

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## India Remains Resolute To Defeat Terrorism In All Forms: Prez On Pahalgam Attack Anniversary

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday paid tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and said the country remains resolute in its determination to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms.

"The tragic loss of innocent lives in that heinous act remains etched in our collective memory. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The entire nation stands with them. Such acts of terror cannot deter our unwavering commitment to peace and unity," she said in a post on X.

As many as 25 tourists and



a local ponywallah were killed in cold blood by three terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit on April 22 last year. All three terrorists were

"We remain resolute in our determination to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms," Murmu said.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian armed forces on May 7 last year carried out precision strikes at terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK) under Operation Sindoor.

The operation targeted nine sites, including the headquarters and training centres of LeT and another terrorist group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, from where terror attacks against India were planned and directed. (Agencies)

## BJP Delegation Meets EC, Seeks Stringent Action Against Kharge For 'Terrorist' Remark Targeting PM

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** A BJP delegation comprising three Union ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman, approached the Election Commission on Wednesday, demanding "strictest action" against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his "terrorist" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sitharaman said, "Today, we appeared before the full commission to bring to its notice that no less a person than the president of the Congress and the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha has spoken in such condemnable words.

Kharge chose to call the prime minister a "terrorist" while addressing a press conference in Tamil Nadu, an election-bound state, the finance minister said, terming the Congress chief's remark "outrageous".

"It's an insult to the mandate given by the people of India (to Prime Minister Modi). More importantly, it is an insult to the entire system where people choose their leader through elections, and once chosen, he is the leader for the entire country," Sitharaman said.

She also alleged that the Congress is "completely frustrated" and making such remarks against the prime minister amid assembly polls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal because of its "deep hatred" towards Modi.

"We have demanded that the Election Commission take the matter in all serious-



ness. We requested the poll panel to act firmly and sternly," she said.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who was also part of the delegation, termed the remark a "disgusting act" by Kharge.

"We have demanded the strictest action. We have also demanded that Kharge and the Congress be directed to apologise to the country," Rijiju told reporters. He said the Commission gave a patient hearing to the BJP delegation and assured that it will take "appropriate action" in the matter.

"The Election Commission should take such action in the matter that nobody ever dares to call the country's prime minister a terrorist. Everyone should learn a lesson. We hope the Election Commission will definitely take action," the senior BJP

leader said.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and BJP national general secretary Arun Singh were also part of the delegation.

The development followed after Kharge accused Prime Minister Modi of terrorising political parties and people by misusing government machinery and central agencies to stifle the opposition.

Addressing a press conference in Chennai, the Congress chief initially referred to the prime minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP.

However, when pressed by reporters to clarify the context of the remark, the Congress chief said he meant the prime minister was "terrorising" the democratic fabric of the country.

"He is terrorising people

and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist (in the literal sense). He is misusing his power and government machinery and abusing and maligning opposition parties," Kharge said.

On Tuesday, the BJP had urged the Election Commission to take immediate cognisance of Kharge's remark and direct the Congress president to submit a public apology. In a memorandum to the poll panel, it also demanded that "suitable penal and regulatory proceedings" be initiated against Kharge for his remark under various sections of the BNS, and "appropriate campaign restrictions" be imposed on him.

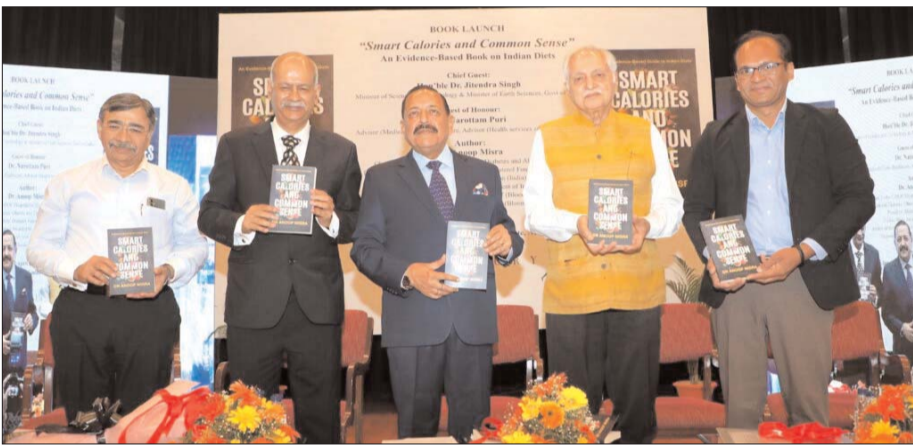
The BJP also said that its delegations comprising Sitharaman, Rijiju and Meghwal will meet the EC on Wednesday to raise the issue. (Agencies)

## Dr Jitendra Launches Medical Guide Book, Cautions Against Diet-Related Misinformation, Disinformation

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a Professor of Medicine & Diabetes, today cautioned that while awareness about diet and lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and obesity is essential, equal attention must be given to checking the spread of misinformation and disinformation in this domain.

