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## PoK was given by Congress, but only BJP Govt will bring it back: Amit Shah

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the Congress in the Rajya Sabha saying the party "gave away" parts of Kashmir to Pakistan when in power and asserted that the BJP government will bring back Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

He also claimed that a Hindu can never be a terrorist and hit out at the Congress for coining the phrase "Hindu terror" post-2008 Mumbai terror attack. Shah also said the Congress has no right to question the BJP on terrorism, alleging that it indulged in appeasement policies and never adopted a firm policy to tackle the menace when in power.

Replying to the discussion on Operation Sindoor in the House, Shah accused the UPA of not taking appropriate action after terror



attacks, while the Modi government took measures after every such incident.

He cited the Balakot incident and surgical strikes as well as Operation Sindoor and operation Mahadev as India's befitting replies to Pakistan for promoting terrorism.

The Home Minister also attacked the Congress for questioning his government on foreign policy related to China, saying the opposition party's love for China had continued for generations since 1960s.

"The priority of Congress is not the country's security. Their objective is only vote bank and appeasement politics... Terrorism took roots, spread, and grew in India... the sole reason for this has been the Congress' politics of appeasement and weak policies," Shah said.

On the Opposition parties' demand that the government should clarify on the role of US President Donald Trump in ceasefire between India and Pakistan, the Home Minister reiterated that the 'Operation Sindoor' was not

stopped at anyone's request.

"Pakistan was brought to its knees, their DGMO called and said enough is enough, please stop it now," he said.

Shah also emphasised that the Congress has no right to ask about PoK.

"I want to tell the Congress that POK was given by you, and only the BJP government will bring it back," he said.

In his more than an hour-long speech, the Home Minister gave a detailed account of Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, which involved the killing of three terrorists responsible for carrying out the barbaric attack in Pahalagam on April 22.

Shah asserted that terrorism will end in Jammu and Kashmir, and listed out measures taken by the government for all-round development of the Union Territories.

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## US announces 25 pc tariff plus penalty on India from Aug 1

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying military equipment and crude oil from Russia. The surprise announcement came a day after Indian officials

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## Bus carrying ITBP personnel falls into Sindh river

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A bus carrying security forces personnel fell into a river in the Ganderbal district on Wednesday, officials said here.

The bus carrying ITBP personnel fell into the Sindh river at Kullian in the Ganderbal district amidst heavy rain, the officials said, adding that all personnel on board the bus were rescued. However, it was not

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## Two heavily-armed terrorists killed in Poonch

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two heavily-armed terrorists, believed to be members of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were killed in a fierce gunfight as alert Army troops foiled their infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said.

The encounter comes two days after security forces eliminated three hardcore terrorists, who were involved in the April 22 Pahalagam terror attack, in a forest in Srinagar.

The Army said Wednesday's operation, conducted under the code name 'ShivShakti', is a major setback to nefarious designs of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist organisations that are constantly abetting acts of terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In a coordinated counter-terrorism operation, troops of the Indian Army launched 'Operation ShivShakti' in the Poonch sector during the



early hours of July 30. The operation was based on credible intelligence inputs acquired by synergistic and synchronised intelligence coordination by military and civil intelligence units in concert with J&K Police regarding the presence of terrorists in the area," a defence spokesperson said.

"Acting swiftly on the inputs, the security forces laid coordinated ambushes on the possible infiltration routes. A fierce gunfight ensued between the security forces and terrorists along

the Line of Control, leading to the neutralisation of two terrorists and recovery of large quantities of war-like stores," he said.

According to the spokesperson, swift, coordinated and decisive action by the security forces prevented any collateral damage and ensured the safety of the local population.

The recovered war-like stores include two assault rifles with ammunition, one pistol with ammunition, hand grenades, two

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## ACB registers DE case against former constable

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday registered a disproportionate Assets (DE) case against a former constable, who was terminated from service, officials said.

The disproportionate assets case was registered against Firdous Ahmad, a terminated Selection Grade constable of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, after a discreet verification revealed that the accused had amassed wealth way beyond the known sources of his income, they said.

"The verification conducted

revealed that the accused has accumulated significant assets, including two-storied residential house constructed by him on ancestral land at Hugam in Anantnag, palatial house upon land measuring 01 kanal 10 marlas situated at Estate Machbhawan Mattan, Hotel Grand Lords (one third share) situated at Movora in Pahalagam and a double-storey house at Tawi Vihar in Jammu," the officials said.

During the course of the investigation, search warrants were obtained from the Special Judge Anti-Corruption

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## No third-party intervention, no trade link: Jaishankar on India-Pak ceasefire

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday categorically said there was no third-party intervention in bringing about a ceasefire with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, asserting that the halting of the military action was also not linked to trade as claimed by US President Donald Trump.

Intervening in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha, Jaishankar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the US President did not have any phone calls between April 22, when the Pahalagam terror attack took place, and June 16.

Jaishankar attacked the Congress for not responding to terror attacks perpetrated by Pakistan in the past and



accused it of "self-hyphenating" India with Pakistan on the issue of terror.

He, however, said the Modi government is now setting things right and will give Pakistan a befitting and appropriate response to every attack done by it,

citing the surgical and Balakot strikes and now Operation Sindoor.

