

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

I could not...

force destroyed their 11 air bases and showed that all the targets inside Pakistan were within their reach."

On Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan's charge that the government was giving Hindu names like Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, Lt. Governor Sinha said, "Probably he doesn't know that Dachigam hilly forest, where the terrorists were killed, is known as Mahadev ridge. The word 'sindoor' was used because our women were widowed by the killers, and their 'sindoor' was wiped away."

Manoj Sinha said temples which were demolished in Kashmir are now being rebuilt. "As part of our conservation plan, we are rebuilding not only temples but also gurdwaras, churches and even mosques in the valley."

The Lt. Governor revealed how the late Mulayam Singh Yadav once accosted him inside Parliament and asked him to join the Samajwadi Party and continue to be an MP. "Mulayam Ji held my hand inside the Parliament lobby; he told me to join the Samajwadi Party and become an MP. I modestly told him, 'Main MP rahoon ya paidal rahoon, aapki party mein nahin jaonga (whether I remain an MP or a pedestrian, I will not join your party).'"

Manoj Sinha praised UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's governance and said, "After the elimination of mafia gangsters in UP, there is no more fear and terror among the people. Rule of law has been restored."

Asked whether his name was floated for the post of UP chief minister in 2017, when Yogi Adityanath was made the CM, Manoj Sinha replied, "Naam chala yeh maine television par dekha (I saw on television that my name is under consideration). None of the party leaders told me that I would be given this responsibility. It is the party which decides whom to give the responsibility."

Asked whether he had prayed at Sankatmochan temple in Varanasi in anticipation of the CM's post, Manoj Sinha clarified, "It was a coincidence. I had attended the post-funeral rites of the mother of a local leader, Bhanu Pratap Singh, in Ghazipur, and while returning from Varanasi, I had gone to Sankatmochan temple to pay obeisance." Rajat Sharma: Aapko achha laga ki Yogi Ji CM baney? (Did you feel good when Yogi Ji was made CM?) Manoj Sinha: Swabhavik roop se achha laga (naturally, I felt happy).

Two soldiers martyred...

lives in the service of the motherland. Their valour, grit and unwavering determination will always be remembered with pride by the entire nation."

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss, Satish Sharma extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. "In this hour of grief, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of these martyrs. The people of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire country stand shoulder to shoulder with them, sharing their pain and pride," he added.

The Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, in a post on X, also paid tributes to the soldiers martyred in the encounter and said that the operation was still underway.

Two terrorists have been martyred in the encounter that began on August 1 after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

The identity and the group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far.

In a post on X on Saturday, the Chinara Corps said, "Chinara Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the Bravehearts, L/Nk Pritpal Singh and Sep Harminder Singh, in line of duty for the Nation. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us." The Army said it stands in solidarity with the bereaved families. "The operation continues," it added.

Officials said two other soldiers were injured in the overnight firing, taking the number of injured security forces personnel to nine.

Senior police and Army officers, including the Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat, and the Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, are closely monitoring the operation round-the-clock, officials said.

Security forces have pressed drones and helicopters into service to track the terrorists down in the forest area. Para commandos were also assisting the security forces in neutralising the hiding ultras.

Chhari Mubarak carried...

on the occasion of 'Sharavan Purnima'. Traditional 'puja' and rituals were performed amid the chanting of Vedic hymns.

Special prayers led by Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of the holy mace, were held at the holy cave shrine, the officials said.

After the 'aarti' was concluded, the holy mace left for Panchtarani for a night halt. On Sunday, the Chhari Mubarak will leave for Pahalgam where 'pujan' and 'visarjan' ceremonies will be held on Monday on the banks of river Lidder.

More than 4.14 lakh pilgrims performed the annual Amarnath Yatra this year as the pilgrimage was concluded on August 2 in the wake of bad weather and slippery route conditions.

Last year, 5.10 lakh yatrins had 'darshan' of the naturally formed 'ice lingam' at the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

5 Pakistani fighter...

the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," he said.

He also said that there were indications of at least one AWC in that AWC hangar, and a few F-16s, which are under maintenance there, were also being damaged. The operation also resulted in a large number of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), drones, and some of their missiles falling into the Indian territory without causing any damage to Indian installations, he added.

Asserting that one of the major reasons behind the success of the operation was "political will", Singh said, "I'm being very, very candid...very open here, because I hear various versions of it."

"If I tell you something, people will have to believe because I was there, listening to everybody, and attending...There was very clear political will, very clear directions which were given to us, and there were no kind of restrictions which were put on," he said.

He said people are asking if there were any restrictions or if we were kept constrained. "If there were any constraints, they were self-made. We, the forces, decided what our rules of engagement would be. We, the forces, decided what will be the escalation ladder that we want to ride on. We decided how we want to control the escalation," he said.

