

DC Reasi holds consultative meeting with prominent citizens

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a consultative meeting with prominent citizens of the district to review public concerns and enhance community coordination in disaster response and preparedness.

During the meeting, participants raised various issues, including instances of non-compliance by certain shopkeepers during a recent power blackout. In response, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the critical importance of adhering to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during emergencies to ensure public safety and efficient disaster management.

Highlighting the crucial role of community participation, DC Nidhi Malik encouraged citizens to volunteer for emergency services. The initiative received an enthusiastic response, with several indi-



viduals coming forward to assist in blood donation drives and other essential voluntary services.

She urged residents to prioritize personal safety during blackouts or shelling by remaining indoors and avoiding unnecessary movement. Citizens were also cautioned to steer clear of any suspicious or unfamiliar objects and to immediately alert security

personnel if such items are found.

The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned departments to intensify awareness campaigns about emergency protocols and the importance of public cooperation in maintaining safety and order.

Assuring the public of the administration's preparedness, Ms. Malik confirmed that adequate food supplies

and essential services will be maintained throughout any emergency situation. She also appealed to the public to remain vigilant and to promptly report any suspicious activity or unidentified individuals to the authorities to help preserve communal harmony.

ADC Reasi, Rakesh Kumar, and Tehsildar Reasi, Suresh Singh were also present at the meeting

Pak wants peace but knows how to defend itself, says Sharif after ceasefire

ISLAMABAD, MAY 10: Former three-time premier Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said that Pakistan was a "peace-loving" country, but also "knows how to defend itself".

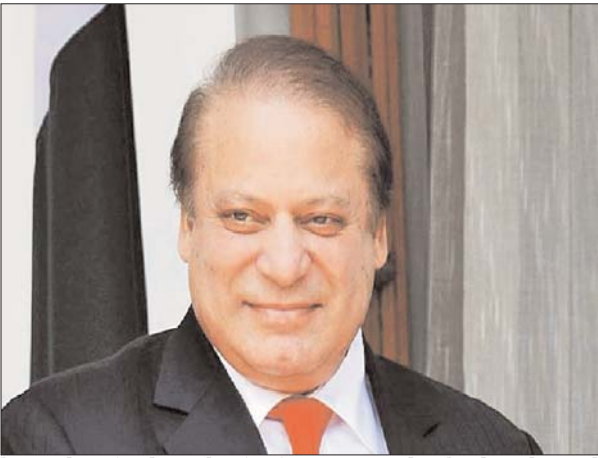
His comments came after US President Donald Trump announced that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire.

Sharif took to social media to react to the ceasefire agreed between Pakistan and India after days of unrest and tension.

"Pakistan is a peace-loving country and prefers peace, but also knows how to defend itself," he said in a post on X.

Sharif, the chief of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party, also congratulated the civil and military leadership.

"Thanks be to Allah Almighty for making Pakistan proud. I congratulate and congratulate the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shah-



baz Sharif, the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Sindhu, and the armed forces of Pakistan," he said.

Former foreign minister and Pakistan People's Party chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Pakistan has consistently pursued dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable path to peace and "war, violence and aggression are never the answer".

"Now that both India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire & dialogue, we welcome this as a victory for diplomacy. We appreciate the role of USA, KSA and all countries involved in achieving this historic milestone," he said in a message on X.

"As a Pakistani, I could not be more proud of our people, our army and especially our Air Force," he added.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief Gohar Ali Khan said

that it was good that peace was coming back to the region. He also said that the response given by Pakistan made the country proud.

"Our response forced India to come up with the white flag (peace)," he said while talking to Geo News.

In a post on X, Punjab province's chief minister Maryam Nawaz said Prime Minister Shehbaz, Army chief General Munir, Pakistan Armed Forces, and her father, Nawaz Sharif, have "made the nation proud" and shown the world that Pakistan is in "safe and patriotic hands".

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar informed the nation about the ceasefire.

"Pakistan and India have agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect. Pakistan has always strived for peace and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity!" he wrote on X.

District Admin Rajouri pays heartfelt tribute to Martyr ADDC Dr Raj Kumar Thapa

RAJOURI, MAY 10: The District Administration Rajouri today paid a solemn and heartfelt tribute to Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who attained martyrdom during cross-border shelling, laying down his life in the line of duty while serving the nation with unwavering commitment.

