

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! PoK was given...

"I want to say to the terrorists through this House... do as much as you want... Jammu and Kashmir will be free from terrorism. This is the resolve of Modi ji," Shah said.

He said it happened for the first time that people were killed in the name of religion, and it is extremely painful.

The terrorists killed tourists to send a message that they would not let Kashmir be free from terrorism.

Earlier, when Shah began to speak, Opposition parties protested and demanded that the Prime Minister speak, but when the Chair refused to entertain their demand, they staged a walkout.

Continuing his tirade against the Congress, he said former Home Minister P Chidambaram had sought proof on whether the terrorists who carried out the Pahalgam attack were from Pakistan.

Shah stated that Chidambaram even challenged the justification of Operation Sindoor:

He said that Chidambaram exposed the mentality of Congress to the whole world that for vote bank they would support Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Taiba and terrorists.

He taunted Congress leader Prithviraj Chauhan who questioned the naming of the terrorist encounter as Operation Mahadev, which is not linked to any religion.

He claimed "Har Har Mahadev" was the war cry given by Shivaji Maharaj while fighting against the Mughals.

He cleared the doubts about the timing of their killings and said the CRPF, Army and J&K police, while staying in difficult terrain and having food sent from drones followed and killed them.

The Home Minister also highlighted the achievement of the government in the last 11 years.

He read out the Prime Minister's speech delivered on April 24, 2025, and said that following the PM's guidance, not only terrorists were eliminated but their launchpad was also destroyed.

He said the government decided to end the one-sided Indus Water Treaty as Indian farmers have their rights on the Indus water.

Shah stated that at least 100 people were killed and the headquarters of terror outfits such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen were destroyed by the Modi government.

"I proudly declare to the world... Hindus can never be terrorists," he said, questioning the Congress for filing false cases against many "patriotic religious institutions".

"The Congress never took any concrete steps for the preparation of the Indian Army. During the war with China, we didn't even have proper clothes to wear in the cold... there was neither salt nor matchsticks, and we had a severe shortage of guns and cartridges."

Shah said today, under the leadership of Modi ji, the Army is equipped with modern weapons like the BrahMos missile.

"The 'Akash Teer' missile destroys enemy missiles in the air itself, and our Army can turn Pakistan's entire air defence system into rubble in just half an hour," Shah said.

He said the Congress govt would have given a clean chit to Pakistan had they been in power today.

Operation Sindoor is not a war but the use of India's power for self-defence, he said.

Shah further asserted that there has been a 75 per cent reduction in violence in insurgency and Left-wing extremism under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

Elaborated steps taken by the government to destroy the terror finance ecosystem in Kashmir; Shah said that Article 370 gave opportunities to Pakistan to promote terrorism in Kashmir but its removal started an era of elimination of terrorism.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, 2,564 stone-pelting incidents occurred in 2010. Not a single incident has occurred after 2024," Shah said.

"Organized strikes -- announced by Hurriyat leaders sitting in Pakistan, which kept the Valley shut for 132 days annually, have not been called even once in the last three years. Now they no longer have the courage to call for a shutdown," Shah said.

"We hoisted the flag of the Indian constitution in Kashmir," the Home Minister said, adding that terrorism is on the verge of extinction in Kashmir.

## US announces 25...

said that a US trade team would visit from August 25 to negotiate a trade deal. The announcement is being seen a pressure tactics to get New Delhi to agree to demands made by the US, which has in recent days got favourable trade deals with major partners like Japan, the UK and the European Union.

In a post on social media handle, Trump termed India's trade policies as "most strenuous and obnoxious".

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 per cent, plus a penalty for the above, starting on August first," Trump said.

The penalty because India has made large purchases of oil and military equipment from Russia.

India's import of crude oil from Russia has risen from 0.2 per cent of total purchases before the Russia-Ukraine war to 35-40 per cent. New Delhi is the largest buyer of Russian oil after China.

Trump said though India is America's friend, "we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their (India) tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country".

He said India has always purchased significant amount of military equipment and energy products from Russia at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the "killing" in Ukraine.

New Delhi did not immediately react to the tariff announcement but sources indicated officials were in a huddle to work out the implications.

It was, however, not clear if the 25 per cent duty will be imposed in addition to the existing 10 per cent baseline tariff. The 10 per cent tariff, which currently applies to most Indian goods barring a few, was announced by Trump on all countries on April 2.

Also, the exact quantum of the penalty is unclear.

