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# India and Pakistan blame each other for escalating military tensions

## Summary

Pakistan says it shot down 25 Indian drones overnight

It has not commented on Indian claims that Islamabad sent drones and "missiles" over the border

India said Pakistan was attempting to "engage a number of military targets"

Pakistan says 31 people have been killed and 57 injured by air strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and firing along the Line of Control, since Wednesday morning

Meanwhile, India's army says at least 16 civilians were killed by Pakistani shelling on its side of the de facto border

India says the initial missile strikes were a response to a deadly militant attack on Indian tourists in Pahalgam last month - Islamabad denies involvement

Indian-administered Kashmir has seen a decades-long insurgency which has claimed thousands of lives. India and Pakistan both claim Kashmir in full



| Watch: How tensions escalated between India and Pakistan

## Live Reporting

Produced by Vikas Pandey and Cheryllann Mollan in Delhi, and edited by Emily Atkinson in London

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19:29

**IDI cricket match stopped midway in**

## IPL cricket match stopped midway in Dharamshala



GETTY IMAGES

A match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was stopped midway

An Indian Premier League (IPL) match that was under way in Dharamshala in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh has been called off.

The match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was stopped by cricket officials after just 10 overs of play.

India's cricket board said in a statement that the match had been stopped due to a "significant technical failure", ESPN news website reported.

"Due to a power outage in the area, one of the light towers at the HPCA stadium malfunctioned. BCCI regrets the inconvenience caused to the in-stadium attendees," the statement said.

Sportstar's X account showed videos of spectators being evacuated from the stadium.

The news comes amid reports of fresh explosions in neighbouring Indian-administered Kashmir. Eyewitnesses in the federally-administered territory have described tense scenes after complete blackouts and buzzing sirens.

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19:15 BREAKING

## Indian military: Three military bases targeted, no losses

An update now from India's army, which claims Pakistan fired missiles and drones at three of its military stations - in Jammu and Udhampur, in Indian-administered Kashmir, and Pathankot, in India's Punjab district.

In a statement on X, the military says there have been no losses reported and that the threat has been "neutralised".

**Pakistan has denied launching any attack in Indian-administered Kashmir.**

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19:12

## Pakistan's defence minister denies attack on Indian-administered Kashmir



**Azadeh Moshiri**  
Pakistan correspondent

Pakistan's defence minister has denied the country is responsible for any attack in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Khawaja Asif told the BBC: "We deny it, we have not mounted anything so far."

According to the minister when Pakistan does strike, everyone will know it. "We will not strike and then deny".

He was speaking to the BBC just moments after reports of explosions and blackout in Indian-administered Kashmir.

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18:58

## Police in Jammu issue blackout advisory

As we just reported, sources tell the BBC a blackout is in place across the entire of Indian-administered Kashmir, including Jammu city.

Local police have since confirmed this is the case in Jammu, and issued the following advisory:

- They are urging residents to switch off all types of lights and to stay indoors
- They also advise against unnecessary journeys in vehicles
- But they add "there is no need for panic", saying authorities have the situation under full control

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18:53

## **Blackout across whole of Indian-administered Kashmir - sources**

Official sources tell the BBC that a blackout is now in place across the whole of Indian-administered Kashmir, including Jammu city.

It follows earlier reports of explosions, sirens and blackouts in the city - [we've collated all the latest here](#).

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18:37

## **Pakistan army spokesperson calls India's strikes a 'phantom defence'**

We can now bring you lines from a news conference held by Pakistan's deputy prime minister and a Pakistani military spokesperson a short while ago.

Lieutenant General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said the Indian government needs to transition from "cinema" into the "real world we live in".

He called India's strikes a "phantom defence".

The military spokesperson added that when Pakistan strikes India, "its reverberation will be heard everywhere".

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18:25

## Reports of explosions, blackout and sirens in Jammu

Over the last hour, we've received reports from the city of Jammu, in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Here's what we know:

- A blackout is in place across the city of Jammu and air sirens are sounding out
- There have been reports of explosions at Jammu Airport - one eyewitness told the BBC he counted 16 objects falling close by
- The same eyewitness said markets are shut and they saw people running
- Indian army sources have told the BBC that the defence system in Jammu has been activated

This is a developing story. We are continuing to monitor for updates.

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17:42

## Pakistan targeting Jammu with loitering munitions - report

News agency Asian News International is reporting that Pakistan is targeting Jammu with "loitering munitions" - drones which crash into targets with their built in warheads.

The news agency also reports that Indian air defences are firing back.

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17:34

## Defence system activated in Jammu - Indian army sources

Indian army sources tell the BBC that the defence system in Jammu has been activated while air sirens sound across the city.

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17:27

## Explosions reported at Jammu airport - sources

An eyewitness on the Gujjar Nagar bridge in Jammu city tells the BBC that he counted 16 objects falling close to Jammu Airport.

