

# Panel recommends targeted splitting of seats for next delimitation exercise

The model proposed by EAC-PM allows a 50% rise for all large States; dataset was based on elections to LS from 2009 to 2024; it results in increasing the size of Lok Sabha to 824 seats and is broadly in line with what the Centre had suggested when it brought the delimitation-related Bills in April

**Varghese K. George**  
**Abhinav Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has recommended multi-factor criteria for a “targeted” splitting of seats during India’s next delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. The recommendations have been made in a new working paper that goes beyond population distribution and maintains the current proportion of Lok Sabha seats for all large States.

A model worked out by the EAC-PM on such criteria entails Kerala’s Lok Sabha seats, for instance, rising from 20 to 30, Tamil Nadu’s increasing from 39 to 59, and Uttar Pradesh’s from 80 to 120 – broadly in line with what the Union government had suggested in April, when it brought the delimitation-related Bills but failed to pass them in Parliament.

The use of these criteria in the EAC-PM’s model further suggested a doubling of the number of LS seats in smaller States and Union Territories such as Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Naga-

land, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep. Out of the existing 543 seats, the EAC-PM’s model suggests splitting a total of 170 seats, of which 59 constituencies have been recommended for a two-way split and 111 for a three-way split.

## House of over 800 seats

The model results in increasing the size of the Lok Sabha to 824 seats. As per the Council, this will see the southern States’ (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) aggregate share of seats in Lok Sabha come to 23.6% compared with the 23.7% currently.

Meanwhile, the share of the six most populous northern States (Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra) will come to 45.2% as per the model, compared with the current 45.6%.

The existing proportion of seats-per-State was frozen based on the population figures of the 1971 Census. The freeze was brought in through a Constitutional Amendment in 1976.

While the EAC-PM notes that the next delimitation exercise is consequential because it would be the



**Unique formula:** The new working paper found a persistent gap in women’s turnout in urban areas, even after constituency splits. *PII*

first time since then to allow altering per-State seat count, it does not comment on the underlying principle for essentially retaining the existing proportion of States’ seats beyond saying that their model has been designed to “respect” the 50% per-State expansion.

The working paper, authored by EAC-PM member Shamika Ravi and Mudit Kapoor of the Indian Statistical Institute, says that its main objective was to address the following questions: “Which constituencies should be split, into how many parts, and on what criterion?”

In doing so, the EAC-PM said that it assembled a dataset on elections to LS seats from 2009 to 2024 to estimate a “statistical relationship” between voter

turnout, constituency size, and five compositional features of the constituency (these include urban share, SC share, ST share, linguistic polarisation, and linguistic diversity).

The paper added that this estimated statistical relationship was then used to come up with a “turnout-maximising delimitation plan that splits the largest and most turnout-responsive constituencies into two or three parts”.

## Splitting constituencies

In the policy brief attached to the working paper, the EAC-PM goes on to recommend a “targeted criterion” for splitting constituencies instead of a “uniform one”, adding that the “Delimitation Commission, when it is constituted after the 2027

Census”, should “treat the joint demographic and linguistic profile of a candidate constituency, and not its size alone, as the criterion for splitting”.

The Council went on to recommend that the Election Commission of India and the Ministry of Statistics should time the next delimitation exercise with a “fresh booth rationalising cycle” and the government should ensure that the “2027 Census tabulations and gender-disaggregated electoral statistics” are released on schedule.

It added that the working paper’s model calculations showed that even after the splitting of constituencies, there remained a residual gap in the women’s turnout percentages in urban areas, and thus recommended the EC to plan delimitation with measures like women-only polling booths and women-targeted voter roll update drives.

In their working paper policy brief, Ms. Ravi and Mr. Kapoor further break down their study into six key findings. These deal with the relationship of different factors with constituency-wise voter turnouts. In one of its findings, the paper

claimed that the model suggested by them is likely to lead to an overall increase of up to 2.3% in the voter turnout across the country in the next general election. The authors have, however, buttressed this with a caveat, saying that the gain in voter turnout would depend on which statistical specification is chosen, adding that the model was meant to answer what would happen when an electorate is reduced in size while retaining its composition.

