

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Op Sindoor exposed...

centred on taking back PoK and eliminating terrorism. Today, 140 crore people of India salute the valour of our armed forces, the accuracy of the intelligence agencies, and the strong political will of Narendra Modi," he said.

He further said that Modi has undertaken a task to place India at the forefront by 2047 and has laid a strong foundation for the country's development in the last 11 years.

Shah laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various developmental projects of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation after leading a Tiranga Yatra and inaugurating a nursing college building in Mehsana.

Earlier in the day, Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art, fully automated frozen potato products manufacturing facility of Falcon Agrifriz Foods in Mehsana.

The group has invested approximately Rs 1,050 crore in Gujarat, intending to transform the state into a global hub for frozen potato-based products, a release stated.

## J&K Police conduct...

overground workers and relatives of terrorists operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), they said.

The officials said several electronic devices were seized during the raids that were still underway at some places.

However, no one was arrested during the operation carried out by teams led by senior officers, they added.

## Juvenile wanted in...

to an attack on a police party, drug peddling and possession of illegal arms.

Police are committed to ensuring the safety and security of people and all necessary measures are being taken to curb all criminal activities, the spokesperson added.

## Over 42 unexploded...

out with utmost precision, adhering to all standard safety protocols to prevent any risk to civilian life or property, the spokesperson said.

He said the bomb disposal teams from the Indian Army, in coordination with police, ensured the complete neutralisation of all explosive remnants.

This proactive effort reflects the organisation's continued commitment to safeguarding civilian populations in conflict-affected zones and restoring a sense of normalcy in vulnerable border communities, he said.

On May 7, India destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under its Operation Sindoor.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The two sides reached an understanding on cessation of hostilities on May 10 after four days of confrontations.

## Op Sindoor showcased...

The IAF conducted high-impact air operations on targets such as the Nur Khan air base and the Rahimyar Khan air base, it said.

The ministry said air force's robust air defence environment proved pivotal in protecting Indian airspace during retaliatory drone and UAV attacks from across the border.

"The indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile system and legacy platforms like the Pechora and OSA-AK were deployed effectively in a layered defence grid," it said.

The IAF's integrated air command and control system enabled real-time coordination of air assets, allowing Indian forces to neutralize aerial threats efficiently and maintain net-centric operations throughout the conflict, it added.

Simultaneously, the Indian Army demonstrated its preparedness and effectiveness in both defensive and offensive roles, it said.

The Army's air defence units worked in tandem with the air force, deploying a wide array of systems, the ministry said, adding these units were instrumental in countering waves of drones and loitering munitions launched by Pakistan.

The ministry also highlighted the Indian Navy's role during the operation.

"The Indian Navy played a critical role in asserting maritime dominance during Operation Sindoor. Operating as a composite networked force, the Navy deployed its Carrier Battle Group (CBG) equipped with MiG-29K fighter jets and airborne early warning helicopters. This ensured persistent surveillance and real-time identification of threats across the maritime domain," it said. "The CBG maintained a powerful air defence shield that prevented hostile aerial incursions, especially from the Makran coast," the ministry said.

It said the Navy's presence created a strong deterrent and effectively bottled-up Pakistani air elements along their western seaboard, denying them any operational space.

"Naval pilots conducted round-the-clock sorties, further demonstrating India's readiness and strategic reach in the region," it said. "The Navy's ability to establish uncontested control over the seas also validated its anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence capabilities in a complex threat environment," the ministry added.

## LeT terrorist Razaullah...

scene. Later, police investigated the case and chargesheeted Abu Anas, who is still at large.

Khalid was also the mastermind of the 2008 attack on a CRPF camp at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh in which seven personnel and a civilian were killed. The two terrorists escaped under the cover of darkness. From mid-2000, Khalid was the in-charge of the Nepal module of LeT, responsible for the recruitment of cadres, providing financial and logistic support and facilitating the movement of LeT operatives across the Indo-Nepal border.

Khalid was working closely with LeT's so-called "launching commanders" -- Azam Cheema alias Babaji and Yaqoob (LeT's chief accountant).

Khalid left Nepal and returned to Pakistan after Indian security agencies exposed the module. He later worked closely with several leaders of LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawah, including Yusuf Muzammil, LeT commander for Jammu and Kashmir; Muzammil Iqbal Hashmi and Muhammad Yusuf Taibi. Khalid was tasked by the LeT and JuD leadership in Pakistan to undertake the recruitment of fresh cadres from the areas of Badin and Hyderabad districts of Sindh and collect funds for the organisation. According to media reports from Sindh, Khalid was declared brought dead at hospital after being shot. These reports also termed it a case of personal enmity.