Among India's major trade competitors, the US has imposed lower tariffs on Vietnam (20 per cent) and Malaysia (25 per cent), but higher on Bangladesh (35 per cent) and Thailand (36 per cent).

On April 2 this year, Trump announced high reciprocal tariffs on number of countries including India (26 per cent). The implementation of high tariffs was immediately suspended for 90 days till July 9 and later until August 1, as America is negotiating trade deals with various countries. However, the baseline tariff of 10 per cent remains.

In addition to this, the US has imposed 50 per cent duty on steel and aluminium and the 25 per cent on auto sector.

Meanwhile, negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement are on as a team from the US is visiting New Delhi on August 25 for the sixth round of talks.

The top officials of the countries concluded the fifth round recently in Washington. India's chief negotiator and special secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch held the deliberations.

During 2021-25, the US was India's largest trading partner. The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in bilateral trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of USD 35.32 billion in goods in 2023-24. It was USD 41 billion in 2024-25 and USD 27.7 billion in 2022-23.

In 2024-25, bilateral trade between India and the US reached USD 186 billion. India exported USD 86.5 billion in goods while importing USD 45.3 billion.

In services, India exported an estimated USD 28.7 billion and imported USD 25.5 billion, adding a USD 3.2 billion surplus. Altogether, India ran a total trade surplus of about USD 44.4 billion with the US.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals (USD 8.1 billion), telecom instruments (USD 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (USD 5.3 billion), petroleum products (USD 4.1 billion), vehicle and auto components (USD 2.8 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (USD 3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories (USD 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (USD 2.7 billion).

Imports included crude oil (USD 4.5 billion), petroleum products (USD 3.6 billion), coal, coke (USD 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds (USD 2.6 billion), electric machinery (USD 1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts (USD 1.3 billion), and gold (USD 1.3 billion).

## Bus carrying ITBP...

immediately clear how many personnel were on the bus.

"The driver has sustained injuries and has been shifted to a hospital," an official said.

## Two heavily-armed...

improvised explosive devices, medicines, communication device and other logistic

stores, the spokesperson said.

He said the huge recovery of war-like and logistics stores indicates that the terrorists were well-prepared for prolonged engagement.

"This operation highlights a high level of synergy, coordination and commitment on the part of the Indian Army and other security agencies towards maintaining peace and security in the region. Search operation is in progress in the surrounding areas to rule out the presence of any more terrorists in the area," the Army said.

The officials said troops on ambush duty, following information about possible attempts by LeT terrorists to sneak into this side, saw the movement of infiltrating terrorists in the Maldivalan area of Degwar sector on the intervening night of July 29 and 30.

The terrorists opened fire on the ambush party and in the ensuing encounter, which lasted several hours, two terrorists were hit. A search operation was launched with the first light of the day and both the terrorists were confirmed dead in the encounter, they said.

## ATM Cash Embezzlement...

transaction trail, and recording statements of witnesses and bank staff. On the basis of documentary and oral evidence, the offences under Sections 409 and 201 RPC stand fully established against Vinod Kumar, son of Sham Lal, who had been entrusted with the cash meant for depositing in the HDFC ATM, Sarwal, official said adding that the IO finally framed the Chargesheet and presented today before the court of law.

Pertinently, official said, three similar cases involving the accused were earlier registered at Police Stations Janipur, Domana, and Akhnoor, and have already been investigated by SCW Jammu and charge sheets produced before the court of law.

## No third-party...

He said when Operation Sindoor commenced, a number of countries were in contact with India, but India gave the message that targets selected and hit on May 7 were known terrorist headquarters and infrastructure in Pakistan.

Jaishankar said the Operation also did a global service as India reduced to dust terror infrastructure in Pakistan, including in Bahawalpur and Muridke.

He also chided certain opposition party leaders for mocking India's military action against Pakistan, saying if they have any doubts, they should watch videos of funerals of terrorists in Pakistan and destruction of airfields there.

The minister said Operation Sindoor was a well-considered and thoughtful response to the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack and it has now become the basis of a new policy. He emphasised India will keep responding to each terror attack in the same way.

"We gave a message that we are not open to any mediation, that anything between us and Pakistan will only be bilateral. We gave a message that we will not accept nuclear blackmail and whatever talk of nuclear danger will not deter us from going ahead with Operation Sindoor.

"We gave a message that we are now responding to Pakistani attack and we will keep responding. If that fighting has to stop, Pakistan must make a request and that request must come from the channel of Pakistan's DGMO," he said.