The brief also says that between 2009 and 2024, the gap between voter turnouts in the smallest constituency and the largest constituency had halved. “Small constituencies descriptively out-vote large ones in 2024 because they sit on turnout-friendly compositional features (high ST share, low urban share, moderate linguistic polarisation), and not because they are small per se,” it concluded.

The EAC-PM added that the demographic and linguistic measures used for the study were based on the 2011 Census and so would need to be updated with 2027 Census figures for a more reliable recalculation.

# 74 new land ports proposed along International Border

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

India proposes to build 74 additional land ports along the International Border in the coming years, which include three land ports along the China border and six along the Pakistan border, according to Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Chairperson Jayant Singh.

The new land ports are expected to strengthen trade and seamless movement of people with the neighbouring countries.

The land ports along the China border are proposed at Namgia in Himachal Pradesh, Gunji in Uttarakhand, and Nathu La in Sikkim. India does not have any other land port operational along the China border.

According to the Exter-



Amit Shah during the inauguration of the Land Port Management System. ANI

nal Affairs Ministry, three points are designated for conducting border trade between India and China – Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand (since 1992), Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh (since 1995), and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim (since July 2006) but post-COVID pandemic in 2020, all trade is suspended. Trade points and land borders are different as the latter integrates immigration,

customs and movement of large goods vehicles too.

The land ports planned along the Pakistan border are at Teetwal, Adusa, and Chakan Da Bagh in Jammu and Kashmir, Attari railway station and Hussainiwala in Punjab, and Munabao railway station in Rajasthan. At present, there is just one operational land port at Attari in Punjab and trade from the two Facilitation Centres located at Salamabad, Uri, Baramulla district and Chakkan-da-Bagh, Poonch district along Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir remained suspended since the Pulwama attack.

Under Phase II, 13 land ports are proposed along the Nepal border, 12 along the Bangladesh border, four along Bhutan and two along the Myanmar border, the presentation said.

# Bodies of six Naga men found; UNC seeks removal of Manipur Deputy CM

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

The bodies of the six Naga men who were allegedly abducted by Kuki armed groups on May 13 and had remained missing since then, were recovered by the police in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Wednesday, the police said.

Manipur Director-General of Police (DGP) Mukesh Singh told *The Hindu* that after hectic efforts of nearly 24 hours by around 15 teams of the Manipur Police, Assam Rifles and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the mortal remains of the six missing men could be located. "Legal formalities are being done," Mr. Singh said.

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of



Naga groups had held several demonstrations over the past weeks seeking the release of the six men who were held hostage. PTI

the Nagas in Manipur declared a 24-hour shutdown in Naga areas and demanded the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen.

The UNC said that Ms. Kipgen is the wife of Semtinthang Kipgen, president of Kuki National Front-P (KNF-P), a Kuki insurgent

group in suspension of operations agreement with the government and suspected to be complicit in the murder of the Naga civilians. The Naga body has also accused the residents of Leilon Vaiphei village of abducting the individuals.

The six men, including two pastors, and their fa-

mily members were abducted on May 13 following the killing of three church leaders from the Thadou tribe in an ambush on the same day in Kangpokpi. Twelve people including women and children were released later. At least 44 civilians were reportedly taken hostage by Kuki and Naga groups in Kangpokpi and Senapati districts. While several of those abducted were released earlier, 14 members of the Kuki community who remained in captivity were released on Tuesday and the bodies of the six missing Naga men was recovered by the security forces on Wednesday.

The UNC claimed that the bodies were mutilated and has refused to receive the bodies till the demands are met.

# Human contribution to global warming highest ever in 2025, says study

**Amitabh Sinha**

*New Delhi, June 10*

AT A time when global political attention to climate change appears to be receding, a new assessment has confirmed earlier estimates that 2025 was the third warmest year on record. Importantly, this annual study, called the Indicators of Global Climate Change or IGCC, found that the contribution of human activities to the overall warming observed in 2025 was possibly the highest ever.