The minister said under the new normal, India will hit whenever Pakistan attacks it and will not buckle under any nuclear threat. He also blamed the previous Congress governments for China coming closer to Pakistan since the 1960s when Islamabad handed over parts of PoK to Beijing.

He also dubbed Rahul Gandhi as "China-guru" in a veiled attack at him for giving his expertise on China. Responding to various charges by the Opposition, Jaishankar during his hour-long speech said in the last decade, there has been a huge change in India's response to terrorism and was demonstrated through Operation Sindoor today.

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## Two teachers die in flash flood

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: Two government teachers lost their lives after being caught in a flash flood in Ramban district, police said on Wednesday.

Jagdev Singh, 37, and Sanjay Kumar, 39, residents of Ghordi village of Ramnagar in Udhampur, were on a motorcycle when they were swept away by the strong current of a mountain stream near Nathatop on Tuesday, they said.

Their bodies were retrieved on Wednesday, nearly 300 metres downstream from the link road where they are believed to have been swept away, officials said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the teachers had reached the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) in Kud on Tuesday morning for a three-day course, police said.

After attending the course on the first day, they left on the motorcycle in the evening amid heavy rains, but were caught in the flash flood on the Nathatop-Sanasar

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 29.7°C Min: 26.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 95 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 28.6°C Min: 21.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 90 Min: 75

Sunset : 19:31 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:43 Hours

## Hit and run by Thar: Absconding Mannan Anand arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Wednesday arrested Mannan Anand, the accused in the recent Gandhi Nagar road rage incident, following an intense 72-hour manhunt involving six specially-formed police teams.

Anand, a resident of House No. 62, Sector 4, Nanak Nagar, Jammu, was absconding after allegedly driving a Thar recklessly and injuring a 68-year-old man, who suffered serious head injuries. The victim's condition reportedly deteriorated, prompting his urgent shifting to Fortis Hospital at Chandigarh today



SP South Jammu Ajay Sharma briefing media on Wednesday.

for specialised treatment.

South Jammu SP Ajay Sharma confirmed Anand's arrest in connection with FIR 163/2025, lodged at Gandhi Nagar Police Station under Sections 281 (rash driving), 125(a), and 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"The accused Thar driver Mannan Anand has been arrested by Police Station Gandhi Nagar," read a police statement. Further details are awaited. The incident sparked concern over reckless driving in urban areas and calls for stricter enforcement of traffic laws.

## School teacher hit by bus in Kupwara, dies LG expresses grief

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A school teacher was killed after being hit by a bus in Kupwara district on Wednesday, officials said.

The bus skidded off the road and crashed, resulting in injuries to 10 passengers in the Behnipora area of Handwara, they said.

Irshad Ahmad Lone, a government school teacher, was walking on the road when he was hit by the bus. He was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries, they said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the accident.

"I am deeply grieved by the tragic road accident in Handwara. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are

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## Azad meets LG, raises issues of public interest



Former J&K CM Ghulam Nabi Azad meeting LG Manoj Sinha at Srinagar on Wednesday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday met with Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor and discussed with him various issues concerning the people of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The points raised by the former Chief Minister, inter alia, included the long-pending demand pertaining to the construction of Chenab House

for the people of the erstwhile Doda District, comprising Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban. The project has been delayed for more than a decade. Notably, 5 kanals of land were allotted at Channi Rama, Jammu in 2008 during the tenure of Azad as the Chief Minister of the then State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chenab House was proposed to provide temporary lodging facilities to patients and attendants referred to

Jammu for emergency medical treatment, as well as accommodation for poor and needy students visiting Jammu to appear in various examinations.

He urged the Lieutenant Governor to consider initiating a similar project for the residents of remote and hilly areas like Tangdar and Gurez, which remain cut off from the rest of Jammu and Kashmir for more than six months each year.

## Two army personnel, including Lt Colonel, die in Ladakh after boulder falls on convoy vehicle

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Two Army personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel, lost their lives and three others were injured after a boulder fell on an Army vehicle in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday, officials said. The incident took place around 11:30 am at Charbagh near Durbuk in the Galwan region, roughly 200 km from Leh. The vehicle was part of a military convoy moving through the remote area when the accident occurred.

The Army identified the deceased as Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh



Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh of the 14 Sindh Horse regiment.

Those injured in the incident include Maj Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Maj Amit Dixit, and Capt

Gaurav (60 Armoured Regiment), officials added.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, ArmyCdrNC and all ranks of Northern Command pay homage to the

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## Amarnath Yatra suspended on Pahalgam, Baltal routes due to heavy rains

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Wednesday suspended the Amarnath Yatra on both Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to heavy rains in Kashmir, a senior official said.

The yatra will remain suspended from Jammu too on Thursday due to the inclement weather conditions.

"Shri Amarnathji Yatra has been suspended for 30.07.2025 from both Pahalgam and Baltal base camps," Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, posted on its X handle.

It said Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri

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## No Yatra convoy to move from Bhagwati Nagar today

JAMMU: In view of the inclement weather conditions on the Yatra routes, as an abundant caution, the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra convoy will not move from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 31st July, 2025.

"Due to the heavy rains over in the Yatra area, the movement of pilgrims from Base camps has been affected. Therefore, it has been decided that no convoy movement shall be allowed towards the base camps Baltal and Nunwan from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu on 31st July, 2025. Pilgrims shall be kept informed about the situation in due course of time", Divisional

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