



2 MOCK DRILLS HELD ACROSS COUNTRY AS PART OF OPERATION ABHYAAS



11 US DEMOCRATS DEMAND CLARITY ON MUSK'S DOGE APPROVAL OF FARM LOANS



16 RAHANE, RUSSELL SHINE AS KKR POWERS TO 179/6 IN THEIR 20 OVERS AGAINST CSK

INDIA AVENGES PAHALGAM ATTACK

Indian armed forces with clinical efficiency destroyed nine terror sites, including that of JeM and LeT in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

India, on the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, carried out a series of airstrikes targeting terrorist camps and training centres in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and other parts of Pakistan, including Bahawalpur, which houses one of the largest Jaish-e-Mohammad terror hubs.

This is the third strike by the Indian military against Pakistan-based terror facilities in the last nine years, following the surgical strikes in 2016 in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the 2019 Balakot airstrike deep inside Pakistan's Khyber Pakh-

ter terror attacks inside India, including recruitment and indoctrination centers, training areas, and launch pads located both in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

At a government briefing held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Colonel Sofia Qureshi of the Indian Army, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Indian Air Force presented detailed video footage of the targets to the media. They stated that the selection of targets was based on credible intelligence inputs, with a clear focus on facilities directly involved in perpetrating terror activities.



A damaged portion of Bilal Mosque is seen after it was hit by an Indian strike, in Muzaffarabad on Wednesday. ANI

tunkhwa province.

The strike code named 'Operation Sindoor' started at 1.05 AM and went on till 1.30 AM.

According to official sources, while the use of the military to 'punish' Pakistan for spreading terror in India will not happen for now unless Pakistan does anything 'stupid' all other economic and diplomatic measures will continue to be pursued by India till its convinced that Pakistan's terror factories and their backers have been neutralised.

While the immediate reason for this strike was the April 22 massacre of 26 unarmed citizens by Lashkar-e-Taiba cadre, the strike targeted terror infrastructure that Pakistan has systematically built over the past three decades and were used in earli-

All locations were carefully chosen to avoid damage to civilian infrastructure and to prevent any loss of civilian lives.

Significantly, the strikes came even as the country was preparing for its first war related mock drill since 1971 which had given the impression to Pakistan that the inevitable Indian strike will not happen atleast until the mock drills have been completed.

Later, it emerged, which was broken first by the Sunday Guardian, that 14 close members of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar's family were killed in the strike. Videos and pictures that later emerged from Pakistan showed members of Pakistan military, in uniform, attending the last

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EXPLAINED: OPERATION SINDOOR

TARGETS

■ **Sawai Nala Camp, Muzaffarabad:** A key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) training facility, located 30 km from LoC.

■ **Syedna Belal Camp, Muzaffarabad:** A JeM camp used as a staging area to train terrorists in weapons, explosives, jungle survival techniques.

■ **Gulpur Camp, Kotli:** Located 30 kilometers from the LoC. This was a base for LeT terrorists operating in the Rajouri-Poonch area.

■ **Abbas Camp, Kotli:** Located about 13 kilometers from the LoC, opposite Rajouri. This was a key centre for training LeT suicide bombers, with infrastructure for approximately 50 terrorists.

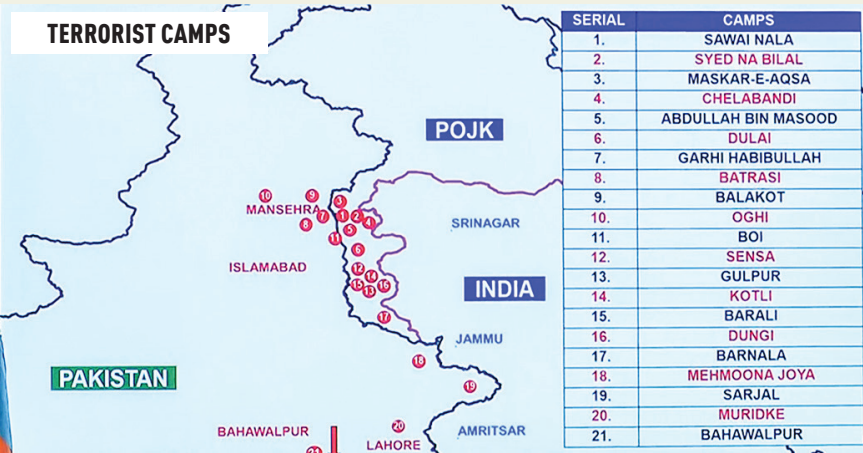
■ **Barnala Camp, Bhimber:** Located 9 km from the LoC, opposite the Rajouri-Poonch Sector, this camp provided training in weapon handling.

■ **Sarjal Camp, Sialkot:** Located about six kilometers from the International Borders, opposite Samba-Kathua.

■ **Mehmooona Joya Camp, Sialkot:** Located around 12 km from the International Boundary. This was a key Hizbul Mujahideen training facility.

■ **Markaz Taiba, Muridke:** Located around 25 KM from the International Boundary, this was the headquarters of LeT.

■ **Markaz Subhan, Bahawalpur:** Located around 100 km from International Boundary, this was JeM headquarters.

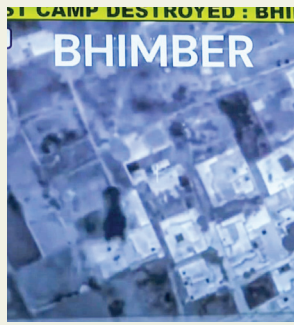


The site of Indian armed forces' strike in Bahawalpur, POJK

OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED FROM 1:05 AM TO 1:30 AM ON WEDNESDAY



The site of strike in Kotli, POJK



Visual of an area in Bhimber

SERIAL	CAMPS
1.	SAWAI NALA
2.	SYED NA BILAL
3.	MASKAR-E-AQSA
4.	CHELABANDI
5.	ABDULLAH BIN MASOOD
6.	DULAI
7.	GARHI HABIBULLAH
8.	BATRASI
9.	BALAKOT
10.	OGHI
11.	BOI
12.	SENSA
13.	GULPUR
14.	KOTLI
15.	BARALI
16.	DUNGI
17.	BARNALA
18.	MEHMOONA JOYA
19.	SARJAL
20.	MURIDKE
21.	BAHOWALPUR



Justice is Served.
Jai Hind!

Indian Army on X
(at 1:51 am on May 7)



24 missiles

in 25 minutes
was all it took

Rafale jets armed with SCALP missiles and HAMMER bombs were deployed

13 people killed in heavy shelling by Pak, Poonch worst hit

AGENCIES
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

At least 13 people, including four children and a soldier, were killed and 57 injured as the Pakistan Army carried out one of the most intense artillery and mortar shelling in years targeting forward villages along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir after the Indian missile strikes against terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country and PoK, officials said on Wednesday.

Hundreds of residents were forced to take refuge in underground bunkers or shift to safer places as the indiscriminate shelling by Pakistan destroyed houses,



Residents being shifted from areas located near the LoC to safer locations, in Poonch on Wednesday. (Inset) A view of damage caused to the roof of a house due to ceasefire violation by Pak. ANI

vehicles and various buildings, including a Gurdwara, and created panic among the border residents in the worst-hit Poonch district and Rajouri in Jammu re-

gion and Baramulla and Kupwara in north Kashmir.

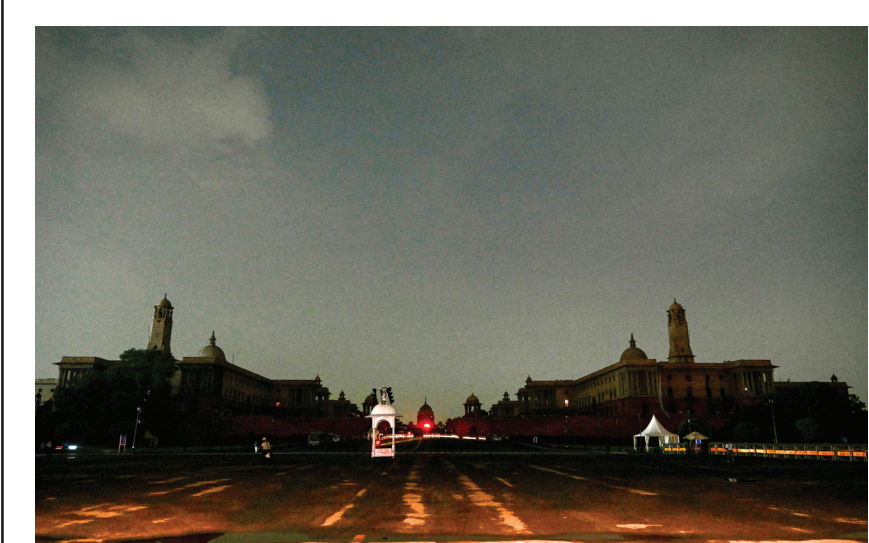
The officials said the Indian Army is responding to the shelling in a befitting

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PM Modi's brain behind 'Sindoor' codename



NEW DELHI: It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who picked the evocative term 'Operation Sindoor' to codename the Indian armed forces' strikes on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, official sources said on Wednesday.



A Blackout at North Block and South Block, as part of the mock drill ordered by the MHA, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Punjab, Rajasthan on maximum alert

J&K holds emergency meet; Amritsar and Chandigarh Airports shut

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Punjab has been placed on the highest security alert following India's major military action under 'Operation Sindoor,' which targeted nine terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-oc-

cupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh held emergency meetings with their respective states' officials on Wednesday to discuss the current situation in border areas.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma convened a high-level meeting with senior police officials at his office on Wednesday to review the state's preparedness.

Emphasising Rajasthan's strategic significance due to its shared border with



A deserted view of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport after all civilian flights were cancelled following 'Operation Sindoor', in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ANI

Pakistan, the Chief Minister stressed that the state's security systems must consistently operate at the highest level. In light of India's airstrike on terrorist

bases in Pakistan, Sharma issued firm instructions to strengthen the state's overall security apparatus.

As part of nationwide precautionary measures, the

key airports at Amritsar and Chandigarh — both critical gateways in Punjab — have been shut down temporarily. Along with this, border areas school are also shut till further orders.

Authorities confirmed that these airports will remain closed until at least 5:30 a.m. on May 10, with operations suspended and terminals fully evacuated. Security has been significantly bolstered with the deployment of Air Force units and additional personnel on the ground.

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Mock drills held across country as part of Operation Abhyaas

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Mock drills simulating multiple hostile scenarios like air raids, multiple fire emergencies, and search and rescue operations were carried out in several states and Union Territories (UTs) on Wednesday as part of the nationwide mega civil defence mock drill 'Operation Abhyaas'.

The mock drills took place a few hours after the Indian military launched Operation Sindoor, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in a strong response to the terror attack in Pahalgalam. The April 22 attack, carried out by the terror organisa-



South Central Railway Civil Defence Staff and Bharat Scouts and Guides during a nationwide civil defence mock drill, at Kacheguda railway station in Hyderabad on Wednesday. ANI

tion The Resistance Front, killed 26 civilians.

In the national capital Delhi, PCR vans and fire engines were stationed at multiple locations while there was a heavy deployment of security personnel and civil defence volun-

teers.

Blaring sirens, residents rushing to safer places, injured people being carried away on stretchers -- these were some of the scenes that played out across the 55 locations where mock security drills were carried



Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force (TNDRF) personnel during a nationwide civil defence mock drill, at Chennai Port Trust premises in Chennai on Wednesday. ANI

out by authorities in Delhi.

Delhi Fire Services cranes were used to reach high-rise buildings and evacuate people who were "trapped". Sirens were sounded at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. Fire brigade teams rushed to

the spot along with a team of doctors and multiple ambulances.

Students and teachers across Delhi took part in the safety drill aimed at strengthening emergency preparedness that included practising orderly evacua-



Civil Defence personnel during a nationwide civil defence mock drill, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ANI

tions, taking shelter under desks, and switching off electrical appliances when the siren sounded.

The drill was conducted on the instructions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which had asked all states and UTs to

organise such exercises in light of the "new and complex threats" following the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam.

Training of civilians in the event of hostile attacks, provision of crash blackout

measures, early camouflaging of vital installations, verifying the response of civil defence services, evaluating the preparedness of evacuation plans and their execution were also noted to be examined during the drill.

Close to 300 'civil defence districts' across the country with sensitive installations like nuclear plants, military bases, refineries and hydroelectric dams were covered by mock drills on air-raid warning sirens, civilian training for a "hostile attack" and cleaning of bunkers and trenches.

In Punjab, mock drills simulating emergency scenarios like fire emergencies and rescue operations were performed in Ferozepur.

INDIA USED ITS 'RIGHT TO RESPOND' TO TERROR ATTACK, SAYS RAJNATH

Defence Minister says targets destroyed, no civilian population harmed in Operation Sindoor

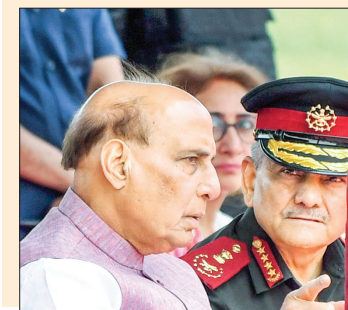
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India's military scripted "history" by acting with "precision, precaution and compassion" in destroying terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir under 'Operation Sindoor', Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

In his first remarks following the strike, Singh said India used its "right to respond" to the Pahalgalam attack and that the targets were destroyed as per plan.

"Through Operation Sindoor, India has used its 'right to respond' to the attack on its soil, and the armed forces scripted history by acting with precision, precaution and compassion to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK," he said addressing the Border Roads Organisation

'MEASURED, THOUGHTFUL ACTION'



(BRO) Raising Day celebrations.

The defence minister asserted that the targets were destroyed and no civilian population was harmed as per the plan. "The whole world has witnessed what our armed forces have done today. The action was carried out very thoughtfully and in a measured manner," he said.

"It was limited only to the camps and other infrastructure used for training terror-

■ "The whole world has witnessed what our armed forces have done today. The action was carried out very thoughtfully and in a measured manner," he said.

■ "India's armed forces scripted history by acting with precision, precaution and compassion to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK," Rajnath said

ists, with the aim of breaking their morale," Singh said.

"I congratulate the armed forces on behalf of the whole country. I also congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing complete support to the forces," he added. "We have followed the ideals of Lord Hanuman. Just as he said during the destruction of Ashok Vatika — 'jin mohi maara, tin mohi maare' (I only struck those who attacked me) — we too have targeted only

those who killed our innocent people," Singh said

In retaliation for the Pahalgalam terror attack, Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan, including Bahawalpur, a stronghold of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India decided to carry out the "proportion-

ate" strikes to bring the perpetrators and planners of the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack to justice as there was "no demonstrable step" from Pakistan to act against terrorist infrastructure on territories under its control.

Misri said India's actions were in line with the UN Security Council's statement about holding perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of the Pahalgalam terror attack accountable.

Under 'Operation Sindoor', the Indian military targeted Markaz Taiba of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Muridke, Markaz Subhan Allah of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in of Bahawalpur and Hizbul Mujahideen's Mehmoona Joya Facility in Sialkot and LeT's base in Markaz Ahle Hadith in Barnala and its camp in Muzaffarabad's Shawai Nalla, military officials said.

Pahalgalam victims' families welcome Operation Sindoor

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

People celebrate the success of Operation Sindoor, in Patna on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

As news of India's missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan hogged media headlines, the families of Bengal tourists killed in Kashmir's Pahalgalam hailed India's retaliatory strike. They said "justice has been delivered." On April 22, Pakistan-sponsored terrorists had struck at one of Kashmir's most scenic spots, segregated the male tourists on the basis of their religion and brutally killed 26 of them in front of their families. Indian armed forces on early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's I Muridke.

The families of Samir Guha and Bitan Adhikary, two of the three Bengal residents, who were killed in the last month's terror attack on

tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgalam, on Wednesday expressed satisfaction over India's strike on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, calling it a "step towards justice".

"I am happy that our country has hit deep into the heart of the terror camps. We would request that this attack must continue till terrorism is wiped out from our neighbourhood," Guha's wife Shobori said, speaking to reporters at her home.

Family members of the slain tourists thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Operation Sindoor, which is aimed at crushing terror

bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

A total of three tourists from West Bengal were killed in the Pahalgalam massacre. Sohini Adhikari, the widow of Adhikari, told media persons that she cannot get over the harrowing incident of her husband being killed after being identified as a Hindu.

"I thank the Prime Minister for paying back Pakistan in its own coin. Now it has to be ensured that events like the Pahalgalam massacre are not repeated. There should not be another incident where terrorists kill anyone," Sohini Adhikari said.

Doval dials US' Rubio, NSAs from several other countries

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Soon after the focused strikes on terrorists and terrorist infrastructure at nine sites in Pakistan and PoJK as part of Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval spoke with his counterparts from the United States, Japan and several other countries and briefed them about India's "measured, non-escalatory" action, sources said.

India carried out precise strikes against terrorist infrastructure in response to the Pahalgalam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

Ajit Doval spoke with US NSA & Secretary of State Marco Rubio, UK NSA Jonathan Powell, Saudi NSA Musaid Al Aiban, UAE NSA Sheikh Tahnoon, Secretary General of NSC of UAE Ali



Al Shamsi and NSA of Japan Masataka Okano.

The sources said contact was also established with Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Diplomatic Adviser to French President Emmanuel Bonne. NSA briefed his counterparts on actions taken and method of execution, which was measured, non-escalatory and restrained. He emphasised that India had no intent to escalate but was well prepared to retaliate resolutely should

Pakistan decide to escalate.

NSA will be in touch with his counterparts in the days ahead, sources said.

Marco Rubio had spoken to National Security Advisors from India and Pakistan on Tuesday (local time) and urged them to keep lines of communication open and avoid escalation.

"Earlier this afternoon, @SecRubio spoke to the national security advisors from India and Pakistan. He urged both to keep lines of communication open and avoid escalation." US Department of State said on X. At a joint briefing on Operation Sindoor in which nine terrorist camps were targeted with precision strikes, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the terror attack in Pahalgalam was marked with extreme barbarity.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind backs Operation Sindoor, calls for unity

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Syed Sadatullah Hussaini, President of Jamaat-E-Islami Hind, on Wednesday supported Operation Sindoor, which struck nine terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan.

According to his statement, Hussaini called terrorism a "heinous crime against humanity" and emphasised that its eradication was essential for the peace and security of the country.

"Jamaat-e-Islami Hind considers terrorism a serious threat and a heinous crime against humanity, and deems its complete eradication essential for the safety, security, and peace of the country and its people."

Congress calls emergency CWC meet, extends full support to forces

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday called an urgent meeting of its top leadership called in wake of the strikes carried by India in Pakistan and PoK, the grand old party said that it was a "time for unity" and said it was extending its "full support" to the Indian Armed forces and also extended support to the government in its fight against terrorism.

Speaking during a briefing after the meeting at Delhi's 24 Akbar Road office, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "Today we called working committee meeting to discuss what happened today in the country and the steps have been taken by the government. We are proud of our armed forces who have carried out



Operation Sindoor in Pakistan and PoK at terrorist camps. Our armed forces have given a befitting reply. We salute the courage, resolve and patriotism of our armed forces."

"There is a need for unity on all levels. Congress is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the bravehearts of our country. We are giving full support for the national security. There is no discrimination. We are giving full support to our soldiers for the safety, unity and independence of our country.

There is no discrimination on this issue. We are together in this and the INDIA bloc is also trying to work together for the country," added Kharge.

Speaking to the media, Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi said the party extends "full support" to the armed forces. "The complete support to armed forces. Much love to them," Rahul Gandhi said.

He also said that the Congress has received an invitation for the all-party meeting called by the government on Thursday.

EAM holds talks with Spain, Germany, France, Japan, Qatar, stresses on zero tolerance for terror

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held discussions with foreign ministers from Spain, France, Germany, Japan, and Qatar.

He emphasised India's approach to cross-border terrorism and expressed gratitude for their solidarity and support.

Jaishankar discussed India's measured response to cross-border terrorism with

Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares.

In a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Spoke with FM @jmalbares of Spain. Discussed India's firm and measured response to cross-border terrorism."

Jaishankar held talks with France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot and Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul and appreciated their solidarity following the Pahalgalam attack.

"Had a joint telecon with FM @jnbartot of France &

FM @JoWadephul of Germany. Appreciated their solidarity and support in the wake of the Pahalgalam terrorist attack. Discussed ensuring zero tolerance for terrorism," Jaishankar wrote on X.

In conversations with Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya, Jaishankar discussed India's action against cross-border terrorist infrastructure.

Sharing a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Had a telecon with FM Takeshi Iwaya of Japan. Appreciate the strong



Border Security Force (BSF) personnel stand guard near Attari Wagah border, in Amritsar on Wednesday. (ANI Photo/Raminder Pal Singh)



condemnation of the April 22 terrorist attack. Discussed India's action against the cross-border terrorist infrastructure this morning."

Jaishankar spoke with Sheikh Mohammed bin Ab-

dulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and discussed India's "targeted response to deter cross-border terrorism."

"Good to speak to PM & FM @MBA_AlThani, of Qatar. Discussed India's targeted and measured response to deter cross-border terrorism," Jaishankar wrote on X.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgalam terror attack, the Indian Armed Forces launched a strike at the terror hideouts deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir under 'Operation Sindoor' on Wednesday morning. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh informed that a total of nine terror sites were targeted and successfully destroyed. She asserted that the locations were selected so that there was no damage to civilians and their infrastructure.

