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DUBAI CONDUCTS FIRST PILOTED AIR TAXI FLIGHT

Dubai has successfully conducted its first piloted aerial taxi flight, marking a milestone in the emirate's efforts to pioneer next-generation urban mobility solutions. Developed in partnership with Joby Aviation Inc., the aerial taxi project completed its first electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) flight between Margham and Al Maktoum International Airport (Dubai World Central), coinciding with the Dubai Airshow 2025.

SEE ALSO P5

Pakistan vows firm response after attack

SUICIDE BOMBING OUTSIDE ISLAMABAD COURT KILLS 12

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif denounced the suicide bombing outside a Islamabad court that killed 12 people and injured 27 others, and called for a full investigation, according to a statement issued in Islamabad.

He said those responsible must be brought to justice swiftly. "We will ensure the perpetrators are apprehended and held accountable," he said.

Sharif described attacks on unarmed civilians as "repulsive" and added: "We will not allow the blood of innocent Pakistanis to go to waste."

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned that the country was capable of delivering a strong response to cross-border terrorism, accusing the Afghan Taliban regime of letting militancy spill into Pakistan.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility, a rare attack by the militant group on the country's capital.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the attacker struck at 12:39pm, detonating explosives near a police vehicle after failing to enter a District and Sessions Court.

"We are in a state of war," Asif wrote on X, urging the nation to recognise that terrorism was not confined to the border areas.

He said Pakistan's forces were ensuring national security "through their sacrifices" but dismissed hopes of any meaningful dialogue with Kabul, saying the attack itself "carries a message from the Afghan leadership."

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility, a rare attack by the militant group on the country's capital.

'Massive blast'

A lawyer at the scene, Mohammad Shahzad Butt, said there was a "massive blast".

"Everyone started running inside out of panic. I have seen at least five dead bodies lying at the front gate," he told AFP.

An AFP journalist saw paramilitary troops cordoning off the site of the attack, which struck an area that also houses several government offices.

Rustam Malik, another lawyer, told AFP he "heard a loud bang at the gate" as he was entering the complex.

"It was complete chaos, lawyers and people were running inside the complex. I saw two dead bodies lying on the gate and several cars were on fire," said Malik.

— Agencies
SEE ALSO P11

Modi calls Delhi blast a 'conspiracy'

Indian PM warns those responsible would face justice

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N. R.

Senior Associate Editor

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday called the Red Fort car blast a "conspiracy," vowing that those responsible would face justice.

The explosion near one of India's most iconic landmarks killed at least 13 people and injured nearly 20, ripping through several vehicles in Delhi's crowded heritage zone on Monday evening.

Modi, speaking during a visit to Bhutan, said: "I assure everyone that the agencies will get to the bottom of the entire conspiracy. All those involved will be brought to justice."

White-collar terror network

Investigators have since uncovered chilling details of what officials describe as a "white-collar terror network" — a cell of educated professionals, including doctors, linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, an Al Qaeda offshoot in Kashmir.

According to intelligence sources quoted by the Indian media, Dr Mohd Umar, a Pulwama-based physician, is believed to have carried out a suicide attack after learning that his associates — doctors Adeel Ahmad Rather and Muzammil

Shakeel — had been arrested. Their capture in Faridabad led to the recovery of 2,900kg of explosives and weapons from a rented flat, exposing a network that operated under the guise of professional respectability.

When the Faridabad module was busted, Umar allegedly panicked and carried out the attack near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station. CCTV footage shows him as the sole occupant of a white Hyundai i20, which remained parked for nearly three hours before exploding. Home Minister Amit Shah has constituted a 500-member multi-agency task force led by the National Investigation Agency to probe what he called a "meticulously planned act of terror."

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WORLD

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