

# All-party delegation in Bahrain to bolster India's anti-terror diplomacy

MANAMA, May 24 (PTI)

**AN ALL-PARTY** Indian delegation reached Bahrain on Saturday as part of New Delhi's global diplomatic outreach to highlight its unwavering stand

against cross-border terrorism.

The delegation led by senior BJP leader Baijayant Jay Panda was received by Ambassador Vinod K Jacob at the airport.

"The All-Party Delegation led by H E @PandaJay Member of

Parliament arrived in Bahrain. India's unwavering stand against cross-border terrorism will be highlighted in all the engagements," the Embassy of India in Bahrain posted on X.

The delegation is one of the

seven all-party delegations India is tasked to visit 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan's designs and India's response to terror. Tensions between India and Pakistan

escalated after the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives. **DMK MP KANIMOZHI-LED DELEGATION PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA GANDHI IN RUSSIA:** The all-party delegation led by Dravida

Munetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Kanimozhi to Russia, including MPs Rajeev Rai (SP), Capt. Brijesh Chowta (BJP), Prem Chand Gupta (RJD), Ashok Kumar Mittal (AAP) and former Ambassador Manjiv S Puri paid

floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Indian embassy in Moscow on Saturday. Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to the Russian Federation, warmly welcomed the delegation.

## Never Forget, Never Forgive: India's strong stance against Pak

TOKYO, May 24 (ANI)

THE all-party delegation Indian MPs, led by Sanjay Kumar Jha, engaged with Japanese dignitaries from political, governmental, and academic circles on Saturday.

The interaction, hosted by India's Ambassador to Japan, Sibi George at India House, aimed to convey India's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism.

The delegation conveyed a strong and unified national message of zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy said, "All-Party Delegation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament led by Sanjay Kumar Jha interacted with dignitaries from Japan's political, governmental, and academic spheres at a dinner hosted by Ambassador Sibi George at India House."



A multi-party delegation led by JD-U MP Sanjay Kumar Jha during an interaction with members of the Indian diaspora at the Embassy, in Tokyo, Japan. (@IndianEmbTokyo via PTI)

## Impressive to see nation come together against terrorism: Indian diaspora in Tokyo

TOKYO, May 24 (ANI)

**AN ALL-PARTY** delegation of Indian Members of Parliament (MPs) is currently visiting various nations as part of the Operation Sindoor global outreach.

Speaking from Tokyo, members of the Indian diaspora expressed strong support for the initiative, emphasising unity against terrorism and praising India's diplomatic efforts.

Highlighting this resolve, BJP MP Brij Lal, part of the delegation visiting Japan, underscored the extensive evidence linking Pakistan to numerous terror attacks in India during his interaction with the Indian community in Tokyo on Saturday. Lal underscored the impact of Pak-sponsored terrorism on India's development, citing specific incidents.

## Time to stand united against terror: Supriya Sule

NEW DELHI, May 24 (PTI)

**NCP-SP leader Supriya Sule** on Saturday said she will convey to world leaders India's firm resolve to fight against terrorism and its supporters and there was no room for politics on the issue of Operation Sindoor as she leads a multi-party delegation to four countries, starting with Qatar.



Sule, the working president

of the NCP-SP, is leading a delegation comprising BJP leaders Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Anurag Thakur and V Muraleedharan, Congress leaders Manish Tewari and Anand Sharma, TDP leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, AAP leader Vikramjeet Singh Sawhney, and former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin to Qatar, South Africa, Ethiopia and Egypt.

## Marked shift in GCC stance on terror since Mumbai attacks: Indian envoy

DUBAI, May 24 (PTI)

**THERE** has been a marked shift in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' stance on terrorism since the 2008 Mumbai attacks due to the widespread realisation that it is a common enemy of all and there is a need for collaborative efforts to combat the menace, the Indian envoy in the UAE has said.

Sanjay Sudhir, India's Ambassador to the UAE, also hailed the visit of the all-party delegation led by Shrikant Shinde to the country to highlight India's stance on the issue. He termed the visit as very successful. "The narrative, our thoughts, our perspectives, were well received, very well reciprocated. And again, it was a clear reciprocation, a clear reiteration of the fact that in the UAE, we have a true strategic partner, a friend, whom we can rely on," the ambassador told PTI.