"Operation Sindoor was launched by the Indian Armed Forces to deliver justice to the victims of the Pahalgalam terror attack and their families.

INDIAN ASTRONAUTS' FOOTPRINTS WILL BE ON MOON: PM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that India was marching ahead with renewed confidence in the field of space exploration and its astronauts' footprints will be on the Moon.

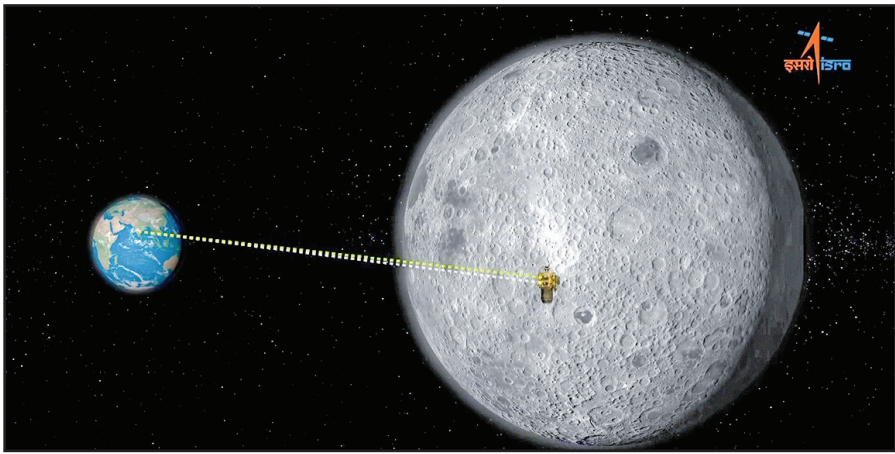
Mars and Venus were also on the country's radar for exploration missions, he stressed in a pre-recorded message for the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX-2025) here.

Modi said for India, space was about exploration as

well as empowerment, and listed out plans to set up the Bharatiya Anatariksh Station by 2035 and land an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040.

"India's space journey is not about racing others. It is about reaching higher together. Together, we share a common goal to explore space for the good of humanity," he said in the video message that was recorded on Tuesday.

He said India has launched a satellite for the South Asian nations and the G20 satellite, announced during its presidency of the grouping, will



be a gift to the Global South. "Our first human space-flight mission, 'Gaganyaan', highlights our nation's rising aspirations," Modi

said referring to the mission planned for early 2027 launch. The prime minister said in the coming weeks, an

Indian astronaut will travel to space as part of a joint ISRO-NASA Mission to the International Space Station.

The Axiom-4 mission is stated for launch on May 29 and Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others will undertake a 14-day sojourn to the orbital laboratory.

The GLEX-2025 is organised by the International Astronautical Federation and the Indian Space Research Organisation.

"Space is not just a destination. It is a declaration of curiosity, courage, and collective progress. India's space journey reflects this spirit," Modi said.

"By 2035, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station will open new frontiers in re-

search and global cooperation. By 2040, an Indian's footprints will be on the Moon. Mars and Venus are also on our radar," he said.

He recalled that India's space journey started with the launch of a small rocket in 1963 and became the first nation to land near the South Pole of the Moon.

"Our journey has been remarkable. Our rockets carry more than payloads. They carry the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians. India's achievements are significant scientific milestones. Beyond that, they are proof that the human spirit can defy gravity," Modi said.

He said India made history by reaching Mars on its first attempt in 2014, Chandrayaan-1 helped discover water on the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 gave the world the highest-resolution images of the Moon and Chandrayaan-3 increased the understanding of the lunar South Pole.

"We built cryogenic engines in a record time. We launched 100 satellites in a single mission. We have launched over 400 satellites for 34 nations on our launch vehicles. This year, we docked two satellites in space, a major step forward," Modi said.

PM Modi's leadership is writ all over Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The world is now focused on India after the Operation Sindoor. After the Pahalgam attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had vowed to take selective revenge during a public event in Bihar—and he fulfilled that promise with the launch of Operation Sindoor.

By launching Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has showed strong leadership and determination. This action is likely to increase his support both in India and abroad. Even his critics may now recognize his firm stance and ability to deal with terrorism and national security without hesitation.

This bold move sent three clear messages. First, India

will not tolerate terrorism under any circumstances. Second, the country is fully capable of responding to such threats independently. Third, such decisive actions are only possible under strong leadership and a majority government.

Operation Sindoor was the result of a well-coordinated effort involving key figures at the highest levels. PM Modi was supported by Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, both of whom played critical roles. Shah quietly oversaw internal security and strategy from the day of the attack until the operation was executed. Even the mock drill, which had seemed routine, is now being viewed as part of a larger strategic plan.

At a time when the coun-

try and the world believed nothing significant would happen, PM Modi stunned everyone with a surprise offensive, crossing into Pakistan and eliminating hundreds of terrorists.

Ajit Doval was instrumental in executing the strategy. His expertise had also been vital during the previous air and surgical strikes.

This operation is a powerful reminder for the citizens of India: the nation's strength lies not in divisive caste politics, but in unity and strong governance. The opposition's attempt to unseat the NDA government in the 2024 elections through caste-based strategies failed to resonate. Operation Sindoor has now further solidified the image of a determined and resolute leadership.

If we look back at the Mumbai attack, a strong response to Pakistan was not possible because the country was under a weak coalition government, the UPA, led by Congress. Without a clear majority or strong leadership, no action was taken. In contrast, Operation Sindoor under Prime Minister Modi sends a powerful message.

Now that Prime Minister Modi has successfully led Operation Sindoor in response to Pahalgam, the opposition may not be able to politicize the issue further. Their caste-based strategies are also likely to face a major blow. While there isn't a major national election currently, upcoming state elections like in Bihar could be significantly impacted.



People holding a banner stand in solidarity with the victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack following 'Operation Sindoor', at Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar on Wednesday. ANI

13 people killed in heavy shelling by Pak

CONTINUED FROM P1

manner, resulting in many casualties on the enemy side after several of their posts engaged in firing were destroyed.

This is the first time that such an intense shelling has been witnessed after the ceasefire agreement was renewed between the two countries on February 25, 2021.

Poonch district accounted for all 13 deaths, the officials said, adding 42 people were also injured and the condition of two of them was stated to be serious.

The shelling was reported from all along the LoC in Poonch, including Balakote, Mendhar, Mankote, Krishna Ghati, Gulpur, Kerni and even Poonch district headquarters, resulting in damage to dozens of houses and vehicles, they said.

The shelling from across the border was intense till noon and later continued intermittently, mostly restricting to the Poonch sector for the next few hours. Locals faced a tough time evacuating the victims to hospital due to the heavy shelling, which also hit Poonch bus stand, damaging several buses, the officials said.

Three Sikh men lost their lives when an artillery shell hit a Gurdwara and adjoining houses in Poonch town, they said. Several parties from Punjab condemned the incident.

In a post on X, Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal said,

"Strongly condemn the inhuman attack by Pakistani forces on the sacred Central Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Sahib in Poonch, in which three innocent Gursikhs, including Bhai Amrik Singh Ji (a raagi Singh), Bhai Amarjeet Singh and Bhai Ranjit Singh lost their lives."

Ten persons, including five children, were also injured in cross-border shelling in Uri sector of Baramulla district, while three others were injured in Rajouri district, the officials said, adding several houses also caught fire due to shelling in Karnah sector of Kupwara district.

The officials identified the deceased as Balvinder Kour alias "Ruby" (33), Mohd Zain Khan (10), his elder sister Zoya Khan (12), Mohd Akram (40), Amrik Singh (55), Mohd Iqbal (45), Ranjeet Singh (48), Shakeela Bi (40), Amarjeet Singh (47), Maryam Khatoon (7), Vihaan Bhargav (13) and Mohd Rafi (40) and a Lance naik of Army.

This was the 13th consecutive night of unprovoked firing along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir, amid heightened tensions following the Pahalgam attack.

Earlier, a defence spokesman said during the intervening night of May 6 and 7, the Pakistan Army resorted to arbitrary firing, including artillery shelling, from posts across the LoC and International Border opposite Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the Indian Army is respond-

ing in a "proportionate manner".

Army sources said Indian troops caused many casualties to the enemy forces after destroying several of their posts in the retaliatory action.

Authorities had shut all educational institutions in the five border districts of the Jammu region on Wednesday.

The ceasefire violations have been very rare after India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021.

In a gesture of solidarity and compassion, Congress MLA from Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed donated blood along with his supporters after visiting the injured undergoing treatment at the GMC hospital in Rajouri. Ahmed appealed to the public to come forward and donate blood, emphasising the urgent need to support the medical efforts during this critical time.

"We are ready to sacrifice everything for the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The nation comes first, and we should stand united to face any challenges that come our way," he said.

Principal GMC Rajouri Amarjeet Singh Bhatia said the hospital is fully geared up to deal with the situation in the wake of border skirmishes and mounting tension.

Authorities in Poonch district said they have designated nine public shelter camps with adequate amenities for the people desirous to relocate from the forward villages hit by Pakistani shelling.

CONTINUED FROM P1

rites of these terrorists.

The targeted camps were divided into two, five of them were in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir and those in mainland Pakistan.

According to officials, Indian fighter jets launched missiles in the strikes on these targets without entering Pakistani airspace.

The jets deployed SCALP EG cruise missiles, French-made, long-range, air-launched missiles designed for deep strikes against fortified targets (also known as Storm Shadow in the UK), and AASM Hammer guided bombs, French precision-guided munitions, adaptable for various ranges and target. Some unverified reports suggested that loitering munitions (potentially classified as kamikaze drones) were also deployed, possibly from Rafale jets.

IN POJK

Sawai Nala Camp, Muzaffarabad: A key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) training facility, located 30 km from the Line of Control in the Tangdhar Sector. This camp was linked to attacks on civilians and security forces in Sonmarg (October 20, 2024), Gulmarg (October 24, 2024), and Pahalgam (April 22, 2025).

Syedna Belal Camp, Muzaffarabad: A Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) camp used as a staging area to train terrorists in weapons, explosives, and jungle survival techniques for activities across the Line of Control in the Kashmir region.

Gulpur Camp, Kotli: Located 30 kilometers from the Line of Control, this was a base for LeT terrorists operating in the Rajouri-Poonch area. Terrorists trained here conducted attacks in Poonch (April 20, 2023) and on pilgrims traveling in a bus (June 9, 2024). Zaki-ur-

Rehman Lakhvi, the 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind, frequently visited this camp.

Abbas Camp, Kotli: Located about 13 kilometers from the Line of Control opposite Rajauri, this was a key center for training LeT suicide bombers, with infrastructure for approximately 50 terrorists.

Barnala Camp, Bhimber: Located 9 km from the Line of Control opposite the Rajouri-Poonch Sector, this camp provided training in weapon handling, IED making, and jungle survival techniques.

IN PAKISTAN

Sarjal Camp, Sialkot: Located about six kilometers from the International Borders opposite Samba-Kathua. Terrorists who killed four Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel in March 2025 were trained and launched from this camp.

Mehmoona Joya Camp, Sialkot: Located around 12 km from the International Boundary, near Sialkot, this was a key Hizbul Mujahideen training facility. It served as a control center for the revival of terrorism in the Kathua and Jammu region. Major terrorist attacks, including the attack on Pathankot Air Force Base, were planned and directed from this camp.

Markaz Taiba, Muridke: Located around 25 kilometers from the International Boundary, this was the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba, led by Hafiz Saeed. Terrorists trained here were associated with numerous attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The captured Mumbai attackers, Ajmal Kasab, and David Coleman Headley, confessed to receiving training at this camp.

Markaz Subhan, Bahawalpur: Located around 100 km from the International Boundary, this was the head-

quarters of JeM. The camp was used for recruitment, training, and indoctrination of JeM terrorists. Terrorist commanders, including Masood Azhar, frequently visited this facility.

According to sources, the Indian Armed Forces used precision capability and niche technology weapons, with careful selection of warheads to ensure no collateral damage. The point of impact in each target was a specific building or group of buildings. No military establishments were targeted.

Earlier, Foreign Secretary Misri, while briefing the media stated that the attack featured close-range headshots, aimed at traumatizing families and sending a violent message and it was the worst civilian casualty in India since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

According to him, the objective of the terror attack was to destabilize normalcy and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, target the tourism sector, which saw 23 million visitors last year and provoke communal tensions across India, something which this newspaper had also reported on 23 April.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri stated that the terrorist group claiming responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, The Resistance Front (TRF), is in fact a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as established by Indian intelligence and corroborated in India's reports to the United Nations' 1267 Sanctions Committee in May and November 2024. "We had provided clear inputs to the UN about the TRF's role as a cover for Pakistan-based terrorist outfits," Misri noted. He further revealed that eyewitness testimonies and intelligence gathering had allowed authorities to identify the at-

tackers and trace their links to Pakistan.

Elaborating on Pakistan's role, Misri asserted, "It is well known that Pakistan continues to harbor and support terrorists," emphasizing that the TRF was even referenced in the April 25 UN Security Council press statement despite Pakistan's efforts to have it removed. As a striking example of Pakistan's duplicity, he cited the case of Sajid Mir, who was previously declared dead by Pakistan but was later found alive and arrested only after sustained international pressure.

Commenting on India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Misri said that India exercised its right to respond, to pre-empt, and to deter more such cross-border attacks" while describing Operation Sindoor as a measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible military action focused on dismantling terrorist infrastructure and neutralizing threats from terrorists poised to be sent across the border.

"Our intelligence monitoring of Pakistan-based terrorist modules indicated that further attacks against India were impending. There was thus a compulsion both to deter and to pre-empt," he added.

Placing the operation in a broader global context, Misri highlighted the 25 April 2025 UN Security Council press statement, which underscored "the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice." He emphasized that India's actions should be seen within this framework, reinforcing the country's legitimate right to self-defense in the face of persistent cross-border threats.

AMIT SHAH HOLDS MEETING WITH CHIEF MINISTERS POST OPERATION SINDOOR

Chief Secys, DGPs of states also attended meet with Home Minister

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday held a meeting with the Chief Ministers and other concerned government officials of various states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. The Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, and West Bengal attended the meeting. Lieutenant Governors of the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh were also present. The Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police (DGPs) of the said states were also present in the meeting with Home Minister Shah. This comes amid escalat-

SHAH ALSO SPEAKS TO J&K CM, LG

- The Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, and West Bengal attended the meeting
- Shah earlier spoke to JK CM Abdullah amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, following the Operation Sindoor, which has been initiated by the Indian Army in response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack.



ing tensions between India and Pakistan following the launch of Operation Sindoor, under which nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Shah earlier spoke to JK CM Abdullah amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, following the

Operation Sindoor, which has been initiated by the Indian Army in response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack. The Union Home Minister is also constantly in touch with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and the Director General of

the Border Security Force (BSF). Shah has instructed DG BSF to ensure all safety measures for people living in border areas. Meanwhile, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha reviewed the situation in the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir this morning. He has directed the Dis-

trict Collectors to shift villagers from vulnerable areas and ensure essential services remain available. “I’ve also directed the DCs for shifting of villagers from vulnerable areas to safer locations and ensuring boarding, lodging, food, medicare and transportation. We will ensure safety of every citizen. Jai Hind!” Office of Lieutenant Governor (J&K) posted on X. Sinha said that the government was prepared to deal with any eventuality. Earlier, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh who briefed the media along with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Col Sofiya Qureshi said that the ‘Operation Sindoor’ was launched to deliver justice to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and their families.

Kerala conducts mock drills across 14 districts

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



At the Collectorate building in Ernakulam, the drill started with an alarm and the lights were switched off.

Mock drills were held at important locations in 14 districts of Kerala on Wednesday to prepare for a possible emergency in the backdrop of simmering tensions between India and Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. At the Collectorate building in Ernakulam, the drill started with an alarm and the lights were switched off. The six-floor building at Kakkanaad became dark, and the windows were closed to create a real-life emergency setting. Soon, a fire was simulated on the upper floors. Smoke spread, and the building was quickly filled with darkness. Rescue operations began immediately. Firefighters, police teams, and civil defence volunteers took part in the drill. building were safely evacuated.

The district collector also took part in the drill and supervised the rescue work. One person was shown as injured during the drill. He was given first aid and placed on a stretcher. With the help of the police, he was taken to a nearby hospital by ambulance. A civil defence volunteer showed great bravery by carrying one person on his shoulder from the upper floor to safety. The fire was put out using proper firefighting equipment. The drill aimed to check how quickly and safely rescue teams can respond during a war-like emergency, government sources said.

Mock drill at Mumbai simulates air strike

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

A siren blared at Cross Maidan in south Mumbai amid heavy rain at 4 PM setting off a flurry of activity as part of a mock drill simulating an air strike, and teams of civil defence, fire brigade, and paramedics rushing to save the “injured”.

Organised under Operation Abhyas, the exercise involved coordinated efforts from multiple emergency response teams.

The mock drill began with the sound of a siren, signalling a simulated bombardment on a building. Three explosions were depicted, leading to a fire. Volunteers present at the site took shelter in a nearby safe zone and were instructed to remain there until the Civil Defence issued an all-clear signal. Alert Civil Defence volunteers, upon hearing the sirens, rushed to the scene and immediately began rescue operations.



An Incident Control Officer (ICO), along with a reconnaissance team, arrived to assess the situation, including checking for any radiation or evidence of a dirty bomb being used in the simulated strike. The area was quickly cordoned off, and rescue operations commenced. Soon after, fire department personnel joined the effort to extinguish the blaze. The drill portrayed casualties, with “injured” individuals being rushed to Bombay Hospital and Nair Hospital. A team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also arrived, including their specialised unit trained to handle CBRN (Chemical, Biological,

Radiological, and Nuclear) threats. One of the key scenes showed individuals trapped in a four-storey building being rescued by personnel from the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Civil Defence, and the fire brigade. Despite heavy rainfall, trained volunteers from Civil Defence, Home Guards, NCC, and NSS performed their duties with dedication alongside official rescue agencies. Speaking to the media after the drill, Civil Defence Director Prabhat Kumar explained that the exercise was conducted under “Operation Abhyas.” He noted that several agencies, including the district administration, BMC, fire brigade, NDRF, Home Guards, NCC, NSS, and paramedic staff, participated in the exercise. He stated that the mock drill simulated a rescue operation following a “bomb attack” on a building by the enemy, involving a coordinated multi-agency response to evacuate those trapped and transport the injured to hospitals swiftly.

Telangana CM holds emergency meeting

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday called for an emergency meeting with all officials concerned, at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Hyderabad (Telangana) to review all security preparations post Operation Sindoor. Meeting reviewed all security measures to safeguard major installations and key locations related to the centre, defence and state government. As per the Telangana CMO officials, CM Reddy personally reviewed the situation on war footing to ensure security and safety in Hyderabad and other cities, towns, and villages across Telangana. People have been advised to keep vigil but have also been reassured that “the centre and state are working together for their safety.” Earlier in a post on X, the Telangana CM said, “As an Indian citizen first, standing strongly with our armed forces. The strikes against terror factories in Pakistan & PoK make us proud. Let us make this a moment for national solidarity and uni-



ty, and all of us speak in one voice - Jai Hind!” This morning, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also met with officials to assess the security measures along the Line of Control (Loc) areas. He instructed the concerned officials to focus on protecting civilians and ensuring quick response. “Held a meeting to assess the security and preparedness along the border/LoC

areas. Emphasis laid on safeguarding civilian lives, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring swift response to any emerging challenges,” the Office of Chief Minister (J&K) posted on X. This comes as Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Chief Minister Abdullah amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, following the Operation Sindoor, which has been initiated by the Indian Army in response to the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack. The Union Home Minister is also constantly in touch with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

India will never tolerate terror: K'taka CM hails Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday commended the Indian Army for its heroic execution of Operation Sindoor, and said that India will never tolerate terror in any form.

In a strongly worded post on X (formerly Twitter), Siddaramaiah wrote, “I salute the extraordinary courage of our armed forces behind Operation Sindoor. Their heroic action reaffirms that India will never tolerate terror in any form.”

The Chief Minister described the Pahalgam attack as more than just an act of violence. “The brutal attack in Pahalgam was not just on innocent lives, it was an assault on the dreams and spirit of India. Every effort of our brave soldiers is a pledge to bring justice to the victims, their families, and



to every Indian who believes in peace and humanity,” he said. He added that Karnataka stood firmly with the Indian armed forces in their mission to defend the country. “Karnataka joins the nation in expressing unwavering solidarity with our forces. We are proud of your valour, sacrifice, and unflinching commitment to protect our sovereignty,” the post read. Reiterating the nation’s resolve against terrorism, Siddaramaiah concluded, “Terror has no place in our land. India will respond with strength and unity.”

Congress chief and Rajya Sabha LoP Mallikarjun Kharge also applauded the accomplishment of the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor, saying that national unity and solidarity were the need of the hour. He said that the Congress has stood with the decisions of the armed forces and the government since the ghastly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 people. “Since the day of the Pahalgam Terror Attack, the Indian National Congress has categorically stood with the Armed Forces and the Government to take any decisive action against cross-border terror. National Unity and solidarity are the need of the hour, and the Indian National Congress stands with our Armed Forces. Our leaders have shown the path in past, and National Interest is supreme for us,” Kharge posted on X.

