

1. India's global outreach on Operation Sindoor**Seven all-party delegations**

Seven all-party delegations on Operation Sindoor, led by Shashi Tharoor, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shrikant Shinde, Baijayant Jay Panda, Supriya Sule, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, and Sanjay Jha, will travel to various countries soon. The seven delegations are scheduled to visit 32 countries, including the European Union headquarters in Belgium.

The Centre released the list of seven all-party delegations that will soon travel to key partner countries, including members of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union, to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism following the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

Speaking as one

In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, seven all-party delegations led by the following leaders will visit up to 35 global capitals to explain India's stance on terrorism



Shashi Tharoor,
Congress



Ravi Shankar Prasad,
BJP



Kanimozhi,
DMK

- **Sanjay Kumar Jha, JDU** ■ **Baijayant Panda, BJP**
- **Supriya Sule, NCP** ■ **Shrikant Shinde, Shiv Sena**

Details

The seven delegations comprise 59 members, including 31 political leaders from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and 20 politicians from other parties. They will be assisted by former diplomats.

These delegations will be led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs Baijayant Jay Panda (Group 1) and Ravi Shankar Prasad (Group 2); Janata Dal (United) leader Sanjay Jha (Group 3); Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde (Group 4); Congress's Shashi Tharoor (Group 5); Dravida Munnetra

Kazhagam (DMK) MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi (Group 6); and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule (Group 7).

Group 1

Countries visiting: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Algeria

Led by BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda, the eight-member group also includes former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and retired diplomat Harsh Shringla.

Group 2

UK, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and European Union

The group visiting European countries and the European Union headquarters in Belgium is led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad. It also includes former Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar and former Indian Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran.

Group 3

Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore

The group led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha is tasked with carrying India's message to key Southeast Asian countries. The delegation also includes former Union Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid, CPI(M)'s John Brittas, and Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee.

Group 4

United Arab Emirates, Liberia, Congo, and Sierra Leone

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde is leading India's delegation to the UAE and key partner countries in Africa. The delegation also includes IUML MP from Kerala E.T. Mohammed Basheer and former diplomat Sujan Chinoy.

Group 5

United States of America, Panama, Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who also served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, is leading the delegation to the United States of America and other key countries in the Americas. Former Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu is also part of the delegation.

Group 6

Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Latvia, and Russia

India's delegation to Russia and Spain is led by DMK MP from Tamil Nadu, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi. The group also includes two former diplomats, Manjeev S. Puri and Jawed Ashraf.

Group 7

Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa

The delegation led by NCP MP Supriya Sule will visit Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa. The group includes Congress leaders Manish Tewari and Anand Sharma, along with V. Muraleedharan, former Minister of State for External Affairs, and Syed Akbaruddin, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in Geneva.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

2. Did Trump Cross the Line on Kashmir?

Background

U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that the U.S. brokered the May 10 ceasefire between India and Pakistan. India's Ministry of External Affairs, including Minister S. Jaishankar, strongly denied this claim. Trump's statements, especially about Kashmir, have raised concerns in India over interference in a highly sensitive issue.

Why Did Trump's Comments Cause Uproar?

- **Misleading Statements:** Trump took credit for brokering a ceasefire just before India's Foreign Secretary announced it.
- **Erroneous Claims:** He inaccurately called the Kashmir conflict a "thousand-year-old" issue.
- **Violation of Indian Policy:** His repeated offers to mediate on Kashmir go against India's core foreign policy principles:
 - No third-party mediation.
 - No hyphenation with Pakistan.
 - No internationalisation of Kashmir.
 - Focus on terrorism as the key issue.

India's Stance on Internationalisation of Kashmir

- **Historical Context:** In 1947, PM Nehru went to the UN over Pakistan's occupation of part of Kashmir but did not seek international arbitration.
- **Simla Accord (1972):** India and Pakistan agreed to resolve issues bilaterally.
- **1994 Parliamentary Resolution:** Declared Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India and demanded Pakistan vacate occupied areas.
- **Post-2019 Position:** After the revocation of Article 370, India asserted that any future talks with Pakistan would be about reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Has Third-Party Mediation Ever Happened?

- **UN Involvement:** Initially involved, but made irrelevant after the Simla Accord.
- **Soviet Mediation:** Led to the Tashkent Declaration after the 1965 war.
- **U.S. Role:** Typically informal—helped reduce tensions but did not mediate officially. Notable moments include:
 - President Clinton during Kargil War (1999) encouraged dialogue but did not intervene directly.
 - Post-Balakot (2019), Trump claimed to have helped secure release of an Indian pilot but was rebuffed when he offered mediation on Kashmir.

Is Direct Dialogue with Pakistan Possible?

- **Stalled Talks:** No major bilateral engagement since 2015.
- **Closed Channels:** Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and Kartarpur corridor has narrowed communication.
- **Back-Channel Use:** Security-level talks have occurred for crisis management, not political negotiation.

- **Current Indian Stand:** Talks will only cover terrorism and the return of PoK—conditions Pakistan finds unacceptable.

Conclusion

President Trump's comments have not only misrepresented facts but also crossed key boundaries of India's foreign policy. While direct India-Pakistan dialogue remains stalled, third-party mediation continues to be off the table for India. The Modi government is focused on addressing cross-border terrorism without internationalising the Kashmir issue.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

Source: The Hindu

3. Can the Italian Open Become the Fifth Grand Slam?

Italy Challenges Tennis Tradition

The Italian Tennis Federation is pushing to elevate the Italian Open to Grand Slam status, questioning the century-old dominance of the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. Federation President Angelo Binaghi argues it's time to reconsider the status quo:

"Why are there always four and always the same four? It doesn't help tennis grow."



How Did the Grand Slams Originate?

- The four existing Grand Slam events evolved from national championships of the strongest tennis nations: the US, UK, France, and Australia.
- These tournaments were officially recognised by 1923.
- The term "Grand Slam" came into use in the early

20th century, drawing from bridge and golf terminology.

Why It's an Uphill Battle Tradition and Resistance

- Tennis is steeped in tradition, and the current Grand Slams are protected by history and structure.
- Other strong tennis nations like Spain, Serbia, and China never succeeded in upgrading their events.

Practical Challenges

- The Italian Open's proximity to the French Open, both being played on clay, may raise scheduling and player fatigue issues.

Conclusion

While Italy has strong players and impressive infrastructure, achieving Grand Slam status for the Italian Open faces major resistance from tradition, scheduling constraints, and the global tennis establishment. The push may spark debate, but real change seems unlikely in the near future.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Miscellaneous

Source: Indian Express

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