

PoK people our family, they will return: Rajnath

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies
NEW DELHI, May 29

PEOPLE of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) are part of India's "own family" and the day is not far when they will return to the Indian mainstream by listening to their inner voice, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

Laying out India's policy approach towards Pakistan, Singh said New Delhi has "redesigned and redefined" its strategy and response to terrorism and that possible dialogue with Islamabad will be only on terrorism and PoK.

In an address at the CII Business Summit, he said



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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and CII President Sanjiv Puri during the CII Annual General Meeting & Business Summit 2025, in New Delhi on Thursday.

(PTI)

'Make-in-India' in the defence sector has been an essential component in the country's national security and it played a key role in India's effective action against terrorism during Operation Sindoor.

In the remarks, Singh appeared to be largely attempting to reach out to people of PoK saying India considers them to be part of its "own" family and exuded confidence that they will return voluntarily.

"I believe that the people of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) are our own, part of our family," he said.

"We are committed to the resolution of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Best India)

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Operation Sindoor:
'Path of truth,
God was with us'

NEW DELHI, May 29 (PTI)

IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Thursday hailed Operation Sindoor as a "national victory", and said all the Indian forces came together to execute it in a very professional manner.

In his address at the CII Business Summit there, he also said, "We were taking the path of truth, I think, God was with us also in this."

"This Operation Sindoor that
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India rejects US' claim of offering trade to halt Indo-Pak conflict

NEW DELHI, May 29 (PTI)

INDIA on Thursday said the issue of trade did not come up at all in talks between Indian and American leaders during its military clashes with Pakistan, virtually rejecting Washington's repeated claims that its offer of trade stopped the confrontation.

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told a New York court that India and Pakistan reached a "tenuous ceasefire" only after President Donald Trump offered both nations trading access with the US to avert a "full-scale war".

In the last few weeks, Trump has also repeatedly claimed that he threatened India and Pakistan that the US will stop trade with the two nations if

they don't stop the conflict.

India has been consistently maintaining that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.

"From the time Operation Sindoor commenced on May 7 till the understanding on cessation of firing and military action was reached on May 10, there were conversations between Indian and the US leaders on the evolving military situation," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"The issue of trade or tariff did not come up in any of those discussions," he said at his weekly media briefing.

77th UN Peacekeepers Day Army pays tributes to martyres

NEW DELHI, May 29 (ANI)

THE Indian Army paid a heartfelt tribute on the 77th United Nations Peacekeepers Day, with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony held at the National War Memorial on Thursday, honouring the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives in UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Information Systems and Coordination), led the ceremony, laying a wreath to commemorate the 179 Indian soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty while serving in 49 UN peacekeeping missions.

Senior military officers and personnel from UN contingents attended the event, reflecting India's steadfast commitment to global peace and security as one



Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor arrives to pay homage at the National War Memorial on the 77th United Nations Peacekeepers Day, in New Delhi on Thursday. (PTI)

of the largest troop-contributing nations, with over 200,000 Indian soldiers having participated in these 49 missions.

The ceremony underscored the courage, dedication, and professionalism of Indian peacekeepers, who have played a pivotal role in upholding the United Nations' ideals in conflict zones across the globe.

UN Peacekeepers Day, observed annually on May 29, marks the day when the first UN Peacekeeping Mission, "UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)", began operations in Palestine in 1948.

The day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by peacekeepers and India's enduring legacy in fostering international peace and stability. The UN was founded in 1945 with the primary goal of

maintaining international peace and security. Since its inception, UN peacekeeping has become a valuable tool to help countries navigate the challenging path from conflict to peace.

India has been a key contributor to global peace and security, with over 290,000 peacekeepers serving in more than 50 UN missions. Currently, over 5,000 Indian peacekeepers are deployed in nine active missions, working in challenging conditions to promote international peace.

The UN Peacekeepers, known as Blue Helmets, get their name from the light blue of the United Nations flag. In 1947, the UN decided on this colour because blue symbolises peace, while red is often linked to war. This light blue shade has since become a symbol of the UN.

In touch with Iran over missing Indians: MEA

TEHRAN/NEW DELHI, May 29 (IANS)

INDIA on Thursday said that it remains in touch with the authorities in Tehran for locating three Indian nationals who have gone missing in Iran.

"The three Indian nationals who had landed there some time ago are missing. We are in touch with the Iranian authorities to locate them, ensure their safety and security, and facilitate their eventual return home. We are in daily contact with the authorities there and are receiving good cooperation from the Iranian

side. We are also in touch with the families of the missing people and extending all possible help," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

All three missing Indians hail from Punjab and have been identified as Jaspal Singh, Hushanpreet Singh and Amritpal Singh. They all went missing on May 1, shortly after landing in Tehran, authorities have informed.

"Family members of three Indian citizens have informed the Embassy of India that their

relatives are missing after having travelled to Iran. The Embassy has strongly taken up this matter with the Iranian authorities and requested that the missing Indians should be urgently traced and their safety should be ensured. We are also keeping the family members regularly updated of the efforts being made by the Embassy," the Indian Embassy in Iran said.

An agent in Punjab had promised the three men to send them to Australia via the Dubai-Iran route. He had reportedly also assured them that they will be provided a stay in Iran.

Talks and terror cannot go together: MEA

NEW DELHI, May 29 (IANS)

INDIA on Thursday made it clear once again that any engagement with Pakistan will only be bilateral; terror and talks cannot go together; and, the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will remain in abeyance until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjures" its support for cross-border terrorism.

"We have been very clear and consistent in our position regarding any engagement with Pakistan - that it has to be bilateral. At the same time, we are clear that talks and terror don't go together. On terrorism itself, we are open to discussing the handing over to India of noted terrorists whose list was given to Pakistan some years ago," MEA spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal stated during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

"I would like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu and Kashmir will only be about the vacation of illegally-occupied Indian territory by Pakistan. As for the Indus Waters Treaty, it will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism."