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PAHALGAM PAYBACK FOR PAKISTAN

70 terrorists killed, 60 wounded in India's early-morning precision strikes that destroyed 9 JeM and LeT bases within PoK and Pakistan territory

strong retaliation to the Pahalgam massacre, India's armed forces early Wednesday destroyed nine terror sites including that of Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan and Pakistan-oc-

cupied Kashmir (PoK) using deep strike missiles in a 25-minute-long "measured and non-escalatory" mission.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India decided to carry out the "proportionate" strikes to bring the perpetrators and planners of the Pahalgam attack to justice as there was "no demonstrable step" from Pakistan to act against terrorist infrastructure on territories under its control. It was for the first time since the 1971 Indo-Pak war that India carried out an aerial attack deep inside Punjab province of Pakistan.

Fifteen days after the Pahalgam carnage on April 22, the targets for the military response codenamed 'Operation Sindoor' included the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) stronghold of Baha-



PTI, NEW DELHI: In a walpur in Punjab province strong retaliation to the that is located at over 100 km from the Indian border.

JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar acknowledged that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack.

Defence Minister Rainath



A site of Indian armed forces' strike in Muridke in Pakistan, on Wednesday

Singh said India's military scripted "history" by acting with "precision, precaution and compassion" in destroying the terror camps. Singh further said India used its "right to respond" to the Pahalgam attack and that the targets were destroyed as per plan.

Official sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was monitoring the operation closely through the night. Later at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, he hailed the Indian armed forces for carrying out the successful targeted strikes at the terror camps.

Under 'Operation Sindoor', the Indian military targeted Markaz Taiba of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Muridke, Markaz Subhan Allah of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Bahawalpur and Hizbul Mujahideen's Mehmoona Joya Facility in Sialkot and LeT's base in Markaz Ahle Hadith in Barnala and its camp in Muzaffarabad's Shawai Na-

lla, military officials said. Muridke, located a short distance from Lahore, is home to a sprawling 'markaz' or base of the LeT.

Indian officials said the strikes on all nine targets including Bahawalpur and Muridke were successful. It is learnt that an array of weapons including Scalp deep-strike cruise missiles, the Hammer smart weapon system and guided bomb kits were used in striking the terror

The operation was conducted from 1:05 am to 1:30 am and all the targets were neu-

tralised with clinical efficiency, two women officers - Col Sophia Qureshi of the Army's Corps of Signals, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, a helicopter pilot of the IAF, said at a media briefing alongside Misri.

Around 15 minutes after the operation ended, the defence ministry said in a statement at 1.44 am: "A little while ago, the Indian Armed forces launched 'Operation Sindoor' hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed."

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Locals stand on the debris of destroyed structures in Muridke, about 30 kilometres from Lahore, on Wednesday

24 precision strikes launched by Indian armed forces

am on Wednesday was when coordinated strikes started

terror locations targeted in Pakistan and PoK including Muridke and Bahawalpur, strongholds of Lashkar-e-Taiba and

TARGETING TERROR HUBS

Jaish-e-Mohammed

70 terrorists killed and 60 wounded in the strikes

Ofamily members and 4
aides of JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar killed

13 Indian civilians killed by Pakistani artillery fire in J&K

350 Indian civilians have succumbed to cross-border terrorism, and 800 injured in violence over the last decade

civilians were killed in a 26 savage attack by Pakistan terrorists on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam, which prompted India to retaliate

WHY INDIA NAMED THE **OPERATION 'SINDOOR'**

The name Operation Sindoor draws symbolically from sindoor—the red vermilion traditionally worn by married Hindu women. Reportedly chosen by the Prime Minister himself, the name carries a poignant message: to avenge the brutal act that left innocent women widowed and to honor their grief. During the Pahalgam terror attack, the assailants specifically targeted men, executing them while sparing others. In response, India launched a precision strike designed to deliver a decisive message: those responsible would be held accountable.

25 AIRPORTS SHUT; OVER 300 FLIGHTS CANCELLED



ore than 300 flights were can-celled and 25 airports, including Srinagar, Jammu, and Amritsar, were temporarily shut following Indian airstrikes on terror targets in Pakistan. Airlines such as Air India, IndiGo, Spice-Jet, Akasa Air, and several international carriers suspended services. IndiGo cancelled over 165 flights and Air India/ Air India Express cancelled about 140. Affected passengers were offered rescheduling waivers or full refunds.

PUNJAB VILLAGERS MOVE TO SAFE AREAS

n Punjab's Ferozepur district, residents from several villages near the border began relocating to safer areas amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. Panic buying of essentials was reported in Amritsar and Batala, with long queues at shops and fuel stations. Villages affected include Tendi Wala, Kalu Wala, Gatti Rajo Ke, and Jallo Ke, although no official evacuation had been announced by authorities.

13 killed, over 50 injured in Pak shelling along LoC in J-K

Poonch worst hit; hundreds evacuated to bunkers

PTI, JAMMU/SRINAGAR: At against terror infrastructure least 13 people, including four children and a soldier, were killed and 57 injured as the Pakistan Army carried out one of the most intense artillery and mortar shelling in years targeting forward villages along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir after the Indian missile strikes

in the neighbouring country and PoK, officials said on Wednesday.

Hundreds of residents were forced to take refuge in underground bunkers or shift to safer places as the indiscriminate shelling by Pakistan destroyed houses, vehicles and

various buildings, including a Gurdwara.

The strikes created panic among the border residents in the worst-hit Poonch district and Rajouri in Jammu region and Baramulla and Kupwara in north Kashmir.

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Mock drills test civil defence across Goa

Exercise assesses aerial assault scenarios, mass casualty mgmt



Civilians take part in a drill conducted as a part of the nationwide civil defence exercise in Panjim, on Wednesday

Team Herald

PANJIM/MARGAO: As India opened its battlefront with Pakistan, mock drills were held across Goa on Wednesday as part of Operation Abhyaas, the nationwide civil defence exercise in anticipation of wartime emergencies.

The full-scale simulation, conducted simultaneously in North

and South Goa, involved multiple government deterial containment, mass management, and blackout protocols.

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partments, emergency responders, and civilian volunteers. Designed to test the State's preparedness for coordinated hostile attacks, the drill encompassed aerial assault scenarios, hazardous ma-

Conclave to select next pope begins

AGENCY, VATICAN CITY, HOLY SEE: One hundred and thirty-three cardinals from around the world have filed into the Sistine Chapel to the strains of a choir backed by organ music, and the doors sealed behind them. The papal conclave — a centuries-old tradition to elect a new head of the Catholic Church — began on Wednesday.

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Indian forces' tech prowess on display

Retired officers in Goa say India's ability to strike from within its territory using long-range weapons with precision will now worry Pakistan

SHASHWAT GUPTA RAY

PANIIM: By hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan from Indian territory using high-precision long-range weapons, Operation Sindoor has signalled Indian military's growing technological prowess and its ability to strike deep inside enemy territory with minimal collateral damage, said defence experts based in Goa. After crossing the Line

of Control (LoC) twice to avenge the terrorist attacks in Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019), Pakistan was perhaps waiting for another similar action from India. But instead of crossing the LoC for the third time, India avenged the Pahalgam terror attacks using the SCALP cruise missile, the HAMMER precision-guided bomb, and loitering munitions — showing our precision-strike capabilities.

"In response to Uri and Pulwama terror attacks, although we breached the LoC, it did not establish deterrence because Pakistan has continued with cross-border terrorism. So deterrence was not established. With this operation, we have sent a message that technologically we have now reached the stage where we can engage the

With this operation, we have sent a message that technologically we have now reached the stage where we can engage the enemy from standoff range (designated safe distance from an explosive device or hazardous area to minimise the risk of injury to soldiers). Pakistan will be worried now

- Admiral (retd) Arun Prakash (VrC), ex-Navy chief

It is a diplomatic victory for us as not a single ally of India has adversely reacted to the operations. This also shows the growing isolation of Pakistan, especially after the heinous killings of innocent civilians in Pahalgam by terrorists

Col (retd) Balakrishna Shirodkar

Our message to Pakistan is very clear. We won't let anyone use their soil for terrorism against India. But at the same time, by not attacking any military or civilian installation, we have strongly signalled that we don't want to escalate the situation

- Lt Col (retd) Austin Collaco

Pakistan will retaliate and the army won't sit quietly. Since we have demonstrated our ability to strike deep inside enemy territory with high precision and without causing collateral damage, such action should be repeated at regular intervals for eliminating the entire terror network inside Pakistan

Lt Col (retd) M K Gupta Ray

enemy from standoff range (designated safe distance from an explosive device or hazardous area to minimise the risk of injury to soldiers). Pakistan will be worried now," Admiral Arun Prakash said.

He said that the ball

was in the Pakistan army's court. It could either accept that India had outsmarted them and it was time to shut the terror tap or continue to face the music for every future misadventure.

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