Maha symbol row: Focus on local polls, SC tells Shiv Sena(UBT)

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Udhav Thackeray-led faction to concentrate on local body polls after the party sought an urgent hearing on its plea against the Maharashtra assembly speaker’s decision to give the bow and arrow symbol to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiwar Singh told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Shiv Sena (UBT), the matter could be taken up only after the court’s summer break due to the paucity of time. Sibal said the assembly speaker gave the bow and arrow symbol to the Eknath Shinde faction in 2023 based on the legislative majority, which was contrary to the Constitution bench verdict of the top court.



“The symbol which has been with Shiv Sena will be used by the Shinde faction in local body elections and it will matter especially in rural areas,” Sibal said. Justice Kant, however, wondered since when local body polls were fought on party symbols. Sibal said it happens in Maharashtra and the party symbol will have a great impact on voter’s minds. “You let the elections be held. We have been told for more than five years the local body elections were not held in Maharashtra.

Tamil Nadu stands with Indian Army: CM Stalin

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Hours after India attacked terrorist sites in Pakistan in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack, Chief Minister MK Stalin said that Tamil Nadu stands with the Indian Army against terrorism. “Tamil Nadu stands with the Indian Army against terrorism. With our Army, for our nation. Tamil Nadu stands resolute,” Stalin said in a post on X. Earlier in the day, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said he stands firmly with the armed forces, following the strikes on terror facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). “As an Indian citizen first, standing strongly with our armed forces. The strikes against terror factories in Pakistan & PoK make us proud.

22 Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

TDG NETWORK
BIJAPUR

At least 22 Naxals have been killed in an ongoing encounter near the Keregutta Hills in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh, police said on Wednesday. According to a police official, the encounter is still underway in Bijapur district along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border under ‘Mission Sankalp’. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also confirmed the fatalities, stating that a large-scale anti-Naxal operation has been underway for several days in the region. “For many days, anti-Naxal operations have been going on near Karegutta Hills on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border. Till now, more than 22 bodies of Naxals have been found there,” he said. Meanwhile, a woman Naxalite was killed and a .303 rifle was recovered during an encounter with security



forces in the forested border area of Bijapur district on Tuesday. The gunfight took place on May 5 in the dense jungles along Bijapur’s southwestern border. After the exchange of fire, security personnel recovered the body of a uniformed woman Maoist along with a .303 rifle from the encounter site, officials confirmed. Based on traces found at the site, there is a strong possibility that several other Naxalites were either killed or injured in the operation, an official statement said. Earlier on April 28, as many as 24 Naxalites, including 14 Naxalites carrying a reward of Rs 28.50 lakhs, surrendered before the police.

Panel probing Ghatkopar hoarding tragedy submits report, CM orders further action

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Justice Dilip Bhosale Committee, appointed to probe the tragic hoarding collapse in Mumbai’s Ghatkopar area, has officially submitted its report to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. According to a statement from the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO), the report has

now been handed over to the Home Department in a sealed envelope for further action. The contents of the report include findings from the investigation into the incident, along with a set of remedial measures proposed to prevent such accidents in the future. “The report by Justice Dilip Bhosale Committee regarding the Ghatkopar hoarding accident has been submitted

to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis,” read a post by the CMO on X. It further added, “Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has handed it over to the Home Department in a sealed envelope for further action. The committee stated that, along with the investigation, some remedial measures have also been suggested to the government.” Weeks after the Ghatkopar



hoarding collapse incident, the then Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said in a written reply in

the Maharashtra assembly that there are a total of 1025 hoardings within the Brihanmumbai Municipal Cor-

poration (BMC) and none of them are illegal. In the May 13 Ghatkopar incident, where a 120x140-foot hoarding fell, 17 persons lost their lives and 81 were injured. 32 two-wheelers, 33 four-wheelers and 12 autorickshaws, a total of 77 vehicles, were also damaged in the incident. Based on the Panchjanya police, the insurance claim of these damaged vehicles was processed as

per the Rules. From the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) of the state government, 13 were injured who took treatment for over 7 days. Each of them was given 16 thousand from SDRF and 2 Lakh from the centre as total of 2.16 lakh rupees of financial aid. 13 persons were treated for less than seven days period. An FIR was registered in this case under Sections

304(2), 338, 337, 427, 34 and 120(B) of the Indian Penal Code. Four persons were arrested and all of them are in judicial custody as of now. The Commissioner of GRP of that time has been suspended by an order of June 25. Moreover, by an order of June 10, a committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of retired Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Justice Dilip Bhosale.

SIRENS BLARE, PEOPLE EVACUATED AS DELHI CONDUCTS MEGA MOCK DRILLS AT 55 LOCATIONS

Mock drills across Delhi simulated emergencies like fires, air raids, and building collapses. Sirens, evacuations, rescue operations, and safety training boosted public awareness and preparedness.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Blaring sirens, residents rushing to safer places, injured people being administered medical aid, these were some of the scenes witnessed across the 55 locations where mock security drills were conducted by authorities in the national capital.

Under the nationwide mega civil defence mock drill 'Operation Abhyaas', mock drills simulating multiple hostile scenarios like air raids, multiple fire emergencies, and search and rescue operations, among others, were carried out. Some of the prominent locations where the mock drill was conducted include Khan Market, NDMC building, Select Citywalk Mall in Saket, and Chandni Chowk. PCR vans and fire engines were stationed at multiple locations while there was a heavy deployment of security personnel and civil defence volunteers.

At Khan Market, alarm sirens were played and people

THE DRILL

- 55 mock drills held across Delhi under 'Operation Abhyaas'.
- Simulated air raids, fires, building collapses, rescues.
- Locations: Khan Market, Saket Mall, Chandni Chowk, NDMC, etc.
- Sirens blared; people evacuated; volunteers acted injured.
- Fire demos, CPR training, and crane rescues conducted.
- Over 1,000 personnel involved at NDMC site alone.
- Public advised on sheltering, avoiding fake news, storing essentials.
- Drills followed India's strikes on terror targets in Pakistan/PoK.



Civil Defence personnel during a nationwide civil defence mock drill, at Khan Market in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

were asked to run as part of the evacuation drill that was carried out.

The drill was conducted in the parking area, where security forces, with support from the market associations and local residents, carried out a coordinated rescue operation. Shops No. 72, 64, 73 and a nearby fruit shop were used as part of the drill to simulate an emergency response.

In Shop No. 74, which is a shoe store, volunteers acted as casualties to help demonstrate how to handle injuries during a crisis. The police explained the steps to be taken in such situations, including how to safely shelter injured individuals inside the stores. The drill also demonstrated the use of fire extinguishers and how teams could work from different points

to control a fire. People were trained to remain calm, stay silent, and take shelter in one place during an emergency to avoid chaos and ensure a safer evacuation.

The NDRF team, along with personnel of other departments, also performed search and rescue techniques during the drill.

Deputy Commandant Ratish Kumar, NDRF, said

the aim of the mock drill at Khan Market was to create awareness.

"It is being done as per a standard operating procedure. The first need of emergency situations involving collapsed structures is search and rescue. All our team members are qualified medical first responders," he told reporters.

Similarly, in Select Citywalk Mall in Saket, doctors administered CPR to those who were injured while the injured were carried on stretchers. In Chandni Chowk, a mock drill was carried out in the presence of civil defence volunteers, personnel and NCC cadets. Alarm sirens were blaring in the market area as the evacuation drill began at Chandni Chowk near Town Hall, prompting people to run towards safer places. A second siren was sounded, signalling the start of rescue efforts. Volunteers were told to rescue the injured while people were asked to remain calm and help those who got injured.

Minister Kapil Mishra calls Operation Sindoor a strong message to terrorists

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra commented on 'Operation Sindoor', saying, "Ek chutki sindoor ki keemat aaj aata nahi ki aur unke aakaon ko samajh aa gayi hogi. Unhone ne kaha tha jao Modi ko bata dena, aaj Modi ne bata diya."

Mishra's statement underlined the operation's impact, suggesting that those who challenged India's sovereignty now understand the cost of their actions. He implied that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive response through the operation sent a strong message to the terrorists and their backers.

On Wednesday, the Indian Armed Forces successfully struck nine terror targets using special precision munitions in a coordinated operation called Operation Sindoor, destroying four in Pakistan, including Bahawalpur, Muridke, Sarjal, and Mehmoona Joya, and five in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

India has responded to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir which has killed 26 people.

The operation was jointly carried out by the Indian



Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra

Army, Navy, and Air Force, with the mobilisation of assets and troops.

The strikes on all nine targets were successful, sources further revealed. The Indian forces selected the locations to target top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leaders involved in sponsoring terrorist activities in India.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, along with Col Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh briefed the media about Operation Sindoor on Wednesday. Vikram Misri indicated that intelligence agencies have predicted further terror attacks against India.

This was India's deepest strike inside Pakistan's undisputed territory since 1971. This marks New Delhi's most significant military action within Pakistani territory in over five decades.

The government affirmed India's national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism.

It said that the terrorists responsible for the attack and the conspirators behind it will face severe punishment.

The government had given armed forces complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of India's response.

The government had convened an all-party meeting after the Pahalgam terror attack. Opposition parties have expressed their full support for any action taken by the government against the perpetrators of the terror attack. In the briefing to the CCS, the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out. It was noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and its steady progress towards economic growth and development.

The government has announced a series of measures, including putting the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance, to send a strong message to Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorism.

Delhi CM, other BJP leaders hail 'Operation Sindoor'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP leaders hailed 'Operation Sindoor' by posting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogans on their social media handles, after India's targeted strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and PoK early Wednesday.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta posted "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" on her X handle, sharing a poster of 'Operation Sindoor'.

"I salute the Indian armed forces and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as their decision and decisive power has honoured the 140 crore Indians.

"Operation Sindoor has provided justice to the women who lost their spouses and given satisfaction to

the entire country after the 'soul-stirring' killings of the innocent people by terrorists in Pahalgam, that our government and Army will not spare anyone if they harass India," She said.

The chief minister thanked the prime minister and the Indian Army, and said the entire nation stands with them.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said the attackers in Pahalgam terror attack asked victims to tell Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now he has responded.

"Bharat Mata Ki Jai. India has now taught a lesson to Atankistan (referring to Pakistan). Every bullet will be accounted for, every sacrifice will be avenged. Jai Hind," Tiwari said in his X post.

Delhi Assembly Speaker

and former Delhi BJP president Vijender Gupta said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has trust of 140 crore Indians because he did what he said.

"Enemy camp pretended to be prepared, but was once again overtaken by the sheer power of the IAF! Kudos to the forces for hitting the terror camps in Pakistan and PoK and avenging the brutal killing of 26 innocent civilians by inflicting unforgettable damage to terror masterminds," Gupta said in a post on X. The Indian armed forces, in the early hours of Wednesday, launched precision missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK, including the strongholds of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke.

Security beefed up in Delhi following 'Operation Sindoor'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Security in the national capital has been intensified with additional police personnel and paramilitary forces deployed at key locations following 'Operation Sindoor', an official said.

A senior police officer said that the national capital was already on high alert and multiple agencies will carry out mock security drills at 4 pm.

"We have deployed more security personnel at key locations. Delhi Police is fully alert and no one will be allowed to breach law and order. Teams are keeping strict vigil on vital locations and monitoring social media platforms," said the officer. The officer further said that additional security

forces at vital areas like New Delhi, central Delhi, north Delhi, south Delhi, southwest Delhi's cantonment area and the IGI Airport have been deployed and senior officers are personally monitoring security arrangements.

Police have increased day and night patrolling across different areas in the city with a special focus on tourist and market places. Special patrol units have been mobilised to cover key areas, including Connaught Place, India Gate, Janpath, Yashwanth Palace, Gole Market and other vital installations. "With security as a top priority and to ensure the safety of citizens and maintain public security, police teams have intensified vehicle inspections at key entry and exit points.

Delhi airport issues advisory after India launches targeted strikes in Pakistan

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Airport on Wednesday issued an advisory for travellers after India carried out precise strikes overnight against nine targets in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) to take down terror infrastructure.

"Due to changing airspace conditions, some flights have been impacted. Passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest updates and alternate travel arrangements," Delhi airport said in a post on X.

The airport authority further stated, "We are working closely with airlines and Air Traffic Control (ATC) to minimise any disruptions to flight schedules. Your safety and comfort are our top priorities."

On Wednesday, the Indian Armed Forces shared details about Operation Sindoor, a targeted strike mission to destroy terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The information was shared in the media briefing consisting of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Col Sophiya Qureshi. While speaking to the media, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, who briefed the media along with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Col Sofiya Qureshi, said that 'Operation Sindoor' was launched to deliver justice

Delhi airport sees 35 flight cancellations

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

At least 35 flights to and from the Delhi airport have been cancelled by various airlines, including foreign carriers, in the wake of the armed forces carrying out missile strikes on terror targets in Pakistan.

A source said, 23 domestic departures and eight arrivals were cancelled. Besides, four international departures have been cancelled since 12 am.

Foreign carriers, including American Airlines, cancelled some of their services from the Delhi airport, the source added.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is the

country's busiest airport and handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.

"Kindly note, due to changing airspace conditions some flights have been impacted at Delhi Airport," DIAL said in a post on X.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates IGIA.

In retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces, under Operation Sindoor, on early Wednesday, carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammed stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke.



to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and their families.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian Armed Forces launched a strike at the terror hideouts deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir under 'Opera-

tion Sindoor' on Wednesday morning. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh informed that a total of nine terror sites were targeted and successfully destroyed.

She asserted that the locations were selected so that there was no damage to civilians and their infrastructure.

Man gets 20-yr jail term for raping minor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced a man to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping and raping a three-year-old child.

Additional sessions judge Anu Aggarwal called it a "one-of-its-kind" case in which the 55-year-old convict not only sexually assaulted the child but also inserted adhesive in her genitals. In its May 3 order, the court said, "The present

case is one-of-its-kind. A girl of three years seven months is kidnapped by the convict, who was running a TV repair shop near the house of the victim, and he took the victim to his shop where he inserted acrylate-based adhesive in the perineum of the girl." The court was hearing arguments on sentencing against the man, who was convicted under Sections 376 AB (rape of a woman under 12 years of age) and 363 (kidnapping) of IPC.

Ex-AAP MLA Naresh Balyan withdraws bail plea from Delhi HC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former AAP MLA Naresh Balyan, who was arrested under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), has withdrawn his bail plea from the Delhi High Court following the recent filing of a chargesheet in the trial court.

On Wednesday, Balyan's lawyer informed the court of this development, as the



Ex-AAP MLA Naresh Balyan

bail plea was scheduled for a hearing today.

Earlier this week, a Delhi court accepted the supplementary chargesheet filed

by Delhi Police in the organized crime case against Balyan. The supplementary chargesheet named four accused: Sahil alias Poli, Vijay alias Kalu, Jyoti Prakash alias Baba, and Balyan.

All four individuals were arrested in connection with the MCOCA case, which stems from an investigation into an organized crime syndicate allegedly run by gangster Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu.

Delhi Cabinet greenlights cloud-seeding project to tackle pollution

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has granted approval to a proposal titled "Technology Demonstration and Evaluation of Cloud Seeding as an Alternative for Delhi NCR". The project involves conducting five cloud-seeding experiments, with the objective of addressing the persistent challenges of air pollution and water scarcity that plague the national capital.

Hon'ble Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced that each of these cloud-seeding

operations will cost Rs 55 lakhs, bringing the total expenditure for five trials to Rs 2.75 crore. In addition, a one-time infrastructure set-up cost of Rs 66 lakhs will be incurred. This will cover expenses such as aircraft calibration, chemical storage, operational logistics, and other essential preparations. The combined financial outlay for the entire initiative amounts to Rs 3.21 crore.

The project will be executed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), which will manage all aspects of planning, aircraft usage, chemical

dispersion, scientific simulations, and operational coordination. The Delhi government will release the allocated funds directly to IIT Kanpur to carry out the initiative.

Subject to necessary approvals, the first cloud-seeding experiment is expected to take place between late May and June 2025. This initial trial will span approximately 100 square kilometers, primarily focusing on the outer regions of Delhi. A total of five such trials will be conducted during this initial phase. Once these trials conclude, scientific assessments will be



conducted to evaluate both the effectiveness and environmental consequences of cloud seeding in reducing air pollution and enhancing rainfall in the NCR region.

Minister Sirsa briefed the Cabinet that prior to implementation, the government will secure mandatory No-Objection Certificates

(NOCs) from 13 regulatory and administrative bodies. These include the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs,

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Airports Authority of India, among others, to ensure all safety and compliance protocols are met.

"The Cabinet, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's leadership, has finalized and sanctioned the proposal. We are preparing to carry out these trials soon, positioning cloud seeding as a contingency measure during periods of extreme pollution," said Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa. He further emphasized that this project is a part of a broader strategy, which also includes

AI-powered air quality monitoring and continuous surveillance of pollution hotspots across the city.

He added, "Technology must serve as a crucial pillar in our campaign against toxic air. The Rekha Gupta administration is steadfast in its resolve to provide clean air to the citizens of Delhi, and this project is a bold, science-driven step in that direction."

Cloud seeding is a scientifically developed weather modification method wherein substances such as silver iodide are dispersed into moisture-laden clouds to stimulate rainfall.

OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIA'S DECISIVE AND LANDMARK STRIKE ON CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM AND THE DAWN OF A NEW INDIA

OPINION

MAJ GEN J.K.S. PARIHAR



India launched “Operation Sindoor” on early morning of 7 May 2025 to target the training establishments and other infrastructure of Jash-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the most sought-after International terrorist organizations located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as a response to the deadly terror attack on innocent civilians in Pahal-gam, in which 26 civilians were killed on 22 April 2025. This most precise and accomplished joint operation of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force was successfully carried out using most advanced weaponry systems including Raffel fighter plane, missiles and loitering munitions. The Operation Sindoor is a true reflection of excellence of military operations knitted with the mighty determination of the Indian government all three branches of Indian armed

forces ,intelligence agencies like RAW as well as of Paramilitary forces. Raffel is one of the most experienced twin-jet fighter aircraft, which has proven its capability in recent years in different operations launched worldwide. Its wingspan is around 11 meters, length is 15.30 meters. height 5.30 meters. Its overall empty weight is 10 tons, and the maximum take-off weight is around 25 tons. It has a maximum speed of 1.8 M and can operate up to an altitude of 50000 feet. It is capable of precision strike and through advanced Hypersonic, Supersonic, or Nuclear missiles and other important assets. Its navigation and counterstrike capabilities are one of the best in the world as of today. The SCALP missile, also known as Storm Shadow, is a long-range missile developed by the France-based MBDA systems. The Scalp missile is most suitable for quick air-to-surface attack on fixed or stationary targets like bunkers, buildings, and other solid infrastructures. The missile weighs around 1300 kg, of 5.1 meters long, 630 mm wide, and height of 480 mm and has a wingspan of 3 meters. The missile is operated by the Microturbo TRI 60-30 Turbojet. The missile carries

a Multistage BROBROACH penetration warhead weighing around 450 kg. As per the announcement by the Indian Government ,the air strike was launched to engage nine prominent sites of Jaish -e- Mohammed and Lashkar a Taiba including headquarter, training centres and hideouts located in POK as well as in Pakistan. These nine targets were Sawai Nala Camp training centre of LeT and Syedna Balal camp in Muzaffarbad, Mured ke base, Barnal camp in Bhimber , Abbas camp in Kotli were situated in POK. Where as the Indian Air Force hit the targets across the international border in the Punjab Province Pakistan located namely in Mehmoona Joya camp and Sarjal camp in Sialkot . Attack on Markaz Subhan Allah camp in Bahawalpur is highly significant being the headquarter and stronghold of Jaish -e- Mohammed. “Operation Sindoor” is a strike against terrorism, one of the loudest and thundering messages to the entire world, especially to Pakistan, and a terror organization sponsored, nurtured by the establishment in Pakistan, and supported by Extreme right-wing across the world. These military actions were measured, responsible and designed to be non-escalatory in nature confined to the terrorist hideouts and Infrastructures and not against the any military establishment and civilians of the Pakistan. The Military operation was one of the most dreaded and bold steps taken by India against the proxy war



Members of media film a building damaged by a suspected Indian missile attack near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Wednesday, ANI

of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan. It is historical being it was instituted at much larger scale than air strike in 2019. The Operation Sindoor focused on multiple sites in a very large area, the first time, India has not only attacked the terror sites located in Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, but also aimed to eliminate and destroy training infrastructure, command centres, as well as higher echelon of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke, located on the soil of Pakistan and well away from the Indian border. The exact selection of targets, pinpoint precision to hit the locations of terror outfits as further establishes the capabilities of our security agencies, as well as of RAW and other intelligence agencies. One of the best fighter

planes in the world, Rafale, carried out a SCALP missile attack across the International border without crossing the International border itself shows the strengths, capability, determination, and courage of Prime Minister Modi, Indian armed forces, and especially the Pilots of the Indian Air Force. This is not only the strike against the campus of Jash e Mohammed, Lashkar e Taiba, their bosses in Pakistan including ISI and Pakistan army but to the entire world that India is no longer going to tolerate any terror activities against our country. India has also exposed Pakistan in front of entire world that the factory of terrorism which is affecting the harmony and peace across the world is based on the Pakistan soil and fully supported by the Pakistani establishment. It is high

time that the world should strongly rally behind this act of India and declare Pakistan a terrorist friendly country and genuinely impose sanctions upon Pakistan. The exact and detailed information about the operation Sindoor across the International border is officially communicated by Pakistan. It reflects that the Pakistan establishment is shattered and exposed to its environment with the international terror outfits, failure in its intelligence system, and anti-missile and counter-air attack navigation Android system. The jointness of the Indian Navy, Air Force, and Army synergized with the teeth of RAW, indeed, is a newer order of India is a bold, strong international power. These also reflect the capability of our government, especially the Prime Minister, to ensure

Full support before and after the operations in door by the international superpowers America, Russia, Western European countries, as well as significant support by Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and numerous notable countries. India has also loudly conveyed the message to all the proxy countries that are directly or indirectly supporting Pakistan or terrorism, having full intentions towards India, like Turkey, that India is not bothered by the fear of any nuclear threat or direct intervention of China in the support of Pakistan. It shows that India can except any challenge without any fear or whatever to ensure our Sovereignty, independence, and dignity. On the other side the position of Pakistan to face this situation is different, their leadership is shattered, fragmented, highly

disturbed economy, internal conflict in Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunwa over and above the armed forces are highly demoralized, lake in preparedness and capability to stand against such old bold, well deserve and most sought steps by the India. The media briefing by Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is highly symbolic to be linked with the operation Sindoor .The was designed to protect dignity of a Indian lady . The Pahalgam attack was targeted to destabilize country by attempt to divide society into two prominent religions of the country. Hence this duo of Army and Air force officers during briefing symbolise integration of Indian armed forces, synergize harmony of religions as well as decisive measures to empowered women in the country. India expects that some kind of adventure might take place with Pakistan over the LOC. If it happens, so will be their greatest blender in the history of Pakistan, which may lead to the complete fragmentation of Pakistan into multiple States, and the present Whirlpool may trigger massive churn-over of Pakistan leadership and armed forces. India is well prepared; the country is in the safe hands of its leadership and armed forces. It is the new Dwan that has brought a new era to India. Major General J.K.S. Parihar, Sena Medal, Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal (Retd.) Former Additional Director General, AFMS and Expert on Defence and International Strategic Affairs

Understanding Country Risk in a Changing World: A Strategic Imperative for India

OPINION

ARUNANSH B. GOSWAMI AND SUMIT KAUSHIK



As geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and institutional uncertainties continue to reshape the global order, the relevance of “country risk” as an analytical lens has never been greater. What was once a niche concern for multinational corporations and global investors is now a central element in both financial strategy and public policy. Country risk, defined as the probability of a country experiencing a crisis or abrupt regime shift due to economic, financial, or political instability, has emerged as an interdisciplinary domain critical for today’s decision-makers. For India, a nation on the cusp of becoming the third-largest economy, understanding and managing country risk is not merely academic—it is a strategic imperative.