In a poignant message, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, lauded the extraordinary dedication and bravery of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa. "His supreme sacrifice during the tragic incident at Badhaal will be remembered forever. He was a beacon of courage and devotion,



serving the people of Rajouri till his last breath," the DC remarked.

Dr. Thapa, a 2001 batch officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), was known for his integrity, humility, and deep sense of responsibility. His passing is a

tremendous loss to the administrative fraternity and the people of Rajouri.

"He was not just an able administrator, but a true hero in service—a symbol of sincerity and dedication," DC Abhishek Sharma added while extending condolences to the bereaved family.

The District Administration, along with officials from various departments, observed a moment of silence and resolved to carry forward the legacy of selfless service exemplified by the late officer.

His memory will continue to inspire generations of civil servants to uphold the highest values of duty, service, and sacrifice.

Meet India's night watch: One Russian, one from Israel, one homegrown

NEW DELHI, MAY 10:

India's multi-layered air defence systems—including the S-400 Triumf, Barak 8 MRSAM, and indigenous Akash missiles—intercepted and neutralised a massive aerial assault launched by Pakistan on the night of May 8–9, preventing any damage across targeted regions from Jammu to Jaisalmer.

The S-400 Triumf, developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau, is a long-range surface-to-air missile system.

Introduced in 2007, the S-400 is equipped to detect, track, and neutralise aerial threats, including drones, stealth aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.

India signed a Rs 35,000 crore deal with Russia in October 2018 to procure five squadrons of the S-400.

Three squadrons are operational, with the remaining two expected by 2026.

The S-400 system uses four types of missiles, each meant for different ranges, from up to 40 km to 400 km.

The radar system used in the S-400 can detect targets as far as 600 km away and can track up to 300 aerial threat, engaging 36 of those at once.

The missiles can hit targets flying at speeds up to approximately 17,000 km/h and altitudes between 10 metres and 30 km.

The system is mobile and can be operational in five minutes on the move and within 35 seconds from standby.

The S-400 is considered a major threat by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members because



of its sheer long range capabilities. The S-400 can engage almost all types of modern warplanes, reported Hindustan Times.

Russia is the main operator of the system. China received its units in 2018 after being the first foreign buyer in 2014. Turkey also bought the system in 2017, which led to disagreements with its NATO allies. Belarus and Algeria are also reported to operate the system.

In Syria, Russia deployed the S-400 at its Khmeimim Air Base in 2015 after one of its Su-24 bombers was shot down by Turkey. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), the Akash is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile system designed to provide comprehensive air defence against a range of aerial threats.

Akash's rang extended up to 25 km, with a ceiling of 18 km, according to India TV.

Each Akash missile is

powered by a solid-fuel booster and an integrated ramjet sustainer motor, enabling speeds of up to 4,200 km/hour.

The missile carries a 60 kg pre-fragmented high-explosive warhead, with both conventional and nuclear payload options.

The system achieves an 88 per cent single-shot kill probability, which increases to 99 per cent when missiles are launched in salvos.

The system can track up to 64 targets simultaneously and engage up to 12.

The Akash missile system boasts excellent cross-country mobility, making it deployable across deserts and plains to mountainous regions.

The Indian Air Force has inducted 15 squadrons of Akash-1 and Akash-2, under contracts worth Rs 10,900 crore, while the Indian Army operates four regiments under an Rs 22,340 crore programme.

Akash is designed to counter a wide spectrum of aerial threats, including fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, cruise mis-

siles, and even ballistic missiles in their terminal phase. India has already exported the Akash system to Armenia, and countries such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Egypt, and Brazil have shown keen interest, according to The Financial Express.

The Barak-8 MRSAM system is a medium-range surface-to-air missile defence platform jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at an estimated cost of Rs 30,000 crore, reported The Times Of India.

Designed to neutralise a wide spectrum of airborne threats, including fighter jets, helicopters, UAVs, cruise missiles, and other precision-guided munitions, Barak-8 has enhanced India's air defence posture across its land and maritime domains.

Barak has an operational range of over 70 km with supersonic speed. Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army, Israeli Navy uses it.

NEW DELHI, MAY 10:

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif early Wednesday termed the Indian missile strikes on terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Punjab province as an "act of war" and said his country has every right to give a "befitting reply." In retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes early Wednesday, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed, the Indian Army said.