A multi-party delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde (4thL) prepares to leave as it concludes its visit to UAE. The delegation is on a visit to UAE, Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone to convey India's message on terror. (PTI)

# Russia, Ukraine swap hundreds more prisoners

## Exchange comes after Russia attacks Kyiv with drones, missiles

■ By Illia Novikov and  
Alex Babenko

KYIV, May 24 (AP)

RUSSIA and Ukraine exchanged hundreds more prisoners on Saturday as part of a major swap that amounted to a rare moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire. The exchange came hours after Kyiv came under a large-scale Russian drone and missile attack that left at least 15 people injured.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russia's Defence Ministry said each side brought home 307 more soldiers on Saturday, a day after each released a total of 390 combatants and civilians. "We expect more to come tomorrow," Zelenskyy said on his official Telegram channel. Russia's



Police officers investigate fragments of a Russian drone at the site of a residential building damaged after a Russian attack in Kyiv on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

Defence Ministry also said it expected the exchange to continue, though it did not give details. Hours earlier, explosions and anti-aircraft fire were heard throughout Kyiv as many sought

shelter in subway stations as Russian drones and missiles targeted the Ukrainian capital overnight. In talks held in Istanbul earlier this month — the first time the two sides met face to face for peace talks since Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion — Kyiv and Moscow agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners of war and civilian detainees each.

Officials said Russia attacked Ukraine with 14 ballistic missiles and 250 Shahed drones overnight while Ukrainian forces shot down six missiles and neutralised 245 drones — 128 drones were shot down and 117 were thwarted using electronic warfare.

The Kyiv City Military Administration said it was one of the biggest combined missile and drone attacks on the capital.



# Yunus to continue as Bangladesh's interim Govt chief

DHAKA, May 24 (PTI)

**MUHAMMAD** Yunus will remain as the head of Bangladesh's interim Government, an advisor in his cabinet said on Saturday, two



days after a key ally said he had mulled resignation.

"He (Yunus) didn't say he will leave. He said that while we face many obstacles in carrying out the work and responsibilities assigned to us, we are overcoming them," Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud told reporters after an unscheduled meeting of the advisory council.

"He (Yunus) is definitely staying," Mahmud said.

He said none of the advisors were going anywhere as "the responsibility entrusted to us is a significant one; we cannot

*(Contd on page 3)*

# PAK VIOLATED SPIRIT of IWT: India tells UN

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, May 24 (PTI)

**INDIA** ripped through Pakistan's "disinformation" at the UN on the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that Islamabad violated its spirit by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Waters Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," India's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Parvathaneni



Harish Parvathaneni

Harish said on Friday. Harish was addressing the UN Security Council Arria Formula meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia on 'Protecting Water in Armed Conflict - Protecting Civilian Lives.'

Harish highlighted four aspects to expose the "disinformation" by Pakistan, which spoke  
(Contd on page 3)



# MONSOON

## reaches Kerala, earliest since 2009: IMD



NEW DELHI, May 24 (PTI)

**THE** southwest monsoon hit Kerala on Saturday, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it reached the southern State on May 23, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Normally, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from north-west India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern State on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 28 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018, IMD data showed.

Data available since 1975 showed that the monsoon reached Kerala the earliest in 1990 (on May 19), 15 days before the usual date.

According to meteorologists, there is no direct relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season.

The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features, an IMD official said.

The IMD in April forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent.

According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal'.

Rainfall less than 90 per cent of the long-period average is considered 'deficient'; between 90 per cent and 95 per cent is 'below normal'; between 105 per cent and 110 per cent is 'above normal'; and more than 110 per cent is considered 'excess' precipitation.

India saw 934.8 mm of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average and the highest since 2020.

In 2023, it recorded 820 mm, 94.4 per cent of the average.

In 2022, it saw 925 mm; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020, according to IMD data.

The monsoon is crucial for India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of about 42 per cent of the population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the country's GDP.

(Contd on page 3)

