

Germany reaffirms strong support in fight against terrorism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BERLIN: Germany reaffirmed its strong support and solidarity in the fight against terrorism, Federal Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful told an Indian Parliamentary delegation that outlined New Delhi's resolve to not give in to nuclear blackmail by Pakistan.

As the delegation visited the European country, it conveyed to German political and diplomatic leadership India's unwavering united stand for zero-tolerance for terrorism, especially in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

The delegation, led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, on Friday evening called on Minister Wadepful.

"Building on his recent meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Wadepful condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed Germany's strong support and solidarity with India, in the fight against terrorism," said a post on X by the Indian Embassy here.

Both sides "discussed ways to further strengthen & deepen multi-faceted India-Germany Strategic

Partnership and reiterated their commitment to a rule-based international order, based on shared democratic values," it added.

"We underscored the significant threat terrorism poses to democracy, humanity, and human rights, and expressed grave concern over Pakistan-sponsored terrorism," Prasad said on X after the meeting. "Emphasizing the need for collective action, we stressed that democratic nations must unite to counter this menace."

The discussions also focused on enhancing and deepening the multifaceted India-Germany Strategic Partnership, built on a shared commitment to upholding a rules-based international order rooted in democratic values, he added.

The delegation had earlier interacted with key members of German Bundestag (MdBs) in charge of foreign and security policy, such as Jurgen Hardt, Foreign Policy Spokesperson of CDU, and Tilman Kuban, as well as leading think-tanks in Germany.

"They emphasised India's message of zero-tolerance against terrorism. The delegation conveyed that India's response to Pahalgam ter-

rorist attack had been precise, measured and non-escalatory. They also explained India's clear position that there is no differentiation between terrorists and those who aid or shelter them," the Indian Embassy said.

Earlier in the day, the delegation met the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Parliament 'Bundestag', Armin Laschet, and lawmakers Ralph Brinkhaus and Hubertus Heil here.

"Grateful for today's exchange with the Indian All-Party Parliamentary Delegation. Germany and India share a trusted partnership, especially on global security. We also discussed the brutal 22 April terrorist attack in Pahalgam. I'm deeply shocked. Germany stands with India in the fight against terrorism," Laschet said.

"Now it's vital the cease-fire holds and dialogue continues. Peace serves us all," he said in a post on X.

The delegation leaders "noted momentum in India-German Strategic Partnership and joint role in ensuring global Peace and Security," the Embassy of India said in a post on X.

The Indian team also held

a productive interaction with Omid Nouripour, Vice President of the German Parliament, and deeply appreciated Berlin's strong and unequivocal support for India's principled stand against terrorism.

"They conveyed India's firm response to Pahalgam terror attack and briefed about #OperationSindoor, reiterating the country's zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the India mission said.

The delegation arrived here on Thursday from Belgium to convey India's stance. India's Ambassador to Germany Ajit Gupte welcomed the delegation and briefed its members on India-Germany ties, with a focus on expanding strategic partnership and growing cooperation in trade and investment, defence, S&T and mobility.

A statement from the Indian Embassy here said that the delegation interacted with senior members of German Parliament (Bundestag) active in the fields of foreign policy and international affairs and a leading think-tank in Germany, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) on day one.

Ending the day's engagements, the delegation also had an interaction with representatives from leading German think-tanks and eminent personalities at a reception hosted by Ambassador Gupte, the statement said.

The delegation includes MPs Daggubati Purandeswari, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Ghulam Ali Khatana, Amar Singh, Samik Bhattacharya, M Thambidurai and former minister of state M J Akbar and former diplomat Pankaj Saran.

The delegation is one of the seven multi-party delegations India has tasked to visit 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community to emphasise Pakistan's links to terrorism.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam terror attack, with India carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7. The on-ground hostilities from Indian and Pakistan sides that lasted for four days ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors

general of military operations of both sides on May 10.

Khalsa International's (BKI) larger conspiracy to spread communal disharmony and disrupt peace in Haryana and neighbouring regions by unleashing violence, according to an official statement.

The attack, perpetrated by members and cadres of the proscribed BKI, took place on December 10, 2024, it said.

The NIA investigations later revealed that the "deep-rooted" terror conspiracy was hatched by Goldy Brar and his associates, said the statement issued by the probe agency.

Helicopter on way to Kedarnath crashlands on highway, all 6 onboard safe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RUDRAPRAYAG: Five pilgrims and a pilot onboard a helicopter had a narrow escape when the aircraft on its way to Kedarnath made an emergency landing on the highway in Rudraprayag district on Saturday after developing a technical snag during take-off, officials said.

