

## INDIA FOILS PAK ATTACKS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Forces destroy air defence system in Lahore; thwart missile and drones at 15 locations, including Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur

PTI, JAMMU/NEW DELHI: Air raid sirens blared and the night sky was lit up by fireballs as Indian defence forces successfully intercepted a series of missile and drone attacks by Pakistan targeting military installations in Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur on Thursday evening.

The attacks came amid intense cross-border hostilities that rose by many notches on a tense day that saw the nuclear-armed neighbours engaged in fierce military exchanges. Defence sources confirmed that Indian air defence systems neutralised at least eight missiles aimed at strategic locations in Jammu, including the vital Jammu Airport in Satwari.

Earlier, during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, India had thwarted coordinated Pakistani attempts to strike 15 military sites across northern and western India using drones and missiles. In a calibrated response, Indian forces retaliated, reportedly disabling a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore, fuelling concerns of a broader escalation.

These developments followed India's precision strikes on nine terror camps in Pakistan and PoK just a day earlier.

In Jammu, residents reported hearing multiple loud explosions, followed by blackouts and air raid sirens across the city. Alerts were also triggered in Akhnoor, Samba, Baramulla, and Kupwara as Indian air defence systems intercepted incoming aerial threats. A sudden

### ESCALATING TENSIONS: INDIA STRIKES BACK WITH FORCE



Soldiers inspect the debris of a missile at a field on the outskirts of Amritsar, on Thursday

#### MAY 7-8 NIGHT

◆ Pakistan attempted coordinated drone and missile strikes on 15 Indian military sites, including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarai, and Bhuj.

◆ India neutralised all incoming threats using Integrated Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems and S-400 air defence systems.

#### MAY 8 MORNING

◆ India retaliated by targeting Pakistani air defence radars and systems at multiple locations.

◆ An air defence system in Lahore was successfully neutralised.



A relative comforts Rubina Begum as she wails inside her house damaged by Pakistani artillery shelling, at Salamabad village in Uri, Srinagar, Kashmir, on Thursday

#### ATTACK ON JAMMU

◆ At least eight missiles launched from Pakistan towards Jammu civil airport, Samba, RS Pura, Arnia, and nearby areas — most intercepted by Indian air defence, which destroyed a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet.

#### PAKISTAN'S COUNTERCLAIMS

◆ Reported Indian drone activity in Lahore, Gujranwala, Chakwal, Bahawalpur, Miano, Karachi, Chhor, Rawalpindi, and Attock.

◆ Claimed one drone crashed near Lahore, injuring four soldiers.

◆ Claimed to have shot down 25 Indian drones using soft kill and hard kill systems.

#### CROSS-BORDER FIRING

◆ Pakistan conducted unprovoked firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in sectors including Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, and Akhnoor.

◆ The shelling resulted in 16 civilian deaths in India, including three women and five children.

◆ India responded with proportional counter-fire to silence the Pakistani artillery.

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## Kala Academy ailing, shows task force report

Unearths deficiencies in sound, lighting & acoustics; submits report to CM, stating there are 'no shortcuts to fixing these problems'

Team Herald

PANJIM: Constituted to review the infrastructure and suggest improvements to Kala Academy, Goa's premier art and culture centre, the task force has uncovered serious deficiencies in all three critical technical domains of sound, lighting, and acoustics (inclusive of ambient noise control). In its 18-page report, the task force said that in several cases, the basic principles of auditorium system design were overlooked during the renovation and there are sound system deficiencies, lighting system deficiencies and acoustic environment and HVAC noise issues.

"The installed Bose house speaker system fails to provide uniform sound coverage across the auditorium seating. Measurements and listening tests revealed that sound pressure levels drop off significantly towards the back rows. The positioning of the subwoofer cabinets is technically flawed. The auditorium's microphone inventory and miking approach are not aligned with the diverse needs of theatrical and musical performances," the report said.

"On-stage sound for performers (monitoring) is insufficient. Only four stage monitor speakers are provided instead of the six that are normally required for full stage coverage. Earlier, the task force met the chief minister at Mantralaya at Porvorim and submitted him the report. The acoustic feedback observed is also a sign that the system has not been properly



“We had a meeting with the chief minister and we submitted our report to him. Chief Minister assured that rectification work will start after he will have a meeting with the PWD officials. Now it will have to be decided how much time will take to carry out the rectification work.”

— Vijay Kenkre, Task Force Chairman

### TASK FORCE'S 18-PAGE REPORT

■ Outlines deficiencies in KA auditorium following the renovation, including issues with the sound system, lighting, acoustics, and HVAC noise.

■ Notes inconsistent sound coverage, flawed subwoofer placement, an inadequate microphone inventory, insufficient

on-stage monitoring, and improper system tuning.

■ States new lighting fixtures are not designed for theatre stage lighting, the dimming capability is poor, illumination levels are unacceptable, acoustics have worsened, and sound isolation is inadequate.

tuned by an acoustic engineer. The renovation introduced lighting fixtures that are not truly designed for theatre stage lighting," the report said.