On May 9, Jaishankar said US Vice President J D Vance called up the Prime Minister to warn him that in American assessment, a massive Pakistani attack would come in the next few hours.

"Prime Minister listened and made it very clear that if anything of that happens, it (Pakistan) would get a fitting and appropriate response from our side. A few hours later that happened and a fitting and appropriate response also happened, which disabled the entire Pakistani air defence system and rendered all their airfields inoperative," he said.

At this stage, he claimed India started getting calls that Pakistan was ready to stop fighting, but insisted that the Pakistani side had to make a request through the DGMO.

"I want to make three things clear - There was no leader, nobody in the world that asked India to stop its operations. This is something the prime minister also said. There was no linkage of trade in any of these conversations and there was no talk between the Prime Minister and President Trump," he asserted.

Jaishankar said during this period, several countries, including the US, EU, Saudi Arabia had conversations with India and all were told that if Pakistanis want to stop fighting, they have to request through the DGMO.

"I want to make it clear that between April 22 to June 16, there was no phone call between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi," he claimed.

The Opposition has been attacking the government on claims made by Trump on mediation in halting hostilities between India and Pakistan by using the threat of trade.

Noting that the Pahalgam terror attack was absolutely unacceptable, he said a red line was crossed by Pakistan, and there had to be accountability and justice.

"Blood and water will not flow together," he said, providing reasons for India's decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan.

Jaishankar said the Modi government has corrected the wrongs of Nehru's policies by suspending the Treaty. The Treaty signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not to buy peace, but for appeasement, he added.

He said terrorism is now on the global agenda only because of the efforts of the Modi government.

Jaishankar said there was grief and shock across the world after the Pahalgam attack.

"But the question was, what after that? And the answers were two. One, such an attack was absolutely unacceptable. It crossed our red line. There had to be severe consequences. "And two...there had to be accountability of the perpetrators, and they and their supporters had to be brought to justice. Now, the first clear message, of India's anger... was the decision taken by Cabinet Committee on Security immediately the day after, on April 23," he said.

## ACB registers DE...

Court, Anantnag, for conducting searches at the places belonging to the accused, they said. "It surfaced while conducting searches that the accused had also been allotted a Police Quarter at Police Housing Colony Bemina. Therefore, search was conducted at the said place also on the authorisation of the SSP, ACB, Anantnag," the officials said. The searches at the premises belonging to the accused were going on till last reports, they said.

## Two army personnel...

Bravehearts Lieutenant Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

"Northern Command stands firm with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," the Northern Command said in a post on X

In an earlier post, the Fire and Fury Corps said that "a boulder from a cliff fell on one of the vehicles of a military convoy in Ladakh, around 1130h on 30 July 2025. Recovery action is in progress."

The officials said that the five personnel sustained critical injuries in the accident involving an SUV of the Army.

The convoy was on a training move from Durbuk to Chongtash, they said, adding the vehicle was badly mangled under the impact of the boulder.

Two personnel succumbed to injuries and three other officers were undergoing treatment, they said.

## Police recover drone...

for any other items that may have been dropped by the drone.

A FIR has been registered in this regard.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shobhit Saxena said that vigilance is being maintained and search operations are going on.

## Amarnath Yatra suspended...

said that due to heavy rains since early morning on Wednesday, the yatra has not been allowed on the tracks from Baltal and Nunwan/Chandanwari base camps.

"Due to the heavy rains 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 July 31, 2025," the DIPR said.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said, "In view of the inclement weather conditions on the yatra routes, as an abundant precaution, the ongoing Amarnath Yatra convoy will not move from Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on July 31."

He further said that due to heavy rains in the yatra area, the movement of pilgrims from base camps in Kashmir 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 July 31," he said.

Meanwhile, the Yatra continued from Jammu amid heavy rains as another batch of more than 1300 pilgrims left from here this morning for the twin base camps of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

Authorities on Wednesday suspended the yatra on both Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to heavy rains in Kashmir; a senior official said.

More than 3.86 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the 'ice lingam' of Lord Shiva at 3880-meter-high cave shrine since the 38-day pilgrimage commenced on July 3 from the valley.

The 28th batch of pilgrims, which included 1,070 men, 210 women, 2 children, 57 sadhus and sadhvis, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 58 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir between 3:28 am and 3.47 am, escorted by CRPF and police personnel, officials said.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 322 pilgrims in 16 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 1,017 pilgrims in 42 vehicles, who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district, they said.

With this, a total of 14,41,24 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

## No Yatra convoy...

Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said.