The pilot sustained minor injuries and was rushed to a hospital, they said.

Videos on social media showed the Kestrel Aviation helicopter standing in the middle of the highway, dangerously close to populated buildings and with a parked car damaged by its tail rotor.

The helicopter had flown from Badasu base for Kedarnath when it made the emergency landing shortly after take-off on the main road just below the highway near Sirsi following a technical snag, the officials said.

Six people onboard the helicopter including the pilot had a close call.

People on the ground got scared as they saw the helicopter losing balance in the air and crashlanding on the road, eyewitnesses said.

Kedarnath heli service nodal officer Rahul Chaubey said the incident did not affect the heli shuttle service to the Himalayan temple.

Efforts are underway to remove the helicopter from the highway.

Police have issued an appeal to pilgrims going to



Kedarnath by road to stay wherever they are as removing the helicopter from the highway and unblocking it can take some time.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Kestrel Aviation's AW119 (Reg. VT-RNK) helicopter, piloted by Capt R P S Sodhi, experienced a hard landing on the road adjacent to the Barasu helipad.

According to initial inputs, shortly after take-off from the helipad, the pilot reported a suspected issue with the collective control getting stuck. In response, he executed a controlled force landing on the road near the helipad.

All passengers are safe and unharmed, it said.

The pilot has been taken to hospital for evaluation due to complaints of backache.

The helicopter took off at 12.52 pm from Badasu (Sersi) helipad and landed immediately on the main road just below the helipad.

A team is being sent to the spot for onsite assessment, the DGCA said.

It is for the fourth time in a month that pilgrims trav-

elling by air on the Char Dham Yatra route had a close shave.

The hard landing of the helicopter on Saturday comes just about a month after another private helicopter on its way to Gangotri temple crashed near Gangnani in Uttarkashi district on May 8, killing six people including five women and the pilot, and leaving one male passenger seriously injured.

On May 12, a helicopter returning from Badrinath to Sersi with pilgrims on board was forced to make an emergency landing due to poor visibility in a school playground in Ukhimath. All pilgrims were safe. The helicopter took off again after about an hour when the weather improved.

On May 17, a heli ambulance from AIIMS Rishikesh crash-landed near the Kedarnath helipad in Uttarakhand due to damage to its rear part. Fortunately, all three occupants on board - a doctor, a pilot and a medical staff member - escaped unharmed.

Pak writing its own epitaph: Naqvi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday that Pakistan is writing its own epitaph by offering a sanctuary to terrorists and asserted that it amounted to bleeding Islam.

Talking to reporters while celebrating Eid ul-Azha, Naqvi said Pakistan has given a licence to "barbarian beasts" to wound humanity and Islam and made terrorism and terrorists its "national industry and national

assets", according to a statement. Naqvi celebrated the festival by offering "gujiya", a sweet associated traditionally with Holi, to people.

All the festivals of the world are celebrated together in India with fervour and gaiety, and that is why it is called "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said, referring to the Narendra Modi government's emphasis on celebrating different facets of Indian culture together.

NIA chargesheets Khalistani terrorist Goldy Brar, 4 others in Gurugram bomb attack case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted five accused, including Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Goldy Brar, in the 2024 case relating to bomb attacks at two clubs in Gurugram, officials said on Saturday.

The NIA has booked Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar, along with Sachin Taliyan, Ankit, Bhawish and US-based Randeep Singh alias Randeep Malik, under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS), Arms Act, Explosives Substance Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in its charge sheet filed before a court in Panchkula on Friday, they said.

Barring Brar and Malik, all others have been arrested in the case, they said.

The NIA had found the accused to be involved in a conspiracy to target the Warehouse Club and the Human Club in Sector 29 in Gurugram, Haryana, with bombs. It was part of banner terrorist outfit Babbar

US with India in fight against terrorism: Dy Secy of State tells Indian delegation

■ AGENCY

WASHINGTON: The US stands strong with India in the fight against terrorism, US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau told Congress MP Shashi Tharoor-led all-party delegation here to convey India's stance on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

The Indian delegation met Landau here on Friday as it wrapped up the crucial US leg of its multi-nation tour, briefing key interlocutors about Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

"The all-party parliamentary delegation led by Dr. @ShashiTharoor had a warm and candid conversation with US Deputy Secretary of State Landau. The Indian delegation briefed him on the atrocities of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor," the Indian Embassy said on X.

Landau, in a post on X, said it was a "GREAT" meeting with the Indian parliamentary representatives.

"I reaffirmed that the US stands strong with India in the fight against terrorism. We discussed the US-India strategic relationship, including expanding trade and commercial ties to foster growth and prosperity for both countries," he said.

A statement issued by State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said Landau "reaffirmed the United States' strong support of India in the fight against terrorism and the strategic partnership between the two countries".

The delegation discussed with Landau the importance of advancing key areas of the bilateral relationship, including expanding trade and commercial ties to foster economic growth and prosperity in both countries, according to the statement.

The embassy in a statement said that during the meeting with Landau, the delegation briefed him on the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, discussed India's subsequent Operation Sindoor, and put forth India's firm resolve to counter cross-border terrorism in all its forms.

"The deputy secretary reaffirmed the United States' strong support for India in the fight against terrorism. The two sides also had a wide-ranging conversation on the importance of strengthening bilateral relationships through advancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest," it said.

The delegation also had a "productive meeting" with Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The delegation briefed him on the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, discussed India's subsequent Operation Sindoor, and put forth India's firm resolve to counter cross-border terrorism in all its forms, the embassy said on X.

The senator sympathised with the victims of repeated terror attacks in India, saying the US stood with India in the fight against terrorism, and expressed support for New Delhi's right to defend itself.

Tharoor also spoke over the phone with Senator Cory Booker, a member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and described the conversation as "warm

and productive".

He briefed Booker on the "monstrous" terror attack in Pahalgam and outlined the repeated provocations of terrorism emanating from across the border, laid out the details of Operation Sindoor, and emphasised India's firm resolve in countering any future acts of terrorism.

"Senator Booker unequivocally condemned terrorism and expressed sympathies with the victims. The conversation also touched upon broader themes in the India-US strategic partnership, which enjoys robust support," Tharoor said, adding that he hopes to meet Booker "Next time in person".

Apart from Tharoor, the delegation comprises MPs Sarfaraz Ahmad, Ganti Harish Madhur Balayogi, Shashank Mani Tripathi, Bhubaneswar Kalita, Milind Deora, Tejasvi Surya, and India's former Ambassador to the US Taranjit Sandhu.

Several prominent American lawmakers and congressmen, as well as policy experts, attended a special reception hosted by the Indian Embassy on Thursday night and interacted with the delegation.

India central to key supply chains; must be part of G7 discussions: Canadian PM Carney

■ AGENCY

OTTAWA: India is the fifth largest economy in the world and it is central to a number of critical global supply chains, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said, arguing that the leadership of the country must be part of discussions at the upcoming G7 summit.

Carney's comments came after some of his political opponents in Canada criticised him for inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 summit in view of a probe into allegations of Indian links to the killing of a Khalistani separatist in 2023.

Prime Minister Modi accepted Carney's invitation to attend the G7 summit during a phone conversation on Friday.

Canada is hosting the G7 summit in the Alberta province from June 15 to 17 in its capacity as the current chair of

the grouping. To a specific question on the case of killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023, Carney told reporters that it is not appropriate for him to comment as the legal process in the case is underway.

The Canadian prime minister said the G7 summit will deliberate on a range of key issues including energy security, digital future, critical minerals and on partnerships in building infrastructure in the emerging and developing world.

Carney suggested that he extended the invitation to Modi after talking to other G7 member countries. "There are certain countries that should be at the table for those discussions," he said when asked why PM Modi was invited when there have been allegations of Indian links to the Nijjar case.

"India is the fifth largest economy in

the world; effectively the most populous country in the world. (It is) central to a number of those supply chains; (it is) at the heart of a number of those supply chains, so it makes sense," he said.

Without elaborating, Carney noted that India and Canada have agreed to continue law enforcement dialogue.

"Bilaterally, we have now agreed importantly to continue law enforcement dialogue. There has been some progress on that...recognises issues of accountability," he said.

Canada's NDP party slammed Carney for extending the invitation to Modi.

"This decision is profoundly troubling," it said.

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Nijjar.

CREMATION



Smt. Renu Mahajan

With profound grief and sorrow,
we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved

Smt. Renu Mahajan

W/o Shri Romesh Mahajan on June 7th 2025.

The Cremation & Last Rites

will be held at Jogi Gate on
June 8th 2025 at 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law:

Rahul & Varsha Mahajan

Daughters & Sons-in-law:

Sanjay & Rupika Grover

Nitin & Radhika Shandilya

Grandchildren

Shivin, Kamakshi, Sohail, Advitya, Krishna

Grief-Stricken:

KC Family and Mahajan Family.