"So I want to make it very clear there were no, I repeat, no restrictions on us. Full freedom was given to us to plan and execute. I must say that you know that our attacks have been calibrated because we wanted to be mature about it," he added.

Singh's comment came in the wake of opposition leaders, including senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, attacking the Prime Minister and the government for agreeing to the ceasefire when our forces were getting the better of Pakistan.

The IAF chief also emphasised the importance of "terminating a war".

"Our objective was very clear. Our objective was to teach the terrorists a lesson that they will think twice before doing something; now they know what kind of price they can pay. And once we have achieved those objectives, we should look for all windows of opportunity to stop that, rather than just continuing.

"We were actually on a song that night. I heard from so many people...some people very close to me also said 'Aur Marna Tha'," he said.

He called the Russian-made S-400 surface-to-air missile system a "game-changer" and said that Pakistan was not able to penetrate the system.

"The range of that system had kept Pakistan's aircraft and UAVs away from the Indian defence system. Because of the S-400 system, Pakistan has not been able to penetrate the Indian air defence system," he noted.

Talking about the Balakot air strike, post Pulwama terror attack, he said there were no images available, and it became a big issue.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't tell our own people as to what we have been able to achieve. We had intelligence that there had been huge damage; there were so many terrorists who were neutralised, but we could not convince our own people. But (this time) we were lucky, and we got these videos out in the open," he said.

"I am happy that we could take care of that ghost of Balakot," he asserted.

About Operation Sindoor, he said, based on specific intelligence, the IAF decided to attack the airfield.

"So the airfield was attacked and the main building where the planning goes on, which was also used as the civil terminal building at times. As far as the Sukkur airbase is concerned, we attacked the UAB hangar and radar site," he said.

During the slideshow, he showed visuals of the AWC hangar, which was flattened after the Indian attack.

Regarding Sargodha air base in Pakistan, the IAF chief said, "We have grown up in our Air Force dreaming about days like this. Someday we will get a chance. Just so happens that I got a chance before my retirement. We attacked the airfield that had the very hard info on the F-16s," he added.

Singh also said the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has made a difference in military operations.

"The CDS was always there to get us together and iron things out. Whenever we required it, we used to go to the senior leadership and discuss things," he added.

The Air Chief Marshal highlighted National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's role in Operation Sindoor, helping bring other agencies and forces together. When the operation began, military chiefs discussed in detail the eventualities, possible outcomes, and how India should react, he underlined.

On the takeaways from Operation Sindoor, Singh said, "The biggest takeaway of the operation has been that the primacy of air warfare has come to the forefront once again. People have realised that air warfare is the first responder that any country has, and air warfare can actually react in a quick time, attack deep inside with precision, and just achieve your objective without any collateral."

The IAF carried out precision strikes on multiple targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir linked to terror groups. The operation was aimed at destroying terror infrastructure, neutralising key operatives, and sending a clear message that cross-border terrorism would invite decisive retaliation.

Modi celebrates Raksha...

for remembering a number of his government schemes, which she had incorporated in a poem.

Modi also posted a message on X, greeting people on the auspicious occasion.

Posting the video clip, he added, "Here are highlights from a very special Raksha Bandhan celebration earlier today. Gratitude to our Nari Shakti for their continuous trust and affection."

Chinese manjha fatally...

Udhampur when his throat was slit open by the banned thread near Ghari village around 4.30 pm, the officials said.

They said some commuters shifted him to government medical college hospital Udhampur, where doctors declared him dead, the officials said.

The officials said Police have registered a case in this connection and further investigation is on to identify the culprits and bring them to book.

First freight train...

offering a new and efficient transport option for businesses across Kashmir, a major step towards enhancing economic activity in the Valley, they said.

The opening of Anantnag for goods traffic also comes at a time when the Valley has achieved full railway connectivity from Katra to Srinagar, including the historic completion of the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River.

These developments are expected to transform logistics and trade dynamics for the entire region, the officials said.

The goods shed will operate daily from 6 am to 10 pm, handling all types of goods, except petroleum products.

The officials said the key benefits include better market access for Kashmir's products such as horticulture, handicrafts, and fresh produce, and lower transportation costs for local businesses and traders.

It will also provide improved logistics and faster delivery, especially during the winter season when road transport is often disrupted, and strengthen Kashmir's economic ties with markets across the country, they said.

Op Sindoor was...

indigenous platforms played a key role in the operation, he said.

The systems deployed for the operation included Akash surface-to-air missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, the D4 anti-drone system, the AWNC airborne early warning and control system and the Akashteer system, all developed by India's defence R&D ecosystem.

Institutions such as the DIAT played a crucial role in these developments, Kamat noted.

The Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor against terrorist targets in Pakistan on May 7, following the Pahalgam attack of April 22, 2025, in which 26 people were killed.