The Minister said diet cannot be reduced to generalized prescriptions or uniform charts, and each individual must understand and adapt according to their own body, lifestyle, and metabolic needs. He remarked that diet is too important a subject to be left to any one group alone, underlining that individuals must actively observe and learn from their own dietary responses over time.

Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking at the launch of the book "Smart Calories and Common Sense: An Evidence-Based Guide to Indian Diets" authored by Dr. Anoop Misra Senior Diabetologist at Fortis, held at India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi. Dr. Narottam Puri, Advisor (Medical), Fortis Healthcare and Advisor (Health Ser-



vices and MVT), FICCI, was present as Guest of Honour. The event brought together leading members of the medical and scientific community, including senior clinicians and experts in diabetes and nutrition.

Reflecting on evolving dietary trends, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to changing scientific views over the years, from refined oils to traditional fats, and from sugar substitutes to natural alternatives, indicating that scientific understanding in nutrition continues to evolve. He said that conclusions in dietary science are often based on population-level evidence and may not apply uniformly to every individual.

Drawing from his medical experience, the Minister highlighted the importance of clinical judgement and patient interaction, recalling an earlier era where diagnosis depended significantly on detailed history-taking and observation. He noted that excessive reliance on reports and standardized prescriptions may sometimes overlook individual variations.

The Minister also said to the growing commercialization in healthcare and diet advisory practices, cautioning that attractive or overly complex diet plans often gain popularity despite lacking practical relevance. In this context, he reiterated the need for balanced, in-

formed, and evidence-based guidance.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further spoke about the importance of meal distribution alongside quality and quantity, noting that dietary timing and portioning remain underemphasized in common practice. He shared examples to illustrate how lifestyle, habits, and individual body responses play a decisive role in determining suitable dietary patterns.

The Minister concluded by stating that there is no single "ideal diet" applicable to all, and individuals must develop awareness through observation, moderation, and informed choices, while remaining cautious of unverified claims and trends.

## Strait Of Hormuz Disruptions Not Distant Events, Have Direct Implications For India: Rajnath

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** In the backdrop of the ongoing West Asian conflict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implications for India's security and economic stability.

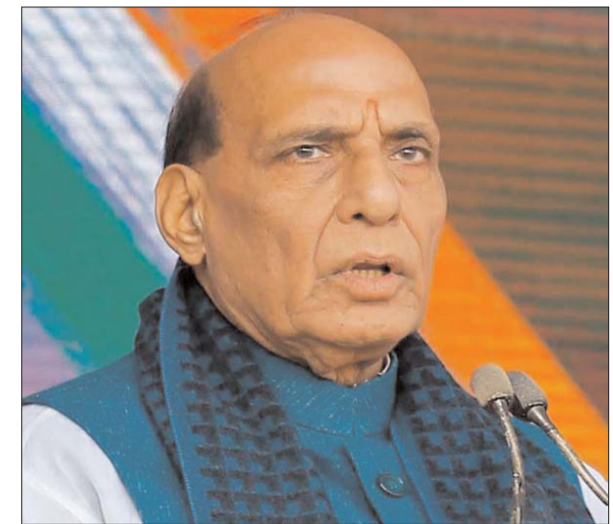
Addressing the German Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security on day one of his three-day visit to the country, he also asserted that the world today is faced with new security threats, and the technological transformation has made the situation highly complex and intricately connected.

A new approach with the willingness to adapt to the changing environment is the need of the hour, the minister said on Tuesday.

Singh also made a strong pitch for enhanced collaboration between the defence industrial ecosystems of India and Germany.

His visit to Germany also comes amid the West Asia conflict that has stretched for over 50 days, with global ramifications.

"For a developing country like India, which relies on the West Asian region for a significant share of its energy requirements, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implica-



tions for our security and economic stability," Singh said.

He highlighted that in view of these challenges and their direct implications, India has adopted a proactive and coordinated strategy.

To deal with modern-day global challenges, Singh underscored the need for coordinated responses and trusted strategic partnerships.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz have placed strong emphasis on advancing this strategic partnership, he said.

"We also see a clear convergence of views at the European Union level, reflected in the growing momentum to engage with India, including through the India-EU De-

fence and Strategic Partnership," Singh said.

He also asserted that Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not merely a procurement programme for India, but "an invitation to co-create, co-develop, and co-innovate".

"We recognise the established strengths of Germany's leading industrial enterprises, while also admiring the vigour and dynamism of the renowned German Mittelstand (small and medium-sized companies) in advanced and emerging technologies.

"In India too, our start-ups and enterprising private companies are rapidly enhancing and complementing the capabilities of our larger and established defence enterprises. This is an area where India and Germany

naturally complement each other, and our partnership can deepen further," Singh said.

