police, on May 15, arrested 24-year-old Nauman Ilahi from the Panipat district for allegedly supplying sensitive information to some individuals in Pakistan. Ilahi from Kairana in Uttar Pradesh was also in touch with a Pak-based ISI handler, as per police investigation.

Ilahi worked as a factory security guard and is accused of supplying sensitive information to Pakistan. He was staying with his sister and brother-in-law at Hali Colony in Panipat.

A day after his arrest, Haryana Police arrested a 25-year-old post-graduate student in Kaithal for allegedly having links with PIOs. Devender Singh, from Kaithal district's Guhla area, was arrested for allegedly uploading photos on social media with weapons.

During further investigation, it was learnt that Singh, who was pursuing a master's degree in political science from a college in Punjab, had gone to Pakistan on pilgrimage in November last year.

During the visit, he allegedly came in contact with Pakistani intelligence operatives and remained in touch with them even after his return. Police have said that Singh has allegedly admitted to sending some photos of Patiala cantonment by clicking pictures from outside.

Haryana Police on May 16 arrested Hisar-based YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra on the charge of passing on sensitive information to PIOs.

Malhotra, who runs a YouTube channel 'Travel with JO', was arrested from New Aggarsain Extension in Hisar. She has been booked under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Haryana Police said.

Jyoti, whose YouTube channel and Instagram accounts have 3.77 lakh subscribers and 1.33 lakh followers respectively, allegedly was in contact with Pakistani staffer Danish.

Her YouTube channel account shows some videos on her visit to Pakistan - "Indian Girl in Pakistan", 'Indian Girl Exploring Lahore', 'Indian Girl at Katas Raj Temple' and 'Indian Girl Rides Luxury Bus in Pakistan'.

In 2023, Jyoti came in contact with Danish at the Pakistan High Commission where she went to seek a visa to visit the neighbouring nation, according to an FIR lodged at the Civil Lines police station, Hisar.

Hisar Superintendent of Police Shashank Kumar Sawan on Sunday said PIOs were developing Malhotra as an asset. She was allegedly in touch with Danish during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor, Sawan said.

Malhotra, who has been taken on a five-day police remand, was directly in touch with PIOs, he said.

"This is also (a kind of) warfare, in which they try to push their narrative by recruiting influencers," Sawan said. Malhotra was in touch with PIOs, and she visited Pakistan "multiple times" and China once, according to the police.

Her financial transactions and travel details are being investigated.

On Sunday, Haryana Police said it has arrested a 26-year-old man from the Nuh district on charges of spying for Pakistan.

Armaan was arrested on Saturday for sharing information related to the Indian Army and other military activities with Pakistan through an employee posted at the High Commission of Pakistan in Delhi, police said.

Armaan, who is on a six-day police remand, was allegedly sharing the information for a long time through WhatsApp and social media platforms.

Nuh Police, in a joint operation with a central agency, on Monday arrested a local quack for allegedly spying for Pakistan.

Shahzad was apprehended by the STF Moradabad unit from Uttar Pradesh's Rampur on Sunday following inputs about his alleged involvement in cross-border smuggling and espionage activities for the ISI. The STF said that Shahzad was allegedly passing sensitive information related to national security to his handlers.

He travelled to Pakistan several times over the years and was allegedly smuggling cosmetics, clothes, spices, and other items across the border, the agency alleged.

DC Poonch holds interaction with media fraternity, assures redressal of genuine demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a significant outreach effort, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today held an interaction with the media fraternity here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office.



The meeting was organized to strengthen coordination between the district administration and the media. The Deputy Commissioner was warmly welcomed by the District Information Officer, who also expressed gratitude to the media for their continued support and constructive engagement.

During the meeting, media representatives led by Chairman N S Talwar and President Randhir Singh highlighted various issues related to their professional environment and working conditions. Journalists raised demands for the establishment of a Press Club and provision of safety kits, to which the Deputy Commissioner assured a positive response and necessary follow up. He gave a patient and empathetic hearing to all concerns and assured that genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound and appropriate manner. He emphasized the importance of responsible journalism and committed to maintaining open communication channels between the administration and the press. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) also participated in the meeting.

Four held for immoral trafficking in Kunzer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Four people, including a woman, were arrested for immoral trafficking in Baramulla district, a police officer said.

"Acting on credible input, Baramulla Police has successfully busted an immoral trafficking racket operating in the Kunzer area. A team from Kunzer police station conducted a swift and well-coordinated raid, resulting in the apprehension of four individuals engaged in immoral activities," the officer said.

He identified the arrested men as Abdul Ahad Waza, Mohammad Abdullah Waza and Bilal Ahmad Bhat. The identity of the woman was withheld.

The officer said police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

"Further investigation is underway to identify and dismantle any larger network linked to this operation," he said.

Udhampur police organizes awareness campaign cum PCPG meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Udhampur Police organized a comprehensive awareness campaign and Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting within the premises of Women Police Station Udhampur. The event witnessed participation from respectable citizens of Chenani and locals from the Udhampur area.

The meeting focused on spreading awareness about drug abuse, women-related issues, child abuse, and other social concerns.

Participants also shared their grievances and suggestions. The police team assured that genuine issues related to the police will be taken up with senior officers for prompt redressal, while matters concerning the civil administration will be forwarded to the concerned authorities.



Doda Police organizes drug awareness program under Operation Pathshalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police in collaboration with other departments, organized Drug Awareness program under Operation Pathshala. The Program was organized under the IBC Campaign at seven different locations at Government Higher Secondary School, Behota Marmat, Middle School Gouda Bhalla, Govt Hr Sec School Bhalra Ex servicemen Public School Thathri and Panchayat Ghar Sarsi, shadote Thathri of District Doda. .

The primary objective of the program was to educate students and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to discourage engagement in any anti-social activities. Additionally, awareness was spread regarding the provisions of the new criminal laws. The program was organised under the directions of the District SSP Sandeep Mehta.

The program witnessed by large number of students and staff of these Schools, besides general public from all walks of life.