

## Pakistan rejects India's 'irresponsible' statement linking Islamabad to Jammu drone attack



*Islamabad: Pakistan rejected an Indian official's claim that Islamabad's involvement in the Indian Air Force base at Jammu airport could not be ruled out.*

*The Foreign Office, in a statement, categorically rejected the "irresponsible and misleading statement" as Indian Home Minister G Kishan Reddy chose not to share any evidence in this regard.*

*"The Indian government has once again leveled serious allegations against Pakistan. This is yet another manifestation of the unsubstantiated propaganda and smear campaign against Pakistan that is characteristic of the Indian government and an obliging Indian media," the statement said.*

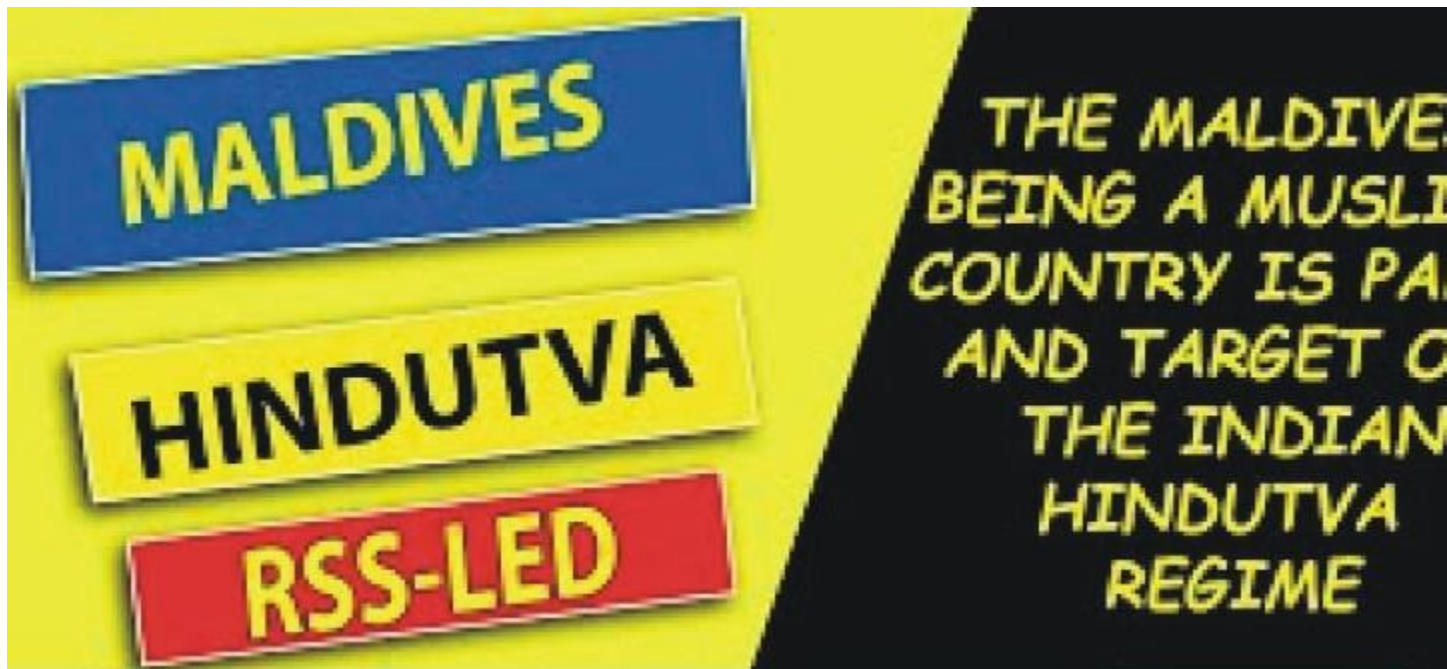
*This is a familiar Indian ploy to externalise any blame, use baseless allegations against Pakistan as a smokescreen, and seek to undermine the indigenous struggle for self-determination of the Kashmiri people, the Foreign Office said.*