He further said it is the next generation's job to keep this momentum going and make India a technology leader in defence technologies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call that by 2047, India should become both a developed nation and a technology leader, he said.

"We are now entering an era where the definition of warfare is rapidly expanding. Battles are no longer confined to borders or front lines. They are fought across domains -- land, air, sea, space, cyberspace, and even the electromagnetic spectrum. What does this mean for the graduating students of DIAT? It means you are no longer students of a conventional academic discipline. You are now part of India's defence capability architecture," Kamat said.

Their knowledge in quantum technologies, cybersecurity, robotics, materials engineering, missile systems, missile propulsion, and artificial intelligence has direct implications for national defence, he told the graduating DIAT students.

"You are not generalists. You are specialists trained at the intersection of science and defence technologies. Few institutions globally possess such clarity of purpose, and fewer still match the urgency and national significance of your work. As the world becomes more geopolitically unstable and as technology rapidly transforms the nature of both threats and opportunities, the burden and privilege of responsibility will fall on you," he said.

Speaking to reporters later, Kamat said among offensive weapons, BrahMos, used from Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jets, was the primary weapon during Operation Sindoor.

"When it comes to defensive weapon systems, the Akash system, the D4 anti-drone system, and the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) were used. All the sensors we deployed were networked with Akashteer, an AI-based system, which helped identify threats and then deploy the right kind of weapon to neutralise them," he said.

Radars used by the Indian armed forces performed exceedingly well, Kamat noted.

Given the current geopolitical situation, it is absolutely essential to have our own capabilities, and only then the country can take sovereign decisions, said the DRDO chief.

"It is essential that in all critical weapon systems and technologies, we should have indigenous capabilities," he said.

Asked about the increase in defence exports post Operation Sindoor, Kamat said last year India achieved about Rs 23,000 crore in defence exports.

"Post the success of Operation Sindoor, I expect these exports to double in the next two to three years. We should achieve Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, which is the target set for us by the Defence Minister. There is a lot of interest in Pinaka, ATAGS, BrahMos, and Akash. I am sure that in the coming years, defence exports will increase manifold," he said.

Countries from Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa are importing arms from India, Kamat said.

On the BrahMos-NG (Next Generation), he said it is a smaller version of BrahMos that can be fitted on multiple platforms.

"Currently, BrahMos can be fitted only on the Sukhoi platform, but if we make it smaller, it can fit on other platforms as well. We are planning to start the development of BrahMos-NG soon," he said.

During the convocation ceremony, degrees were awarded to 298 students including 206 M/Tech students, 68 MSc and 24 PhD students from various disciplines. A total of 18 gold medals were awarded to students.

2,700 kg decomposed...

Expressing serious concern over the scale of this violation, Smita Sethi, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), J&K, directed all enforcement officers across the Union Territory to maintain high vigilance.

She emphasized the importance of proactive inspections at block, district, and divisional levels to ensure compliance with the food safety laws. She further reiterated that the department's mission to curb adulteration, insanitary conditions, and other malpractices will continue with full force until such dangerous practices are completely eradicated.

The department has also issued a public advisory urging citizens to be cautious while purchasing frozen meat, chicken, and fish. It was noted that many such products in the market are often found laced with unpermitted artificial colors, which is a serious health violation.

These practices are particularly prevalent during the summer months, posing heightened health risks including food poisoning, hepatitis, cancer, and other serious illnesses.

To report any suspicious or unsafe food-related activity, the public is encouraged to contact the department's toll-free helpline at 104. The DFCO has also advised Food Business Operators (FBOs) to strictly maintain proper hygiene, cold storage conditions, and avoid the use of any unapproved food additives or coloring agents.

During the inspection, awareness was imparted to both consumers and vendors about the importance of temperature control in storing frozen products and ensuring hygienic food handling.

Reaffirming its commitment, the Drug and Food Control Organisation, Jammu, under the leadership of Commissioner Smita Sethi, assures the public that strict action will be taken against violators.

The enforcement campaign will continue vigorously, and those found guilty of endangering public health through food adulteration and negligence will be dealt with firmly under the law.

The department remains fully committed to upholding the highest standards of

food safety and public health in Jammu & Kashmir.

I accept mistake, assure to follow Govt SOPs in future: Fish dealer

JAMMU: Following a major inspection by the Food Safety Department (DFCO Jammu), over 100 kg of spoiled fish waste were reportedly recovered from a local wholesale fish supplier in the city.



Honey Bunny Fish proprietor talking to media persons after the raid.

The team visited the site under routine inspection but found unusually high quantities of decomposed material, prompting swift action.

Speaking on the matter, the owner of the fish business clarified that their core operation deals with fresh fish, and inspections by the Food Safety Department have occurred multiple times before.

"Today, a team visited, and they did their job. There is no objection to that," the owner said.