Meanwhile, a security source tells AFP news agency there have been explosions at the airport.

The eyewitness told the BBC that markets shut and they saw people running, as sirens blared and power shut down across the city.

**Share**17:17 **BREAKING**

## Eyewitness reports sirens and blackout in Indian-administered Kashmir

We've just received reports from the city of Jammu, in Indian-administered Kashmir.

An eyewitness tells the BBC there is a blackout and they can hear sirens.

We'll bring you more on this as soon as we get it.

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17:01

## BBC Verify locates footage of crashed fighter jets

Officials in Islamabad have claimed that Pakistani forces shot down five Indian fighter jets on Wednesday morning. India has so far declined to comment.

But BBC Verify has authenticated three videos which purport to show the wreckage of a French-manufactured Rafale fighter - which are used by the Indian Air Force.



| A field in Bathinda with wreckage of a French-manufactured Rafale fighter

In one clip - geolocated by BBC Verify to a field near the city of Bathinda in India's Punjab state - troops can be seen collecting debris from the crashed jet.

We have also located two further clips from the same location filmed at night. One shows debris in the field, while another shows a projectile catching fire in the sky, and then fire in an open field.

Justin Crump, a former British Army Officer who runs the risk intelligence company Sibylline, told BBC Verify the wreckage appears to be a French air-to-air missile of a type used on both Mirage 2000 and Rafale fighter jets.

Another image circulating on social media shows a tail fin with "BS001" and "Rafale" inscribed on it. Google reverse image searches don't show any old versions of the image.

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16:38

## Pakistan's PM tells US they'll defend 'territorial integrity at all costs' - Reuters

We're starting to get a few lines from a phone call between Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

**Rubio** stressed the need for India and Pakistan to work closely to de-escalate their conflict, Sharif's office says, according to Reuters news agency.

**Sharif** reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to defend "sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs", the news agency adds.

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16:21

## What is the way out of this crisis?

**Anbarasan Ethirajan**  
South Asia Regional Editor





Houses damaged by Pakistani artillery shelling in Uri, Indian-administered Kashmir

The ongoing India-Pakistan crisis has taken a dangerous turn. Both nations have for the first time carried out mass drone attacks, including on military installations.

Pakistan said it had shot down 25 Indian drones, some far from the disputed Kashmir region. India said it had neutralised Pakistani attack drones and also claimed it had destroyed an air defence system in Lahore (Islamabad has denied this).

The fact that the Indian drones have managed to reach the highly protected garrison city of Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi has come as a surprise for many in Pakistan.

Probably, using the drones may be less expensive than using exorbitantly priced state-of-the-art fighter jets. If the drone warfare continues, then it's likely to cause further disruptions and anger on both sides.

World nations have urged calm. The initial thinking was that after India launched missile attacks and with Pakistan claiming to have shot down several Indian jets (a claim Delhi has not confirmed), both sides could claim "victory" and de-escalate.



GETTY IMAGES

A damaged building in Muridke, about 30km from Lahore, after Indian strikes

But there's a danger that any protracted tit-for-tat attacks could lead them to a far more damaging prospect.

During past conflicts, it was the US and a few other global powers which

put pressure on the two capitals to bring the situation under control and de-escalate.

Now passions are running high, and the nationalist rhetoric has reached a crescendo on both sides and they are closer to war than in recent decades.

Unless Washington gets more involved, Islamabad and Delhi may continue with their accusations and counter-accusations.

Gulf states like Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have close ties to both the countries, can step up their mediation efforts.

While the Trump administration's priorities are more about tariffs, China and Ukraine-Russia, it may require a concerted attempt by the international community to lower tension between the two nuclear-armed south Asian rivals.

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16:00

## 'A shell fell right in front of our home': Locals flee Poonch



00:59

Sufreen Akhtar, a resident of Poonch in Indian-administered Kashmir, told the BBC a shell landed just outside her home.

Another local, Sobiya, says she ran with her one-and-a-half-month-old baby in her arms.

Both of them are now among the dozens of people taking shelter in Surankote, a town a little further from the Line of Control, the de facto border between India and Pakistan. Many others have left Poonch after cross-border shelling intensified on Wednesday.