Prime Minister Sharif said that India carried out attacks at five places in Pakistan. "Pakistan has every right to give a befitting reply to this act of war imposed by India, and a strong response is indeed being given," Sharif said in a statement.

Sharif said his armed forces "know very well how to deal with the enemy". "We will never let the enemy succeed in its nefarious objectives," he added.

The Prime Minister has summoned a meeting of the National Security Council at 10 am. Pakistan has closed its airspace for all air traffic for 48 hours.



Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said three Pakistanis were killed and 12 others injured in missile strikes by India.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar termed the Indian strikes as a "flagrant violation" of Pakistan's sovereignty, the UN Charter & international law.

"It has jeopardised regional peace," he said in a statement on X.

In a statement, the Foreign Office termed the strikes by the "Indian Air Force, while remaining within Indian airspace," as an "unprovoked and blatant act of war".

"We will respond with full force. We will pay off this debt in the manner such debt is paid," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told

Geo News.

He said Pakistan's response would be both kinetic and diplomatic, and it would not take long to retaliate to the Indian attack.

"All places are open for the international media to verify if they targeted terrorists' camps or civilians," he said.

Officials said that the Indian strikes targeted five places in Kotli, Muzaffarabad, and Bagh in PoK and in the Bahawalpur and Muridke areas of Punjab.

India launched air strikes on the Subhanullah mosque in Bahawalpur's Ahmed East area, Kotli and Muzaffarabad at three places from the air, the army spokesman told ARY News channel.

"All of our air force jets are airborne. This cowardly

and shameful attack was carried out from within India's airspace.

They were never allowed to come and intrude into the space of Pakistan," he said.

"Let me say it unequivocally: Pakistan will respond to this at a time and place of its own choosing. This heinous provocation will not go unanswered," he added.

This "temporary happiness" that India has achieved with this attack will be replaced with enduring grief, he said.

Ties between India and Pakistan plummeted following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operational land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties following the terror attack.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told the top defence brass that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the attack.

AI search rises as Google traffic drops in Safari, Apple explores browser revamp

NEW DELHI, MAY 10:

Google searches fell in Safari for the first time ever last month, Apple's senior vice-president of services Eddy Cue said during his testimony in the US justice department's lawsuit against Alphabet, Google's parent company.

Apple is "actively looking at" revamping the Safari web browser on its devices to focus on AI-powered search.

Cue said that he believes AI search providers have the potential to replace traditional search engines like Google in the long run. However, he noted that these services probably won't be the default, as there is room for improvement.

The growth of web search using AI tools like ChatGPT, Perplexity and Microsoft Copilot are making users less willing to visit Google as the primary method of finding information.

Google pays Apple around \$20 billion a year to make its search engine the default in Safari. Stopping



Google from paying companies to be the default search engine is among the remedies that the US justice department has proposed to break up its dominance in online search.

"Prior to AI, my feeling around this was, none of the others were valid choices," Cue said during his testimony. "I think today there is much greater potential because there are new entrants attacking the problem in a different way."

The gradual leaning towards AI is important for the iPhone and a company with over two billion active devices. Since Apple's iPhone launched in 2007, users have browsed the

web by making searches through Google. Now, consumers are in a universe dominated by AI from companies that are new.

At present, Apple offers OpenAI's ChatGPT as an option in the Siri digital assistant and the company is expected to add Gemini — Google's AI search product — later in the year, according to Bloomberg. Cue said the agreement with OpenAI allows it to add other AI providers to the company's operating system, including Apple's own.

With more companies embracing AI, traffic to websites that would normally receive clicks from search results is dipping, dealing a blow to some

businesses.

Cue said AI players need to enhance their search indexes and even if that doesn't happen quickly, these companies have other features that are "so much better that people will switch".

"There's enough money now, enough large players, that I don't see how it doesn't happen," Cue said, referring to a shift from standard search to AI.

Large language models, which form the foundation of generative AI, continue to improve, giving users more reason to change their habits. "The only way you truly have true competition is when you have technology shifts."

Technology shifts create these opportunities. AI is a new technology shift, and it's creating new opportunities for new entrants," pointed out Cue.

AI search tools come with deep research and agentic features, allowing them to respond to a natural language query. But there is a chance they may hallucinate incorrect answers in areas with blind spots.