The fish seller further explained that their market is in the process of being shifted from the city to Narwal, as per official orders. Although payments for new shops at Narwal have already been made, the relocation is delayed due to a pending case in the High Court.

Meanwhile, limited space in the current facility has led to operational challenges, particularly in disposing of fish waste, which includes trimmings, bones, heads, and tails, he said.

The seller admitted that due to festive and religious observances like Raksha Bandhan and Shraavan month, fewer vehicles arrived, causing waste to accumulate.

While some of the recovered material was indeed waste, they claimed a portion of good stock also got affected. A fine of Rs 1 lakh has reportedly been imposed.

"I accept our mistake and commit to following all SOPs given by the department," the owner said, promising better waste management once shifted to the new facility. The business, operational for over 50 years under the name Honey Bunny Fish Company, expressed willingness to upgrade infrastructure and improve hygiene, requesting reasonable time and support from authorities.

CS assesses preparedness...

of these government offices.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners to work out a plan for time bound scanning of all the files relevant to the public matters so that there erupts no incoherence while discharging the official functioning in future after switching over to e-Office completely.

He also impressed upon the IT Department to complete the onboarding of remaining users on the e-Office for its rolling out without further delay. He stressed on the capacity building and training of such users for effective and efficient delivery in the offices directly involved with significant public affairs.



Secretary, IT, Dr Piyush Singla, while speaking in the meeting, highlighted numerous benefits being offered by this system. He said that it will ensure faster delivery of services and quicker decision-making thus enhancing the accountability and transparency in the system.

About the rollout process, the Secretary informed the meeting the same is being done in four phases. It began with the collection of Employee Master Data (EMD) for enabling email and VPN facilities, a task that has already been completed. This was followed by the creation of official email IDs and mapping of users in the system, alongside establishment of NICNET/VPN access to ensure remote connectivity.

During the review, it was also revealed that the initiative has achieved remarkable progress as 20,517 users have been onboarded, covering 95.28% of the target and 3,804 offices have been brought on board achieving 95.94% of the goal. A total of 20,580 government email IDs have been created and 11,375 VPN connections have been set up.

Moreover, it was divulged that the help desks are now functional in all 20 districts as well as in the Civil Secretariat and over 220 training sessions have been held for Heads of Departments, Deputy Commissioners and departmental staff to enhance their capacity and its smooth rollout in these grassroots administrative offices.

It was informed that a multi-tiered implementation team has been established at the UT, Divisional and District level to oversee the roll out. These teams have defined responsibilities to ensure coordination, technical assistance and user onboarding with administrative oversight provided by the Secretary IT at the UT level and by the District Commissioners at the district level, the meeting was apprised.

The way forward, as discussed, focuses on achieving 100% coverage through accelerated user mapping, extending VPN facilities to offices without NICNET access and instituting district-specific escalation protocols for uninterrupted e-Office functioning across J&K.

SSP Leh, SDM Nubra, IPS officer call on LG Kavinder Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: SSP Leh, Shruti Arora, accompanied by Mukul Beniwal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nubra, and Rishabh Shukla, (2023 Batch), paid a courtesy call on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, at the LG Secretariat, Leh.



During the meeting, the officers briefed the Lt Governor on various administrative and law-and-order matters concerning the district, particularly focusing on ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing public service delivery, ensuring community safety, and strengthening administrative coordination.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the officers in maintaining peace, promoting efficient governance, and fostering closer engagement with the people of Ladakh, especially in the remote and sensitive areas of the Union Territory. He urged them to continue working with dedication, professionalism, and a people-first approach to address local challenges effectively.

Women flock to security camps to tie 'rakhi' on troopers' wrists across Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Women turned up in large numbers at security camps across the Jammu region on Saturday to celebrate Raksha Bandhan festival with the security personnel.

They tied colourful 'rakhis' on the wrists of the security personnel belonging to the Army, BSF and CRPF and expressed gratitude to them for their efforts to safeguard the borders of the country.

The occasion, symbolising the bond of protection and mutual respect, brought festive cheer to the camps and strengthened the emotional connect between civilians and the forces, including those deployed near the Line of Control and International Border, officials said.

The visitors prayed for the safety of the security personnel, who expressed their appreciation for the warmth and affection shown by the local communities.

A defence spokesman said the soldiers celebrated Raksha Bandhan with local women and school children at various places, including Kalakote and Akhnoor near the LoC in Rajouri and Jammu districts.

The event was marked by the tying of rakhis by girl students and women on the wrists of Army personnel, who gave them sweets and other presents as tokens of appreciation, he said.

He said the event aimed to promote emotional connection, cultural integration and reinforce the trust and affection between the Army and the local population.

The smiling faces, heartfelt interactions and shared festive moments truly reflected the deep affection and respect between the soldiers and the community they serve, the spokesman said, adding the event highlighted the importance of community engagement and social cohesion.