



A hen being treated at an animal field hospital for hens, goats, cows and dogs opened by the ITBP in a Naxal affected region of Chhattisgarh



Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis during the 'Kisan Sammelan', in Nagpur



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy during a meeting with Nobel laureate economist Prof Abhijit Banerjee, in Hyderabad



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets Vice President Jagdeep Thakur at Vice-President's Enclave in New Delhi

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People visit an art exhibition during the 'Dastan-e-Meena Kumari aur Madhubala' event at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, on Sunday

Five children among eight drown in separate incidents in UP

LUCKNOW/GONDA/SHAMLI (UP): Eight persons, including five children, drowned in separate incidents in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda and Shamli and Lucknow districts on Sunday, police said. In Gonda, Nigam alias Raja Babu (9), Rajan (10) and Ram (10) drowned while taking bath in a pond in Aheth village. Additional SP Radheshyam Rai said. Sub divisional Magistrate Bharat Bhargava said that Rs 4 lakh financial assistance will be provided to the family of each of the victims. In Shamli, Anuj (18) and his friend Vishal (16) drowned in a canal at Lilon village in the city police station area. SHO Virender Kasana said the bodies were recovered with the help of locals. In Lucknow's Thakurganj area, three friends - Hamza (18), Ejaz (17) and Shami (24) - who had gone to Gaila ghat to take bath in Gomti river drowned after slipping into deep waters, police said. There bodies were later taken out of the river with the help of locals.

Eight members of two families die in Maharashtra textile unit fire

MUMBAI: Eight members of two families, including a toddler, died in a devastating fire that raged through a textile factory for almost 13 hours in Maharashtra's Solapur district on Sunday, officials said. Three Fire Brigade personnel were injured during firefighting, which stretched till 8 pm, involving 100 water tankers, fire tenders, and several personnel of different fire brigades. Prima facie, a short in the circuit triggered the blaze around 3:45 am at Central Textile Mills situated in the Akalkot Road in Solapur MIDC, around 400 km from Mumbai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the

# Operation Sindoor showcased tri-services synergy: MoD

PTI, NEW DELHI: India's national security architecture has demonstrated the strength of convergence and strategic foresight during Operation Sindoor, the defence ministry said on Sunday.

Throwing light on Operation Sindoor, the defence ministry said India's action in response to the Pahalgam attack was based on "meticulous planning and an intelligence-led approach".

In the aftermath of the operation, Pakistan initiated a series of retaliatory attacks targeting key Indian airbases and logistics infrastructure. These attempts, however, were effectively neutralised by India's comprehensive and multilayered air defence architecture, the ministry said.

"Central to this success was the Integrated Command and Control Strategy (ICCS), which facilitated real-time threat identification, assessment, and interception across multiple domains," it said in a statement.

"In every single domain of Operation Sindoor there was operational synergy between the forces and fully supported by the government, agencies and departments," the statement said.

The ministry said the operation "unfolded across land, air, and sea — a seamless demonstration of synergy between the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy."

It said the Indian Air Force (IAF) played a crucial role in delivering precision strikes against terror infrastructure across Pakistan.

The IAF conducted high-impact air operations on targets such as the Nur Khan air base and the Rahimyar Khan air base, it said.

The ministry said air force's robust air defence environment

INTERGRADED DEFENCE APPROACH

Operated under the Integrated Command and Control Strategy (ICCS)

Enabled real-time threat assessment and interception

Based on intelligence-led planning

**Indian Air Force**  
 Conducted high-impact precision air strikes on terror targets  
 Used Akash missiles, Pechora, and OSA-AK systems in a layered air defence grid  
 Neutralised Pakistani drone and UAV incursions



**Indian Army**  
 Played offensive and defensive roles  
 Army's air defence units successfully countered Pakistani drone and loitering munition attacks

**Indian Navy**  
 Ensured maritime dominance with Carrier Battle Group (CBG) deployment  
 Used MiG-29K jets and airborne early warning helicopters for 24/7 surveillance  
 Prevented aerial incursions from Pakistan's Makran coast  
 Bottled-up Pakistani air elements along the western seaboard, creating a strong deterrent

proved pivotal in protecting Indian airspace during retaliatory drone and UAV attacks from across the border.