For instance, India played an important role in the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistani occupation, and the previous government in Bangladesh, led by Sheikh Hasina, implemented various policies to draw investments from India, which in turn invested significantly in the country. However, her opponents launched a boycott campaign named ‘India Out,’ targeting Indian products, in response to what they perceived as India’s support for her government. The new administration’s apparent anti-India stance could negatively impact the Indian business community that has invested in Bangladesh. Trade disruptions or payment delays could negatively impact the profitability and stability of Indian businesses in Bangladesh, particularly in the textile

sector, where Indian firms control approximately 25% of the units. Consequently, some manufacturers might opt to relocate back to India due to the ongoing instability. Historically, regime changes and the promotion of anti-India sentiments by New Delhi’s geopolitical rivals in the region harmed India’s economic interests in several nations, including the Maldives and Nepal. Therefore, it is crucial for New Delhi to conduct a thorough country risk analysis before undertaking big investment and connectivity projects. A significant connectivity project spearheaded by India is the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Azerbaijan, a key ally of Pakistan known for its long support for Islamabad regarding the Kashmir issue and its participation in Türkiye’s fifth-generation KAAAN fighter jet program alongside Pakistan, is engaged in this initiative, which may pose a risk to New Delhi’s long-term interests. Despite Baku and Ankara’s long backing of Islamabad on the Kashmir matter, New Delhi has refrained from taking a definitive stance in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, advocating instead for a diplomatic resolution through the OSCE Minsk Group, that too when New Delhi and Yerevan have a long history of strong and friendly people-to-people ties and Pakistan is the only country in the world that does not recognize Arme-

nia and maintains no official diplomatic relations with Yerevan. While the geopolitical ties between Baku and Islamabad are strengthening, Azerbaijan remains a crucial energy supplier for India, bolstered by investments from Indian oil companies. During this year’s energy week in India, a trilateral agreement was signed to explore strategic opportunities in the energy sector. It is important that India focus on its long-term national interests using “country risk” analysis in the South Caucasus and beyond.

THE MULTIFACETED NATURE OF COUNTRY RISK

Country risk is a complex phenomenon. It encompasses several interlocking dimensions: macroeconomic stability, fiscal health, political stability, institutional robustness, and societal resilience. Traditional assessments focused narrowly on sovereign default risk or political unrest, but today, the concept extends to include environmental sustainability, governance standards, demographic pressures, and even digital vulnerabilities. In a globalized and interconnected world, any disruption—be it a credit rating downgrade, political unrest, energy crisis, or public health emergency—can lead to cascading impacts. As India navigates a fast-evolving global economic environment, the ability to anticipate, assess, and miti-



gate country risk is not only critical for investors but also for policymakers, regulators, and public institutions.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR INDIA

India’s ambitious journey towards becoming a developed nation is underpinned by transformative policies in infrastructure, digital innovation, manufacturing, education, and green energy. However, with high ambition comes the need for high resilience. India faces a unique set of internal and external risks: Economic shocks such as inflationary pressures, oil price volatility, or global demand fluctuations; Geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific, border conflicts, and shifting alliances; Political transitions, especially at state levels, affecting ease of doing business and regulatory coherence; Climate risks, particularly for agriculture and water security;

Technological disruptions, including cyber threats to financial systems and national security.

Understanding and integrating these risks into policy and financial decisions can help safeguard India’s long-term growth story.

APPLICATIONS IN FINANCE AND POLICY

For financial market participants—banks, institutional investors, and credit agencies—country risk analysis provides crucial early warning indicators. Tools such as sovereign credit ratings, political risk indices, CDS spreads, and fiscal health dashboards are essential in pricing risk and allocating capital. For Indian policymakers, the real challenge lies in operationalizing these concepts. How do we develop real-time monitoring systems for financial resilience? How do we assess the spillover risks from global crises—whether it’s a banking failure in the West or a

supply chain disruption in East Asia?

Government institutions can benefit greatly from embedding a country’s risk frameworks into macroeconomic planning, regulatory strategies, and intergovernmental coordination. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for instance, has already made progress in stress-testing financial institutions against external shocks. But there is room to deepen this approach through interdisciplinary research and public-private collaboration.

THE ROLE OF ACADEMIA AND TRAINING

India must also invest in building a talent pipeline equipped to understand and manage country risk. This requires fostering educational programs and research specializations that integrate economics, political science, finance, and international relations. Specialized courses in country risk assessment

fill a critical gap by providing students with analytical tools to evaluate a country’s vulnerability to abrupt economic, political, or financial shifts. It equips them to contribute meaningfully to public policy, international business, and financial risk management. Institutions such as the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and think tanks like ORF and NCAER must prioritize this emerging field.

TOWARDS A RESILIENT INDIA

As India assumes a leadership role in global forums like the G20 and BRICS, our understanding of country risk must evolve beyond reactive measures. It should become a proactive part of our development narrative, diplomatic engagements, and investment diplomacy. A resilient India is one that not only withstands shocks but anticipates them—and turns risk into opportunity. In the coming decade, India’s true strength will not just lie in GDP numbers or infrastructure expansion, but in the robustness of its institutions, the agility of its policy responses, and the foresight of its strategic planning. Country risk assessment is no longer optional; it is central to our journey ahead.

Arunansh B. Goswami, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Sumit Kaushik, a public policy and social impact consultant

INDIAN INDICES RISE DESPITE VOLATILITY AFTER INDIA STRIKES PAKISTAN

At the end of the trading on Wednesday, the BSE Sensex was up 105.71 points or 0.13 per cent at 80,746.78.

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Stock markets ended on a positive note on Wednesday, the day India carried out precise strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK in reponse to the Pahalgam terror attack, with both Sensex and Nifty making marginal gains.

The Indian stock markets witnessed some volatility in the early hours of trade, remained flat towards the later part of the day and closed in green.

At the end of the trading on Wednesday, the BSE Sensex was up 105.71 points or 0.13 per cent at 80,746.78. Nifty 50 at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) was up 34.80 points or 0.14 cent at 24,414.40.

According to the market experts, three factors contributed towards the positive sentiments in the markets despite geo-political tensions. The India-UK free

ON THE GLOBAL FRONT

- Experts attribute the recovery to progress on the India-UK FTA, steady foreign inflows, and the absence of further military escalation between India and Pakistan.
- Auto, Consumer Durables, Metals, Realty, and Energy led the gains, while Consumer Goods, Pharma, and Healthcare lagged.
- Investors remained cautious ahead of the U.S. Fed's interest rate decision and continued to monitor the US-China tariff war and its impact on global trade.
- Analysts warned of risks from tariff-driven dumping by China, which could hurt Indian industries and disrupt global supply chains.



trade agreement, continuous foreign inflows and no sign of escalation between India and Pakistan - shaped the market in a positive mood.

The Nifty opened in a negative territory at 24,233, driven by heightened geopolitical concerns following escalating tensions between

India and Pakistan. Following Indian strikes on Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a broad market downturn ensued.

However, Nifty staged a sharp recovery from the opening tick, reaching an intraday high of 24,449. After an hour of heightened volatility, the index settled

into a sideways range.

Sectorally, strength was observed in Auto, Consumer Durables, Metals, Realty, and Energy, while weakness was evident in Consumer Goods, Pharma, and the Healthcare Index.

Observing today's trade, VLA Ambala, SEBI Registered Research Analyst

and Co-Founder of Stock Market Today, said, "Indian markets witnessed resilience, despite increased geopolitical tensions after India's pre-dawn military attacks under 'Operation Sindoor'. The market's composed reaction reflects a mature investor sentiment."

Sundar Kewat, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, Ashika Institutional Equity, said, "On the global front, traders remained cautious ahead of the Fed's interest rate decision, with eyes also focused on the U.S. economic outlook."

According to the market analysts, the potential fall-out of India's retaliation had already been priced in. This resilience is being tested by other prevailing global uncertainties.

The intensifying US-China tariff war has worsened the slowdown in global trade, which had reached 60 per cent of world GDP in 2024.

Sensex shows strong resilience amid geopolitical sabre-rattling: Rath

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian equity markets showed resilience and ended higher on Wednesday, the day when India launched missile strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to avenge the Pahalgam attack.

Even amid such volatility in sentiment, Indian equity markets have displayed their characteristic poise so far, according to Anand Rath Research Team.

After gyrating between highs and lows during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 105.71 points or 0.13 per cent higher at 80,746.78. In intra-day trade, the Sensex hit a high of 80,844.63 and a low of 79,937.48.

The Nifty-50 of NSE advanced by 34.80 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,414.40. Nifty moved between a high of 24,449.60 and a low of 24,220 during the session. Since the 1990s,

several high-stake India-Pakistan episodes -- from Kargil and Parliament attacks to Uri and Pulwama -- have tested nerves. But the Sensex has consistently demonstrated a remarkable immunity to sabre-rattling, a report by Anand Rath Research Team said.

Market corrections, if any, have been modest, short-lived and largely sentiment-driven. Fundamentals have prevailed, the report added. Highlighting the reasons for markets resilience, Anand Rath Research said, probability of full-scale conflict remains low. "Both nations, despite the heated rhetoric, have typically avoided escalation beyond tactical thresholds," it added.

Also, investors are adept at distinguishing noise versus fundamentals. Earnings, liquidity, policy direction and macro stability continue to drive flows, and not border tensions, the report said. Equity and FPI data show that even in peak crisis moments, markets

have rebounded swiftly, it added.

"While short-term volatility is always a possibility, we do not expect a structural impact on Indian equities. The broader market narrative continues to be shaped by India's domestic macro strength, and not by its external fault lines," the report said.

The average (mean) Sensex correction at the lowest points during Indo-Pak tensions was 7.5 per cent, and the median, 3.5 per cent. In relative terms (vs. S&P 500), both mean and median were positive, indicating outperformance by India during these periods. "Yet, even if the situation becomes war-like (mass troop mobilisation or sector-specific conventional warfare), we do not expect the Nifty-50 to correct beyond 5-10 per cent," it added. Both the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty have climbed over 1 per cent since the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Coal India Q4 net profit rises 12% to Rs 9,604 crore

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India Ltd on Wednesday reported a 12 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 9,604.02 crore in the quarter ended March 2025 on the back of higher income. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 8,572.14 crore in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE.

Total income during the January-March period rose to Rs 41,761.76 crore from Rs 40,457.59 crore a year ago, the filing said. The company said that the Ib Valley coal washery of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), which began its operations in April last year, became the largest non-coking coal washery in the country.

The facility has already delivered Rs 314 crore in additional revenue, reinforcing the value of infrastructure modernisation, it said. "Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the Q4 of 2025 rose significantly to Rs 12,873.19 crore, registering an 11 per cent year-on-year growth from Rs 11,581.57 crore in Q4 of the previous fiscal," the coal behemoth said.

However, the consolidated net profit of the company for the year ended March 31, 2025, dropped to Rs 35,358.16 crore over Rs 37,402.29 crore for the year ended March 31, 2024.

The consolidated total income of the company for the year ended March 31, 2025, was almost flat at Rs 1,52,838.98 crore over Rs 152,731.50 crore for the year ended March 31, 2025.

The capital expenditure of the company during the year ended March 31, 2025, declined to Rs 19,410.02 crore compared to Rs 23,475.41 crore during the previous fiscal. CIL contributed Rs 60,959.52 crore to the government exchequer during 2024-25.

The company's board recommended a final dividend of Rs 5.15 per share for 2024-25 subject to approval of shareholders at AGM in addition to the interim dividend paid for the year of Rs 21.35 per share.

"This results in a total dividend of Rs 26.50 per share for the financial Year 2024-25, representing 265 per cent of the face value," it said adding that the total dividend 2024-25 is higher by Rs 1 per share as compared to dividend paid of Rs 25.50 per share for 2023-24.

Government launches portal for aluminium, copper recycling push

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday launched a portal to bring together stakeholders, improve data visibility and support evidence-based policymaking in the recycling of aluminium, copper, lead, zinc, and critical elements.

The non-ferrous metal recycling website and stakeholders' portal was launched by Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy. The platform is developed under the implementation guidelines of the national non-ferrous metal scrap recycling framework, the mines ministry said in a statement.

Reddy said this portal will not only provide real-time

visibility into the recycling landscape but also empower all stakeholders to make informed decisions, bridge gaps, and unlock the full potential of the non-ferrous metal sector.

The website will act as a national hub for information dissemination, awareness generation, and engagement with recyclers, dismantlers, aggregators, industry associations, and research institutions, it said.

The portal also enables registration of industry participants and collection of crucial data on raw material consumption, recycling capacity, technology usage, and workforce trends' supporting future interventions in R&D, infrastructure development, and skill enhancement.

Samsung TV sales cross Rs 10,000 cr, targets growth

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Consumer Electronics major Samsung, whose TV sales crossed the Rs 10,000-crore mark in 2024, is looking for a double-digit growth this year driven by premiumisation with increase in the number of large screen size sets and by democratising new age features as AI technology, a company official said.

The company now aspires to corner around one-third of the Indian TV market, where the growth is led by the premium segment, which is 55 inches and above screen size, said its Senior Director and Head of VD Business, Viplesh Dang.

Though 2024 was not a good year for the TV industry, which witnessed a decline in sales, Samsung, a market

leader in the segment, is observing "some green shoots" and expects the overall industry to grow with a low single digit.

"We expect the industry to grow in the low digits, but we will outpace the market growth where we are aspiring for a double-digit growth," Dang told PTI.

Samsung, which launched a range of ultra-premium series on Wednesday for 2025, is introducing its Vision AI technology to Indian consumers. It is betting on the fast-growing premium segment, with an expectation of a new level of growth. Samsung Vision AI makes screens smarter, more intuitive and deeply personal.

"So we are democratising the AI, which will expand to our lineup and give us more sales to grow," he said, adding

that with this range, Samsung will meet the aspirations of consumers, who are not only looking for an upgrade in screen sizes but in terms of technology and features also.

According to Dang, now an "absolute growth" is coming from a value and volume perspective in the 55-inch and above screen size. Demand for such a large screen premium segment is even growing from smaller tier-II & III cities.

There is still a section that continues to opt for a mass market and lower-sized screens such as 32 inches, and Samsung is also catering to them.

"Now, 55 inches has also become a mass segment. Now, the new segment which is arriving is 75 inches and above. And there, when we are bringing 100 inches and 115

inches, we see that the market will upsize itself and create for us the value growth," he said.

On being asked about the TV industry in 2024, Dang said last year the market was at 11 million-plus units, volume-wise. "2024 has been a landmark year for Samsung. In value terms, we achieved Rs 10,000 crore as the turnover, becoming the only brand to achieve it, and we now aspire to grow double-digit this year," he added.

Samsung's 2025 lineup of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K, OLED, and The Frame TVs starts at Rs 49,490 and goes up to Rs 11 lakh.

Its AI mode optimises picture quality and sound in real time by using advanced deep-learning algorithms that adapt to both content and ambient surroundings.

Cabinet approves expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of 5 IITs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of five new Indian Institute of technologies (IITs) which had been established in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka.

These institutions are IIT Tirupati, IIT Palakkad, IIT Bhilai, IIT Jammu, HT Dharwad. According to the release issued by the Cabinet, the total costs for these projects are Rs 11,828.79 crore over a period of four years from 2025-26 to 2028-



29. The Cabinet has also approved creation of 130 faculty posts (at the level of Professor i.e. Level 14 & above) in these IITs. Five new state-of-art research parks are also coming up to strengthen industry-academia linkage.

Student strength in these IITs will be increased by

more than 6500 in the next four years with enhancement of 1364 students in 1st year, 1738 students in 2nd year, 1767 students in 3rd year and 1707 students in 4th year across Under Graduate (UG), Post Graduate (PG) and PhD program put together.

On completion of con-

struction, these five IITs shall be able to cater 13,687 students as against current student strength of 7,111 i.e. an increase of 6,576 students.

With this increase in the total number of seats, additional more than 6,500 students will now be able to fulfil their aspirations of studying in the most prestigious and sought-after educational institutions in the country.

This will foster nation-building by creating a skilled workforce, driving innovation, and boosting economic growth. It enhances social mobility, reduces educational inequality, and strengthens India's global position.

Indian aluminium sector to stay resilient amidst global trade shifts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian primary aluminium manufacturers are projected to remain in a healthy profitable state for this fiscal year, countering global trade headwinds, including the recent hike in US tariffs on aluminium imports, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

The US raised the tariff on aluminium imports to 25 per cent across all countries, which increased India's aluminium tariff from 2.55 per cent to 25 per cent. But, it had a limited impact on India's aluminium exports directly as the US accounts

for less than 5 per cent of India's total aluminium exports, limiting the immediate consequences of the tariff increase.

"Strong operating efficiencies, low-cost operations, and favourable global demand-supply balance will keep margins over a solid USD 650 per tonne," Crisil

ratings said.

With nearly 50 per cent of India's annual primary aluminium output being exported to international markets, the report says "Indian producers may face heightened competition in their regular overseas markets, as key exporters to the US divert supplies to other

geographies."

"While global demand growth may moderate this fiscal, surplus will still be limited. This is because the global aluminium market faces limited risk of oversupply, as smelters in major aluminium-producing countries, including India, have consistently oper-

ated at utilisation rates well above 90% per cent" said Ankit Hakhu, Director, Crisil Ratings.

Crisil Ratings indicates that the risk of price volatility could impact profit margins for domestic primary aluminium players. "Realisations for domestic producers are linked to Lon-

don Metal Exchange (LME) prices," the report states.

Due to the uncertainties regarding global macroeconomic growth post the tariff announcements by the US, the aluminium prices on LME has witnessed a lot of volatility and they moderated to about USD 2,350 per tonne in April 2025 from a

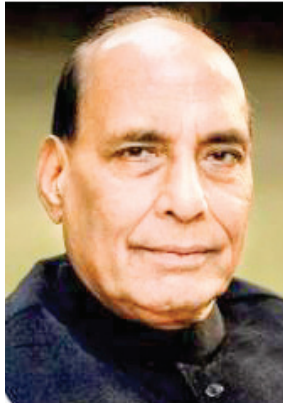
peak of USD 2,700 per tonne in March 2025.

Despite this volatility, Crisil anticipates that LME prices will remain above USD 2,300 per tonne on average for the fiscal year, providing a degree of stability for Indian producers, said Ankush Tyagi, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings.