The IGCC study, first published in 2023, is the work of an independent international



**EXPLAINED**

## **'35% by 2035'**

The ongoing climate meet in Germany has proposed a global commitment to ensure that electricity accounts for at least 35% of final energy consumption by 2035. Currently, it accounts for 20% of global energy consumption. This is a key step towards the transition from fossil fuels.

group of climate scientists which

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Global warming

includes several contributors to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that produces periodic reports on the state of climate change, which are considered the most authoritative word on the subject.

The latest IGCC study said average global temperatures in 2025 were about 1.39 degree Celsius higher than the average of 1850-1900 baseline. Of the total increase, it said 1.37 degree Celsius was due to human activities, primarily greenhouse gas emissions, while the rest could be the result of natural variations in climate systems.

The IGCC study, published in the peer-reviewed open access journal called Earth System Science Data, confirms the earlier estimate of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) which, in January this year, had said that 2025 was likely to emerge as the third warmest year, after 2024 and 2023. WMO had said the average glo-

bal temperatures in 2025 were likely to be 1.44 degree Celsius above the 1850-1900 baseline.

The warmest-ever year, 2024, was about 1.55 degree Celsius hotter than the 1850-1900 baseline. That year, human activities had contributed about 1.36 degree Celsius of warming, according to the IGCC study for 2024, the rest being attributed to natural variations. The year 2023 was about 1.45 degree Celsius warmer than 1850-1900 baseline. Human contribution that year was assessed to be about 1.31 degree Celsius.

For 2025, the contribution of human activities to global warming is possibly the highest ever, but the scale of natural variations in climate differ from year to year. 2025 happened to be a La Nina year, a year in which the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the western coast of South America, was cooler than normal. La Nina is known to have a general cool-

ing effect on the planet. This could have been the reason why the year, despite the potentially record-breaking contribution of human-induced warming, was slightly cooler than 2024 and 2023.

The IGCC study said human-induced warming had been increasing at the rate of about 0.27 degree Celsius per decade, as a result of record levels of greenhouse gas emissions. It found that greenhouse gas emissions had reached 56.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2025, an all-time high.

It said the world could emit no more than 130 billion tonnes of additional carbon dioxide from the start of 2026, if it entertained any hopes of restricting global rise in temperatures to within 1.5 degree Celsius from the 1850-1900 baseline. At current rate of emissions, this 'carbon budget' would be exhausted in less than three years.

The IGCC study is being released in a week when countries are assembled in Bonn, Germany, for the annual mid-year climate talks. The discussions

are centred mainly around ways to increase the ambition of climate action which has suffered a major blow due to the withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement last year. Global climate action has been unable to keep pace with the requirement to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions in the near term.

The findings of the IGCC study are a further reminder to the rapidly rising global temperatures. Just last month, a WMO study said there was a 91 per cent chance that at least one of the next five years, between 2026 and 2030, would break the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold, just like 2024 did. It further said that there was a 75 per cent possibility that the average temperature of this five-year period also exceeded 1.5 degree Celsius level from the 1850-1900 baseline.

This year, a strong El Nino is predicted to develop in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. This year's El Nino is expected to persist not just through the end of the year, but possibly also continue into early next year.

FIRST SUMMONS SINCE TRUMP'S RETURN

# 3 Indians missing after attack, Delhi summons US diplomat

21 Indian crew members rescued from ship near Oman, second incident in 2 days

**Shubhajit Roy**  
New Delhi, June 10

FOR THE first time in its dealings with the Trump administration, India Wednesday summoned a top US diplomat in New Delhi following an attack earlier in the day by American forces on a commercial ship off the coast of Oman. Of the 24 Indian seafarers on the ship Settebello, 21 were rescued while three remained missing.

