

# Global outreach teams to justify Indus treaty stand

## 'Terror From Pak Hits India's Water Share', MPs Told

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New Delhi: The all-party delegations headed to different parts of the world as part of the outreach post-Operation Sindoor will apprise foreign capitals of the 'new normal' in India's approach to Pakistan's use of terrorism, including the decision to pause the Indus Waters Treaty.

In a briefing to members of three delegations, foreign secretary Vikram Misri is learnt to have said that Pakistan's nuclear blackmail would no longer allow terrorists to work with impunity and that the military establishment would pay a heavy price for any at-

### KHURSHID BACKS GOVT ON 'PAUSE'

> Cong veteran **Salman Khurshid** breaks from party line, says there was no third party mediation between India and Pak, hostilities paused after DGMO-level talks



(small war) with Pakistan. BJP calls it insult to forces

> 'Utterly shocking, untrue': Golden Temple authorities deny claim that air defence weaponry was allowed to be deployed on premises. Army too denies it



> MP **Abhishek Banerjee** to represent Trinamool

Cong in all-party delegations after Yusuf Pathan opts out

> Cong chief **Kharge** says govt doing 'chhutput yudh'

> U'khand madrasa board & state's waqf board propose to include chapter on Op Sindoor in syllabus of madrassas

tempt to carry out attacks in India through its terror proxies. "Operation Sindoor is our new normal," a source quoted Misri as saying, showing that the anti-terror doctrine spelt out by PM Modi at Adampur on May 13 has quickly been baked into foreign policy.

Misri is also learnt to have said India could not adhere to the existing terms of IWT.

"The treaty was negotiated on the assumption of good neighbourliness... It has been belied by Pakistan's use of terrorism because of which we have not been able to realise even the share, inadequate as it was, allocated to us," one of the members of the delegation led by JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha told TOI.

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## Pak army chief Munir made Field Marshal

Islamabad: The Shehbaz Sharif govt in Pakistan on Tuesday promoted army chief Syed Asim Munir from general to the five-star rank of Field Marshal in recognition of

► LeT co-founder in Lahore hospital, **FLAP OPP**

► **EDIT PAGE:** The Field Marshal In His Labyrinth

what it described as "exemplary leadership" while responding to India's Operation Sindoor and bringing "great honour to our motherland", reports Omer Farooq Khan.

Munir is only the second Pakistani army chief, after Ayub Khan (in 1959), to be elevated to the top rank.

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# T-72 tanks added heft to firepower along LoC

Naseer Ganai & Saniay Khajuria

**Srinagar/Jammu:** India deployed T-72 tanks along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor sector of J&K during Op Sindoor, with armoured firepower, air defence precision, and artillery coordination delivering a strong response to Pakistan's aggression, a senior Army officer said Tuesday.

"T-72s are integral. Fitted with 125mm guns and missile capability up to 4,000m, they were moved in as part of joint force deployment," he said. T-72s remain stationed alongside BMP-2 armoured vehicles to seal infiltration routes.

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24x7 vigil along LoC continues

"If challenged again, we'll respond not with words, but with fire and the nation's resolve," Poonch Brigade Commander Brig Mudit Mahajan said.

► **Related report, P 12**



ral hours for the Israeli

# EU, Britain slap new sanctions on Russia without US, target Russia's 'shadow fleet'

**Brussels/London:** The EU and Britain announced new sanctions against Russia on Tuesday without waiting for the United States to join them, a day after President Donald Trump's phone call with Vladimir Putin failed to elicit a promise for a ceasefire in Ukraine.

London and Brussels said their new measures would zero in on Moscow's "shadow fleet" of oil tankers and financial companies that have helped it avoid the impact of other sanctions imposed over the war.

"Sanctions matter, and I am grateful to everyone who makes them more tangible for the perpetrators of the war," Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on Telegram.



Zelensky also accused Russia of playing for time to be able to continue the war in Ukraine and its occupation of Ukrainian territory

The sanctions were unveiled without an immediate announcement of corresponding steps from Washington, despite intense public lobbying from leaders of European countries for the Trump administration to join them. "We have repeatedly made it clear that we expect one thing from Russia —

an immediate ceasefire without preconditions," German foreign minister Johann Wadepuhl said on the sidelines of a meeting with his EU counterparts in Brussels. As Russia had not accepted a ceasefire, "we will have to react," he said. "We also expect our US allies not to tolerate this."

Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he was deliberating over what actions to take, but gave no further detail.

"We're looking at a lot of things, but we'll see," Trump said as he left a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Russia and Ukraine held their first direct talks in more than three years on Friday at Trump's behest, but failed to

agree a truce after Moscow presented conditions that a member of the Ukrainian delegation called "non-starters".

Ukraine says it is ready for an immediate ceasefire proposed by Trump, while Russia says it wants talks first. The Europeans say this is proof that Putin, who started the war by invading his neighbour in 2022, is not prepared to end it. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said she had spoken to Zelensky and that a further package of sanctions was being prepared.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters that Russia would never bow to what she called ultimatums. REUTERS



# Baloch human rights body blasts Pak Govt for Pashtun 'genocide' in Waziristan

QUETTA, May 20 (IANS)

THE Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), a human rights body of Balochistan, on Tuesday strongly condemned Pashtun "genocide" by the Pakistan Government in Waziristan, highlighting the drone attacks on civilian homes and the brutal massacre of children.

"We strongly condemn the drone strikes on civilian homes, the brutal massacre of children and the Pashtun genocide in North Waziristan. The Pashtun land has been subjected to state repression, violence and military

nation, the government is pursuing a policy of systematic genocide against the Pashtun people, adding that in the same vein, state brutality and violence continue in Pashtun lands.

"Today, not only the Baloch and Pashtun nations, but also the oppressed nationalities of the entire region are facing the worst state repression, enforced disappearances of political leaders, extrajudicial killings, and ongoing military brutality through so-called operations. Mortar shelling and drone strikes on civilian populations have become routine operations,



brutality for the past several decades. We consider this a clear and systematic Pashtun genocide without any interpretation or vague explanation," read a statement issued by the BYC.

Drawing parallel with the condition in Balochistan, the BYC stated that just as the Baloch

which are a clear violation of human rights," the statement added. The BYC urged that all oppressed nations must unite and struggle against state oppression and barbarity. It is only through joint resistance and popular power that this oppressive system can be defeated.



# India, Germany pledge to fight terror in all its forms

PM, Merz Vow  
To Boost  
Bilateral Ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi congratulated German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on his assuming office, while



also exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The

leaders reiterated their shared commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms, said an Indian readout. Modi said in a post on X they stood united in the fight against terrorism.

The leaders agreed to work closely to further strengthen bilateral ties, including in areas of trade and

**India, Pak DGMOs hold 'routine' hotline talks**

**New Delhi:** India and Pakistan on Tuesday held their weekly hotline talks between the offices of the rival directors general of military operations, with reports from Islamabad indicating that both sides agreed to withdraw troop reinforcements that had been forward-deployed along the western sector.

There was, however, no official statement from Indian Army. One officer described it as "routine" talks that take place between middle-rung officers through the DGMO hotline every Tuesday.

Reports from Pakistan said it had been agreed that the additional troops deployed by the two armies on the frontier will be withdrawn to the "pre-conflict positions" by the end of May.

investment, defence and security, and innovation and tech.

The talks came in the middle of efforts by India to step up engagement with Europe, with foreign minister S Jaishankar on a three-nation visit to the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. An all-party delegation is also expected to soon visit several countries in Europe to draw attention to Pakistan's terror infrastructure and its persistent use against India that led to the launch of Operation Sindoor

by India to take out terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK. Jaishankar called on the Netherlands' PM Dick Schoof and thanked him for his country's "firm and resolute" stance against terror.

Out of the seven all-party delegations that have been formed, two will travel to Europe. The first group will travel to Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium and the UK starting May 25 and another group will visit Spain, Greece, Latvia and Slovenia.



# Military infra at PoK's Leepa Valley **DECIMATED:** Army officials

TANGDHAR, May 20 (PTI)

THE Chinara Corps of the Indian Army has completely destroyed military infrastructure at Leepa Valley in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said.

Indian Army officials estimate that it will take Pakistan 8-12 months to rebuild the infrastructure.

During a visit by PTI to the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar, a forward village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the destruction of Pakistani military infrastructure, resulting from Indian Army's response to ceasefire violations in the second week of May during Operation Sindoor, was evi-



dent. "We completely destroyed at least three posts, an ammunition depot, fuel storage facility, and gunnery, among other targets. Our retaliation was so devastating that it will take Pakistan at least 8-12 months to rebuild, possibly longer," a senior Indian Army official told PTI.