He reiterated that the two nations are not only strategic partners, but also consequential voices in shaping the global discourse of the present times.

"We are established democracies bound by shared values and dynamic economies driven by resilience, innovation and a determined industrial spirit. As lawmakers and esteemed members of the Committee, your guidance, voice and support can further strengthen and enrich the future course of our defence and strategic cooperation," the minister said.

"When the chronicles of this era are penned, the India-Germany partnership will stand as a paragon of diplomacy, crafted not in response to crisis, but through the steady resolve of two mature democracies choosing to walk this path together," he said.

Singh pointed out that the current geopolitical instability can no longer be viewed as regional matters.

Their consequences are global in scope, he said, describing them as not localised disturbances, but serious developments with far-reaching implications for energy security.

## Delhi HC Judge Recuses From Hearing Contempt PIL Against Kejriwal Over Circulation Of Court Videos

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** Delhi High Court judge Justice Tejas Karia on Wednesday recused himself from hearing a PIL seeking contempt action against AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and others for allegedly uploading and sharing clips of the court hearing on the former chief minister's plea seeking recusal of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma in the liquor policy case.

The PIL by advocate Vaibhav Singh was listed for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Karia, which directed that it be listed before another bench on Thursday.

"This matter will not be heard by this bench. List tomorrow before a bench of which one of us, Justice Tejas Karia, is not a member," the court said.

The counsel for the petitioner requested that the matter be sent to another bench dealing with a similar issue.

Besides the AAP leaders,



the other parties in the PIL include the high court administration and social media giants Meta Platforms, X and Google.

Justice Karia, a former partner at a leading law firm, represented Meta in several cases before his elevation as a judge.

Singh, in his PIL, submitted that unauthorised sharing of court recordings on social media can undermine the

independence of the judiciary and is also prohibited under high court rules.

Several AAP leaders and members of various other opposition parties, including Congress leader Digvijay Singh, however, "intentionally and deliberately recorded and circulated" videos of Kejriwal's appearance before Justice Sharma on April 13 on social media with the intention to malign the image

of the court in the eyes of the public, the plea claimed.

Alleging that Kejriwal and his party members hatched a "conspiracy" and "dirty strategy" to record the court proceedings, the PIL urged that an SIT be formed to investigate the matter and contempt proceedings be initiated against "all respondents who uploaded, reposted, forwarded the recording of court proceedings dated 13.04.2026".

The PIL also prayed for the removal of the content from social media.

On April 15, Singh filed a complaint with the high court registrar general against the alleged unauthorised recording of court proceedings.

On Monday, Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma refused to recuse herself from hearing the liquor-policy case, saying a litigant cannot be allowed to judge a judge without any material, and judges cannot recuse themselves to satisfy a litigant's unfounded apprehension of bias. (PTI)

## Kedarnath Dham Portals Open For Devotees Amid Chants; Uttarakhand CM Offers Prayers

**DEHRADUN, APR 22:** The portals of the Kedarnath Dham were opened for devotees at 8 am on Wednesday amid Vedic chants and traditional rituals.

Thousands of pilgrims gathered at the Himalayan

shrine, decorated with 15 quintals of flowers, according to officials, to witness the ceremony as the air resonated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev".

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama at-

tended the ceremony and performed the first 'puja' and reviewed the ongoing pilgrimage arrangements.

"We have streamlined the queue system to ensure that even the last person in line receives a smooth 'darshan',"

the chief minister told the media. He noted that early batches of devotees completed their prayers within five minutes. Dhama also urged pilgrims to support a "Green Yatra" by keeping the shrine area plastic-free.

**NEW DELHI, APR 22:** The entire nation stands united against terrorism and India will never bow before forces that seek to spread hatred and fear, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday as he paid tributes to those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

On the first anniversary of the dastardly attack, Gandhi paid his heartfelt tributes to all the brave hearts who were killed.

"India will neither ever forget their sacrifice and the anguish of their families, nor will it ever forgive the perpetrators of this cowardly act," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said in a post in Hindi "The memory of the innocent lives so ruthlessly snatched away continues to shake our hearts to this day. The grief of the martyrs' families is a grief shared by us all," he said.

"The martyrdom of these sons of the nation will forever

remain indelible in the soul of India," Gandhi said.

The entire nation stood united against terrorism and violence, stands united today, and it will always remain so, he asserted.

"India will never bow before forces that seek to spread hatred and fear; we will stand against them with even greater strength, unity, and resolve. Jai Hind," Gandhi said in his post.

Pakistan-based terror

group Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out an attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on this day last year, killing 26 innocent people, mostly tourists from across India.

After the Pahalgam terror attack, India carried out a retaliatory military offensive against Pakistan named Operation Sindoor, in which Indian armed forces destroyed military and terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. (Agencies)