

Reasi Admin observes two-minute silence to pay tribute to ADDC Rajouri, others

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 10

The officers and officials of District Administration Reasi, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik observed a two-minute silence today in memory of Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, and others who lost their lives due to cross-border shelling.

The solemn tribute was held at the DC Office Complex, Reasi, where heartfelt homage was paid to Dr. Thappa for his unwavering dedication and selfless service. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner, Nidhi Malik



expressed her deepest condolences to the bereaved family and extended solidarity to all those affected

by the tragic incident. The entire District Administration stands united in grief, honoring the

legacy and sacrifice of Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa and others who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

US, Chinese officials to meet in Geneva to discuss tariffs as world looks for signs of hope

WASHINGTON, MAY 10: The US treasury secretary and America's top trade negotiator will meet with high-ranking Chinese officials in Switzerland this weekend to de-escalate a dispute that threatens to cut off trade between the world's two biggest economies and to damage global commerce.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will meet in Geneva with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Prospects for a major breakthrough appear dim. But there is hope that the two countries will scale back the massive taxes – tariffs – they've slapped on each other's goods, a move that would relieve world financial markets and companies on both sides of the Pacific Ocean that depend on US-China trade.

US President Donald Trump last month raised U.S. tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped \$660 billion.

Even before the talks began, Trump suggested Friday that the US could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that "80% Tariff seems right! Up to Scott."

Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, noted it will be the first time He and Bessent have talked. And she doubts the Geneva meeting will produce any substantive results.

"The best scenario is for



the two sides to agree to de-escalate on the ... tariffs at the same time," she said, adding even a small reduction would send a positive signal. "It cannot just be words."

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has aggressively used tariffs as his favourite economic weapon. He has, for example, imposed a 10% tax on imports from almost every country in the world.

But the fight with China has been the most intense. His tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States. The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed the 145%.

During Trump's first term, the US alleged that China uses unfair tactics to give itself an edge in advanced technologies such as quantum computing and driverless cars. These include forcing U.S. and

other foreign companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market; using government money to subsidize domestic tech firms; and outright theft of sensitive technologies.

Those issues were never fully resolved. After nearly two years of negotiation, the United States and China reached a so-called Phase One agreement in January 2020. The US agreed then not to go ahead with even higher tariffs on China, and Beijing agreed to buy more American products. The tough issues – such as China's subsidies – were left for future negotiations.

But China didn't come through with the promised purchases, partly because COVID-19 disrupted global commerce just after the Phase One truce was announced.

The fight over China's tech policy now resumes.

Trump is also agitated by America's massive trade deficit with China, which came to \$263 billion last year.

In Switzerland, Bessent and Greer also plan to meet with Swiss President Karin

Keller-Sutter.

Trump last month suspended plans to slap hefty 31% tariffs on Swiss goods -- more than the 20% levies he plastered on exports from European Union. For now, he's reduced those taxes to 10% but could raise them again.

The government in Bern is taking a cautious approach. But it has warned of the impact on crucial Swiss industries like watches, coffee capsules, cheese and chocolate.

"An increase in trade tensions is not in Switzerland's interests. Countermeasures against US tariff increases would entail costs for the Swiss economy, in particular by making imports from the USA more expensive," the government said last week, adding that the executive branch "is therefore not planning to impose any countermeasures at the present time."

The government said Swiss exports to the United States on Saturday were subject to an additional 10% tariff, and another 21% beginning Wednesday.

The United States is Switzerland's second-biggest trading partner after the EU -- a 27-member-country bloc that nearly surrounds the wealthy Alpine country of more than 9 million. U.S.-Swiss trade in goods and services has quadrupled over the last two decades, the government said.

The Swiss government said Switzerland abolished all industrial tariffs on Jan. 1 last year, meaning that 99% of all goods from the United States can be imported into Switzerland duty-free.

People wake up to blast-like sounds as sirens ring out in Jammu

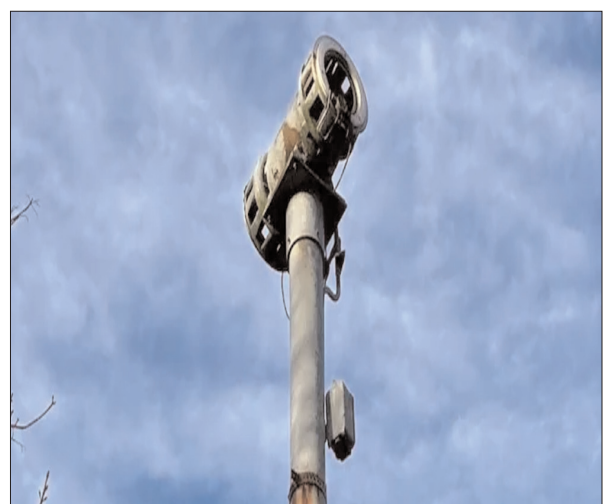
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 10

People across Jammu on Saturday woke up to blast-like sounds as sirens rang out in the city amid a fresh wave of suspected drone attacks by Pakistan, officials said.

Artillery and mortar shelling were also reported from the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and the Akhnoor sector of Jammu district, they said.

Deafening sounds of explosions started rattling Jammu and Udhampur towns around 5 am with officials confirming a fresh wave of drone attack from across the border, triggering panic among the people.

On Friday night, drones were sighted at 26 locations, ranging from Jammu



and Kashmir's Baramulla in the north to Gujarat's Bhuj in the south, along both the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, according to defence officials.

"These included suspected armed drones posing potential threats to civilian and military tar-

gets," the officials said.