So far, over 3.935 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

## School teacher hit...

with the family of Irshad Ahmed Lone, who lost his life. I pray for the early recovery of those injured in this accident," Sinha said.

Minister for Education, Sakeena has also expressed deep grief over the tragic road accident at Behnipora area of Handwara in which a Government teacher and extended her deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

She described the deceased teacher as a dedicated educator who served the community with commitment and integrity.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed her solidarity with the grieving family during this difficult time.

Meanwhile, the Minister also prayed for swift recovery of injured persons. She directed the administration and GMC Handwara authorities to provide all possible assistance to the injured.

## Two teachers die...

Road. A villager noticed the motorcycle lying on the roadside at Jalebi Morh this morning, and subsequently, a rescue and search operation was launched.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has condoled the death of two Government teachers Jagdev Singh and Sanjay Kumar, due to an unfortunate incident of flash-flood in Ramban.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said, "The news of the death of two Government teachers due to unfortunate incident of flash-flood in Ramban is saddening. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. May God give them strength to bear this irreparable loss".

## Police empowers students with legal awareness

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of its ongoing community outreach and legal awareness initiative, Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu conducted an informative awareness session for school students at Government Higher Secondary School, Bahu Fort on 30th July 2025.

The session was led by PSI Seema Devi, who engaged with students from Classes 6th to 12th, focusing on enhancing their understanding of key legal reforms and personal safety.

The awareness programme highlighted the salient features of the newly enacted criminal laws-Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)-in a student-friendly manner. Alongside, the session also covered important topics such as crimes against women and children, cybercrimes, and the dangers of using banned Chinese Manja (Gattu thread).

Students were sensitized about their legal rights, the use of Zero FIR, available cybercrime reporting portals, and the importance of prompt reporting of any offence or suspicious activity.

Conducted in an interactive format, the session aimed not only at imparting legal knowledge but also at building trust between the police and young citizens, promoting a sense of safety, awareness, and empowerment among the youth.

Jammu Police remains committed to spreading legal literacy and strengthening community-police relations through proactive engagement with educational institutions and local communities.

## Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh to be next Vice Chief of Army Staff

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh, having an illustrious career spanning more than 35 years, is set to take over as the next Vice Chief of the Army Staff on August 1. He will succeed Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, who had assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) on July 1 last year.

Also, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, is set to be the next Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. He had assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on May 1, 2024.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, set to be the next VCNS, will take charge on August 1, a senior official said.

Lt Gen Singh is set to take charge as the next Vice Chief of the Army Staff on August 1.

The officer is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy and was commissioned into the 4 Para (Special Forces) in December 1987.

With an illustrious career spanning over more than three decades, he has participated in Operation Pawan, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Rakshak and Operation Orchid.

He has foreign combat exposure in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Lebanon and Sri Lanka, the officials earlier said.

The officer had in April 2022 taken over as the General Officer Commanding of the Rising Star Corps.

Raised in 2005, the Corps is based in the Yol cantonment town in the Kangra Valley, southeast of Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

## Govt taking steps to curb cyber frauds: Scindia

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government is taking various measures, including setting up the Digital Intelligence Platform, to curb cyber frauds, Union Communication Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday.

He also highlighted that international spoofed calls have come down by 97 per cent.

The communications and home ministries have taken four to five major measures to deal with cyber crimes, he told the Lok Sabha.

The Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) brings various stakeholders together.

It has coopted 620 institutions, including 570 banks, police institutions of 36 states and investigating agencies, Scindia said during the Question Hour.

A Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) software is being used wherein the data about individuals doing fraud with banks are categorised into various categories. The details are provided to all the banks and the transaction of such individuals are blocked, he said.

In his written reply, Scindia said the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) undertakes efforts to prevent misuse of telecom resources for cyber frauds.

"Based on cyber fraud cases reported on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), DoT has disconnected 3.57 lakh mobile numbers of which highest number of mobile connections are from Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal.

"Further, DoT has developed an indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analytic tool ASTR to identify suspected mobile connections taken by same person in different names. More than 82 lakhs such connections have been disconnected after failing reverification process," he said.

DoT has also put in place a robust Know Your Customer (KYC) framework for issuing mobile connections to subscribers.

Scindia said DoT has also amended existing KYC instructions and introduced business connections framework where KYC of each end-user is made mandatory before activation. "In addition, a robust KYC process for SIM Swap/replacement has also been introduced," he added. Responding to a supplementary question, Scindia said state-owned BSNL and MTNL are back on the road to recovery.