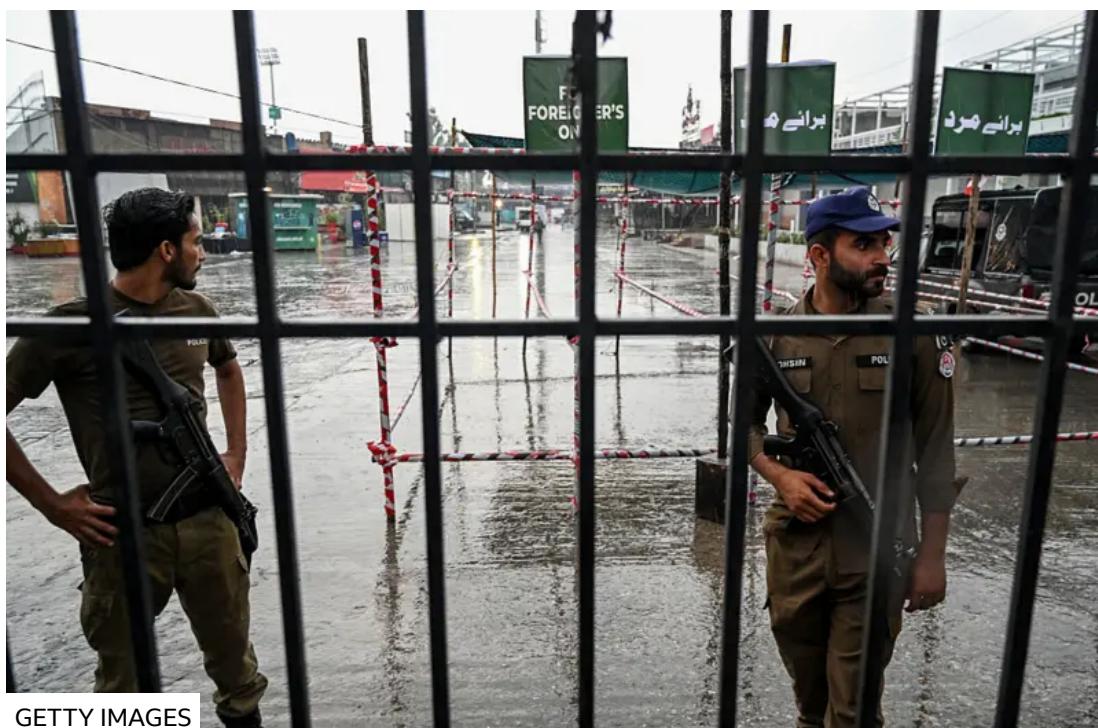
*Video by Devina Gupta, Aamir Peerzada and Neha Sharma*

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15:40

## PSL cricket match rescheduled amid reports of drone attack on stadium



GETTY IMAGES

Security personnel cordon off a street near the Rawalpindi cricket stadium on Thursday

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has said in a statement that a cricket match set to be held tonight at the Rawalpindi cricket stadium has been rescheduled.

It said the PCB "in consultation with all the stakeholders has decided to reschedule tonight's HBL PSL [Pakistan Super League] X match between Peshawar Zalmi and Karachi Kings".

It added that a revised date would be announced in due course.

The statement did not mention a reason for the change in schedule.

Earlier in the day, there were several media reports about Indian drone strikes damaging parts of the Rawalpindi cricket stadium. The Pakistan government has not officially confirmed this.

But Pakistan's army has said that an Indian drone had fallen in a street close to the stadium.

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15:34

## Schools in Pakistan's Punjab shut for the next two days

The government of Pakistan's Punjab province has ordered all schools to remain shut on 9 and 10 May, according to an official notification.

The release adds that examinations such as O-level and A-level, being held by international organisations, will continue as scheduled.

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15:16

## Flight operations remain suspended at Karachi airport

Pakistan's airport regulator has said all flight operations from Karachi airport will remain suspended until midnight due to "operational reasons".

Earlier, Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) had announced suspension of flights until 18:00 local time.

Mohammad Sikandar, a stranded passenger, told the Associated Press that he was supposed to travel to the UAE, but learnt on arrival at the airport that his flight had been cancelled.

"The authorities said they will contact me after five-to-six days if flights are restored," he said.

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15:11

## What Indian foreign secretary didn't talk about



Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

Here are a few things Mr Misri did not address:

- Pakistani Information Minister Attaullah Tarar earlier claimed that Pakistani forces had killed 50 Indian soldiers. Mr Misri wasn't asked this question and he didn't talk about this.
- He was asked about Pakistan's claims that it shot down five Indian jets - but he didn't answer the question directly. He said official information on this topic will be shared at the right time.
- Some Indian media reports have claimed that 100 militants were killed in yesterday's air strikes in Pakistan, but he didn't address these claims. He added that only 36 hours had passed since the air strikes and asked the media to wait for more details.
- India has claimed that it has "neutralised" an air defence system in Lahore in Pakistan. When asked if there were other such systems that were targeted by India, he said he wouldn't go into operational details. (Pakistan has, meanwhile, denied that its air defence system in Lahore was hit.)

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14:54

# **Misri: Pakistan targeted Sikh community in cross-border shelling**

Mr Misri accused Pakistan of targeting the Sikh community in Poonch in Indian-administered Kashmir.

He added that three people from the community died when a gurdwara in the district was hit by shelling from Pakistan.

Pakistan is yet to comment on this specific claim.

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