"The indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile system and legacy platforms like the Pechora and OSA-AK were deployed effectively in a layered defence grid," it said.

The IAF's integrated air command and control system enabled real-time coordination of air assets, allowing Indian forces to neutralize aerial threats efficiently and maintain net-centric operations throughout the conflict, it added.

Simultaneously, the Indian Army demonstrated its preparedness and effectiveness in both defensive and

offensive roles, it said.

The Army's air defence units worked in tandem with the air force, deploying a wide array of systems, the ministry said, adding these units were instrumental in countering waves of drones and loitering munitions launched by Pakistan.

"The Indian Navy played a critical role in asserting maritime dominance during Operation Sindoor. Operating as a composite networked force, the Navy deployed its Carrier Battle Group (CBG) equipped with MiG-29K fighter jets and airborne early warning helicopters. This ensured persistent surveillance and real-time identification of threats across the maritime domain," it said.

"The CBG maintained a powerful air defence shield that prevented hostile aerial incursions, especially from the Makran coast," the ministry said.

It said the Navy's presence created a strong deterrent and effectively bottled-up Pakistani air elements along their western seaboard, denying them any operational space.

"Naval pilots conducted round-the-clock sorties, further demonstrating India's readiness and strategic reach in the region," it said.

"The Navy's ability to establish uncontested control over the seas also validated its anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence capabilities in a complex threat environment," the ministry added.

Poonch: Over 42 unexploded shells destroyed

PTI, JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday destroyed 42 unexploded shells in different forward villages near the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in a major operation to clear civilian areas following a military confrontation between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Indian Army, in close coordination with local police authorities, successfully conducted a controlled operation for the safe destruction of 42 unexploded ordnances in the border areas of Jhullas, Salotri, Dharati and Salani, a defence spokesperson said.

He said these shells, remnants of recent cross-border shelling, posed a serious threat to the lives and safety of local residents.

Indian Army engineers have launched a sweeping clearance operation across border districts, defusing over 80 unexploded shells in the past five days — including 6 in Pargwal, 19 in Rajouri, 42 in Poonch, and 12 along the IB.

The operation in Poonch was carried out with utmost precision, adhering to all standard safety protocols to prevent any risk to civilian life or property, the spokesperson said.

He said the bomb disposal teams from the Indian Army, in coordination with police, ensured the complete neutralisation of all explosive remnants.

This effort reflects the organisation's continued commitment to safeguarding civilian populations in conflict-affected zones, he said.

## Congress accuses govt of politicising diplomatic outreach

PTI, NEW DELHI: With just one of its four nominated leaders being accommodated in the diplomatic outreach delegations, the Congress on Saturday said it proves the "complete insincerity" of the Narendra Modi government and shows the "cheap political games" it plays on serious national issues.

The opposition party, however, said the four eminent Congress MPs/leaders who have been included at the instance of the Modi government will go with the delegations and make their contributions.

Most regrettably, only one of the four names suggested by the INC leadership has been included. This proves the complete insincerity of the Modi government and shows the cheap political games it always plays on serious national issues

— Jairam Ramesh, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications

The Congress had nominated Anand Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain, and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

Of the four, only Sharma has been included in the seven delegations that will be visiting various countries.

Four Congress leaders —

Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh and Salman Khurshid — who were not part of the list forwarded by the Congress have been included in the delegations by the government.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said, "On May 16th morning, the Modi government asked for four names of Congress MPs/leaders to represent the Congress in the delegations being sent abroad to explain India's stance on terrorism from Pakistan."

These four names were conveyed in writing by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, by 12 noon on May 16, Ramesh said in a statement.

"Very late tonight (May 17th), the full list of members of all delegations has been officially released. Most regrettably, only one of the four names suggested by the INC leadership has been included," he said.

"This proves the complete insincerity of the Modi government and shows the cheap political games it always plays on serious national issues," Ramesh said.

The four eminent Congress MPs/leaders who have been included at the instance of the Modi government will, of course, go with the delegations and make their contributions, he said.

## Faulty PSLV fails to deliver earth observation satellite in orbit

PTI, SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH): ISRO on Sunday failed to put its earth observation satellite in orbit after its trusted PSLV rocket developed a fault minutes after launch from the spaceport here.