INDIA TARGETS TERROR INFRA,



“Commendable job, immaculate execution. The whole country was looking up to us. We are proud of our Army.”
— PM Modi



“This was done after meticulous planning. To hit terrorists' morale, this action was restricted to only their camps and infrastructure.”
— Rajnath Singh



“The world must show zero tolerance for terrorism.”
— S Jaishankar



Uri: Damaged residential houses after heavy firing and shelling from Pakistan at Salamabad near LOC in Uri



Uri: Smoke rises from damaged residential houses after heavy firing and shelling from Pakistan side, at Salamabad near LOC in Uri



Precision strikes: The role of SCALP and

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In the early hours of May 7, 2025, the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor, a meticulously planned and executed series of airstrikes targeting nine terrorist camps across Pakistan. The operation was a direct response to the tragic attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 25 tourists and a local resident. The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed its Rafale fighter jets, equipped with the SCALP cruise missile and the HAMMER precision-guided munition, to deliver precise and impactful strikes on these terrorist infrastructures.

SCALP CRUISE MISSILE

The SCALP (Storm Shadow) cruise missile, developed by the European consortium MBDA, is an advanced air-launched weapon known for its stealth capabilities and long-range precision. With a range of approximately 600 kilometers, the SCALP allows the Rafale jets to strike deep within enemy territory without entering hostile airspace, thereby minimizing the risk to the aircraft and pilot.

Weighing about 1,300



HAMMER bomb

Weighing about 1,300 kilograms, the SCALP carries a 450-kilogram warhead designed to penetrate hardened targets such as bunkers and ammunition storage facilities.

kilograms, the SCALP carries a 450-kilogram warhead designed to penetrate hardened targets such as bunkers and ammunition storage facilities. The missile employs a combination of GPS, inertial navigation system (INS), infrared imaging, and terrain referencing (TERPROM) guidance to ensure high accuracy.

Its low-altitude flight path, often referred to as "terrain-hugging," helps it evade radar detection, making it a formidable weapon for deep strike missions.

The SCALP's effectiveness was evident during Operation Sindoor, where it was used to target key terrorist camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke, strongholds of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, respec-

tively. The missile's precision ensured that the strikes were focused on terrorist infrastructure, with minimal collateral damage to surrounding areas.

HAMMER PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITION

The HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) is a French-developed precision-guided air-to-ground weapon system manufactured by Safran Electronics & Defense. It is designed to be modular, allowing it to be fitted to various bomb bodies ranging from 125 to 1,000 kilograms, depending on the mission requirements. The HAMMER features mul-

From academics to Army, patriotism runs in the blood of Col Sofiya

TDG NETWORK
VADODARA

As Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh flanked Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Wednesday morning during the briefing about Operation Sindoor, creating a striking image, her family in Gujarat beamed with pride.

Col Sofiya, who hails from Vadodara city, had quit Ph.D and a teaching career to become an Army officer, they said. Her parents and brother Mohammad Sanjay Qureshi live in the Tandajla area of the city.

Talking to reporters at their home, Sanjay said Col Sofiya was on the verge of finishing her Ph.D when she decided to look beyond the classroom setting and don the olive-green uniform of the Indian Army.

Sanjay said his sister was inspired by their grandfather and father, as both had served in the Army.

“You can say that patriotism runs in our blood. After finishing school, Sofiya did BSc and then MSc in Biochemistry from MS University in Vadodara, as she wanted to become a professor,” Sanjay told reporters. He was accompanied by his father Tajuddin Qureshi, mother Hanima and daughter Zara. “My sister joined the varsity as an assistant lecturer while simultaneously pursuing Ph.D in the same subject as she wanted to become a professor. Meanwhile, she was selected in the Indian Army through the Short Service Commission (SSC) and decided to quit her Ph.D and teaching career to join the forces,” he said.

He said that the entire family is proud of her achievement.

Calling his sister a role model for Zara, Sanjay said his teenage daughter has also made up her mind

to join the Army. Col Sofiya's father Tajuddin Qureshi said his family is concerned only about the country.

“I am proud of my daughter. My family has always followed the principle of ‘Vayam Rashtra Jagrayam’ (we will keep the nation awake and alive). We are Indian first, and Muslim afterwards. We are concerned only about our country,” he said.

During the briefing, Col Sofiya and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh flanked Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who delivered the opening

“Being a ‘fauji’ kid, I was exposed to the army environment. My mother wanted either of us two sisters to join the Army. I applied for it and got it. My grandfather was also in the Army, and he used to say, ‘It is our responsibility, as every citizen, to stand up for our country and defend the nation. ‘It is a dignified and honourable job,’

— Col Sofiya Qureshi

statement from the government, hours after the Indian armed forces hit nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Ba-



hawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base Muridke.

Qureshi and Singh shared the names and details of the sites targeted by missiles from 1 am to 1.30 am on the intervening night of May 6-7. The military strikes were carried out under Operation Sindoor, two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Later in the day, the Gujarat government said in a release that Col Sofiya did her masters in 1997 and then joined the Army's Corps of Signals. Her husband is an officer in the Mechanised Infantry of

tries participating in ‘Force 18’, a multinational military exercise involving ASEAN Plus countries,” said the release.

It added that she was deployed in Congo in 2006 during a six-year stint with the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations.

“When I saw her on TV, I couldn't believe my eyes. It took a while for me to realise that the person speaking was my sister. It is a matter of pride for all of us,” he said.

Speaking about India's action, he said that now the score has been settled with Pakistan.

Born in Gujarat's Vadodara in 1974, she graduated with a Master's in biochemistry from Manonmaniam Sundaranar (MS) University in 1997, a source said.

An officer in the critical Corps of Signals, in the past, she had been picked for the role of a military observer in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006, and been part of flood relief operations in the Northeast region.

The Army officer had broken the glass ceiling when in 2016, she became the first woman officer to lead its contingent at a multi-national field training exercise, Force 18, hosted by India for interoperability in sustaining peace among ASEAN nations.

“1st woman officer to lead an Army training contingent at Force 18 - #ASEAN Plus multinational field training exercise in 2016. She was the only Woman Officers Contingent Commander among all #ASEAN Plus contingents. #WomensDay #IWD2020 #Each-for-Equal #SheInspiresUs,” the Ministry of Defence had said in a Women's Day post on X, sharing a photograph of Qureshi.

'Measured, non-escalatory' strike to deter

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian military carried out a “measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible” strike to dismantle terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan to “deter and to pre-empt” any further terrorist strikes, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, hours after India retaliated the Pahalgam attack.

Addressing a packed press conference here, Misri said it was deemed essential that the perpetrators and planners of the April 22 attack be brought to justice as there was “no demonstrable” step from Islamabad to take action against the terror infrastructure on its territory or on territory under its control.

“Our intelligence monitoring of Pakistan-based terrorist modules indicated that further attacks against India were impending,” he said at the briefing, which was also addressed by Col. Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh.

The foreign secretary's comments came hours after India struck nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir with missiles and drones under an operation christened ‘Operation Sindoor’.

Misri said there was a compulsion both to “deter and to pre-empt”.

“Earlier this morning as you would be aware India exercised its right to respond and pre-empt as well as deter more such cross-border attacks,” he said.

“These actions were measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible. They focused on dismantling the terrorist infrastructure and disabling



A view of a damaged building after it was hit by an Indian strike, in Muridke on Wednesday.

On the Pahalgam attack, Misri said Pakistani and Pakistan-trained terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out the savage strike on Indian tourists and murdered 26 people.

terrorists likely to be sent across to India,” Misri said.

The foreign secretary said despite a fortnight having passed since the Pahalgam attacks, there has been “no demonstrable step” from Pakistan to take action against the terrorist infrastructure on its territory or on territory under its control.

On the Pahalgam attack, Misri said Pakistani and Pakistan-trained terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out the savage strike on Indian tourists and murdered 26 people.

It was the largest number of civilian casualties in a terrorist attack in India since the November 26,

2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

“The attack in Pahalgam was marked by extreme barbarity, with the victims mostly killed with headshots from close range and in front of their families,” he said.

“Family members were deliberately traumatised through the manner of the killing, accompanied by the exhortation that they should take back the message,” Misri said.

The foreign secretary said the Pahalgam attack was “clearly driven by the objective of undermining the normalcy returning” to Jammu and Kashmir. “In particular, it was designed



A Pakistan Army soldier stands in front of damaged Bilal Mosque after it was hit by an Indian strike, in Muzaffarabad. ANI

STRIKES DEEP IN PAKISTAN

HAMMER in Operation Sindoor



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS			
Aspect	Operation Sindoor (2025)	Balakot Airstrike (2019)	Uri Surgical Strikes (2016)
Nature of Operation	Aerial precision strikes	Aerial preemptive strike	Ground surgical strikes
Primary Targets	Terrorist camps linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba	Alleged training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed	Terrorist launch pads along the LoC
Technology Used	SCALP missiles, HAMMER munitions, Rafale jets	Mirage 2000 aircraft, conventional bombs	Special Forces, specialized equipment
Collateral Damage	Minimal	Debated; some reports of limited damage	Limited; focused on militant targets
Strategic Message	Precision and technological superiority	Boldness and willingness to act decisively	Direct action against cross-border terrorism

multiple guidance kits, including GPS/INS, GPS/INS/infrared, and GPS/INS/laser, providing flexibility to engage a wide range of targets under various conditions. Manufactured by the French company Safran, the HAMMER is highly resistant to jamming and can be launched from low altitudes over challenging terrain. Its ability to penetrate fortified structures and its resistance to interception make it an exceptionally effective weapon.

INDIAN DEFENCE RESEARCH WING
One of the standout features of the HAMMER is

its fire-and-forget capability, which allows it to be launched and guided to the target without continuous input from the launch aircraft. This capability is particularly valuable in dynamic combat scenarios, where rapid engagement and disengagement are essential. Additionally, the HAMMER is designed to be resistant to jamming and can be launched from low altitudes over rough terrain, enhancing its effectiveness in complex operational environments.

During Operation Sindoor, the IAF utilized the HAMMER to target terrorist hideouts and logistics

hubs in areas such as Muzaffarabad and Kotli. The munition's precision ensured that the strikes were focused on enemy assets, with minimal impact on civilian infrastructure.

INTEGRATION WITH RAFALE FIGHTER JETS
The Rafale fighter jet, developed by Dassault Aviation, is a multirole aircraft capable of conducting a wide range of missions, including air superiority, ground attack, and reconnaissance. The integration of SCALP and HAMMER into the Rafale's arsenal significantly enhances its strike capabilities.

The Rafale's advanced avionics and sensor systems enable it to accurately deliver these precision-guided munitions, even in challenging operational environments.

The Rafale's ability to carry and deploy both SCALP and HAMMER munitions provides the IAF with a versatile and potent strike platform. This versatility was demonstrated during Operation Sindoor, where the Rafale jets effectively employed both munitions to neutralize terrorist targets across a broad geographic area.

STRATEGIC

IMPLICATIONS
The successful execution of Operation Sindoor underscores India's growing capabilities in precision strike warfare. The use of SCALP and HAMMER munitions reflects a strategic shift towards employing advanced, high-precision weapons to target specific threats while minimizing collateral damage.

Furthermore, the collaboration between Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics & Defense to produce the HAMMER system domestically aligns with India's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India).

This partnership aims to enhance indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities, reduce dependency on foreign imports, and support the development of advanced weapon systems within the country.

As regional security dynamics continue to evolve, the integration of advanced precision-guided munitions into India's defense arsenal will play a crucial role in enhancing deterrence and maintaining strategic stability. The continued development and deployment of such capabilities will ensure that India remains prepared to address emerging security challenges effectively.



“Proud of our armed forces. Operation Sindoor is Bharat's response to the brutal killing of our innocent brothers.”
— Home Minister Amit Shah



“We are extremely proud of our Indian armed forces who have stuck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK.”
— Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge



“We will fight shoulder to shoulder against terror. There should not be differences among us on this issue.”
— West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

any further attacks'



Damaged rooftop of Bilal Mosque is seen after it was hit by an Indian strike, in Muzaffarabad on Wednesday.



Army soldiers inspect a building damaged by a suspected Indian missile attack near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

to impact the mainstay of the economy, tourism, with a record 23 million tourists visiting the valley last year,” he said.

“The calculation, presumably, was that harming growth and development

in the Union Territory would help keep it backward and create fertile ground for continued cross-border terrorism from Pakistan,” he said.

Misri noted that the manner of the attack was also

driven by an “objective of provoking communal discord”, both in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the nation.

“It is to the credit of the government and the people of India that these designs

were foiled,” he said.

Citing cross-border linkages to the attack, he pointed towards a so-called group calling itself “The Resistance Front” (TRF) claimed responsibility for the attack.

“This group is a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba,” he said.

“It is notable that India had given inputs about the TRF in the half-yearly report to the monitoring team of the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee in May and November 2024, bringing out its role as a cover for Pakistan-based terrorist groups,” he added.

Misri said “identification of the attackers based on eyewitness accounts, as well as other information available to law enforcement agencies, has also progressed.” “Our intelligence has developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team,” he added.

Wg Cdr Vyomika Singh: Pilot who was always meant to own the sky

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

It was the early 1990s. Vyomika Singh was in Class 6 discussing the meaning of names when someone spoke out, “You are Vyomika, which means you own the sky.” That was the day she decided she would become a pilot.

That dream came true. She is today a Wing Commander in the Indian Air Force and on Wednesday was chosen to brief the nation about India's ‘Operation Sindoor’, sparking that question – Who is Vyomika Singh?

An accomplished helicopter pilot, Vyomika has flown a variety of aircraft and taken part in rescue operations in extreme conditions to evacuate civilians.

In retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base Muridke.

The military strikes were carried out under ‘Operation Sindoor’, two weeks after the massacre of 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

At the briefing, Vyomika, alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Col Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army, briefed the media on India's strike. The women officers flanked Misri on the dais, who delivered the opening statement from the government.

The two officers then shared details about the sites hit by the Indian forces.

Vyomika, who's married to an In-

dian Air Force (IAF) pilot, had shared how her name, perhaps, carried her destiny to become a pilot during a panel discussion hosted by a private channel in 2023.

“I was in Class 6 when the Eureka moment happened -- I realised that I wanted to be a pilot and own the sky. We were having a discussion in class on the meaning of names. Somebody shouted, ‘You are Vyomika, which means you own the sky’. Since that day, I have wanted to be a pilot. This was in the early 1990s,” Vyomika recalled during the panel discussion.

“I was in Class 6 when the Eureka moment happened -- I realised that I wanted to be a pilot and own the sky. We were having a discussion in class on the meaning of names. Somebody shouted, ‘You are Vyomika, which means you own the sky’. Since that day, I have wanted to be a pilot.”
— Wg Cdr Vyomika Singh

During the interaction that hailed the spirit of ‘Nari Shakti’, she also shared her journey into the IAF and how she earned her wings.

From

dreaming of being a pilot to logging over 2,500 flying hours, Vyomika has operated several helicopters across some of the country's most challenging terrains, from the high-altitude sectors in Jammu and Kashmir to the remote areas in the Northeast.

In 2020, she led a rescue operation in Arunachal Pradesh, flying in extreme conditions to evacuate civilians.

“It has been an excellent experience (in the IAF), and I love it,” the IAF officer told the private channel, as she shared what it meant to fly

expressed her desire to join the armed forces, her family didn't hesitate and stood firmly behind her decision.

A colonel in the Indian Army today, Sofiya Qureshi, was chosen to brief the nation about India's ‘Operation Sindoor’ on Wednesday.

During the briefing, Col Sofiya and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Indian Air Force flanked Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on the dais, who delivered the opening statement from the government.

The briefing came hours after the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base Muridke.

Qureshi and Singh shared the names and details of the sites targeted from 1 am to 1.30 am on the intervening night of May 6-7.

A multi-generation officer in the Army who imbibed the spirit of serving the nation at an early age, Qureshi is an officer from the Corps of Signals and spoke in Hindi while Singh shared the details in English, complementing each other.

The military strikes were carried out under ‘Operation Sindoor’ two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

In a panel discussion hosted in 2017, Qureshi shared about her journey into the armed forces and what inspired her to don the olive-green uniform.

“When she was young, her grandfather used to tell her stories about the army. When she grew up, she said that she wanted to join the army... We didn't stop her,” she added.

a helicopter in different weather conditions and navigate it.

Being a ‘fauji’ kid, Sofiya Qureshi grew up listening to tales of valour and sacrifice of the army shared by her grandfather, who was a soldier. Many years later, when she



KHIMSAR: A TIMELESS BLEND OF HISTORY, CULTURE, AND SCENIC BEAUTY

TDG NETWORK

Khimsar, a quaint village of Rajasthan, is a blend of ancient history, cultural richness, and scenic beauty. Located in the Nagaur district, Khimsar is a rural retreat that offers an authentic Rajasthani experience, far removed from the hustle and bustle of urban cities. Known for its rustic charm, historical significance, and captivating landscapes, Khimsar serves as a perfect example of Rajasthan's uncelebrated rural heritage.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF KHIMSAR

Khimsar's history dates back centuries, and the village is primarily known for the majestic Khimsar Fort, a 16th-century structure that stands as a testament to Rajasthan's royal past. The fort was built by Rao Karamsi, a noble of the Marwar kingdom, as part of the defense system during the rise of the Rajput clans. Over the years, the fort has undergone several modifications and expansions, yet it remains a significant part of the village's identity.

The Khimsar Fort, once a battleground for Rajput kings and their rivals, reflects the architectural grandeur of Rajasthan. Constructed using sandstone, the fort features typical Rajputana design elements like imposing gateways, intricately designed jharokhas (overhanging windows), and expansive courtyards. The fort has

now been converted into a heritage hotel, providing visitors with an opportunity to experience royal life.

Apart from the fort, Khimsar holds a prominent place in the history of the Marwar region. Over the centuries, the village has been a crucial part of the political and military landscape of Rajasthan, particularly during the Mughal era. Its strategic location made it a significant point in the trade routes connecting Rajasthan with other parts of India.

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Khimsar, like many rural villages in Rajasthan, is steeped in cultural richness. The village is a repository of traditional music, dance, and local festivals that form an integral part of the region's identity. The locals are known for their hospitality, and traditional values are upheld in their daily lives.

The Rajasthani culture is characterized by colorful clothing, folk dances, and music. Khimsar hosts several local festivals such as Teej, Diwali, and Makar Sankranti, which are celebrated with great fervor. These festivals bring the entire community together, marked by traditional dances like Ghoomar and Kalbeliya.

The village is also famous for its distinct folk music, which has been passed down through generations. The sounds of traditional instruments like the dholak, sarangi, and sitar



echo through the village, creating an atmosphere filled with rhythm and soul. The traditional attire worn by the villagers is a reflection of the region's artistic expression, with vibrant turbans, colorful sarees, and elaborate jewelry.

THE KHIMSAR FORT

The most prominent attraction in Khimsar is undoubtedly the Khimsar Fort. This historic fort, perched atop a hill, offers breathtaking views of the surrounding desert landscape. The fort was originally constructed to serve as a military defense system, but over the years, it evolved into a luxurious royal residence.

Today, the Khimsar Fort is a heritage hotel, where visitors can experience the royal life of the bygone era.

The hotel preserves the opulence and grandeur of the fort with its regal interiors, offering rooms decorated with period furniture and fixtures. The walls of the fort are adorned with intricate paintings and frescoes that tell the story of Rajasthan's royal history.

A visit to the fort offers an immersive experience. Visitors can stroll through its grand courtyards, enjoy the mesmerizing architecture, and explore the various sections of the fort. The fort is also home to a collection of artifacts that showcase the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan. The experience of staying at the Khimsar Fort is not just about luxury, but also about connecting with the history and legacy of Rajasthan.

RURAL LIFE AND ECONOMY

Khimsar is predominantly an agricultural village, with the local economy primarily dependent on farming and livestock rearing. The villagers grow crops like wheat, barley, millets, and mustard, and also engage in animal husbandry, raising cattle, goats, and sheep. Agriculture remains the backbone of the village economy, although tourism has brought a new stream of income in recent years, particularly from visitors who stay at the Khimsar Fort.

The economy of Khimsar is heavily influenced by the seasonal cycle. The village experiences a typical desert climate with hot summers and cooler winters.

Agriculture in Khimsar is highly dependent on the monsoon season, which is crucial for the cultivation of crops. However, due to the scarcity of water in the region, irrigation is largely dependent on wells and groundwater resources.

In recent years, efforts have been made to promote sustainable farming practices and introduce eco-friendly tourism. The establishment of the Khimsar Fort as a heritage hotel has brought an economic boost to the village, with tourists visiting from all over the world to experience the rustic charm of the village and its historic fort.

NATURAL BEAUTY AND WILDLIFE

Khimsar is located in the Thar Desert, which is

known for its unique and stark beauty. The village is surrounded by arid landscapes, golden sand dunes, and rugged terrain. The natural beauty of Khimsar lies in its simplicity, with vast stretches of desert and the occasional patches of green around agricultural lands.

One of the notable natural features of Khimsar is the Khimsar Lake, located near the fort. The lake offers a serene and picturesque setting, surrounded by vegetation and wildlife. The lake is home to various species of birds, making it an excellent spot for bird watching. The village is also surrounded by dunes that offer a peaceful escape from the heat of the desert.

The region's desert ecosystem is home to unique wildlife, including desert foxes, chinkaras (Indian gazelles), desert hares, and a variety of reptilian species. The desert is also known for its diverse birdlife, with migratory birds visiting the region during the winter months.

THE CHANGING FACE OF KHIMSAR

Over the years, Khimsar has experienced gradual development, yet it has retained its traditional charm. The village, like many others in Rajasthan, is undergoing a transformation due to the influx of tourism and modern amenities. The arrival of tourists has led to the development of better infrastructure, such as improved roads and facilities

ties for visitors. However, Khimsar has managed to retain its authenticity and cultural heritage despite these changes.

While the tourism industry has brought economic growth, it has also raised awareness about the importance of preserving Khimsar's environment and heritage. The villagers are now more conscious of the need to maintain the ecological balance, particularly in terms of water conservation and waste management.

Khimsar is a perfect blend of Rajasthan's rich history, culture, and natural beauty. The village's rustic charm, combined with its historical significance and the grandeur of the Khimsar Fort, makes it a unique destination for those seeking an authentic Rajasthani experience. Whether it's the stunning architecture, the vibrant local culture, or the serene desert landscapes, Khimsar has something for everyone.

In an era where rapid urbanization and commercialization are changing the rural landscape, Khimsar stands as a reminder of the beauty and simplicity of village life in Rajasthan. It is a place where tradition meets modernity, where history lives on in every stone and where nature still holds sway. As tourism continues to grow, it is crucial that Khimsar preserves its cultural heritage while embracing sustainable development practices for future generations to enjoy.

Fort Barwara: A majestic legacy of Rajput valour and architectural grandeur

TDG NETWORK

Chauth Ka Barwara in Sawai Madhopur district, Fort Barwara is a stunning example of Rajasthan's royal history and architecture. While it remains relatively unknown to many, the fort offers a glimpse into the region's medieval past, making it a hidden treasure for history lovers and travelers. Its rich heritage, strategic location, and beautiful design reflect the grandeur of Rajasthan's Rajputana era.

Historical Significance of Fort Barwara

Fort Barwara was built in the 16th century by the Chauhan Rajputs, who were known for their valiant defense of Rajasthan's territories against invading forces. The fort was originally constructed as a military stronghold, and its primary function was to protect the town of Barwara from external threats. Strategically located near the Chauth Ka Barwara, the fort's location provided a commanding view of the surrounding areas, making it an excellent site for defense.

The Chauhan dynasty, to which the fort originally belonged, ruled the region for centuries, contributing significantly to Rajasthan's history. The Chauhans were known for their bravery and military prowess, and the fort was not only a symbol of their strength but also a key political center. During the medieval period, the region was often embroiled in battles between various Rajput kings and invaders. As a result, the fort played an essential role in the defense and politics of the region.

The fort has also witnessed numerous changes in ownership over the centuries.

After the Chauhans, the fort changed hands several times, as it was captured and occupied by various dynasties, each of whom left their imprint on the structure. These changes in rulers have contributed to the fort's unique blend of architectural styles, from Rajput to Mughal influences.

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

The architecture of Fort Barwara is a magnificent reflection of Rajasthan's royal heritage. Built primarily with sandstone, the fort's walls rise high, enveloping the interior in a protective embrace. The fort's imposing structure, with its towering gateways, high bastions, and watchtowers, reflects the military importance it once held. The fortress is surrounded by a wide moat, adding to its fortification and making it almost impregnable.

One of the most remarkable features of Fort Barwara is its intricate Haveli-style architecture. The inner courtyards, palaces, and temples are adorned with delicate carvings, frescoes, and intricate jharokhas (overhanging windows), typical of Rajput architecture. The Rajput kings built the fort to not only serve as a defensive structure but also as a residence, and the architectural design reflects both its military and residential purposes.

The entrance gate to the fort is an awe-inspiring feature, marked by grand arches and an impressive stone structure. The fort is known for its large courtyards, which were once the centers of royal life, where soldiers and courtiers would gather. The palaces inside the fort are beautifully designed, with delicate



carvings, murals, and lavish interiors, showcasing the opulence of the era.

In addition to the architectural beauty, the fort houses several temples, reflecting the religious significance of the region. The temples within the fort are dedicated to local deities and were important places of worship for the royal family and the local population. The Shiva temple within the fort is particularly famous and draws both pilgrims and tourists alike.

FORT BARWARA: FROM ROYAL RESIDENCE TO HERITAGE HOTEL

Over the centuries, Fort Barwara has undergone several changes. After being abandoned as a military stronghold, the fort gradually lost its importance and fell into disrepair. However, it was in the early 21st century that Fort Barwara saw a new lease on life. Recognizing its historical and architectural significance, the fort has been transformed into a heritage hotel while still preserving its original grandeur.

The transformation has allowed visitors to experience the fort's rich history, architecture, and royal past. Today, Fort Barwara offers a unique blend of modern luxury and ancient charm, providing an exclusive and immersive experience for those wishing



to step back in time while enjoying modern amenities. The heritage hotel allows guests to stay within the walls of this centuries-old fort, offering them a chance to experience life as the royals once did.

The fort's rooms, suites, and common areas are carefully restored to retain their historical charm while incorporating modern comforts. The decor and interiors pay homage to Rajasthan's royal culture, with lavish furnishings, traditional handicrafts, and locally sourced materials. The hotel provides an intimate and regal atmosphere, ensuring that visitors get a truly unique experience during their stay.

FORT BARWARA'S ROLE IN MODERN RAJASTHAN

Although Fort Barwara may not be as famous as some of Rajasthan's other forts, its role in the region's history cannot be understated. The

fort has played an important role in shaping the local culture, politics, and military dynamics. It was a key site during Rajasthan's wars of succession, and its strategic location made it a pivotal point in the defense of the region.

The fort also has deep connections with local folklore and legends, with many stories of royal battles, victories, and betrayals associated with it. These tales have been passed down through generations and continue to capture the imagination of locals and visitors alike.

Today, Fort Barwara serves as a reminder of Rajasthan's royal past and its contribution to Indian history. The fort's preservation as a heritage hotel allows for a deeper understanding of the region's history and culture while promoting sustainable tourism. By maintaining the fort's historical integrity, the own-



ers have ensured that future generations can experience the grandeur of Rajasthan's royal past.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

While Fort Barwara itself is a major attraction, visitors to the region will find that the surrounding area offers much more to explore. The town of Chauth Ka Barwara is home to several ancient temples and is an important pilgrimage site for devotees. The Chauth Mata Temple in the town is dedicated to the goddess Chauth Mata, and it attracts thousands of pilgrims every year.

The nearby Sawai Madhopur district is famous for the Ranthambore National Park, one of India's largest and most renowned wildlife reserves. Ranthambore is famous for its tiger population, and visitors can explore the park to witness the majestic tigers in their natural habitat.

The park also boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Another popular attraction near Fort Barwara is the Ranthambore Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This historic fort, perched atop a hill, offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding park and the Aravalli mountain range.

PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on the preservation of Rajasthan's historical sites, including Fort Barwara. The fort's transformation into a heritage hotel is a reflection of the state's commitment to sustainable tourism that balances the need for economic growth with the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage.

Efforts have been made to

ensure that any restoration work at the fort is carried out with minimal environmental impact, and local communities are actively involved in the tourism process. This approach not only helps maintain the fort's historical integrity but also provides employment opportunities for the local population, contributing to the region's economic development.

Fort Barwara, with its majestic architecture, royal history, and unique charm, offers a fascinating glimpse into Rajasthan's past. As a fort turned heritage hotel, it provides visitors with the opportunity to experience the grandeur of Rajasthan's royal culture while offering modern-day comforts. Its location, history, and transformation into a heritage site make it a must-visit destination for those exploring Rajasthan's lesser-known attractions.

In a land known for its opulent palaces and majestic forts, Fort Barwara stands as a quiet yet significant testament to the legacy of Rajasthan's rulers. Whether you are a history enthusiast, an architecture lover, or a traveler seeking an authentic royal experience, Fort Barwara offers a unique and unforgettable journey into the heart of Rajasthan's royal heritage.

US DEMOCRATS DEMAND CLARITY ON MUSK’S DOGE APPROVAL OF FARM LOANS

What sets Ukraine apart is how its economic strength has not only survived but evolved, becoming a critical pillar of its military resistance.

Despite facing the immense challenges of war—including the occupation of its territory, relentless missile attacks, and deep human suffering—Ukraine’s economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience. What sets Ukraine apart is how its economic strength has not only survived but evolved, becoming a critical pillar of its military resistance. In contrast to predictions of institutional collapse, the country’s state capacity has expanded significantly since the onset of the conflict with Russia. A combination of effective tax collection, grassroots fundraising, and strategic public spending has enabled Ukraine to dramatically scale up its military forces, invest in domestic defense production, and maintain essential public services. This wartime economic adaptation has supported both military objectives and the broader civilian economy. Importantly, these gains have been accompanied by

innovative developments. Ukraine has fostered a military-industrial ecosystem that combines traditional state-run enterprises with a vibrant community of drone and tech startups. These advances not only improve military capability but also stimulate private sector activity and local job creation. However, this wartime economic strength is not without its contradictions. Ukraine’s capacity to sustain its military and economic functions rests heavily on external financial aid. This makes the country’s apparent economic autonomy fragile and conditional, a dynamic made even clearer by a recent mineral deal with the United States.

THE HIDDEN FRAGILITY

While Ukraine has achieved admirable economic stabilization under extraordinary circumstances, its financial model relies extensively on foreign support. The country runs a negative gross domestic savings rate, indicating that it consumes more than it produces annually. This imbalance is not unusual in a wartime economy, but it highlights the extent of Ukraine’s dependency. Financial aid from Western allies—including the European Union, the United States, and international lending institutions—has been critical in covering this deficit. These funds help pay salaries, procure weapons, maintain infrastructure, and stabilize the banking system. Without this assistance, Ukraine would face a significant economic contraction and possible institutional breakdown. And yet, Ukraine has



The US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Ukraine’s Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko sign the minerals deal in Washington, 30 April 2025. Agency

managed this dependency with a notable degree of pragmatism. Aid has been channeled into key sectors with measurable returns—particularly defense, logistics, and public services. The National Bank of Ukraine has maintained monetary stability and kept inflation in check better than might be expected for a country under siege. In fact, Ukraine’s inflation-adjusted interest rates are currently lower than Russia’s, indicating relatively greater stability in its financial system. Still, Ukraine’s economic model is built on a delicate balance. The continued flow of aid depends on the shifting political landscapes of donor countries, especially the United States. Any change in foreign policy priorities, particularly under a new U.S. administration, could disrupt Ukraine’s fragile stability. Russia’s Petro-Economy Compared to Ukraine, Russia’s wartime economy is often portrayed as sur-

prisingly resilient, having withstood sweeping Western sanctions with minimal immediate disruption. However, the foundations of Russia’s economic strength are more brittle than they appear. Russia is, fundamentally,

ternational Energy Agency (IEA), the next five years will likely see a global oversupply of oil, weakening the price-setting power of major oil producers. If these forecasts hold, Russia could see a substantial drop in revenues, hampering its ability

production. In short, while Russia has thus far avoided an outright economic collapse, its long-term prospects are deeply uncertain. Unlike Ukraine, it cannot count on a coalition of supportive allies to offset its structural weaknesses.

SYMBOL OF UNEQUAL BARGAINING POWER

In this context of economic fragility, Ukraine recently signed a minerals investment deal with the United States. While touted by some as a victory for Ukraine, the agreement raises important questions about sovereignty, equity, and dependency. The deal establishes a joint investment fund aimed at developing Ukraine’s mineral wealth—particularly critical raw materials such as lithium and rare earth elements. These are vital for the clean energy transition and defense manufacturing. However, the terms of the deal reflect an imbalance of



to sustain its war efforts. Domestically, Russia is already experiencing signs of strain. Inflation is rising, interest rates are high, and its current account surplus is shrinking. The country is depleting its National Wealth Fund, an emergency reserve, to finance its war—a sign of unsustainable fiscal policy. Additionally, the Russian banking system is under mounting pressure, as the conflict diverts resources away from civilian markets and into military

production. Domestically, Russia is already experiencing signs of strain. Inflation is rising, interest rates are high, and its current account surplus is shrinking. The country is depleting its National Wealth Fund, an emergency reserve, to finance its war—a sign of unsustainable fiscal policy. Additionally, the Russian banking system is under mounting pressure, as the conflict diverts resources away from civilian markets and into military

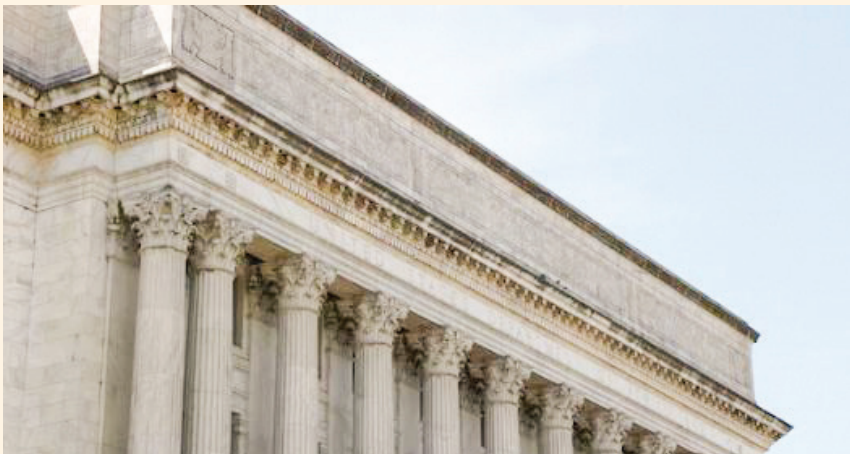
STRATEGIC PATIENCE

Ultimately, the mineral agreement is not just about economic resources—it’s a geopolitical signal. By anchoring the United States more firmly to its cause, Ukraine is buying time. Time for Western support to solidify, time for Russia’s economic vulnerabilities to deepen, and time for its own institutions to become more self-reliant. The war is now a test of endurance. Ukraine’s position is paradoxical: materially dependent yet institutionally stronger. Russia, by contrast, appears materially stronger yet structurally more fragile. Over time, these internal contradictions may begin to show more clearly. Ukraine is not out of danger. Its economic strength is real but conditional. The mineral deal serves as a stark reminder of how foreign aid and political alliances shape the realities of sovereignty in times of war. It also exposes the limitations of “strategic partnerships” when one side holds most of the leverage. Nevertheless, Ukraine has managed the impossible: building a functioning economy amid devastation, a resilient civil society under constant threat, and a stable financial system in a war zone. Its ability to transform aid into action, and crisis into capacity, may be one of the most overlooked victories of this war. Time will reveal whether this resilience can be sustained. But for now, Ukraine’s economy, however fragile, is a foundation upon which its resistance—and possibly its future reconstruction—rests.

—TDG NETWORK

US democrats demand clarity on Musk’s DOGE approval of farm loans

A group of 16 Democratic U.S. senators, led by Senator Amy Klobuchar, has called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to explain a new policy requiring the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, to review certain farm loans and guarantees before they are issued. The lawmakers expressed concerns about the potential for delays and financial uncertainty for farmers, particularly those applying through the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). The policy mandates that loans over \$500,000, or any size loans to formal entities like farm LLCs, must be approved by DOGE and the USDA’s Chief Financial Officer. The senators are seeking transparency on how these reviews are conducted and whether DOGE’s oversight will extend to other USDA programs. Aim to boost efficiency The policy change, effective from an April 29 memo, is part of an executive order aimed at improving government cost efficiency. It requires that farm loans and loan guarantees exceeding \$500,000, or any size loans to formal entities, be reviewed and cleared by DOGE employees and the USDA’s Chief Financial Officer before issuance. The USDA has stated that individual aid is mostly exempt from this process and that delays are mini-



A general view of the U. S. Department of Agriculture headquarters in Washington, D.C., U.S., April 23, 2025. File Photo

mal. However, the new policy has raised concerns among lawmakers about its potential impact on farmers and the review process’s transparency. **LAWMAKERS EXPRESS CONCERNS** Senator Klobuchar, the top Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, and other signatories of the letter, including Senators Ron Wyden and Adam Schiff, have expressed concerns that the new policy could cause delays in loan approvals for farmers. Farmers often rely on timely access to loans for operational expenses such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, or to purchase land. Delays in loan approvals could disrupt their operations and financial stability. **ROLE IN FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS** The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, has been tasked

with identifying and implementing federal budget cuts. While Musk claims that DOGE has saved \$160 billion, efforts to codify even a modest \$9.3 billion rescission package in law are facing pushback from both Democrats and Republicans. Lawmakers are concerned that these cuts could affect vital programs, including farm loans and public broadcasting. Senator Susan Collins and others have voiced concerns about cuts affecting global health initiatives, while Representative Tom Cole emphasized the need for political consensus before submitting any legislation. **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** A Senate report by Democratic members of the Homeland Security Committee’s subcommittee on investigations estimates that Elon Musk and his companies, including

Tesla, SpaceX, and Neuralink, face at least \$2.37 billion in potential legal exposure stemming from federal investigations, litigation, and regulatory scrutiny. The report identifies 65 cases across 11 federal agencies, with 45 quantified for financial risk. It highlights concerns over Musk’s position as head of DOGE, alleging conflicts of interest and risks that Musk may influence government agencies to shield his businesses from accountability. USDA officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The agency previously told Reuters that such reviews do not cause undue delay and that most direct aid to individuals is exempt from the process. However, the new policy’s potential impact on farmers has raised questions about the balance between government efficiency and the timely delivery of financial assistance to those in need.

—TDG NETWORK

Israel’s Gaza Offensive: Operation Gideon’s Chariots

Israel’s Security Cabinet approved “Operation Gideon’s Chariots,” a military initiative aimed at dismantling Hamas’s infrastructure in Gaza two days back. The operation involves a comprehensive strategy utilizing land, air, and sea forces to neutralize Hamas’s military capabilities. Unlike previous incursions, Israeli forces plan to establish a sustained presence in key areas, including the recently established Morag Corridor, which divides Gaza into separate zones to exert pressure on Hamas.

The offensive has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Since March 2, 2025, Israel has imposed a blockade preventing the entry of essential supplies, leading to severe shortages of food, water, and medical aid. The World Food Programme reported depleting its resources by April 25, and UNICEF warned that humanitarian aid for children is nearly exhausted. Civilian casualties continue to rise, and displacement within Gaza has intensified, with many residents forced into increasingly confined “humanitarian zones.” Domestically, Prime Minister Netanyahu faces declining public support. A recent survey indicates that 53% of Israelis believe the war’s expansion serves Netanyahu’s political interests rather than national security. Additionally, the Israeli military has experienced challenges in mobilizing



Displaced Palestinians crowd to receive hot meals distributed by charities in Beit Lahia, Gaza, 6 May 2025. File Photo

reservists, with some units reporting only 50% attendance, reflecting growing fatigue and disillusionment among the populace. Internationally, the offensive has drawn criticism from various quarters. Human rights organizations accuse Israel of committing war crimes, and the United Nations has condemned the attacks on Gaza. Despite these concerns, Western nations, including the United States and European countries, have largely remained silent, raising questions about their complicity in the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Israel’s Operation Gideon’s Chariots represents a significant escalation in the Gaza conflict, with implications for regional stability and international relations. The operation’s focus on territorial control and the displacement of Gaza’s pop-

ulation raises critical questions about the future of the region and the prospects for peace. As the situation develops, the international community’s response will be crucial in addressing the humanitarian needs and seeking a resolution to the ongoing conflict. In the meantime, the starvation of Gaza intensifies. Since 2 March, Israel has not allowed any food to enter the strip. This is the longest, harshest and most hermetic siege in Gaza’s recent history. The World Food Programme announced that it ran out of food on 25 April. Unicef warned that humanitarian aid, which has been the only lifeline for Gaza’s children, “is now close to running out.” With farmland destroyed by Israel, the population of 2.1 million is almost entirely dependent on food coming from the

outside. Medications are also running out, and clean water is in short supply. Whether the new offensive materialises in full or limited form, or is postponed further, the Israeli government’s objectives are clear. It is determined to pursue an open-ended war of varying intensity, making the Gaza Strip increasingly uninhabitable. The long-term horizon is the ethnic cleansing of the strip and its reoccupation by Israel, as part of a vision for a Jewish-exclusive state between the river and the sea. What was once the vision of a small outlawed group of extremists such as Rabbi Meir Kahane has now become official government policy? Whether through a decisive military action, or mass starvation, Netanyahu’s government is working to make that vision viable.

—TDG NETWORK

UN CHIEF CALLS FOR MAX MILITARY RESTRAINT FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN

UN chief Guterres is “very concerned” about India’s military operations across the Line of Control and the international border.

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

After India carried out precision strikes at terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for maximum military restraint from both countries. UN Secretary-General spokesperson said that Guterres is “very concerned” about India’s military operations across the Line of Control and the international border. In a statement, the UN Secretary-General spokesman said, “The Secretary-General is very concerned about the Indian military



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

operations across the Line of Control and international border. He calls for maximum military restraint from both countries. The world cannot afford a military confrontation between India and Pakistan.” Indian Armed Forces suc-

cessfully struck nine terror targets, four in Pakistan, including Bahawalpur, Muridke, and Sialkot, and five in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), using special precision munitions in a coordinated operation, sources

told ANI. India’s Ministry of Defence said the action was in direct response to the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed the lives of 26 people and injured several others. In its statement, the Ministry of Defence stated, “A little while ago, the Indian Armed Forces launched ‘OPERATION SINDOOR’, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.” “Our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. No Pakistani military facilities

have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution,” it added. The operation was jointly carried out by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, with the mobilisation of assets and troops. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was constantly monitoring Operation Sindoor throughout the night, sources confirmed to ANI. The strikes on all nine targets were successful, sources further revealed. The Indian forces selected the locations to target top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leaders involved in sponsoring terrorist activities in India.

