

Russia sends waves of drones, missiles in Ukraine

KYIV, June 10 (AP)

RUSSIA sent waves of drones and missiles in an attack on two Ukrainian cities early on Tuesday that killed two people and wounded at least thirteen others, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an online statement called the attack "one of the biggest" in the war that has raged for over three years, saying Moscow's forces fired over 315 drones, mostly Shaheds, and seven missiles at Ukraine overnight.

"Russian missile and Shahed strikes are louder than the efforts of the United States and others around the world to force Russia into peace," Zelenskyy wrote,



ONE OF THE BIGGEST ATTACK: A resident reacts as he passes by burning debris following Russia's attack in Kyiv. (AP/PTI)

urging "concrete action" from the US and Europe in response to the attack.

A maternity hospital and residential buildings in the centre

of the southern port city of Odesa were damaged in the attack, regional head Oleh Kiper said.

Two people were killed and nine injured in the city, accord-

2 KILLED, 13 WOUNDED IN UKRAINE

ing to a statement from the regional prosecutor's office.

Four people were injured in the attack on the capital, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Associated Press journalists heard explosions and the buzzing of drones around the city for hours.

The fresh attacks came hours after Moscow launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment in the three-year war. Ukrainian and Western officials have been anticipating a Russian response to Ukraine's audacious June 1 drone attack on distant

Russian air bases. Plumes of smoke were visible in Kyiv as air defence forces worked to shoot down drones and missiles Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian residents took shelter and slept in metro stations during the hours-long attack. Nina Nosivets, 32, and her 8-month-old son Levko were among them.

"I just try not to think about all this, silently curled up like a mouse, wait until it all passes, the attacks. Distract the child somehow because it's probably the hardest thing for him to bear," she said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 29th FSDC meeting in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, June 10 (ANI)

THE Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, chaired the 29th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in Mumbai on Tuesday. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

A senior official of the Finance Ministry, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, and SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey are also attending the meeting.

"Also present during the #FSDC meeting are Governor @RBI; Finance Secretary and Secretary, D/o Economic Affairs; Secretaries of @DFS_India; D/o Revenue; OSD DEA @FinMinIndia; and @MCA21India; Chief Economic Adviser; Chairpersons @SEBI_India, @IFSCA_Official, senior representatives from @PFRDAofficial, @IBBIlive,



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra during the 29th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at RBI headquarters. (PTI Photo)

IRDAI, @IndianCERT, and other senior officials of @FinMinIndia," the Ministry of finance said on social media platform 'X'.

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), established by the Government in December 2010, serves as the apex forum aimed at fortifying financial stability, fostering inter-

regulatory coordination, and advancing the development of the financial sector.

The gathering provided a platform to deliberate on critical issues concerning financial stability, inter-regulatory coordination, and the development of the financial sector in India.

In the last meeting, the 28th

FSDC meeting, one of the primary objectives of the FSDC was to ensure macro-prudential supervision of the economy, including monitoring the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Additionally, the council addressed matters about inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development, with a focus on enhancing financial literacy and fostering financial inclusion initiatives across the nation. FSDC meeting underscored the Government's commitment to maintaining a robust and resilient financial system that not only fosters economic growth but also safeguards the interests of all stakeholders. As India continues its journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, forums like the FSDC play a pivotal role in shaping policies and regulations to navigate the complexities of the financial landscape.

India's population touches 1.46 bn

NEW DELHI, June 10 (PTI)

INDIA'S population is estimated to reach 1.46 billion in 2025, continuing to be the highest in the world, according to a new UN demographic report, which also revealed the country's total fertility rate has fallen below the replacement rate.

UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) Report, The Real Fertility Crisis, calls for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals.

Millions of people are not able to realise their real fertility goals, it asserts.

This is the real crisis, not underpopu-

lation or overpopulation, and the answer lies in greater reproductive agency - a person's ability to make free and informed choices about sex, contraception and starting a family, it says.

The report also reveals key shifts in population composition, fertility, and life expectancy, signalling a major demographic transition.

The report found that India's total fertility rate has declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.

Country's total fertility rate has fallen below the replacement rate, reveals a new UN demographic report

This means that, on average, Indian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration.

Despite the slowing birth rate, India's youth population remains significant, with 24 per cent in the age bracket of 0-14, 17 per cent in 10-19, and 26 per cent in 10-24.

The country's 68 per cent of the population is of working age (15-64), providing a potential demographic dividend,

if matched by adequate employment and policy support.