*The statement underlined that the latest allegations further confirmed what Pakistan has consistently pointed out that the BJP government stages false flag operations to malign Pakistan with terrorism-related allegations for narrow political gains.*

*The use of the Pakistan card either to win an election or to divert attention from an electoral defeat has also, unfortunately, become standard practice, it noted.*

*“Pakistan calls upon India to refrain from its reprehensible propaganda campaign as no amount of Indian falsehoods can succeed in diverting attention from India’s serious crimes in [India-occupied Kashmir],” it said.*

## **Maldives as Muslim state is on radar on RSS backed Modi’s India**



*Islamabad: Maldives being a Muslim country is on the radar of RSS-backed India's Hindutva regime for its expansionist designs.*

*According to a report, BJP-led Indian regime is investing in Maldives to increase its footprints with an aim to target its Islamic and cultural values as it is doing in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.*

*The report pointed out that Maldives is under threat owing to the RSS-led expansionist designs. Hindutva forces are striving to inflict demographic changes in Maldives the way they are introducing discriminatory laws to convert Muslim majority in IIOJK into a minority.*

*India, the report maintained, is influencing Maldives President Solih to make his govt adopt pro-India policies. New Delhi is trying to exert influence on Maldives youth through so-called educational and economic incentives to advance its Hinutva agenda.*

*The report deplored that the current Maldives government is behaving like an Indian colony to the detriment of its people and is making efforts to subvert the country's Islamic culture on India's behest. This, the report added, is harmful for Maldives sovereignty and independence. The report warned that India's expansionist designs pose a threat to the whole of South Asia. Web Desk*

## **India behind Lahore bomb attack: NSA Moeed Yusuf**



*Islamabad: Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security Moeed Yusuf briefed the nation on the intelligence gathered on the Johar Town, Lahore, blast saying the main mastermind behind the attack was an Indian citizen having clear links with the RAW.*

*Addressing a press conference here, Moeed said, "I want to make sure that our message is heard very clearly [regarding] this particular incident on the 23rd of June in Lahore. We have concrete evidence and intelligence, including financial and telephone records, which point to direct Indian sponsorship of these terrorists," according to media reports.*

*"Through forensic analysis and electronic equipment which has been recovered from these terrorists, we have identified the main mastermind and the handlers of this terrorist attack and we have absolutely no doubt or reservation about informing you that the main mastermind belongs to the RAW, the Indian intelligence agency, who is an Indian national and is based in India," he said.*

*Moeed said he would like to remind everyone that the “Indian use of territory and people of third countries, which actually embarrasses other countries, is not new”.*

*“We have been constantly reminding the world of Indian actions, including a detailed dossier that was put out last November with details — minute details — of finances, of action, of support coming from India,” said the national security adviser.*

*He drew attention to the recent report by EU DisinfoLab, an international reputed organisation, which provides a detailed account of how “hundreds and thousands of fake outlets were being used to malign Pakistan, to spread misinformation about Pakistan, and to hide what is actually a clear terrorist sponsorship by a state against another state in our region” AFP*

## **‘Chor ki dadhi’: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hits out at PM Modi over Rafale deal**



INDIA  
TODAY

# RAFALE DEAL

## RAHUL GANDHI HITS AT PM WITH CHOR KI DADHI REMARK

*New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took to social media on Sunday morning to hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Rafale deal controversy. He posted an image [below] with the caption 'Chor ki dadhi' (thief's beard).*

The Rafale deal for 36 fighter jets worth 7.8 billion Euros was signed in 2016 between the Indian government and French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation.

The Congress party had demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the deal after France initiated its judicial inquiry into the same in June.

The Congress has consistently accused the Modi government of signing the contract with France at a much higher price than negotiated during the UPA rule. The opposition party also alleged favouritism, claiming that Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Defence had been signed on as the offset partner by weapons manufacturer Dassault Aviation even though the company had no previous experience.

In response to Rahul Gandhi's social media post, BJP IT department in-charge Amit Malviya said on Twitter, "Rahul Gandhi, after having heaped choicest abuses in the run up to 2019, has now stooped down to this level. People across India have rejected him but he is most welcome to fight 2024 elections on this issue!"

In April 2021, French publication Mediapart had reported on the alleged wrongdoings in the Rafale deal. Citing an investigation by France's anti-corruption agency, the publication had reported that Dassault Aviation had paid about one million Euros to an Indian middleman. Dassault Aviation had rejected the allegations of corruption.

On June 14, France opened an investigation into the alleged "corruption and favouritism" in the Rafale deal signed in 2016 on the basis of Mediapart's reports and a complaint filed by NGO Sherpa.

On July 2, Mediapart reported that a French judge had been appointed to lead the judicial probe.

On July 3, the Congress party in India issued a detailed press release claiming that France's latest action had exposed the corruption of the Modi

government's deal and Rahul Gandhi, hence, stood 'vindicated'. The opposition party demanded a JPC probe into the case.

However, in 2019, India's Supreme Court heard a public interest case on the deal and said it saw nothing wrong with it. India Today

## UN deplures custodial death in India of 84-year-old Christian priest



New Delhi: A top UN human rights official has deplored the death in custody of an 84-year-old Indian Christian priest who campaigned for the rights of tribal people and was denied bail after being detained under an anti-terrorism law.

Father Stan Swamy was arrested last year on suspicion, which he denied, of ties to a banned radical leftist group that police accused of having instigated violence in Maharashtra state in 2018.



His death will revive criticism of the increasing use of the anti-terrorism statute under nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Opponents of the law say it is used to hound people critical of the government. Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's disease and also contracted COVID-19 while in prison, died in a Mumbai hospital on Monday. More than a dozen people gathered outside the St. Peter's Church in Mumbai, where his funeral service was being held, to protest over his death.

"The news from India today is devastating. Human Rights Defender & Jesuit priest Fr Stan Swamy has died in custody, nine months after his arrest on false charges of terrorism," said the UN special rapporteur for human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor. "Jailing HRDs is inexcusable," she added in a Twitter post, referring to human rights defenders. AFP

## Stan Swamy death: India to face heat from human rights bodies



*New Delhi: The circumstances surrounding Father Stan Swamy's death are set to generate more discomfort for India before international organisations focusing on human rights, especially after chiefs of at least three of them have made public comments in this regard.*

*UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders Mary Lawlor described the news about the Jesuit priest's death in custody as "devastating", noting that he died nine months after his arrest, Lawlor said jailing human rights defenders was "inexcusable".*

*Ever since Modi 2.0 took office, the criticism against the government has mounted especially after the controversial CAA law and the lockdown in Kashmir. Barely a fortnight back, India had to refute concerns raised by three UN Special Rapporteurs about the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to privacy due to the new IT rules.*

*The criticism from the UN Human Rights Council, which MEA in the past has dismissed as "uninformed", is bound to get trenchant especially because its chief Michelle Bachelet is a victim of state torture while her father died in prison.*

*Nadine Maenza, chief of the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) noted that Stan Swamy was an elderly priest and human rights activist imprisoned on "false terrorism charges". She said the USCIRF had spoken out against his arrest and when he was denied bail as his health deteriorated.*

*The USCIRF has already downgraded India on the quality of its human rights and has petitioned the US State Government to sanction some officers who framed the CAA and enforced the lockdown in Kashmir. Web Desk*

**1,425 martyred, 29,656 injured from July 8, 2016 till date in Indian administered Kashmir**



*Srinagar: Indian troops have martyred 1425 Kashmiris, including 33 women and 114 young boys, after the martyrdom of popular Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2016 till date in the territory.*

*According to a research report, out of 1425 martyred, 124 were killed in fake encounters and in custody during the period.*

*The report revealed that at least 29656 people were critically injured due to use of brute force including firing of bullets, pellets, PAVA and teargas shells on peaceful demonstrators and mourners by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel in the occupied territory.*

*It said that thousands of Hurriyat leaders, activists, politicians and civil society members, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sofi, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Peer Saifullah, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Shahidul Islam, Farooq Ahmad Tawheedi, Rafiq Ahmad Gania, Muhammad Yousuf Mir, Amir Hamza, Muhammad Yosuf Fahlai, Muhammad Hayat Butt,*

*Kashmiri businessman, Zahoor Watali, Syed Shahid Shah, Syed Shakeel Yousuf Shah, Ghulam Muhammad Butt, Eng Rashid and journalist, Asif Sultan have been facing illegal detentions in different of jails India and the occupied territory. Web Desk*

## **UK policeman pleads guilty to murder of London woman**



*London: A British police officer on Friday pleaded guilty to the murder of a woman whose disappearance sparked outrage and a national debate about women's safety.*

*Wayne Couzens, 48, who served in the Metropolitan Police's elite diplomatic protection unit, had already confessed to kidnapping Sarah Everard. On Friday he also pleaded guilty to her murder, via video link at London's Old Bailey court.*

*Everard, a 33-year-old marketing executive, went missing while walking home in south London on the evening of March 3.*

*Her disappearance led to vigils and protests and prompted the government to promise enhanced police patrols at night, as well as funding to make the streets safer for women.*

*Couzens was wearing khaki trousers and a blue sweatshirt as he appeared remotely from a high-security prison in London, bowing his head as he admitted to the killing.*

*He pleaded guilty last month to the charge of kidnapping Everard “unlawfully and by force or fraud” on March 3 and also to a second charge of rape between March 2 and 10.*

*Everard’s family sat in the court as Couzens entered his latest plea.*

*Everard had been visiting friends in the Clapham area and was returning to her home in nearby Brixton when she disappeared. Arab News*

## **Pegasus spyware: Pakistan asks UN to probe phone hacking of PM Imran Khan by India**



*Islamabad: Pakistan on Friday called on the relevant United Nations bodies to thoroughly investigate India's use of Israeli spyware against Prime Minister Imran Khan and others.*

*"We have noted with serious concern recent international media reports exposing Indian government's organised spying operations against its own citizens, foreigners as well as Prime Minister Imran Khan, using an Israeli origin spyware," said the Foreign Office in a statement.*

*The use of the software, called Pegasus and developed by Israel's NSO Group, was reported on by The Washington Post, the Guardian, Le Monde and other news outlets Sunday who collaborated on an investigation into a data leak.*

*The leak was of a list of up to 50,000 phone numbers believed to have been identified as people of interest by clients of the NSO since 2016, the reports said.*

Not all of those numbers were subsequently hacked, and the news outlets with access to the leak said more details about those who were compromised would be released in the coming days.

The FO said that Pakistan, in the strongest possible terms, condemns India's state-sponsored, continuing and widespread surveillance and spying operations in clear breach of global norms of responsible state behaviour.

"Keeping a clandestine tab on dissenting voices is a long-standing textbook ploy of the RSS-BJP regime to commit human rights atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and peddle disinformation against Pakistan," read the statement.

It added that the world has seen the true face of the so-called Indian democracy when the reports of EU Disinfo Lab, Indian Chronicle, surfaced earlier last year.

"We are closely following these revelations and will bring the Indian abuses to the attention of appropriate global platforms," stated the FO. It added that in view of the gravity of the reports, Pakistan calls on the "relevant UN bodies to thoroughly investigate the matter, bring the facts to light, and hold the Indian perpetrators to account".

India targeted Pakistani, Chinese diplomats through Israeli spyware: report  
Pakistani, Chinese and diplomats from other countries in Indian capital appeared on the list of potential targets for phone hacking via the Israeli-made Pegasus spyware, reported The Hindu.

The publication citing the French papers Le Monde said that several New Delhi-based diplomats were also on the list of potential targets for phone hacking from 2017-2021, along with a phone associated with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"The numbers of [Pakistan Prime Minister] Imran Khan and several of his ambassadors in India appear on the list as potential targets. Dozens of other

*Delhi-based diplomats and ambassadors are also included, from Iran, Afghanistan, China, Nepal and Saudi Arabia,” the report published on Monday in Le Monde said.*

*The Hindu reported that the French publication had said that the number of Pakistan’s envoy to India was on the list too. APP*