US supports India’s strikes on terror targets

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US Congressman Shri Thanedar on Tuesday expressed firm support for India following its airstrikes targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, describing the action as a justified response to the recent deadly attack in Jammu and Kashmir. “India has the right to defend itself after what happened in Pahalgam... Terrorists were focused on making sure the people they’re killing are Hindus... Now that India has started to target the infrastructure of the terrorists and planned 9 such attacks, so India has the right to defend itself. India has a right to retaliate for what appears to be barbaric acts...I’m urging that United States supports India at this



US Congressman Shri Thanedar.

difficult time...First of all, the United States must recognise India’s right to protect its people and its territory. Secondly, the United States must encourage a thorough and complete investigation about the terrorist attack,” Thanedar told ANI. The Congressman also called on the US to work with India to fight against terrorism across the world. “War is never a solution, but when such terroristic

acts happen, it is important that the terrorists are found, they are punished. It is important that any country that is supporting terrorism sees that there are consequences for such actions and the United States must stand behind peaceful nations, democracies and the United States and India must collaborate to fight against terrorism all across the world,” he said. His statement came amid escalating tensions in South Asia after India launched “Operation Sindoor” targeting nine terror camps. The operation followed the Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen were killed. India’s Ministry of Defence confirmed that the strikes were carried out against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

‘Israel supports India’s right to self-defence’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Israel’s Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar said on Wednesday that Israel supports India’s right to self-defence. His remarks came in the wake of Indian strikes under “Operation Sindoor,” which targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Israeli envoy supported the Indian strikes and reinforced that terrorists should know there’s no place to hide “from their heinous crimes against the innocent”. He wrote on X, “Israel supports India’s right for self defense. Terrorists should know there’s no place to hide from their heinous crimes against the innocent. #OperationSindoor” On Wednesday, US Secretary of State

The Israeli envoy supported the Indian strikes and reinforced that terrorists should know there’s no place to hide “from their heinous crimes against the innocent”.

Marco Rubio said that he is closely monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan, following Indian missile strikes on multiple sites in Pakistan. His remarks follow those of President Donald Trump, who earlier in the day acknowledged the reports of the Indian strikes and expressed hope that tensions would de-escalate swiftly. “We just heard about it as we were walk-

ing through the doors of the Oval. Just heard about it. I guess people knew something was going to happen based on a little bit of the past. They’ve been fighting for a long time. They’ve been fighting for many, many decades. And centuries, actually, if you think about it. I hope it ends very quickly,” Trump said. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the UAE, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has called on India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation. UAE’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said in a statement on Wednesday. India’s Ministry of Defence said the action was in direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen.

Operation Sindoor: China calls India’s military action ‘regrettable’

AGENCIES
BEIJING

China on Wednesday termed as “regrettable” India’s strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and urged both New Delhi and Islamabad to exercise restraint. Beijing’s reaction came hours after India’s defence ministry announced that Indian armed forces had targeted nine sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) from where terrorist strikes were planned and directed in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack of



April 22 “China finds India’s military operation early this morning regrettable. We are concerned about the ongoing situation. India and Pakistan are and will always be each other’s neighbors,” the Chinese foreign ministry said in

a short statement. “They’re both China’s neighbours as well. China opposes all forms of terrorism. We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions

that may further complicate the situation,” the statement said. The statement was issued by the Chinese foreign ministry as a response to an anonymous question: “Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, India launched military strikes on targets in Pakistan on the early morning of May 7, which met strong response from Pakistan. What’s China’s comment?” Earlier, Beijing had welcomed measures to cool down the situation between India and Pakistan, calling for a “fair and just investigation” into the attacks.

PM Shehbaz says Pak Army was ready for Indian attack

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the Pakistan Army was ready for an Indian attack, lauding his forces for the “swift response”. Addressing a session of the Parliament amid escalated tensions between the two countries, Shehbaz claimed that the Pakistan armed forces destroyed five Indian jets. He, however, did not provide any evidence in support of his claim. “Last night, 80 Indian aircraft were part of the offensive, but Pakistan’s air defence effectively neutralised the threat,” he claimed. The Prime Minister lauded the Pakistan Air Force and its chief “for the swift response”, saying that the armed forces had prior intelligence about India’s plans. “We shot down five enemy jets, including Rafales, and



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

also downed two Indian drones,” he claimed, without providing any evidence to back up his claims. Referring to Rafale jets, the prime minister claimed Pakistan jammed their systems. “Our armed forces were on high alert round the clock and ready to defend the homeland,” Shehbaz said. The prime minister further said Pakistan had offered a transparent international investigation into the Pahalgam attack, claim-

ing that India responded with “aggression” instead of cooperation. Separately, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan exercised restraint in the face of India’s strikes. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz presided over the National Security Council (NSC) meeting, which was attended by cabinet ministers, chief ministers, all services chiefs and senior officers to discuss the situation.

Pak blocks 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 32 websites

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani authorities have blocked 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites in view of the prevailing regional situation. The move is part of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority’s continued efforts to ensure the responsible use of digital platforms, officials said. The action of blocking 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites “has been taken

The move is part of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority’s continued efforts to ensure the responsible use of digital platforms, officials said.

in the light of the prevailing regional situation to safeguard national security and protect Pakistan’s digital ecosystem,” the officials said.



Pakistan ready to ‘wrap’ tensions if India de-escalates: Minister Asif

TDG NETWORK
ISLAMABAD

Hours after the Indian airstrikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in Operation Sindoor, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said his military will back off from retaliation against India provided New Delhi halts further strikes. Saying the attacks were initiated by India, Asif said, “If India is ready to back down, they have taken the initiative, we have just responded. We have been saying all along, for the last fortnight, that we will never initiate anything hostile against India. However, the defence minister said if Pakistan is attacked, they will respond. “We will definitely wrap up these things, if India backs down,” he told the media. Addressing a press meet, Khawaja said that Pakistan does not seek war. Though the forces are prepared for attacks, he said they are equally prepared to exercise restraint. The defence minister’s move



If India is ready to back down, they have taken the initiative, we have just responded. We have been saying all along, for the last fortnight, that we will never initiate anything hostile against India.

is seen as a diplomatic effort to avoid further escalation as Pakistan is already cash-strapped and cannot afford to go on an all-out war with India. On the intervening night of May 6 and 7, India struck Pakistan’s terrorist camps that served as training and recruitment camps, indoctrination centres and weapon storage.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said it was necessary to take pre-emptive and precautionary strikes as intelligence inputs showed that further attacks against India were impending. In a rare tri-service operations jointly executed by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, nine locations in Pakistan and PoK were targeted.

Pakistan briefs Chinese ambassador on latest escalation with India

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday briefed Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong about the latest escalation with India. In retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan, including Bhawalpur, a stronghold of the Jaish-e-Mohammad

(JeM) terror outfit. According to the Foreign Office, the ambassador of China called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar amid ongoing tension with India. According to the Foreign Office, the ambassador of China called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar amid ongoing tension with India. “The deputy prime minister briefed the Chinese ambassador on the serious

situation following India’s ‘unprovoked violation’ of Pakistan’s sovereignty and the tragic loss of innocent lives,” the Foreign Office said. Dar underscored Pakistan’s firm resolve to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs. “The two sides exchanged views on regional security developments and agreed to maintain close coordination and communication across all relevant areas,” according to the Foreign Office.



“The two sides exchanged views on regional security developments and agreed to maintain close coordination and communication across all relevant areas,” according to the Foreign Office.

Meanwhile, China on Wednesday called on India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint in the “larger interest of peace and stability” of the region and said it will play a “constructive role” in easing the tensions by working with

the international community. “We are concerned about the ongoing situation,” China’s Foreign Ministry said. “India and Pakistan are and will always be each other’s neighbours. They are both China’s neigh-

bours as well,” it said. “China opposes all forms of terrorism,” it said, in an apparent reference to the Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed 26 people. “We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions that may further complicate the situation,” the statement said. “China finds India’s military operation early this morning regrettable,” it added.

BOLLYWOOD SALUTES OPERATION SINDOOR AND ARMED FORCES' VALOUR



“ The fighter's fight begins...
No stopping until the mission is
accomplished! The entire NATION is
with you. @PMOIndia @HMOIndia
#OperationSindoor ज़ाहिन्द.
— Rajinikanth

“ OPERATION SINDOOR: ZERO
TOLERANCE TO TERROR. The
Indian Armed Forces launched a precision
mission, Operation Sindoor; 9 terror
camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-
occupied Jammu and Kashmir neutralized.
#OperationSindoor #NewIndia.
— Kangana Ranaut



“ Our prayers
are with our forces.
One nation, together
we stand. Jai Hind,
Vande Mataram".
— Madhur Bhandarkar

“ Terror
has no place.
Zero Tolerance.
Total Justice.
#Operation
Sindoor.
— Suniel Shetty



Palak Tiwari snapped in a yellow shirt and mini skirt, paired with a tie.
(Instagram)

Diljit Dosanjh collaborates with Jackson Wang for 'Buck'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With his musical talent, Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has truly made his mark on the global map. Recently, he debuted at Hollywood's biggest event Met Gala, honouring his Punjabi roots. And now, on Wednesday, he announced his collaboration with popular Chinese rapper Jackson Wang. Jackson Wang shared a teaser of their upcoming track, 'Buck'. Diljit also reposted on his Instagram Story. The track will be out on May 9. Meanwhile, Diljit is being lauded for his Met Gala look. He made a grand and historic debut, becoming the first Indian turban-wearing man to attend the



iconic event. Diljit honoured his Sikh roots on a global platform by wearing a turban (a symbol of Sikh identity), a kurta, and a tehmat (a long tunic and draped bottoms). Dressed in a majestic

Punjabi-inspired traditional outfit, Dosanjh paid tribute to his Punjabi heritage while making a bold fashion statement on one of the world's most-watched red carpets. Apart from his look, what caught the attention was

his meeting with renowned Colombian singer Shakira. Several images and videos from the fashion night surfaced online. Met Gala 2025 marked Diljit's debut at Hollywood's biggest fashion night.

MET GALA 2025

SRK's Met Gala debut look gets tribute from Amul

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's Met Gala debut will be remembered for years as he created history by becoming the first Indian male actor to walk the iconic stairs of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Monday. Dressed in an all-black Sabysachi outfit, Shah Rukh won hearts with his simple yet classy look. The selling point of the look, however, was the pieces of jewellery. From chokers to pearls, cascading through his open black shirt, anchored by an oversized diamond 'K' pendant, the jewellery added an appealing touch to his overall look. His fingers, too, were adorned with a stack of



rings. Also, it was the Bengal Tiger Head cane crafted in 18k gold with tourmalines, sapphires, old mine cut and brilliant cut diamonds, that made his Met Gala look captivating. Many hailed SRK's Met Gala debut. And now, Amul India has also captured SRK's iconic debut



at Hollywood's biggest fashion night with a cute doodle, dubbing him "India's biggest GalaKaar". The post featured a cartoon version of SRK's Met Gala look- elevated with his Bengal Tiger Cane in one hand and a butter-smear slice of bread in the other.

Nicole Kidman's hairstylist shares inspiration behind her Met Gala look

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

After Nicole Kidman debuted a shorter, darker hairdo on the red carpet of the 2025 Met Gala, her hairstylist Adir Abergel explained the inspiration behind the surprise transformation. This year's Met Gala theme was "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style," with the dress code being "Tailored for You." Kidman ditched her signature long 'do and debuted a short, neck-length haircut with brunette roots flowing out from beneath her signature blonde locks. Her hairstylist Adir Abergel shared some insight on the inspiration behind her hairstyle, according to E! News. "Met Gala 2025: The Superfine tailored short cut," the stylist wrote on Instagram.



"The inspiration was a tailored short cut that brought out the essence of Dandyism on Nicole Kidman." Adir continued, "I wanted to celebrate this year's theme by honoring the Dandies and their individuality, elegance, and confidence--where every detail is tailored to that unique person," according to E! News.

Luann de Lesseps reacts to Kim Kardashian's Met Gala look

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

TV personality and singer Luann de Lesseps reacted to online comparisons between her signature cabaret look and Kim Kardashian's outfit at the 2025 Met Gala. After one fan quipped on X, May 6, "Kim paying homage to @CountessLuann was my favorite part of #MetGala last night," Luann responded to the post with several laughing emojis, according to E! News. "It's no secret I love my @philipreacy hats," Luann wrote on her Instagram Story on May 6 alongside a side-by-side comparison of herself and Kim. "After all darlings, he was the hatter for the Queen of England."



Kim Kardashian, who was styled by Jahleel Weaver and donned a black leather dress by Chrome Hearts with a matching black hat by Stephen Jones Millinery, as well as multiple Moussaieff diamond necklaces across her chest with sparkling earrings to match, has not reacted to the comparisons, according to E! News. Instead, Kim cited music legends Lenny Kravitz,

Jimi Hendrix, and Miles Davis as her inspirations for the ensemble, which she chose in line with the Met Gala 2025 theme, 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' theme's 'Tailored for You' dress code. "Inspired by Lenny Kravitz, a modern dandy whose fluid, bold aesthetic, alongside icons like Jimi Hendrix and Miles Davis, pioneered distinct and culturally significant aesthetics.

Lamborghini Temerario Launched in India: Prices Start at INR 6 Crore

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

Automobili Lamborghini has launched its latest supercar, the Temerario, in India. It features a twin-turbo V8 hybrid powertrain with not one or two, but three electric motors and the combined peak power output is a claimed 920 CV (907 horsepower). Other impressive numbers include a top speed of 343 km/h, 0-100 km/h time of 2.7 seconds, and a 10,000 rpm rev-limit. Well, Lamborghini hasn't categorically mentioned that it hits the rev-limiter at 10,000 rpm but I am hoping that to be the case. For example, if the rev-limiter was set at 10,500 rpm, then I am sure the company would have mentioned the higher figure. Still, 10,000 rpm is insane for a road car, which actually puts it in the micro list of production cars that have touched or breached the 10,000 rpm mark. The Ariel Atom V8 (10,600 rpm), GMA T.50 (12,100 rpm), Aston Martin Valkyrie (11,100 rpm), and Mercedes-Benz AMG One (11,000 rpm) comprise that list. That said, if you want to experience the tachometer needle touching 10,000 rpm in a car in India, then the Lamborghini Temerario is your only option, unless of course you have the pull to get any of the other aforementioned cars here. But today, we'll focus on the Lambo.

ENGINE

The Temerario gets an all-new 4.0-liter V8 twin-turbo engine, with a flat-plane (180-degree throws)

crankshaft, boasting a specific output of 200 CV (197 horsepower) per litre and works together with an oil-cooled axial-flow electric motor fully integrated



gear transitions, working as a "torque gap filler" and improving the transient response, giving the sensation of linear and limitless progression up to

The company also claims that the electric motor, in P1 position (between the V8 engine and the gearbox), ensures immediate response starting from low engine speeds and continues consistently through gear transitions, working as a "torque gap filler" and improving the transient response, giving the sensation of linear and limitless progression up to 10,000 revs.



grated in the V8 housing. Propulsion is supported by two electric motors on the front axle which is completely an "e-axle" (only electric power on the front axle

whereas the engine powers only the rear wheels, in addition to of course charging the hybrid battery).

Lamborghini claims that the twin-turbo V8 delivers

its peak power of 800 CV (789 horsepower) from 9,000 to 9,750 rpm and 730 Nm of torque between 4,000 and 7,000 rpm. The company also claims that the

electric motor, in P1 position (between the V8 engine and the gearbox), ensures immediate response starting from low engine speeds and continues consistently through

10,000 revs. The maximum boost pressure of the turbochargers is 2.5 bar (36.26 psi), and the turbines are controlled with an electrical wastegate and a wheel-



speed sensor.

There's a lot more to it and I shall get into it someday when I get to review the car; for now at least I don't have any reason to doubt Lamborghini's claim that this engine combines the pronounced linearity of the rev development of the previous naturally aspirated V10 with the enormous power and torque of a turbocharged engine.

GEARBOX

The Temerario gets an eight-speed dual-clutch transmission (DCT) installed transversally behind the V8. Lamborghini says that it's a new design where an additional hollow shaft is used to share the same synchronizers for different gear torque paths. The company also claims that without electrical components, the new DCT weighs less than the Huracán's seven-speed DCT and achieves faster shift times.

CHASSIS

Lamborghini claims that the Temerario's frame is made entirely of aluminium and some of the salient features

comprise the debut of a new high-strength alloy for high-pressure castings; the use of high-strength hydroformed extrusions; and an increase in the number of hollow castings with thin closed inertia sections achieved through the use of internal cores. The company says that these technologies allowed the constructional complexity of the spaceframe to be minimized and weight to be optimized, while at the same time the new hybrid powertrain adopts over 50% fewer components compared to the same parameters on the Huracán. In addition, the Temerario incorporates a significant reduction in the number of heat welds: over 80% less total weld bead length compared to the Huracán.

There's a lot more to share about this technological masterpiece, but I have run out of space. Like I had mentioned earlier, you may expect a lot more information on this supercar here in The Daily Guardian as and when I get to review it.

Photos: Lamborghini India

TRIUMPHing over Taboos: The Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

What's the first image that comes to your mind when you see or hear the word biker or motorcyclist? Let me guess: the image your mind conjures comprises a "tough-looking" man in leather boots, distressed jeans, and a leather jacket (obviously) on a classic motorcycle, most likely a black Triumph or a Matchless. It could be a Norton or a BSA too. However, irrespective of the kind or brand of motorcycle, the rider in that image is almost always stoic. That's the image the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride wants to change—from an uptight borderline masochist to someone who's confident that his masculinity won't get diluted by discussing his pains, troubles, and mental health.

Therefore, the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR), founded in 2012, and growing every year by leaps and bounds, is again set to unite classic and vintage-style motorcycle enthusiasts from across the globe this year, not just for the love of motorcycles and riding, but also for a powerful cause—raising funds and awareness for prostate cancer research, men's mental health, and suicide prevention.

Triumph Motorcycles has been associated with DGR since 2014, and together they continue to strive to change the conversation around men's health by inspiring communities to ride with purpose and break the silence surrounding the



aforementioned critical issues. This year, they have highlighted five ways to accomplish that.

REDEFINING WHAT IT MEANS TO RIDE

DGR isn't about speed—it's about intention. The idea is not to race, but to ride together and feel good. Therefore, riders across the world show up in their most dapper attire, shifting motorcycling culture from macho rebellion to refined expression. By doing this, DGR aims to break stereotypes and open up space for conversations

that traditional "tough guy" biking culture prohibits, especially about health, vulnerability, and emotional wellbeing.

CREATING A GLOBAL BROTHERHOOD

From its humble start, DGR has now grown to over 900 cities across 105 countries. It's no longer just a ride—it's a global brotherhood. This vast network connects men from all walks of life, offering a judgment-free space to talk about mental health, physical and emotional wellbeing, and shared struggles—often

for the first time for many participants.

FUNDING REAL CHANGE

Backed by its long-standing partnership with the Movember Foundation since 2016, DGR has raised over 45 million USD so far. In fact, the number of total funds raised since DGR's inception in 2012 is over 56 million USD. These funds go directly into prostate cancer research, mental health programs, and early intervention support systems, giving countless men access to



treatment, care, and hope.

TURNING CONVERSATIONS INTO COMMUNITY

Beyond the fundrais-

ing and riding, DGR is about camaraderie. It's not alone—whether you're fighting an illness or wrestling with your



PHOTOS: HIMANSHU SHARMA

thoughts. By fostering peer connections through a shared passion, the event helps men open up, lean on each other, and normalise emotional conversations. Men might not cry, but they can certainly talk, right?

TRIUMPH MOTORCYCLES: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Since 2014, Triumph Motorcycles has been a proud partner in this mission. Beyond providing visibility and stun-

ning bikes as rewards for top fundraisers, Triumph actively supports DGR campaigns across platforms, helping expand its reach and impact. The company's involvement adds credibility, heart, and mobility to the cause.

This year, DGR is being organised on the 18th of May, so you still have about ten days to get your best suit drycleaned and your motorcycle readied. While at it, you may want to trim the beard or shave, as applicable. You know the drill.

MEET YOUR SECOND BRAIN: HOW GENERATIVE AI IS BECOMING AN EXTENSION OF HUMAN THOUGHT



THE NEXT
ABHISHEK ANAND

When I look back at the recent past, one recurring memory stands out. Board room brainstorm, whiteboard sessions & Late-night discussions with my colleagues, & our COO Aastha Mahawar, about where Generative AI was truly heading. We weren't just talking about prompts or tools—we were exploring how this technology could fundamentally shift the creative economy, how it could turn ideas into reality at unprecedented speed.

Those conversations eventually became the blueprint for Generative Crafts—a venture built around one simple but powerful idea: Crafting Generative AI and rich visual content for an industry that desperately needs innovation.

The more we researched, the clearer it became: Generative AI wasn't just a shiny new tool. It was becoming something deeper, more personal. It was evolving into something like a Second Brain.

FROM MEMORY REPOSITORIES TO THOUGHT PARTNERS Humans have always looked for ways to extend memory and thought. First came writing. Then books. Then the internet.

