

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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The Ministry of External Affairs today informed that Pakistan had attempted infiltration at 36 locations from Leh to Sircreek last night by using around 400 drones. Indian armed forces shot down many of these drones using kinetic and non-kinetic means. In a special briefing in New Delhi today, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army said that the Pakistan army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border with the intention of targeting military infrastructure. She said, not only this, they also fired heavy caliber weapons along the Line of Control.

### **\*Byte::Colonel Sofiya Qureshi\***

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh informed that in response to the Pakistani attack, Indian armed drones were launched at four air defence sites in Pakistan and one of the drones was able to destroy an AD radar. She said, Pakistan also carried out artillery shelling across the line of control using heavy-calibre artillery guns and armed drones which resulted in some losses and injuries to Indian army personnel. She added that the Pakistan army also suffered major losses in Indian retaliatory fire.

The Central Government has empowered the Chief of the Army Staff to call out every officer and personnel of the Territorial Army to provide for essential guard or for supporting and supplementing the regular army. The powers were given to the Army Chief under Territorial Army Rule 1948. In a gazette notification, the Ministry of Defence embodied 14 Infantry Battalions out of the existing 32 Infantry Battalions of Territorial Army in the areas of Southern Command, Eastern Command, Western Command, Central Command, Northern Command, South Western Command, Andaman and Nicobar Command and Army Training Command (ARTRAC). This order will remain in force for three years till 9th of February 2028.

The Government has urged all media channels, digital platforms and individuals to refrain from live coverage or real-time reporting of defence operations and movement of security forces. In a social media post, the Defence Ministry while citing the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's earlier circular said that disclosure of such sensitive and source-based information may

jeopardize operational effectiveness and endanger lives. The Ministry cited some past incidents, including the Kargil War, 26/11 attacks, and the Kandahar hijacking, underscoring the risks of premature reporting. The advisory said, as per the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, only periodic briefings by designated officials are permitted during anti-terror operations.

Governor Lt. General KT Parnaik (Retd.) participated in the Waqf Reform Awareness Meet at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar today. The event brought together community leaders, scholars, and representatives from various faiths to discuss the significance of the recently passed Waqf Amendment Bill 2025. Interacting with the participants, the Governor emphasized that the Bill results from extensive consultations, thoughtful deliberations, and collective effort to bring meaningful reforms to benefit all sections of the Muslim community. He said that the process was guided by the inclusive spirit of 'Sabka Prayas', and reflected a true sense of national participation and teamwork. He appealed to the people to continue fostering goodwill and positive thought for the progress of the society, the State and the Nation.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu, called on the Governor Lt. General K.T. Parnaik (Retd.) at the Raj Bhavan in Itanagar today. They discussed key security and developmental challenges and opportunities for the State and shared commitment to work collaboratively for a secure, prosperous, and digitally empowered Arunachal Pradesh. Discussing the recent approval of the Vibrant Villages Programme along the Indo-Myanmar border, the Governor expressed sincere appreciation to the Union Government for prioritizing the upliftment of remote frontier communities. In line with their commitment to good governance, the Governor and Chief Minister also reviewed the State's progress in digital transformation. Discussions focusing on empowering the youth of the State through skill development, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and self-employment were also discussed during the meeting.

Under the Comprehensive Handicraft Cluster Development Scheme, a one-day awareness workshop for artisans was successfully conducted at Zomkhang Hall, Tawang today. The workshop was organized by the Department of Industries, Tawang in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles and Handicraft, Government of India. The event witnessed participation from over 100 artisans from various villages of Tawang, including members

from Self Help Groups and traditional weavers. The sessions aimed to build the artisans' capacities while ensuring the essence of their cultural heritage remains intact.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a Yellow alert over Tawang, West Kameng, East Kameng, Lower Subansiri, Papumpare, East Siang, Lohit, Changlang, Tirap and Longding districts in the state. IMD has forecast thunderstorms with lightning very likely to occur at isolated locations over the next 24 hours. Additionally, an increase in the rainfall activity has been predicted from 10th to 13th May.