## EAM Jaishankar embarks...

and Germany from May 19 to 24," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Sunday.

It said Jaishankar will meet the leadership of the three countries and hold discussions with his counterparts on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and regional and global matters of mutual interest.

It is expected that Jaishankar will also apprise his counterparts in the three nations about India's decision to launch Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Under Operation Sindoor, India on early May 7 destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The two sides reached an understanding on cessation of hostilities on May 10 after four days of confrontations.

## JK BOPEE conducts...

been established in collaboration with the respective college administrations and law enforcement agencies under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, J&K BOPEE.

The process was conducted under the supervision of competent JK BOPEE staff members and the staff from the respective colleges.

The Chairperson along with the members, Controller of Examinations, Secretary, officials of J&K BOPEE actively monitored the Common Entrance Test at Srinagar & Jammu. They expressed gratitude to the district administration, IGP Jammu/Kashmir for deploying police personnel, members of monitoring squad, Principal, staff members of the respective Colleges for their support during conduct of this prestigious entrance test.

## Defence Minister meets Dhankhar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called on Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Singh's meeting with the vice president comes days after Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan called on Dhankhar.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of the India-Pakistan military conflict in the aftermath of the terror attack in Pahalgam.

It is also the vice president's birthday. The vice president secretariat shared pictures of the meeting between Dhankhar and the defence minister.

## Soldier dies of bullet injury from own rifle

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA/JAMMU: An army personnel died of a bullet injury from his service rifle inside a post near the International Border in Samba district on Sunday, officials said.

The 28-year-old soldier, a native of Telangana, was on sentry duty at Border Outpost Saroj when his service rifle went off, causing his death on the spot, they said.

The incident took place at 4:30 pm and preliminary investigations suggested that the soldier committed suicide, they added.

However, the motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said.

Police have started inquest proceedings and further details are awaited, they added.

# India-Pakistan conflict deals blow to border tourism in Jammu, revival hinges on peace

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUCHE'TGARH: Popular for its Wagah-Attari-style structured parade by BSF personnel, the tourist village of Suchetgarh along the International Border on the outskirts of Jammu wears a deserted look these days.

The latest military conflict between India and Pakistan has dealt a body blow to the village, which opened for tourists for the first time in October 2021 as part of the government's border tourism promotion programme.

Stakeholders such as hotel and restaurant owners, shopkeepers and horse carriage operators are worried but also remain hopeful that the understanding between India and Pakistan to stop military actions would hold and play the role of a catalyst for the return of tourists and the accompanying hustle and bustle.

Indian Armed Forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in

retaliation against the Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. Pakistan responded to the strikes with intense mortar and artillery shelling and drone attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond before the two countries agreed on May 10 to stop the military actions.

"Tourist arrivals are at their lowest ebb in view of the recent border clashes. Hardly any tourist visited the zero line in the past week despite the ceasefire announcement," restaurant owner Sunil Kumar told PTI.

Suchetgarh's opened up as a tourist destination after India and Pakistan announced implementation of a renewed ceasefire agreement along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2021 that came as a major relief to people living along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC).

India shares a 3,323-kilometre-long border with Pakistan. Of this, 221 kilometres of the International

Border and 744 kilometres of the LoC fall in Jammu and Kashmir.

India and Pakistan had initially signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003 but the neighbouring country frequently violated it, with more than 5,000 violations reported in 2020 -- the highest in a single year.

The introduction of the Wagah-Attari-style ceremony, comprising a structured parade by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on weekends, proved a major attraction for tourists from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The BSF suspended the parade last week following the clashes.

"Earlier, our restaurant used to be packed... Especially on weekends, during the BSF's beating retreat ceremony, our sales touched Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. Now, we are hardly earning Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 as people have stopped coming after the Pakistani shelling," Kumar said.

He said they were expecting the revival of border tourism once the sit-

uation eased and normality returned.

Mahendra Lal, who runs a tea and sweets shop in the area, said the situation was equally grim for him.

"Our work has come to a standstill and we have stopped manufacturing sweets, including the famous milk cake, owing to a lack of tourists... We used to sell sweets, unlike Pakistan, which is distributing poison," he said. "We only hope that Pakistan shows some wisdom and strengthens peace for better relations."