Sources said a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs summoned the US charge d'affaires Jason Meeks over the

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PM Narendra Modi enjoys 'jhalmuri' with West Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari during an NDA meeting in New Delhi, Wednesday. ANI

## THE IDEAS PAGE P9

**PM MODI IS BARAIBHAL, WHO OFFERS WARMTH AND WISDOM, HIS LEGACY PERSONAL**

By DASHO TSHERING TOBGAY  
PRIME MINISTER OF BHUTAN

## POLITICS

**NDA HAS GIVEN COUNTRY STABILITY, BHARAT RUNNING AT FULL SPEED, PM TELLS ALLIANCE LEADERS**

PAGE 10

**Cabinet hails Modi's 'historic' PM stint; Trump, world leaders send greetings**

Express News Service  
New Delhi, June 10

AS NARENDRA Modi became India's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister on Wednesday — 4,399 days, surpassing the previous record of 4,398 days held by Jawaharlal Nehru — the Union Cabinet passed a resolution applauding him and terming it as a "historic milestone in the journey of Indian democracy".

Many world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, President of the European Commission Ursula

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# Workers' remittances cross \$100 billion in FY26, but long-term BoP solution needed

Siddharth Upasani  
New Delhi, June 10

DESPITE THE capital outflows from financial markets and subdued net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, India managed to record a Balance of Payments (BoP) surplus of \$7.22 billion in the January-March 2026 quarter, aided by a factor thought to be at risk from the ongoing war in West Asia: remittances from abroad.

In the first quarter of 2026, Indians working abroad sent home \$31.07 billion — the most in 13 years, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data — registering a year-on-year growth of 34%.

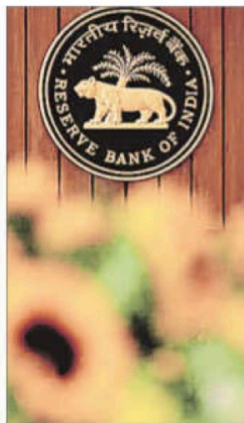
But what is more striking is the annual figure.

## A new record

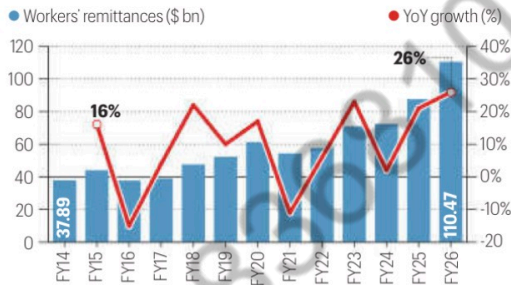
In 2025-26 as a whole, Indian workers abroad sent back home a record \$110.47 billion, up 26% from \$87.55 billion in 2024-25, with economists theorising the West Asia crisis probably led to a 'precautionary' rise in remittances.

This is the first time that workers' remittances have ever crossed the \$100-billion-mark in a single year.

The more widely quoted remittances number — which has been above \$100 billion for four years in a row now — is, in fact, not remittances as we think of them, but a broader category called 'private transfers'. While workers' remittances make up more than two-third of private transfers, this category also includes withdrawals from non-resident deposits and their redemption, personal gifts and donations (including to religious and charitable institutions in India),



## • Indian workers remitted record \$110 bn into India in FY26



SOURCE: RBI

and gold and silver brought through passenger baggage. Private transfers rose 15% in 2025-26 to \$151.71 billion, while net transfers (after adjusting for money sent abroad) was up 16% at \$144.07 billion.

## Mutual benefits

In addition to the war, the rupee's sharp fall over the course of 2025-26 would have also incentivised the sending of more dollars (or any other currency) back home than usual as it would lead to family members in India getting more rupees for each unit of the foreign currency.

"Thankfully, remittances have not been adversely affected. And there are no indications they have been (post March)," a senior government official said on Tuesday.

One must indeed be thankful for such strong workers' remittances at a time when the inflow of other types of foreign money has dried up alarm-

ingly, be it foreign portfolio investment (FPI) or FDI. If not for these remittances, the rupee may have fallen even more.

## Shifting sands of remittances

The West Asia war presented a new hurdle for India's external balance because of the number of Indians working in the region. However, as per the RBI's latest survey on remittances, inflows from the Gulf countries of UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain had declined to 38% of the total in 2023-24 from 47% in 2016-17. As such, while this means that

any hit from the war may not be as large as it would have been before, any benefit from a greater number of Indians being employed once reconstruction efforts begin will also be limited.

The fall in the Gulf regions' share in India's inward remittances has been matched by an

increase in contribution from advanced countries such as the US and the UK — regions grappling with the impact of increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) on current and future employment.

## A long-term solution

Remittances, however, cannot be relied upon to bail out the Indian economy. FDI and FPI inflows must improve, while the trade deficit will have to be managed. And although the government is not done announcing measures, it knows its hands are tied beyond a point. "When it comes to gold, nothing we do is enough," government sources said. "People want gold for lots of reasons like traditions, weddings, and investment. We can only provide a nudge, like the Prime Minister had done."

FDI inflows — which totalled less than \$9 billion in 2024-25 and 2025-26 combined on a net basis — are another difficult subject as it has been on

the decline — as a percentage of GDP — since 2010.

"I am not sure if any one step will address the FDI issue," the aforementioned government source said.

"Yes, steps are required. We will take them steadily."

While gross FDI inflows into India rose to a new all-time high of \$94.53 billion in 2025-26, net inflows were a mere \$7.65 billion due to foreign investors repatriating \$53.58 billion and overseas FDI by Indian companies increasing to \$33.29 billion. As such, despite record gross inflows, the net FDI figure has been low in the past two years. For the time being, the measures already announced — from the removal of taxes on foreign investors' bond investments to the swap scheme for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits and PSUs' foreign loans — have materially changed the outlook for the rupee, with the BoP expected to be roughly neutral in 2026-27.

Economists broadly see the rupee hovering around the 94-96-per-dollar levels, with the RBI expected to discourage any strengthening as it mops up as much of foreign inflows it can to build up its foreign exchange reserves. "Nonetheless, the current account deficit remains heavily oil-driven and oil prices remain elevated. We think importers may use the dip in US-DINR (exchange rate) to buy more USD cheaply. Moreover, India's relatively low real yield means that yield-seeking investors are unlikely to be as strongly attracted in the current environment," Barclays' forex strategists Mitul Kotecha and Audrey Ong said in a note on Tuesday.



## Taiwan Tests HIMARS Rockets

Taiwan's High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) during a live military exercise, which simulates an enemy invasion, in Taichung, Taiwan, on Wednesday. REUTERS

**TAIWAN'S MILITARY** Wednesday fired its new HIMARS rocket system, simulating an attack on an invading Chinese force and demonstrating its "shoot-and-scoot" ability to evade counterstrikes.

**THE MILITARY** said the drill was to demonstrate the HIMARS' mobility and ability to "shoot-and-scoot" — withdrawing after firing to avoid enemy radar — so as to "greatly improve battlefield survivability".

**HIMARS IS** one of Ukraine's main strike systems and has been used multiple times during the war with Russia. With a range of 300 kms it could strike targets in China's southeastern province. **REUTERS**

# Will continue 'very hard attacks', says Trump as U.S., Iran trade fire

U.S. launches air strikes following the downing of a military helicopter over the Strait of Hormuz, while Iran retaliates with attacks on U.S. bases in the region; any act of aggression will be met with immediate response, says Iran's Speaker Ghalibaf

**Stanly Johnny**

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the U.S. would continue to "attack Iran very hard", after a tit-for-tat exchange in which Washington launched air strikes following the downing of an American military helicopter over the Strait of Hormuz and Tehran retaliated with attacks on U.S. bases in the region.

"We are going to be attacking them, attacking them very hard," Mr. Trump told presspersons on Wednesday.

"We hit them hard yesterday, and we are going to hit them again hard today."

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament Speaker, said any attack on Iran would be met with

"immediate and decisive response". In a message to commemorate the 12-day war of June 2025, Mr. Ghalibaf said: "The imposed wars, the first, second, and third, have shown the world that the path of victory and triumph passes through steadfastness and martyrdom."

## 'Pay the price'

Earlier in the day, Mr. Trump warned that Iran "will have to pay the price" for taking "too long" to negotiate a deal.

