

## DEFENCE CHIEF ADMITS INDIA LOST AIRCRAFT IN OP SINDOOR

Asserts India carried out precision strikes inside Pak; says Islamabad claim of downing six jets 'absolutely incorrect'

"I think what is important is not the jet being downed but why they were being downed... So the good part is that we were able to understand the tactical mistakes which we made, remedy it, rectify it and then implement it again after two days and flew all our jets again targeting at long range"

— Gen Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff

"In the wake of the remarks made by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in Singapore in an interview, there are some very important questions that need to be asked. These can only be done if a special session of the Parliament is immediately convened... The Modi Government has misled the nation. The fog of war is now clearing"

— Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President, on X

PTI, SINGAPORE/NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Saturday acknowledged losses of aircraft in India's recent military hostilities with Pakistan but dismissed as "absolutely incorrect" Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian fighter jets.

Gen Chauhan, in an interview to Bloomberg TV, asserted it is more important to find out why the aircraft were lost and that the Indian military hit back after rectifying the issues.

The Chief of Defence Staff declined to specify the losses in terms of numbers but clearly pointed out to the fact that the Indian military carried out high-precision strikes

deep inside Pakistani territory.

The comments by the top military officer are the Indian military's first clear acknowledgement of losses in the four-day military clashes with the neighbouring country.

"I think what is important is not the jet being downed but why they were being downed," Gen Chauhan, currently on a visit to Singapore, said.

Gen Chauhan was asked whether India lost combat jets during the four-day military clashes with Pakistan earlier this month.

"So the good part is that we were able to understand the tactical mistakes which we made, remedy it, rectify it and then implement it

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again after two days and flew all our jets again targeting at long range," he said. "Absolutely incorrect," he said when asked about Pakistan's claim of

shooting down six Indian jets during Operation Sindoor.

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## 10 days after filing complaint against Taleigao MLA, Cecille now faces FIR

AAP pursuing legal remedies including approaching the State Police Complaints Authority and High Court

Team Herald

PANJIM: It's been 10 days since Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) member and activist Cecille Rodrigues had filed a complaint demanding an FIR against Taleigao MLA Jennifer Monserrate, Taleigao panchayat member Sidney Barreto, and others, in connection with the alleged assault on her at Odxel, Taleigao, on the night of May 21, but the Panjim Police have instead registered an FIR against the activist and two others.

On Saturday the AAP members marched to the Panjim Police Station, seeking immediate closure of the FIR filed against member Cecille Rodrigues and two others and demanded that an FIR against Taleigao MLA, Taleigao panchayat member Sidney Barreto, and others, based on their complaint dated May 21, 2025 be registered immediately.

Cecille had filed a complaint against the local MLA, panchayat member, builders Sadique Shaikh and Mudit Gupta and others in connection with the alleged assault on her at Odxel, Taleigao, on the night of May 21.

The AAP members along with activists were in a rude shock on Saturday as they realised that the Panjim Police had already registered FIR against Cecille, AAP secretary

"When we had come to the police on May 23, we were told that the police were busy due to the visit of the Vice President of India. But police had time to register an FIR against Cecille and two others"

— Adv Amit Palekar, AAP State president

"On the contrary, the police registered an FIR against us based on counter-allegation to implicate us as offenders. The FIR is a politically motivated and selective exercise of police power"

— Cecille Rodrigues, activist

Francis Coelho and Rui Menezes on May 21 even as Cecille had filed her complaint the same day.

AAP State president Adv Amit Palekar demanded to know why the complaint filed by Cecille against Jennifer, Sidney and others was not even registered 10 days later, and instead a counter FIR has been lodged against them.

Officiating Panjim PI Anant Gaonkar sought three days' time to inform them about the police action.

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## SLOW AND STEADY



A man pulls his rickshaw as he wades through a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall, in Guwahati, Assam, on Saturday

## Covid cases in India cross 3k

PTI, NEW DELHI: The number of active COVID-19 cases in India has crossed 3,000, with Kerala accounting for the highest at 1,336, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi, Union health ministry data released on Saturday showed.

According to the data, four deaths — one each in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours.

Official sources said the COVID-19 situation in India is being closely monitored.

The severity of infections is low, with most of the patients under home care. There is no reason to worry, the sources said.

There were 257 active cases in the country on May 22. The figure rose to 1,010 by May 26 and reached 3,395 on Saturday. In the last 24 hours, 685 new cases have been reported and four people have died, according to the data.

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## Valmik Thapar, greatest friend to India's tigers, is no more

PTI, NEW DELHI: Valmik Thapar, one of India's most eminent wildlife conservationists and authors, died at his residence Saturday morning. He was 73.

Born in New Delhi in 1952, Thapar dedicated his life to the study and conservation of wild tigers, especially in Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park.

He co-founded the Ranthambore Foundation in 1988, a non-governmental organisation focused on community-based conservation efforts.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh termed his death a great loss.

"Today's Ranthambore, particularly, is a testimony to his deep commitment and indefatigable zeal. He



was uncommonly knowledgeable on a variety of issues relating to biodiversity, and not a day passed during my Ministerial tenure without our talking to each other, with me almost always at the receiving end," Ramesh posted on X.

He said that during his tenure as chairman of the Standing Committee, Thap-

ar was a constant source of valuable suggestions and advice.

Thapar's father, Romesh Thapar, was a well-known journalist. His aunt is historian Romila Thapar, and his cousin, journalist Karan Thapar.

He studied at The Doon School and later graduated with a gold medal in sociology from St Stephen's College, Delhi University.

Thapar married theatre artist Sanjana Kapoor, daughter of actor Shashi Kapoor, and they have a son.

Thapar was mentored by Fateh Singh Rathore, a legendary figure in Indian conservation and a key member of the original Project Tiger team.

Over his five-decade-long

career, Thapar strongly lobbied for tougher anti-poaching rules and efforts to protect tiger habitats.

He was part of more than 150 government panels and task forces, including the National Board for Wildlife, which is led by the prime minister.

In 2005, Thapar was appointed a member of the Tiger Task Force, set up by the UPA government to review the management of tiger reserves following the disappearance of tigers from Sariska Tiger Reserve.

When the task force, chaired by environmentalist Sunita Narain, concluded its report, Thapar submitted a dissent note.

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