Another official said that the Pakistan Army employed heavy weaponry, including aerial plat-

forms, to target Indian positions but failed to inflict any damage.

"Our indigenously-developed Akashdeep radar system performed brilliantly while our air defence guns neutralised their aerial platforms. Our military infrastructure remains intact, while the enemy's has been decimated," the second official said.

The officials noted that several vacant military structures were present in Leepa Valley but the Indian Army targeted only those where maximum damage could be inflicted. The officials said at least 64 Pakistani military personnel were killed and 96 injured by the Chinara Corps during the retaliatory strikes in the second week of May.



# IB chief Tapan Deka gets another year's extension

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Intelligence Bureau (IB) director Tapan Kumar Deka was on Tuesday granted a second one-year extension, which will make him the longest serving head of the domestic intelligence agency since the IB chief's tenure was fixed at two years in 2005.

Deka's fourth year at the Intelligence Bureau's helm comes in the wake of the success of Operation Sindoor, undertaken by the armed forces in retaliation to the killing of 26 civilians in a terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam on April 22. Nine terror bases in PoK and deep inside Pakistan were hit under the operation and it eventually saw the armed forces strike Pakistan's key military assets, including an air defence system in Lahore and the Nur Khan airbase in Rawalpindi.

Deka, 62, is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. A counter-terrorism expert, he was appointed IB director in June 2022, and granted a year's extension upon completion of his two-year tenure in June 2024. On Tuesday, the



Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved yet another one-year extension beyond June 30, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The extension was granted in relaxation of the provisions of Fundamental Rule 56(d)—which bars extension in service beyond 60 years of age—and as per Rule 16 (1A) of the All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, which grants the Centre power to extend the service of specified high-ranking officials "in the public interest".

Earlier, his predecessors Rajiv Jain and Arvind Kumar were granted six-month and one-year extensions, respectively, beyond their fixed terms. Known as an 'operations man' in the intel-

**Deka's fourth year at IB's helm follows the success of Operation Sindoor, undertaken by the armed forces in retaliation to the killing of 26 civilians in a terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam on April 22**

ligence fraternity, Deka is considered an expert in 'operations' in Jammu & Kashmir as well as in the north-east region of the country.

Deka was in charge of the counter-assaults during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. With a rich experience in tackling terrorism and Islamic radicalisation, Deka has led operations against the Indian Mujahideen—the terror group behind multiple serial blasts across India—that led to neutralisation of its top cadre based in India, breaking the outfit's back.

Deka was also deputed in his home state Assam to handle the volatile situation that arose following large-scale violence after the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in 2019.



# Waqf religious aspects left untouched: Centre

## 'New Act To Regulate Only Secular Side'

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**New Delhi:** Opposing any stay on fully operationalising the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, the Centre, in its written submissions before Supreme Court, said Tuesday that the legislation did not impinge upon any religious aspect of waqf and merely attempted to regulate its secular activities relating to management of waqf properties.

The submissions, which will be formulated into arguments by solicitor general Tushar Mehta, said the challenge to the validity of the new law was because the petitioners had confused the creation of waqf and property regulations associated with

### CJI: PARL-PASSED LAW PRESUMED VALID

*Arguments presented by Muslim side in SC against Waqf Act:*

**'Waqif has to be a practising Muslim for 5 years':** Has any other religious denomination been mandated by law to ask the same question to anyone making an endowment for charitable purposes. How will govt find out? Does a person cease to be a Muslim if he does not do namaz 5 times a day or if he drinks?

**'Govts can nominate non-Muslims to waqf council and boards':** No religious endowment of Hindus, Sikhs or Christians allows non-believer in that faith to be member of administrative body

**'Big rise in waqf properties since 2013 amendment':** Argument fallacious. Properties always there, regn on govt portal increased

When CJI Gavai said courts prima facie presume a law enacted by Parliament to be valid, **Muslim side called Waqf Amendment Act discriminatory**, 'framed and designed for wholesale capture of waqf properties through a legislative fiat'

waqf with religious rights under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution. It said since the fundamental purpose of the Waqf Act was to confer statutory validity upon dedications while imposing certain duties and responsibilities, it was always open to Parliament to alter the framework which conferred statutory

validity to such dedications.

"The Waqf Act, including the amendments, do not touch any religious aspects of waqf, such as functions of the 'sajjadanashin' or any other essential religious practices of Muslims in general," the Centre said.

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