"Iran's military is a complete and total mess. Much of it, like their Navy and Air Force, doesn't even exist any more - they have been completely defeated. Iran is all talk and no action," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

"The Bully of the Middle



Flames engulf vehicles after an Israeli air strike in Sidon, Lebanon on Wednesday. A ceasefire in effect in the region since April 8 first came under strain over Israel's attacks in Lebanon. AFP

East is DEAD! They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price," he said.

The U.S. forces struck "Iranian air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz

firmly nor denied that it downed the helicopter, responded with missile and drone attacks at U.S. bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan.

"In response to the military aggression and the violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the country's 'powerful armed forces' struck U.S. bases and assets in the region that were the origin of these aggressions," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Iran's Tasnim news agency reported that U.S. strikes destroyed two reservoirs in Bamani Sirik. The attack affected drinking water supply for about 20,000 people, according to a report in Press TV.

with precision munitions", U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The operation was a proportional response to recent attacks on U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters."

Iran, which neither con-

**CONTINUED ON**  
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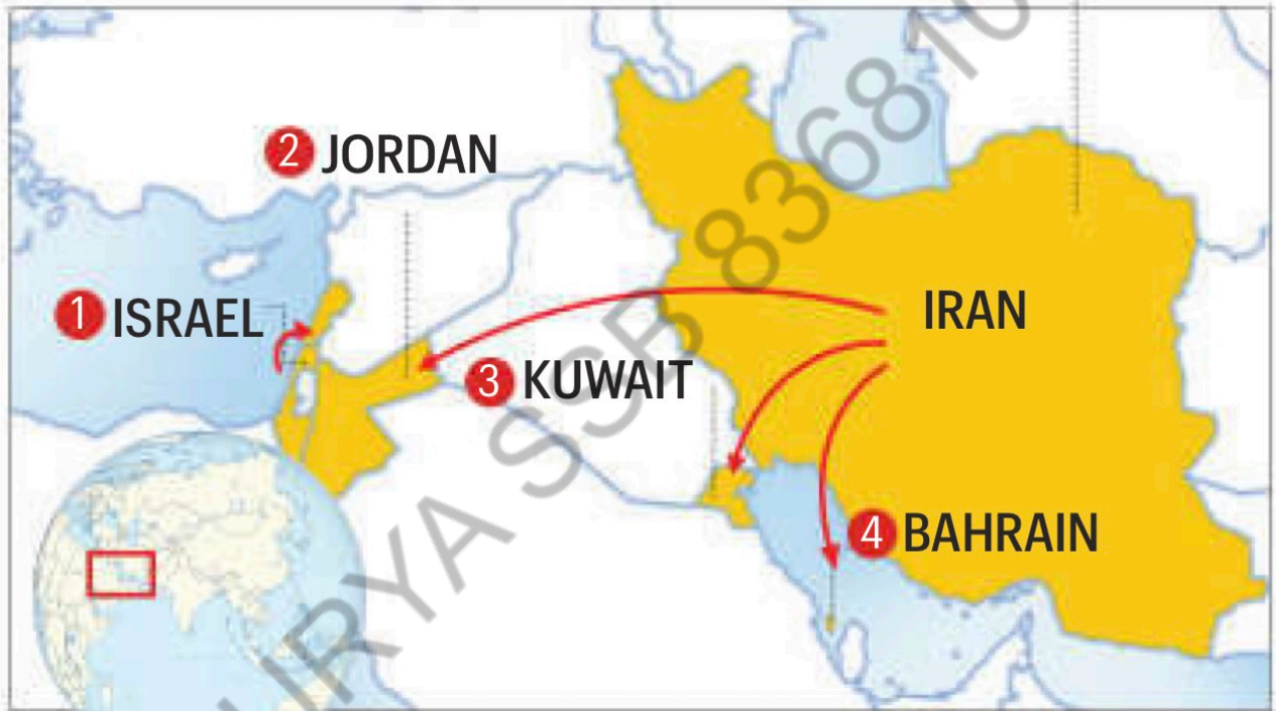
## ● FROM DE-ESCALATION TO ESCALATION



