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NAMUMKIN AB MUMKIN HAI



Sat images, coordinates fed into bombs made sure Balakot targets were hit with precision

IAF Used Decoy Fighters To Misdemean PAF Into Believing Target Was Bahawalpur

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New Delhi: The computer memories of Spice-2000 precision guided bombs were fed with satellite images and exact geographical coordinates of the major Jaish-e-Muhammed training camp at Balakot

Fresh lease of hope for kin of 1971 POWs

Abhinandan Varthaman's release and Punjab CM Amarinder Singh appeal to Pakistan to release prisoners of war taken captive in 1971 has given a fresh lease of hope to the families of the 'Missing 54'.

SEE INSIDE FLAP

FULL COVERAGE: P 11, 12, 17 & 28

in Pakistan before being loaded on IAF Mirage-2000 fighters at Gwalior for the February 26 pre-dawn strikes.

So, when the "clear to launch weapons" signals popped up on the computers of the Mirage-2000 fighters, which were then—depending on their altitude and angle of attack

—around 2 km to 10 km across the LoC into Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir, there was little chance of the 1,000-kg bombs missing targets. "With their navigation/seeker systems, the fire-and-forget Spice-2000 bombs homed into the four to six targets selected within the JeM facility around 50 to 60 km away. The error margin was less than 3 metre," said a top defence source on Saturday. The "before and after" images captured by the high-resolution synthetic aperture radars (SARs) mounted on "classified platforms" as well as Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, which were part of the "strike package", show designated targets were hit with precision, as reported by TOI on Saturday.

Though an accurate assessment of casualties on the ground is virtually impossible, the Spice-2000 bombs armed with "digital scene-matching area correlators" penetrated the roofs of the pre-selected buildings in the terror facility, which would have "killed all the inmates in them with shock and blast waves", said sources.

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Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman met Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who is undergoing medical check-ups at Army Hospital Research & Referral in New Delhi, on Saturday. Also present were his wife, Squadron Leader Tanvi Marwah, who is a retired helicopter pilot, and their seven-year-old son, Tavish

IAF is feeling the absence of Rafales. Our response would have been more effective had Rafales been there

— PM Narendra Modi

Samjhauta Express services will resume on Sunday

Elite Para commandos have joined the fight against terrorists in an ongoing encounter in J&K's Kupwara

Three of a family have been injured in ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the LoC

Abhi subjected to mental torture in ISI custody

Abhinandan Varthaman has told the IAF brass that the ISI played a lot of mind games with him during his time in captivity, subjecting him to mental harassment to break his morale even though he was spared physical torture. The delay in his handover, too, was part of the harassment tactic.

However, the fighter pilot "seems to be in fine spirit" and the mental torture does not seem to have worked, said a source after interacting with the Wing Commander. P 11

Azhar's brother confirms IAF hit Jaish terror factory

Maulana Ammar, the younger brother of Jaish-e-Muhammed chief Masood Azhar, in an audio clip, has confirmed that Indian fighter planes had hit the outfit's Jaish camp in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunwa province of Pakistan. In the recording available on social media, Ammar decried the bombing of the "markaz (a centre of religious learning)" and was furious over India striking a centre where jihad was being taught rather than the headquarters of an official agency.

The speech is understood to have been delivered at a gathering of clerics at Peshawar a day after the air strikes.

Meanwhile, a report in FirstPost said locals confirmed that ambulances carried away some 30-odd bodies and that medical staff was asked to deposit their mobile phones with the army. A former ISI officer "Col Salim" is learnt to have died in the attack while another, Col Zakri, was injured. A group of fidayeen trainees also reportedly died in the aerial strike. TNN P 11

Pak mantri tries to distance JeM from Feb 14 strike

In a brazen twist, Pakistan has disregarded JeM's own claim taking responsibility for the Pulwama attack, to say "it was not sure" the group was responsible for the bombing.

Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told a TV channel on Saturday there was confusion over Jaish's role as its brass had denied involvement in the February 14 attack. Qureshi also disclosed that the Pakistan government is in touch with the JeM brass through "people known to them". P 11

Abhi's last radio message said he had locked on to Pak F-16

Fired Missile Before MiG Was Brought Down

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: "R-73 selected," was the last radio transmission of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman from his MiG-21 "Bison" fighter jet. He then let loose the Vympel R-73 air-to-air missile at the Pakistani F-16 in his crosshairs before he himself was shot down.

The high-altitude dogfight between supersonic Indian and Pakistani fighters, after the latter breached Indian airspace west of Rajouri in Sunderbani area just after 10am on February 27, transixed the nation after Varthaman ended up in Pakistan's custody after parachuting down in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

A day after the air strikes at the Balakot terror facility in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa region, Pakistan sought to retaliate by deploying F-16s, JF-17s and Mirage-5 attack fighters in "a large strike package" to target Indian military installations across the Line of Control, ranging from the brigade headquarters at Bhimber Gali to an ammunition dump at Narian.

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'Pilot shot down by Abhi lynched by Pak mob'

The Pakistani pilot of the F-16 that was shot down by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman died after being lynched by a Pakistani mob which mistook him for an Indian pilot, UK-based Pakistani-origin immigration lawyer Khalid Umar said quoting "close contacts" in the Pakistan Air Force, reports Naomi Canton. The F-16 was flown by Wg Cdr Shahzad Ud Din, the son of a Pakistani Air Marshal, Umar said. P 17

Abhi's release creates split in Pak 'deep state'

Pakistan's decision to release Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman within 48 hours of his capture exposed fault lines within the country's "deep state". While mainstream opinion looks at it as a gesture to de-escalate the conflict, there is criticism within the middle levels of the government about the haste in giving up an "asset", sources said. The final decision to release him would have been the army's, not of the Imran Khan-led government. P 12

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