Teja Singh, who offers horse carriage rides to tourists around the zero line, said his weekend business used to thrive before the recent military standoff. "Now, the carriages stand idle. No one comes to see the zero line anymore. We are praying that tourists start returning so our livelihood can be restored," said Singh, a local. A tourism department official said they were monitoring the situation on the borders and expressed hope of a revival of border tourism in the coming weeks.

## Cong MP Gaurav Gogoi visited Pak on ISI invitation, worked closely with establishment there: Himanta

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday alleged that Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi visited Pakistan on an invitation from its spy agency ISI, and that he worked closely with the establishment of the neighbouring nation.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function here, Sarma asserted that the government has documentary evidence to support this claim, and "every proof will be presented before the public by September 10" after proper verification.

"Gaurav Gogoi visited Pakistan on an invitation of the ISI. For the first time, I am saying this. We have documents of the same. He did not go for tourism purposes. He went there definitely for taking training," the CM claimed.

The Deputy Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha went there on a direct invitation of the Pakistan government and "it was dangerous", Sarma said.

"... He was (working) closely with the Pakistan establishment. When does the Home Department send an invitation? It is only to impart training.

"An invitation from the foreign affairs (department) or any university is altogether a different thing. This was not from the foreign affairs or cultural departments. He went there on a direct invitation from the home department of Pakistan," Sarma asserted.

## Tejasvi Surya to join delegation to US to highlight India's stance on Pak-backed terror

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Sunday said he will be part of a

multi-party delegation visiting the US and Latin America, to present India's stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Surya will join Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and others on the trip, which runs from May 23 to June 6.

The initiative is part of a major diplomatic outreach by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, which has constituted seven multi-party delegations to travel to 32 countries and the European Union.

Each team includes retired diplomats who will assist MPs with policy and diplomatic engagement. These delegations aim to present

India's firm and unified stance against terrorism and assert its right to respond to cross-border attacks.

The BJP MP said, "I will be joining Dr Shashi Tharoor in the Indian delegation of MPs to the Americas. We will take to the world, India's message against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and our demonstrated determination to put an end to it."

According to Surya, Operation Sindoor signified a precise, measured and morally justified response to Pakistan-Backed Terrorism.

The operation has become a global call for justice and through this visit, MPs cutting across parties will unitedly highlight India's stance in combating terror.

"This initiative reflects the

Modi government's commitment to building a global coalition against terrorism and advancing India's diplomatic leadership on the world stage," he noted.

Karnataka is being represented by two Members of Parliament in this international initiative.

Apart from Surya, Mangaluru MP Captain Brijesh Chowta will be part of another delegation heading to the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Surya expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister for External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju for giving him the responsibility.

# Unexploded mortar shells in J&K border villages a 'death trap', say residents

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PARGVAL (AKHNOOR): People along the Line of Control and International Border in the Jammu region continue to live under the shadow of death, with unexploded mortar shells fired by Pakistani troops still embedded in farmlands and residential areas even though hostilities have stopped for nearly a week.

Despite the May 10 understanding between India and Pakistan, locals describe the border areas as a "death trap".

Sixty-two-year-old Balvinder Singh, who returned to his home in Pargval sector on May 14, recounted a narrow escape. "Two shells exploded in our compound, damaging our house. Three more landed on our farmland. We were terrified and told our family to stay away from the fields until the Army could help," Singh told PTI.

Army engineers later came to the village and safely defused the unexploded shells, bringing a temporary sense of relief. "Fear is writ large

on the faces of people to these death traps in border hamlets", he said.

Scenes of destruction are evident - rooftops torn apart, broken houses, windows punctured by shrapnel, and carcasses of cattle lying in pools of blood. The acrid smell of gunpowder still lingers in the air.

Sardar Gurmeet Singh faced a similar ordeal. His family could not re-enter their home as a live mortar shell had sunk into the compound in a village close to the International Border. "The army's bomb disposal squad removed it after four days, allowing us to finally enter, back home" he said.

Indian Army engineers have launched a sweeping clearance operation across border districts, defusing over 80 unexploded shells in the past five days - including 6 in Pargval, 19 in Rajouri, 42 in Poonch, and 12 along the IB.

"These shells, mostly 120 mm calibre, have a range of 15 to 30 km and pose a serious threat to both civilian and military targets," an

Army officer said. "Many of them were fired by Pakistan during recent hostilities."