**The US** struck southern Iran, calling it a response to the downing of a US helicopter.



**IRAN** said it retaliated by attacking US assets in the region.



**1. ISRAEL** said it was continuing strikes in Lebanon

**2. JORDAN** said it intercepted five missiles launched from Iran

**3. KUWAIT** said its air defenses intercepted hostile targets

**4. BAHRAIN** said it intercepted several Iranian drones and missiles.

# Will continue 'very hard attacks', says Trump

According to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the U.S. Navy's fifth fleet headquarters and the Sheikh Isa air base in Bahrain, Al-Azraq base in Jordan, and Ali al-Salem base in Kuwait were the sites targeted by Iranian missiles and drones.

The IRGC also claimed that it "intercepted and destroyed" an American MQ-9 Reaper drone over the city of Jam in Bushehr province.

"During the ongoing aerial engagements in the Strait of Hormuz, an MQ-9 drone that intended to approach and intervene in the battle zone from the skies over the northern Persian Gulf was struck and destroyed in the skies over the city of Jam in Bushehr Province," the IRGC said.

## Fragile ceasefire

The U.S.-Iran exchange of strikes followed a similar exchange of fire between Iran and Israel earlier this week. Iran launched missiles at Israel, the first direct attack on Israel since the April 8 ceasefire was announced, in retaliation for Israeli strikes at Beirut in Lebanon, and Israel responded with air strikes. Mr. Trump had then asked both sides to stop "shooting" at each other, and said the U.S. and Iran were still close to reaching an agreement.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump said he could order the targeting of Iranian bridges and power plants, a step he had originally threatened just before the ceasefire but never followed through on.

Over the past two months, Mr. Trump had said several times that a deal was within reach. But tensions persisted in the Strait of Hormuz, which remains under Iran's control. The U.S. had announced a blockade on Iran's ports on April 13, after direct negotiations in Islamabad failed to make any breakthrough. In another social post, Mr. Trump praised the U.S. blockade of Iranian shipping, calling it "the most successful" in history while labelling it a "steel wall."

# Air strikes on 'terror hideouts' in Afghanistan killed 26, says Pakistan

Islamabad says its forces carried out 'precise and calibrated strikes' in the border regions targeting safe havens of planners and masterminds of the TTP; Kabul says Pakistan bombed civilian homes in the provinces of Kunar, Khost, and Paktika

**Press Trust of India**  
ISLAMABAD

**P**akistan on Wednesday said it carried out "precise and calibrated" overnight air strikes targeting alleged militant hideouts in Afghanistan and killed 26 people.

In the aftermath of recent militant incidents in Pakistan, "precise and calibrated strikes were carried out along Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas on hideouts and safe havens of masterminds and planners belonging to Fitna-al-Khwarij, killing 26 Khawarijs," Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Ta-



A Taliban security member near the debris of a house after an air strike in Khost Province, Afghanistan, on Wednesday. REUTERS

rar said on Wednesday. Fitna-al-Khwarij is a term that Pakistan uses for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

**The affirmation came**

**hours after the Taliban regime in Afghanistan said Pakistan air strikes killed several people in an overnight attack.**

"Last night, the Pakista-

ni military once again violated Afghanistan's airspace and bombed civilian homes in the provinces of Kunar, Khost, and Paktika. As a result of these attacks, 11 children, one woman, and one elderly man were killed, while 14 other women and children were injured," Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Among the recent terror incidents that Mr. Tarar listed was a militants' attack on Federal Constabulary post in Musa Dara on Tuesday, vehicle-borne suicide attacks on a military post in North Waziristan on June 2, and an attack on a police station in

Bannu on May 9.

"Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of camps and hideouts was carried out with precision and accuracy. Four targets were completely destroyed including a training centre, a hideout, an ammunition cache and a Marakiz (hub) belonging to the Fitna-al-Khwarij Commander Aleem Khan Khushali and Commander Akhtar Muhammad Jani Khel." Mr. Tarar said in a statement on X. He also said Pakistan has always strived for maintaining peace and stability in the region, but at the same time "the safety and security of our citizens remains our top priority".