The locations include Baramulla, Srinagar, Avantipora, Nagrota and Jammu in J-K, Ferozpur, Pathankot and Fazilka in Punjab, Lalgah Jatta, Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan, and Bhuj, Kuarbet and Lakhi Nala in Gujarat.

The latest drone attack came a day after India thwarted attempts by Pakistan to hit Indian military installations using drones and missiles.

Heavy cross-border shelling was also reported along the LoC and International Border intermittently in different sectors of Jammu region throughout the night.

Artillery shells hit Rajouri, Poonch, Surankote and Nowshera towns, the officials said.

Tension between the two neighbours soared after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting nine terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Operations presently normal at Delhi airport: DIAL

NEW DELHI, MAY 10: Operations at the Delhi airport are presently normal though some flights might be impacted due to the evolving airspace conditions amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Enhanced security measures have been put in place at airports across the country as the military conflict between the two nations intensified.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, said in a post on X that operations are presently normal at the airport.

"However, due to evolving airspace conditions and enhanced security measures, as per the orders of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, some flight schedules may be impacted and



security checkpoint processing times may take longer," it said.

Passengers have also been advised to arrive early

to accommodate potential delays at security checks.

The DIAL also requested passengers to cooperate with the airline and secu-

rity staff for smooth facilitation. On Friday, 138 flights to and from Delhi airport were cancelled by various airlines.

District administrations in Punjab withdraw restrictive orders

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10: India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire, ending their four-day-long conflict that had escalated tensions in the region on Saturday.

After the ceasefire was announced, administrations of various districts of Punjab immediately withdrew restrictive orders in their areas.

District administrations of Sangrur, Rupnagar and Fazilka withdrew blackout orders while authorities in districts like Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Patiala also cancelled restrictive orders.

Earlier in the day, authorities in districts, including Jalandhar, Pathankot, and Kapurthala

had advised closure of markets and commercial establishments and had urged citizens to avoid large gatherings in the wake of conflict between India and Pakistan.

"All restrictive orders are immediately withdrawn within the district. Things may resume as normal. Thanks for all your support," read an order issued by Jalandhar DC.

"All restrictive orders imposed within the district -- except the restriction on civilian drone flying -- are immediately withdrawn within the district. Normal work may resume as usual. Thanks everyone for following the advisories and cooperating with the ad-

ministration," read an order issued by Amritsar DC.

"Keeping in view the recent developments, now there will be no restrictions on the industries, markets, shopping malls and shops. Thank you everyone for your support," the Kapurthala DC said.

"The administration has withdrawn blackout orders, earlier issued today for May 10 and May 11 from 8pm to 6am," read similar orders for Sangrur and Barnala districts.

Patiala administration also withdrew its orders pertaining to blackout and other related issues. "All restrictive orders are hereby withdrawn.

Thank you for your sup-

port. I must place on record the number of #Patialis who have reached out to me and extended support in these tough times.

Let's continue to work as a community and join hands for a sustainable future," the order by Patiala Deputy Commissioner read.

Hoshiarpur DC Aashika Jain said, "All restriction orders stand suspended. Normalcy restored. Thanks for all your cooperation, support and efforts in challenging times."

On Friday, the Mohali district administration had also ordered the closure of cinema halls and shopping malls from sunset to sunrise till further orders.

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10: An unidentified projectile landed in a residential area at Kanganiwal village in Punjab's Jalandhar district early Saturday amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Local residents said a migrant labourer was injured in the incident, while a few houses in the area also sustained damage. Parts of the unidentified object were lying in the area, they said.

"I was standing near a window when some object hit a water tank (of a house) around 1.30 am, shattering glasses of 4-5 houses before landing," a woman from the area said.

A migrant labourer who suffered injuries on his arm was taken to the hospital, she said.

Satinder Kumar, a local, said, "The water tank of our house was damaged, while many window panes were shattered. There was smoke all around."

Another local resident,

Nankana Sahib in Pakistan not attacked by Indian drone; govt debunks fake news

NEW DELHI, MAY 10: The government on Saturday debunked claims that India had launched a drone attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan.

"A video shared on social media is claiming that India has carried out a drone attack on the Nankhana Sahib gurdwara. This claim is completely fake," the PIB Fact Check Unit said.

Such content was being circulated to create communal hatred in India, it said.



Muskan, too said a big explosion took place at night that forced several people to come out of their homes.

"One car was damaged...We were all scared," she said.

Sharing her experience, Surjit Kaur said a red-coloured light flashed in the sky which was followed by a big explosion.

"Water tanks of some other houses in the area were also damaged," she said.

Explosion-like sounds

were also heard in Pathankot district around 5 am on Saturday. However, there was no official word in this regard.

In Amritsar and Goindwal Sahib in Tarn Taran districts, there were reports of explosion-like sounds being heard in the wee hours on Saturday.

In Haryana's Sirsa too, some locals claimed they heard blast-like sounds after midnight.

The attacks followed after Pakistan launched a

fresh wave of drone attacks targeting 26 locations in India -- from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat -- for the second night on Friday.

According to officials, the security forces thwarted multiple drone attacks launched by Pakistan in Punjab's Ferozpur, Pathankot, Fazilka and Amritsar districts.

In Ferozpur, three members of a family were injured on Friday night after a crashing projectile from a Pakistani drone destroyed by Indian air defence system landed at their house at Khai PHEME Ke village, setting the structure and a car on fire.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly after the Indian armed forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that had cross-border linkages.



Nankana Sahib is the birthplace of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism,

and the gurdwara is a revered shrine and pilgrimage centre for Sikhs.