The elderly population (65 and older) currently stands at seven per cent, a figure that is expected to rise in the coming decades as life expectancy improves. As of 2025, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 71 years for men and 74 years for women. According to the UN estimates, India's population at present stands at 1,463.9 million.

India is now the world's most populous nation, with nearly 1.5 billion people - a number expected to grow to about 1.7 billion before it begins to fall, around 40 years from now, the report said.

Modernisation, self-reliance focus in defence production: PM

NEW DELHI, June 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that significant changes have unfolded in the defence sector in the 11 years of his Government, with a clear focus on both modernisation and self-reliance in defence production.

He said on X, "The last 11 years have marked significant changes in our defence sector, with a clear focus on both modernisation and becoming self-reliant when it comes to defence production. It is gladdening to see how the people of India have come together with the resolve of making India stronger." Modi shared a thread from a Government's citizen engagement platform, which highlighted the changes in different areas as the Prime Minister completed 11 years in office on Tuesday.

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'Terrorism should be treated as global issue, not bilateral problem'



EAM S Jaishankar during an interaction with members of Indian community in Belgium and Luxembourg. (PTI)

BRUSSELS, June 10 (PTI)

TERRORISM should be addressed as a global issue rather than a bilateral problem, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, as he highlighted the historical connection of many of the terror-related incidents globally to Pakistan.

Addressing the Indian community members in Belgium, Jaishankar apprised them of India's counter-terrorism efforts.

Talking about Operation Sindoor, which was launched after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Jaishankar said during his talks with Belgian counterpart Maxime Prevot, he mentioned the 2016 Brussels attack to "drive home the point that look, terrorism is not, you know, a particular country's problem." "Don't look at this, because often, you know, the media, which is not always free of bias, tends to present it saying, you know, there is an India, Pakistan issue, or, you know, this is about Kashmir," he said.

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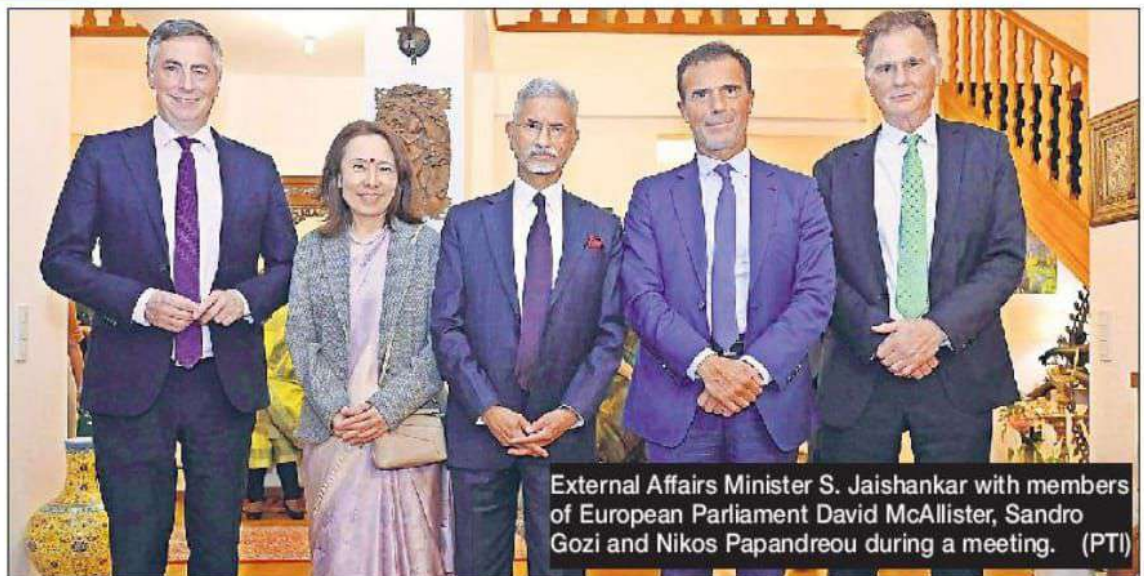
EAM MEETS MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLT

BRUSSELS, June 10 (PTI)

EXTERNALAffairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday met European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen here and praised her "strong condemnation" of the Pahalgam attack and solidarity in combating terrorism.

Jaishankar called on the top EU leader during his visit to Belgium and Luxembourg.

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with members of European Parliament David McAllister, Sandro Gozi and Nikos Papandreou during a meeting. (PTI)