On May 7, the Indian Army launched Operation Sindoor, conducting precision strikes on nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, most of them tourists.

The subsequent retaliation by Pakistan pushed the region to the brink of war. From 7 to 10 of May, 27 civilians were killed and over 70 injured in Pakistani shelling in the Jammu region.

Farid Din Gujjar, a resident near the border, expressed fear about returning to his fields. "Several shells created deep craters in our paddy land. We cannot resume work until all unexploded ordnance is cleared. It's a death trap," he said.

Army units, in coordination with Jammu and Kashmir Police, have evacuated high-risk zones and

issued stern warnings to residents not to touch any suspicious objects or unexploded shells.

In one major operation, 42 live shells were safely destroyed in the Poonch villages of Jhullas, Salotri, Dharati and Salani. "All safety protocols were followed. The shells posed a serious danger to local lives," an Army spokesperson said, calling the effort a "continued commitment to protect civilians and restore normalcy."

Poonch saw the vast majority of deaths due to shelling.

Security officials said that Pakistan used a mix of mortar shells, armed drones, and missiles during the shelling spree, specifically targeting civilian habitations and border towns in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch.

As clearance operations continue, the border residents are slowly returning to their homes, but with caution, fear, and lingering uncertainty about shelling that may yet happen in the future.

# 17 killed in Hyderabad fire, PM Modi condoles deaths

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: A blaze triggered by a suspected short circuit in a building near the iconic Charninhar here on Sunday killed 17 people, including eight children, belonging to an extended family.

The fire broke out at a building in Gulzar Houz here, police said.

"All 17 who were shifted to hospitals were brought dead," a senior police official told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the loss of lives and announced ex-gratia.

A narrow staircase was the only escape route for the inmates of the building, but they could not rush out, a Fire Department official said.

The building housed jewellery shops on the ground floor and people were residing in a flat above, police said adding smoke spread and people suffocated.

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi told reporters that the family has been residing there

for 125 years, indicating that generations from the particular family have been living there for over a century.

The family is said to be running a jewellery shop in the city.

"Now only two members of the family are left. I want to offer my condolences. I was informed by DG Fire Services that most of the deaths happened due to asphyxiation and fumes...let the report come, it is very painful," he said.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand told PTI that most of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, at Gulzar Houz and surrounding areas are of 100 to 200 years old.

Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services Director General Y Nagi Reddy, who inspected the spot, told reporters that the fire was reported between 6 and 6.15 am.

During the rescue operation, one Fire official was also injured and admitted to hospital.

There was a call to the fire

department at 6.16 am and the fire engine was turned out at 6.17 am, he said.

There were shops on the ground floor while the first and second floors were residential spaces, he said.

"Prima-facie cause of the fire is short circuit in the mains in the shopping area," Reddy said, adding the victims were sleeping when the fire broke out.

According to the relatives of the victims, some of the children had come to the house that caught fire for summer holidays, which ended in tragedy.

A total of 21 people were in the building when the fire erupted, and of them 17 were shifted to hospitals by the fire department in an unconscious state.

There was only one escape route, the staircase, which was very narrow and the inmates could not run to safety, he said.

Telangana Fire Department in a statement said the fire broke out on the Ground floor ( G+2 building) and spread to the floors above.

In a post on 'X', PM Modi expressed condoled the deaths.

He announced Rs 2 lakh for the kin of those who died and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire tragedy in Hyderabad, Telangana. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," the post said.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed shock over the incident and directed senior officials to take all necessary measures to rescue those trapped in the building.

Meanwhile, a separate release from CMO said Reddy has ordered an inquiry into the massive fire accident that occurred at Gulzar Houz.

The CM stated that due to the timely response of the fire department, a major loss of life was averted.

Praising the Fire Department officials, the CM said they were able to rescue nearly 40 people from a life-threatening situation.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka told reporters

said the state government has announced Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia each to the kin of the deceased.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident.

Addressing reporters after visiting the spot, Transport and Hyderabad District in-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said a short circuit caused the fire. "We will order an inquiry into the fire accident. There is no conspiracy angle in it...

Four families related to one another were residing in the building and many of them came to spend their vacation, he added.

Shortly after the fire broke out, Zahid, who is into bangles business in Gulzar Houz area and an eyewitness to the fire incident told reporters that at around 6.10 am when he along with friends were passing by, a woman told them about the fire that erupted in the building and there were family members with children inside.