

Russia hits Ukraine with largest drone-missile attack, **12 KILLED**

KYIV, MAY 25 (AP)

A MASSIVE Russian drone-and-missile attack targeted the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and other regions in the country for a second consecutive night, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens, officials said early Sunday. The scale of the onslaught was stunning—Russia hit Ukraine with 367 drones and missiles, making this the largest single attack of the more than three-years-long war, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Air Force.

In all, Russia used 69 missiles of various types and 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones, he told The Associated Press. It was "the most massive strike in terms of the number of air attack weapons on the territory of Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022," Ihnat said.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow.

For Kyiv, the day was particu-

larly somber as the city observes Kyiv Day, a national holiday that falls on the last Sunday of May commemorating its founding in

warnings to Moscow by the United States and Europe—have not materialised in ways to deter Russia. Zelenskyy wrote on X

Russia, Ukraine swap 303 prisoners

KYIV, May 25 (AP)

RUSSIA and Ukraine swapped hundreds more prisoners on Sunday, the Russian Defence Ministry said, the third part of a major swap that was a moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire.

The Ministry said each side brought home 303 more soldiers, after each released a total of 307 combatants and civilians on Saturday, and 390 on Friday. The swap was the largest in more than three years of war.

the 5th century. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian missiles and drones hit more than 30 cities and villages across Ukraine and urged Western partners to ramp up sanctions on Russia.

That has been a long-standing demand of the Ukrainian leader but one that — despite

that Sunday's targets included Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions.

"These were deliberate strikes on ordinary cities. Ordinary residential buildings were destroyed and damaged," he said.

PM Modi likely to visit W Bengal on May 29

KOLKATA, May 25 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit West



Bengal on May 29 to attend a meeting in Alipurduar district, a

senior State BJP leader said on Sunday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also likely to visit the State on May 31 for a two-day visit, the BJP leader said.

"Till now it has been scheduled that Modi ji will arrive at Alipurduar from Sikkim on May 29. He is expected to hold a public meeting and also an administrative meeting on that day ...," he said.

"Amit Shah ji is likely to arrive in the city on May 31 evening and hold a series of meetings with State and district level leaders on June 1 to discuss organisational matters to discuss the party's strategy as Assembly polls are just one year away," the leader added.

CDS conducts 'strategic review' at Army's Northern, Western commands

NEW DELHI, May 25 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Sunday carried out a strategic review of the Indian Army's combat readiness at the force's northern and western theatres following the Operation Sindoor.

In separate visits to the two crucial commands that played a major role during the operation, Gen Chauhan commended the overall synergy and timely accomplishment of tasks under challenging conditions.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), while conducting a strategic review and operational assessment, emphasised the importance of continued vigilance, jointness and synergy across the services to address "evolving threats", according to the Army.

The top military official also exhorted the two commands to render a helping hand in rehabilitation of the civilians targeted by the "adversary".

At the northern command's headquarters in Udhampur in

Jammu and Kashmir, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Pratik Sharma briefed Gen Chauhan on operational preparedness as well as efforts to eradicate terrorism in the Union territory, the Army said.

"At Udhampur, the Chief of Defence Staff was briefed on the success of the Northern Army in neutralising the terror network, adversary's assets that supported terror and counter measures taken to protect own military assets and civil population during Operation Sindoor," it said.

US trade war: Indonesian President, Chinese PM discuss ways to boost ties



Chinese Premier Li Qiang (R) with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto inspects honour guards during the welcoming ceremony ahead of their meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

JAKARTA (Indonesia), May 25 (AP)

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang met

with Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto on Sunday to discuss ways to expand trade and

investment during the US global trade war and as economic globalisation faces headwinds.

Li arrived in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, on Saturday afternoon for a three-day visit to South-East Asia's largest economy. It was the first stop of his first overseas visit this year.

Indonesia and China are member states of the Group of 20 major developing countries and emerging economies and of BRICS.

Li brought 60 prominent Chinese businesspeople for his address to the Indonesia-China Business Reception on Saturday evening.

Canada invites Aus, Ukraine for G7 meet but no call for India yet

New Delhi: With less than a month to go for the G7 leaders' summit, suspense continues about whether host Canada will invite India for the event. Canada will host the leadership summit of the world's seven most economically advanced countries and the European Union at Kananaskis in Alberta from June 15-17.

It is learnt that Australian PM Anthony Albanese and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky are the only guest leaders who have been invited for the meeting so far. The media relations unit of the host continues to maintain that information on invitations will be made available in due time.

The White House last week confirmed President Donald Trump's participation in the summit even as the two countries spar publicly over trade, tariff and sovereignty issues.

An invite for PM Narendra Modi would also facilitate a bilateral meeting with Carney that could be used by both sides to rebuild the relationship that hit its nadir under Carney's predecessor Justin Trudeau. Both Carney and Modi have committed to strengthening the partnership, but Modi's absence at the summit, if indeed Canada chooses to not invite him, will likely be seen as a missed opportunity.

Modi has been invited for every G7 summit since 2019, when French President Emmanuel Macron invited him for the meeting in Biarritz. TNN

Foreign Secy Misri, Deputy NSA to visit US next week

NEW DELHI, May 25 (IANS)

FOREIGN Secretary Vikram Misri and Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) Pawan Kapoor will visit Washington soon at the directive of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top sources revealed on Sunday.

The visit, which could take place next week, comes in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's repeated claims that his administration brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan earlier this month, after long hours of talks.

India has maintained that the understanding was reached after Pakistan's desperate attempts to seek an end to hostilities in light of Indian forces pounding its air bases during Operation Sindoor.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar had also reiterated this week that not just the US,

but many countries had reached out to India between May 7-10.

In an interview with Netherlands-based NOS, the EAM stated that the cessation of firing and military action was negotiated directly between India and Pakistan, and the ceasefire understanding was reached after the adversary nation made the "first move".

He added that it is natural for other countries to set up communication channels with nations engaged in military conflict.

"US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to me while US Vice President JD Vance spoke to PM Modi," the EAM said.

Trump has also said that India has offered to enter a bilateral trade deal with the US which "basically" proposes that "no tariffs" would be levied on a range of American goods.

India becomes world's 4th largest economy, overtakes Japan

NEW DELHI, May 25 (IANS)

INDIA has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy and is now poised to displace Germany from the third rank in the next 2.5 to 3 years, said NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.

"We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a USD 4 trillion economy as I speak, and this is not my data. This is IMF data. India today is larger than Japan," said Subrahmanyam at a press conference of the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting.

"It's only the United States, China, and Germany which are



According to IMF report, India continues to remain world's fastest-growing major economy and the only country expected to clock over 6 per cent growth in the next two years. The high rate of growth will see India's GDP increasing to \$5,584.476 billion in 2028 as it overtakes Germany to become the third-largest economy.

larger, and if we stick to, you know, what is being planned, what is being thought through, it's a matter of another 2, 2.5 to 3 years; we would become the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam pointed out.

The IMF had stated earlier this month in the World Economic Outlook report that India is poised to become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, with the country's nominal GDP rising to \$4,187.017 billion to surpass Japan's GDP pegged at \$4,186.431 billion.

According to the report, India continues to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy and the only country

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India's rise testament to PM Modi's visionary governance: CAIT

NEW DELHI, May 25 (IANS)

INDIA'S rise as the fourth-largest economy in the world is a direct result of the visionary leadership and strong governance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday.