

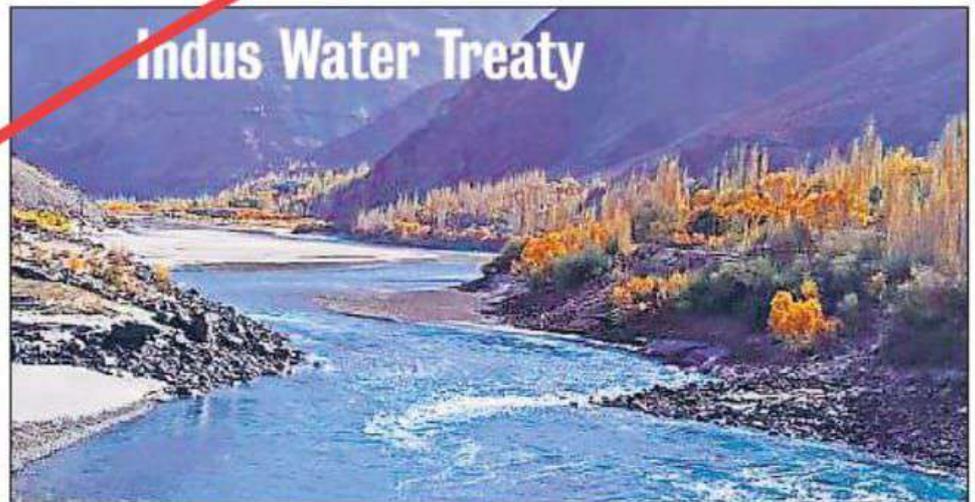
Centre plans study to look into max use of Pak's share of water

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (PTI)

THE Centre is planning to undertake a study to look into ways to maximise the use of the quantum of water from the three rivers that Pakistan had earlier used under the Indus Water Treaty, now that the agreement has been suspended, officials said.

The proposal was made at a high-level meeting on Friday chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah that discussed the future course of action on the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, which has been kept in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

Under the World Bank-brokered treaty, India was granted exclusive rights to the water of the eastern rivers -- the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi -- amounting to an average annual flow of about 33 million acre-feet (MAF). The water of the western rivers -- the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab -- with an average annual flow of around 135 MAF, were largely



allocated to Pakistan.

With the treaty now put in abeyance, the Government is looking at ways to utilise the water of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

After Friday's high-level meeting, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil asserted that the Government is working on a strategy to ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of directives, and the meeting was held to follow up on them.

Shah made several suggestions at the meeting for their effective implementation.

"We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," the Jal Shakti Minister had said after the meeting. Sources said the Government is working on a long-term plan to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions. According to an official, the Ministry has been asked to conduct a study to look at ways to utilise the water from the three western rivers.

5 killed, 700 hurt in massive port explosion in Iran

MUSCAT, Apr 26 (AP)

A MASSIVE explosion and fire rocked a port on Saturday in southern Iran reportedly linked to a shipment of a chemical ingredient used to make missile propellant, killing five people and injuring more than 700 others.

Mehrdad Hasanzadeh, a provincial disaster management official, gave the updated casualty figure in an interview on state television. The previous toll was four dead and more than 500 others injured. The blast at



the Shahid Rajaei port happened as Iran and the United States met Saturday in Oman for the third round of negotiations over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

While no one in Iran outright suggested that the explosion came from an attack, even Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who led the talks, on Wednesday acknowledged that "our security services are on high alert given past instances of attempted sabotage and assassination operations designed to

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Iran, US hold hrs of expert talks over N-programme

MUSCAT (Oman), Apr 26 (AP)

IRAN and the United States held in-depth negotiations in Oman over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme on Saturday, talks that likely will hinge on the Islamic Republic's enrichment of uranium.

The talks ran for several hours in Muscat, the mountain-wrapped capital of this sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula. A person close to Steve Witkoff, the US special envoy to the Middle East, acknowledged that the meeting had started and later ended. The source spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door talks. Iranian state television also reported their conclusion.

However, neither Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi nor Witkoff offered any immediate specifics or details on the talks that they'll lead.

But Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who has mediated the two previous round of talks in Muscat and Rome, offered a positive note at the end of Saturday's negotiations.

Iran and the US "identified a shared aspiration to reach agreement based on mutual respect and enduring commitments," al-Busaidi posted on X. "Core principles, objectives and technical concerns were all addressed. Talks will continue next week with a further high level meeting provisionally scheduled for May 3."

Forces intensify anti-terror operations in J&K's Anantnag

ANANTNAG, Apr 26 (ANI)

IN THE wake of the recent Pahalgam terror attack and as part of intensified efforts to curb terrorism and its ecosystem, Anantnag Police, in close collaboration with the Army, CRPF and other security forces have launched extensive search and cordon operations across the district.

Terrorists attacked tourists at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen while leaving several others injured.

As part of these operations, numerous raids were conducted at various locations throughout the district. Day and night search operations are underway with heightened vigilance. So far, around 175 suspects have been detained for questioning to dismantle the support networks aiding terrorist activities.

To further enhance security, additional Mobile Vehicle Check Points (MVCs) have been established across the district to monitor suspicious movements and ensure public safety.

Moreover, Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), ambushes, and intensified patrolling have been launched, particularly in high-density forest areas, to flush out any possible terrorist presence and secure the district.

The Anantnag Police said that, along with its partner security



Security personnel conduct searches in the houses of terror associates under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) cases in Srinagar on Saturday. (PTI)

forces, it remains committed to maintaining peace and thwarting any attempts to disrupt normalcy in the district. The police have solicited public cooperation and advised citizens to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police establishment.

Also, the security forces have been placed on high alert in the Rajouri region in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. The security forces are conducting thorough checks of vehicles on the highway, with a focus on suspicious activity along the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway.

The forces are deployed in large numbers to prevent any untoward incidents

On Friday, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, for the first time following the Pahalgam terror attack, reached Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and reviewed the security situation of the Union Territory.

The Indian Army Chief General was also briefed on the actions being taken by the formations against terrorists inside their own territory and the Pakistan Army's attempts to violate the ceasefire along the LoC.

UNSC condemns in 'strongest terms' Pahalgam terror attack

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 26 (PTI)

THE UNSC has "condemned in the strongest terms" the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that those responsible should be held accountable and the organisers and sponsors of this "reprehensible act of terrorism" should be brought to justice. The 15-nation Council issued a Press Statement on "terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir" in

which the members "condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir" on April 22, during which at least 26 people were killed and many more injured.

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice," the press statement said.

"They stressed that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to take relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard," it said.

A press statement is a declaration to the media made by the President of the Security Council

on behalf of all 15 Members. France is President of the Council for the month of April and the press statement was issued by Council President Permanent Representative of France to the UN Ambassador Jerome Bonnafonti. It is learnt that the US had floated the draft statement, which was then discussed by Council members.

Pakistan currently sits in the UN Security Council as a non-

permanent member. A press statement requires agreement from all Council members and is a negotiated text.

The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of India and the Government of Nepal, and wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured. In the April 22 terror attack in

Pahalgam, 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed. The victims were mostly tourists from all across India.

The UNSC members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. They reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever,

whenever and by whomever committed. They reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.