"Another major issue is the dimming capability of the new LED lighting rig. The overall illumination on stage is below acceptable levels for professional productions. The current FOH lighting battens and bars appear to be non-motorised and were re-posi-

tioned during renovation," the report noted.

It has observed that one of the most troubling findings is that the auditorium's famed acoustics have been altered for the worse.

"Prior to Interim Tech Audit Report by Francis Coelho dated May 8, 2025, Page 5 of 18 renovation, Kala Academy's main hall was lauded for its balance of reverberation and clarity," it said.

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## CJI recommends impeachment of Justice Varma

PTI, NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is learnt to have recommended to the Centre impeachment of Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma following his indictment in the cash discovery row by a Supreme Court-appointed committee.

The CJI wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shared the report of the three-member committee along with the response received from Justice Varma.

The move assumes significance in the wake of the established in-house procedure which entails the CJI writing to President and Prime Minister for impeachment after their advice to the judge to resign is not complied with.

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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Students during a civil defence mock drill under 'Operation Abhyaas' as part of a nationwide exercise, at a school, in Gurugram, Haryana, on Thursday

## When a woman says no, it means no: HC upholds conviction in gang rape case

PTI, MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court has upheld the conviction of three men for raping one of their partners, ruling that when a woman says no, it means no, and there can be no presumption of consent based on her past sexual activities.

"No means no," the bench of Justices Nitin Suryawanshi and M W Chandwani said in its May 6 judgment refusing to accept the attempt made by the convicts to question the morals of the survivor.

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## HC bans LED fishing, comes down heavily on Fisheries Dept

Tasks Coast Guard with manning the waters to enforce ban, asks for compliance report every 3 months

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PORVORIM: The fishing community across Goa celebrated on Thursday as the High Court of Bombay at Goa ordered a complete ban on LED fishing, bull trawling and pair trawling, directing the Directorate of Fisheries to enforce this under the Marine Act.

The order, which came as a 63 page judgment on Writ Petition No 403 of 2022 and was authored by Justice Valmiki Meneses, was a major victory for traditional and smaller fishermen, who have claimed for a long time that they were not being given adequate protection by the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

Taking cognizance of this, the judgment castigated the DoF for the manner in which it tried to mislead the Court during the hearings. The court has set a timeline for the DoF, Coast Guard and the Coastal Police to file compliance reports every three months, with the first date set for September 2.

"The fact remains that there is no enforcement

### DIRECTIONS IN THE HC ORDER:

◆ Regular inspection of all fishing jetties to verify registration details and equipment that is carried.

◆ Government to speedily set up the proposed Enforcement Directorate comprising of 55 officers to monitor and file FIRs and confiscate equipment.

◆ Purchase speed boats to maintain vigilance and take assistance of Coast Guard

machinery worth the name in place to carry out the statutory duties cast upon the Goa Coastal Police of enforcement of law within the territory assigned to them," wrote justice Meneses, highlighting the sorry state of affairs of the Coastal Police and Department of Fisheries for lack of adequate vessels and manpower.

"It is the Coast Guard that is required to use all the resources under its power to enforce the State and Central Laws over the Maritime Zones," it said.

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## Shirgao stampede: As usual, temple committee in blame game mode

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The blame game has begun over the stampede at Shirgao, which killed six people and left several others injured, with the Shree Lairai Devi Temple's managing committee blaming the Shirgao Village Panchayat, administration and the Bicholim Deputy Collector for the tragic incident.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, temple's managing committee president Dinanath 'Dina' Gaonkar claimed that the panel was not responsible for the horrific incident that occurred during the annual zatra on May 2.

He said that the managing committee will not allow the stalls alongside the lane leading to the temple from next year onwards.

Accusing the temple's former pres-

ident Ganesh Gaonkar of misusing temple property and funds for his personal gain, Dinanath alleged that the outgoing president did nothing for the temple during his three-year tenure.

He claimed that a tragic incident had occurred during the annual zatra last year wherein a woman was killed. He further mentioned that the general body had taken a decision to remove the compound wall.

Refuting the allegations made by Dinanath, Ganesh said, "During my tenure we had barricaded the area and the devotees were happy. The then Bicholim Mamlatdar and the then Bicholim PI told me to barricade the area. We barricaded the area despite opposition from Dinanath and others."

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### ALLEGATIONS & COUNTER CHARGES

“The temple's former president Ganesh Gaonkar misused temple property and funds for his personal gain and did nothing for the temple during his three-year tenure. A tragic incident had occurred during the annual zatra last year wherein a woman was killed. The general body had taken a decision to remove the compound wall.”

— Dinanath Gaonkar, Shree Lairai Devi temple's managing committee president

“It was not last year but nine years ago that a woman had fractured her hand during a minor stampede on zatra day. There was no fault of the State administration. The current managing committee is responsible. Dinanath always opposed us and did not allow us to complete the two projects. I have submitted all these details to the fact-finding committee.”

— Ganesh Gaonkar, temple's former president

MAX. TEMP 35.5 °C  
MIN. TEMP 27 °C

idharudhar



Ours wasn't part of the drill, it was the usual power outage.