In ISRO's 101<sup>st</sup> mission from the spaceport here, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61) had a text-book lift off at 5:59 am, only to experience an anomaly in a little after six minutes into the flight.

"Today we targeted the 101<sup>st</sup> launch from Sriharikota, the PSLV-C61 EOS-09 mission. The PSLV is a four-stage vehicle and second-stage performance was quite normal. The third stage's motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the stage, we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished," ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said.

He said there was a fall in the chamber pressure of the motor case and the mission could not be accomplished. "We are studying the entire performance, we shall come back at the earliest," Narayanan said post the unsuccessful launch.

This was the third failure of the PSLV, ISRO's trusted warhorse rocket that launched the Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Mission. The PSLV has had 63 launches so far. The previous failures were in 1993, the inaugural flight of the PSLV, and in 2017 when it did not succeed in putting in orbit a navigation satellite.

In January, ISRO's navigation satellite NVS-02 encountered a failure after being put in orbit by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The satellite, meant to be placed in a geostationary orbit, is operating from an elliptical orbit at present.

On Sunday, post lift-off, the PSLV C61 flight was tracked from the Mission Control Centre and other units of ISRO located in



The third stage's motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the stage, we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished. After analysis, we shall come back

— V Narayanan, ISRO Chairman

various parts of the country. According to the data shared by ISRO, the PS1 (first stage) separation was scheduled for 111.64 seconds after lift-off, but it was achieved at 110 seconds.

Further, the second stage ignition of the rocket was targeted to be achieved at 111.84 seconds, but the process occurred at 110.2 seconds leaving a marginal difference.

Similarly, the PS2 (second stage) separation was targeted at 264.34 seconds but it took place at 261.8 seconds.

Although things were proceeding on expected lines, as understood by the regular announcements by the scientists over the progress of the mission, it was after reaching the third stage that a glitch surfaced.

## Widespread corruption in ED: Kerala LoP Satheesan, CPI(M)

PTI, KOCHI: Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan and the ruling CPI(M) on Sunday alleged that there was widespread corruption in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and that it was being used to target political rivals of the Centre and extort money from honest businessmen.

Satheesan alleged that a huge percentage of ED officials were "corrupt" and the agency was not doing the work it was created for, instead it was being used as a tool to attack political opponents of the Centre.

Satheesan's allegations came in response to reporters' queries about a senior ED official being booked by the Kerala Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) in a corruption case recently.

A similar allegation was made by the CPI(M) state secretariat, which claimed that the ED was taking bribes to settle cases.

The CPI(M) also alleged that there were several complaints, including from priests. The Left party claimed all this was the "bitter consequence" of the BJP using the agency to target political rivals, instead of investigating and catching those involved in black money transactions.

## More than 350 insurgents nabbed in Manipur

### Accused of extortion targeting marriage, property disputes

PTI, IMPHAL/NEW DELHI: Security forces in Manipur have arrested more than 350 insurgents during intensified crackdown on extortion rackets that have taken an unusual turn, with groups mainly from the Valley now demanding money to resolve matrimonial disputes, along with traditional targets like property and "cuts" in government tenders, officials said on Sunday.

These insurgents were picked from mid-February this year after the imposition of President's rule in the state. A clear instruction has been issued by the governor's administration to the general public to report any extortion attempts to the police or face legal consequences for aiding insurgents.

The officials said that investigations against the more than 350 people arrested in the crackdown indicate that insurgent groups, feeling the pressure from security forces post-President's rule, are becoming more desperate for funds and more brazen in their methods.

The majority of insurgents have been nabbed from Imphal East, followed by Imphal West in the valley.

It's just about money, and for that, they settle personal scores, family feuds and even matrimonial disputes. If you have a problem, and you have the right connections, they become your 'solution' but for a price, of course, the officials said.

Recently, a person code-named 'Tiger' was picked up from Imphal East by Manipur police while he was busy settling a matrimonial dispute with family members of a bride and groom, the officials said.

Later, he was identified as Laishram Ramesh Singh, belonging to the banned United National Liberation Front (UNLF). During preliminary verification, he told the police that he joined the organisation in September 2024 and is presently working in its "finance section".

The officials claimed that he confessed to being involved in extortion activities by serving monetary demands and threats.

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