Today, it's AI—except this time, it's not just about storing information. Generative AI doesn't just hold knowledge. It shapes knowledge. It brainstorms. It refines. It questions. It challenges. It forces us to see angles we would otherwise miss. Whether you're using it to outline a novel, design product strategies, create rich visuals, or rethink marketing models—AI is acting more like a cognitive amplifier than a mere assistant. An extension of your mind—not a replacement.

HOW GENERATIVE AI IS MERGING WITH HUMAN COGNITION Here's where it gets fascinating: • The more you collaborate with AI, the more your style of thinking evolves. • You start thinking iteratively—prompt, feedback, refine, re-prompt. • You embrace multi-perspective exploration—asking “what if” questions you might never have considered alone. You improve contextual awareness—because AI can manage vast amounts of information and recognize patterns we easily miss. Over time, AI stops feeling like a machine giving answers. It starts feeling like a partner expanding your in-



Use different AI tools like ChatGPT for conversation and now image generation as well, Claude for memory, Midjourney for visual imagination, Perplexity for research. Treat them like your “internal departments”—creative, research, planning, visualization.

telligence. In cognitive science, there's a concept called distributed cognition: The idea that thinking doesn't happen solely in our heads—it happens between us, our environment, and our tools. With Generative AI, this theory isn't theoretical anymore. It's happening. Right now. **WHY “SECOND BRAIN” THINKING WILL DEFINE FUTURE LEADERS** The most successful people in the next decade won't necessarily be those who know the most facts. It'll be those who know how to think with machines—without losing their human edge. They'll be the ones who: • Outsource basic cognitive load (summarizing, organizing, drafting) to AI. • Co-create with AI for ideation, visual storytelling, and strategic modeling. • Keep human judgment intact—for ethics, empathy, vi-

sion, and nuanced decision-making. In short, they'll be hybrid thinkers: Using Generative AI not as a shortcut to avoid thinking—but as a lever to think bigger, faster, deeper. They won't just work harder. They'll think smarter. **HOW YOU CAN BUILD YOUR SECOND BRAIN STARTING TODAY** • You don't have to wait for the future. You can start building your AI-augment-

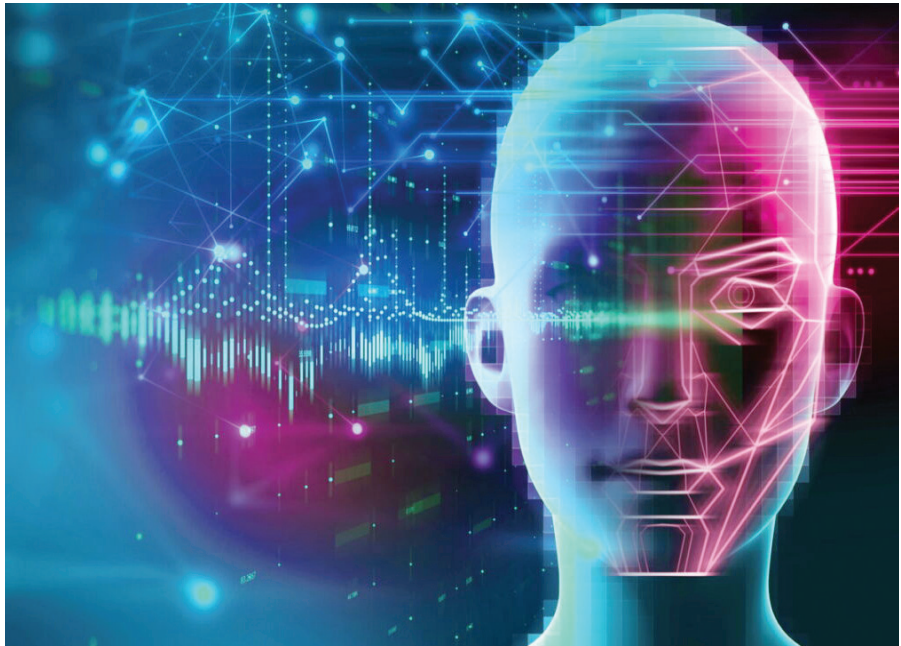


thinks through complexity, not around it. Stay Human at the Core. AI can analyze, generate, and scale. But only you can imagine, dream, and judge wisely. Remember, AI can assist. But only you can assign meaning. The Next Era of Thought Is Hybrid When future historians look back at this moment, they won't say, “AI replaced humans.” They'll say, “In the 2020s, humanity found a way to extend its own mind—creating the first generation of hybrid, augmented thinkers.” The future isn't about fighting AI. It's about fusing with it intelligently. You won't need to know everything. You'll just need to know how to think with a Second Brain by your side. And if you start today, you won't just survive this transformation. You'll lead it. Because the greatest risk isn't that AI will think for us. It's that we'll underestimate how powerful we could become by thinking with it. This article is authored by Abhishek Anand, Founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a technology company specializing in Website Development, Digital Marketing, CGI Ads, Social Media, and other related services including AR/VR, Web 3.0, Metaverse, and Generative AI. Abhishek is also an Author, Speaker, and Mentor, helping businesses grow through technology.

The rising threat of Deepfake crimes: The need for stringent legal safeguards in India

TDG NETWORK

Deepfake technical setup is being driven by the essence of artificial intelligence (AI), which has evolved into a double-edged sword in this technological generation. Since it represents inventions and innovation in audio and visual media, its frivolous usage has raised concerns about its privacy, misuse of information, and cybersecurity crimes. As we all know that in India, the digital penetration is widening, and the fear of deepfake crimes is on the verge, thus, it demands necessary and immediate legal standards and regulations. According to the data, India has witnessed a surge of 550% in deepfake cases since 2019 alone. In 2024, over a million deepfake videos were uploaded, and there are around more than 50 applications that can be used to generate these types of videos. The deepfake is involved in manipulating audio, images, and video content to form hyperrealistic but completely unpolished media. This technical setup will impose and implicate faces of people, change their voices, and even mimic the real individual characteristics, thus facing unreasonable challenges while discerning the truth from mere fiction. The impacts of such deception on society are varied and immense, ranging from the misuse of political information and the assassina-



The legal framework of India is not at par to raise a voice against the complexities of deepfake crimes. On the other hand, our nation has enacted certain laws, like the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, involving sections for privacy concerns and defamation.

tion of character to financial fraud and cyberbullying. The legal framework of India is not at par to raise a voice against the complexities of deepfake crimes. On the other hand, our nation has enacted certain laws, like the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, involving sections for privacy concerns and defamation. But somehow, we fail to enact any specific regulation that states the offense of deepfake crimes and its respective punishment.



This major gap in legal technology motivates the perpetrators to exploit

the technical and technological lacunas and thus escape accountability. I believe that the threat of deepfake crimes is aggravated by the lack of jurisdiction of the courts, especially in the case of cross-border distributors of content and untraceable persons in cyberspace. Meanwhile, the cost of tools that generate deepfakes and their high accessibility further add to the omnipresence of these crimes. It is high time that we change the legal framework in India, and regu-

lations should be made for the enforcement of strict and harsh legal safeguards. The process must include the enactment of specific deepfake crime-oriented laws that penalize it, the enhancement of cyber forensics laws, and the implementation of vigilant and strong detection technologies. Alongside, the public should be made aware of the crime and its protective measures with the use of digital literacy programs and thus should be equated with educating citizens and rescuing the susceptibility of misuse of information. Meanwhile, on the international level, efforts are underway to reduce threats related to deepfakes through the regulations about AI and other ethical guidelines. It is high time that India aligns with the global standards while simultaneously leading to domestic social culture progress as well. There should be collaborative programs between the experts, lawyers, and judges to make an evolving approach to this problem. As the evolution of deepfake crimes is on the verge, our response to society must be in a legal way. The use of proactive reforms, which are combined with technical inventions and education of the public, is a leading step in digital information protection and thus will prevent the harmful consequences of the crimes affiliated with deepfakes.

How Sahukari to Digital Lending is Redefining Gen Z's Lifestyle and Money Habits



MANISH MISHRA

Gen Z has to deal with a financial system very different from cash and other forms of community-based lending. Moving from the sahu-kari systems to online lending platforms is not just about how money is borrowed; it is a bigger change in lifestyle, values, and decisions. Shifts brought about by technological advances in the digital world have made great changes in accessing credit and changes in spending behavior. Digital access and convenience are the key motivators in defining new spending habits among young adults, not legacy wisdom. Studying this evidence determines the mood and behavior of today's youth in organizing and spending their money.

MIRRORS TO AN AGE Gen Z grew up as the world transitioned from physical banks to virtual wallets. The stories and insights reflect this shift,

making this book not just a history lesson but a valuable context in which to understand the workings of money today. It connects the gaps between traditional attitudes towards financial prudence and today's lifestyle of instant gratification, creating a bridge that Gen Z would cross with assurance.

IMPACT ON SPENDING AND SAVING HABITS Economic. Yet perhaps the most significant influence that the book exerts on Gen Z is its impact on their financial and thrift behavior. In the face of temptation from BNPL features and easy credit terms, it does compel young readers to reflect on the long-term effects of their financial choices. It subtly nudges them toward informed decision making, budgeting, and possibly keeping savings for rainy days.

DIGITAL FINANCE AS A WAY OF LIFE For Generation Z, finance is not just about money; it is a lifestyle. Whether the preference is for using investment apps rather than piggy banks or crowdfunding personal projects rather than taking loans, this digital ethos of lending matches the Generation Z requirements of speed, transparency,

and control. This book captures this well by illustrating the evolution of lending toward the empowerment of individuals rather than their entrapment.

AWAKENING BUSINESS AMBITIONS Many young readers have ignited the fire to reach their entrepreneurial dreams. Digital lending is not just about the act of borrowing but equally about creating, expanding, and innovating. This fits perfectly with Gen Z's desire for side hustles, startups, and passion-driven income streams.

A LIFESTYLE BLUEPRINT FOR THE DIGITAL GENERATION In the end, this book is more than just a book on finance; it is a cultural snapshot of where we have come from and where we are going. A practical lifestyle manual for Gen Z, combining wisdom from the past and tools from the future, in a day and age where choices are made at the swipe of a screen, and this book begs a pause—a moment to reflect upon what we do with money and how it shapes our living. The author is CA & Founder, GenZCFO.

RAHANE, RUSSELL SHINE AS KKR POWERS TO 179/6 IN THEIR 20 OVERS AGAINST CSK

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Impactful innings from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain Ajinkya Rahane and a cameo by all-rounder Andre Russell powered KKR to 179-6 in their 20 overs, against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Wednesday at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

After winning the toss KKR skipper Rahane opted to bat first, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Sunil Narine opened the innings, CSK seamer Anshul Kamboj removed Gurbaz in the second over, for 11. Rahane joined Narine in the middle.

KKR finished their power-play on 67/1, smashing CSK bowlers, all over the ground. The duo added 50 runs for the second wicket in just 25 balls. Noor Ahmad got two wickets in the first over, removing the set batter Narine and then the new batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi for 1.

Manish Pandey joined KKR skipper in the middle, after 10 overs KKR were 87/3. Ravindra Jadeja removed KKR skipper 48 (33) his innings included four fours and a six, he lead a strong foundation for KKR, Andre Russell joined Pandey at the crease.

The duo added 46 runs in just 27 balls, for the fifth wicket before Noor Ahmad removed Russell for 38 (21), his innings included four fours and three sixes. Rinku Singh joined Pandey on the crease.



Brief score
KKR 179/6 | Ajinkya Rahane 48, Andre Russell 38; Noor Ahmad (4/31). VS CSK.

After 18 overs, KKR were 163-5, Noor took his fourth wicket in the 19th over as he removed Rinku for 9 (6). Manish Pandey and Raman-deep Singh faced final two overs and made only 16 runs.

In bowling for CSK, Noor Ahmad (4/31) was the pick of the bowlers, Jadeja and Kamboj took a wicket each, and the rest the CSK bowlers went wicketless. KKR finished their innings on 179/6 in their 20 overs, CSK will have to chase 180 in the second innings when they come out to bat.

Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja eclipsed Dwayne Bravo to become the Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) all-time leading IPL wicket-taker during the match against Kolkata

Knight Riders (KKR) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday.

The left-arm spinner got Ajinkya Rahane out, marking his 141st wicket for the Yellow Army in the T20 competition, surpassing Bravo's count of 140 wickets.

Jadeja has taken 168 wickets in the IPL across 251 matches with an economy rate of 7.65 and an average of 30.46. The all-rounder has also made 3142 runs with the bat in his career, with an average of 27.32 and a strike rate of 129.57.

R. Ashwin ranks third on the all-time list with 95 wickets, placing him ahead of Deepak Chahar and Albie



Kolkata Knight Riders' captain Ajinkaya Rahane plays a shot during the IPL 2025 match against Chennai Super Kings, at Eden Gardens, in Kolkata. ANI

Morkel, both of whom have 76 wickets. Jadeja is still behind Bravo in the competition for the most T20 wickets for the franchise. The spinner has 150 wickets for CSK, four behind the West Indian all-rounder.

Coming to the match, Impactful innings from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain Ajinkya Rahane and a cameo by all-rounder Andre Russell powered KKR to 179-6 in their 20 overs, against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Wednesday at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

IPL to go on normally amid rising Indo-Pak tensions: BCCI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season, currently scheduled to go on till May 25, will continue normally, a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) source told ANI on Wednesday.

This follows the development this morning after the successful execution of Operation Sindoor by the Indian Armed Forces and tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

The source told ANI that the current circumstances will not have any effect on the IPL scheduling and matches, and it will go on as scheduled.

In 'Operation Sindoor' India's armed forces utilised special precision munitions to destroy nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK in a co-ordinated strike.

Sources revealed that the Indian forces targeted and obliterated four sites in Pakistan, including key locations in Bahawalpur, Muridke, and Sialkot, while five other targets in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) were also successfully hit.

The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force jointly carried out the operation, mobilising assets and troops.

The strikes on all nine targets were successful,



PBKS-MI clash shifted to Mumbai from Dharamshala

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The match between Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Mumbai Indians (MI) of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season has been shifted from the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala to Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai after Indian Army successfully conducted the execution of 'Operation Sindoor', which targeted nine anti-Indian terror infrastructures in both Pakistan and the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. "The match between

Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, as the Airport of Dharmshala has been closed, and the match was scheduled on May 11," a BCCI source told ANI.

There are also possibilities that PBKS' next fixture against Delhi Capitals (DC) at Dharamshala can also be reworked as the airlines have cancelled their flight operations in 11 cities across north, north-western and central India till May 10 which include Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Leh, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Gwalior, Kishan-garh, and Rajkot.

sources further revealed. The Indian forces selected the locations to target top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leaders involved in spon-

soring terrorist activities in India.

This marks New Delhi's most significant military action within Pakistani territory in over five decade.

Rohit Sharma announces retirement from Test cricket

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect ending all speculations about his future in the longest format. The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57.

Rohit captained India to the World Test Championship final against Australia and save the last couple of indifferent series against New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia.

India will have a new Test captain for the five-Test series in England with possible candidates be-

ing Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant.

The Ajit Agarkar-led BCCI senior selection committee has reportedly decided to remove Rohit Sharma as India's Test captain for the upcoming England tour, according to The Indian Express. The decision was based on Rohit's recent poor

form in red-ball cricket. Under his captaincy, India has lost five of their last six Tests — including defeats at home to New Zealand and away to Australia. Rohit, struggling with form, even dropped himself from the playing XI for the final Test in Sydney.

According to the report, the selectors informed the BCCI of their decision, and senior board officials have backed the move. A series of meetings, including one in Mumbai, were held to chart a new roadmap for India's Test team. This decision comes despite Rohit expressing his interest in leading India in England during a podcast with former Australian captain Michael Clarke.

Agarkar and his team, considered one of the most decisive selection panels in recent years, are focused

India's archery teams reach World Cup Stage 2 finals

TDG NETWORK
SHANGHAI

The Indian men's and women's compound archery teams moved into the finals of the World Cup Stage 2 with commanding performances here on Wednesday, assuring the country of two medals from the prestigious event.

The No 1-ranked men's team of Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma and Rishabh Yadav easily defeated Great Britain 239-232 in the quarterfinal before overcoming a strong challenge from Denmark 232-231.

In the women's compound section, the top ranked India team comprising Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Chikitha Taniparthi and Jyothi Surekha Vennam overcame Kazakhstan in the quarterfinals, before defeating Great Britain in last-four to also seal a title clash with Mexico.

Both the gold-medal matches against Mexico will take place on Saturday.

Women's Tri-Nation series: India beat SA by 23 runs, to take on SL in final

AGENCIES
COLOMBO

Riding on Jemimah Rodrigues' career-best century and half-tons from opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma, India defeated a fighting South Africa by 23 runs to set up a title clash with Sri Lanka in the women's Tri-Nation ODI series here on Wednesday.

Rodrigues' blazing 123 off 101 balls, laced with 15 fours and a six, saw India post a huge 337 for 9 before the bowlers, led by pacer seamer Amanjot Kaur (3/59) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (2/57) restricted the opponents to 314/7. This despite Annerie Dercksen's fine 81-run knock and stand-in skipper Chloe Tryon's 67.

India ended their round-robin phase with six points from four games. Sri Lanka, on the other



hand, have four points from three games and could garner two more points if they beat South Africa on Friday.

South Africa, after losing three consecutive games, are out of contention even though they have a match to go against Sri Lanka on Friday.

India's batting prowess came to the fore once again as they posted a 300-plus total with 24-year-old Jemimah anchoring the team's innings with her

second ODI hundred.

She shared two vital partnerships — an 88-run stand off 99 balls with opener Smriti Mandhana (51) and a 122-run partnership off 115 balls with Deepti Sharma (93), who missed out on a ton by seven runs.

Rodrigues was finally dismissed in the 43rd over caught at point while trying to hit over the offside.

The success did bring cheers to the South African camp but

the euphoria was short-lived as all-rounder Deepti took over and played a classy 84-ball innings, studded with 10 boundaries and two sixes.

Deepti was the eighth Indian batter to be dismissed but by the time she departed, with just one delivery remaining, she had done the damage.

For South Africa, seamer Masabata Klaas (2/51), Nadine de Klerk (2/54), and left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba (2/71) were the pick of the bowlers.

With a massive run-chase staring at them, South Africa lost opener Lara Goodall (7) in the second over. But Tazmin Brits (26) and Miane Smit (39) repaired the damage somewhat with a 63-run partnership for the second wicket as the opponents reached 70/2 by the 15th over.

UEFA Champions League: Inter Milan down Barcelona 4-3 in semifinal

TDG NETWORK
MILAN (ITALY)

In what turned out to be one of the most memorable UEFA Champions League semifinals ever, an extra-time goal from Davide Frattesi helped Inter Milan book their ticket to the title clash after beating Barcelona by 4-3 in their second-leg clash at San Siro, Milan on Tuesday night.

With this victory, Inter Milan, chasing their fourth UEFA CL title and their first since the 2009-10 season, have beaten Barcelona by 7-6 on aggregate, after a 3-3 draw in their first

match.

In the first half, Inter Milan had things very comfortable with a 2-0 lead. In the 21st minute, it was Lautaro Martinez who broke the deadlock. Just before the end of half-time, a penalty conversion from Hakan Calhanoglu doubled the lead for the hosts.

Barcelona, who seemed down and out in the first half, emerged back in the game strongly in the second half. A volley from Eric Garcia in the 54th minute gave Barca their first goal of the match. A powerful header from Dani Olmo in the 60th minute infused a



new life into the game during the 60th minute, equalising the scoreline at 2-2.

Raphina did his magic in the 87th minute. After his first effort at scoring was denied by Yann Sommer, a rebound from him found the far corner of the goal,

giving Barcelona the lead in the match and overall on aggregate as well.

Francesco Acerbi, who was thrown out on the field for the final few minutes, justified the faith put up in him as he scored his first-ever goal in European foot-

ball, sending the match into extra time. The joy for Barca supporters was short-lived as their lead lasted barely five minutes. The scoreline was 3-3 and the score on aggregate was 6-6.

In the 99th minute, Frattesi delivered the final blow, giving Inter Milan the lead during the match and overall, helping them reach their second UEFA Champions League final in three years. He celebrated this incredible moment by climbing on the metal barriers, giving a massive crowd of overjoyed and relieved home fans some star-studded company in their celebrations.

Following the match, Inter Milan boss said, as quoted by Sky Sports, "First of all, I have to congratulate Barcelona - a really strong team."

"It took a super Inter - a round of applause for these guys, who put in two monstrous performances. I am happy to be their coach. They gave me everything they had. It is right that they enjoy their success in this stadium. We had some problems, but with heart, we went over every obstacle. We tried to play it with the qualities we have."

"After the first leg, we had the game plan in mind, but without the sacrifice and

the help of all of us together, you cannot do it. They [the players] deserve this final," he concluded.

On the other hand, Barcelona boss Hansi Flick said that his team deserved the finals, but their players could still be proud of their effort.

"I know that everybody is disappointed now. We invested a lot in this game. Personally, I am proud of my team, who gave everything. We will be back next season to try to win the Champions League," said Hansi.

"When you see the atmosphere of tonight's game,

you want to come back. We have to accept the result. Inter's strikers are strong and experienced. We have a young team, and we will improve. Our job is to make this team better and better. We can improve in defence, but also in attack."

"In the second half, we played better as a team compared to the first half. This is a tough defeat, but we have to stand up. This is a message I want to give to my players. I think my players deserved the final. When they will look at themselves in the mirror tonight, they can be really proud," he concluded.