

# Investing in fighting poverty instead of wars would make more secure world: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 10 (AP)

SOARING global military expenditures are reducing essential investments in health, education and job creation and don't guarantee peace, the United Nations chief warned on Tuesday.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the evidence is clear that heavy military spending often undermines peace by "fuelling arms races, deepening mistrust and diverting resources from the very foundations of stability." With military spending surging to a record USD 2.7 trillion following a decade-long military build-up, the UN studied the impact on UN development goals for 2030.

The resulting report, "The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful



Future," is expected to be discussed at the annual meeting of world leaders at the General Assembly starting September 22.

The 17 goals adopted by world leaders in 2015 include ending global hunger, promoting good health and providing quality education for every child, while reducing inequalities in the world. In his July report on the status of the goals in 2025, Guterres said only 35 per cent of them are on track.

He said Tuesday his report is

a call to action to rebalance global budgets and spending, stressing that the current trajectory of military spending is "unsustainable."

"A more secure world begins by investing at least as much in fighting poverty as we do in fighting wars," Guterres said. Last year's USD 2.7 trillion in global military spending is projected to reach USD 6.6 trillion by 2035 if current trends persist. And increased military spending is widespread, with more than 100 countries boosting expenditures last year.

"Redirecting even a fraction of today's military spending could close vital gaps," Guterres said, "Putting children in school, strengthening primary health care, expanding clean energy and resilient infrastructure, and protecting the most vulnerable."

# ISRO inks pact with HAL for transfer of SSLV tech

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

ISRO signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited on Wednesday for the transfer of technology for production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles, marking a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.

The agreement, the 100th transfer of technology agreement facilitated by space sector promoter INSPACe, was inked in Bengaluru by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and INSPACe with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which outbid a consortium led by Adani Group-backed Alpha Design Technologies.



The aim is to complete the entire technology transfer process within 24 months from the date of signing of the agreement, a statement from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe) said.

During this period, ISRO will provide necessary training and technical support to HAL for acquiring the knowhow of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV), it added.

"With India's liberalisation of the commercial space sector, opportunities are certainly growing. At ISRO, we have a dynamic technology transfer mechanism to realise shared goals," ISRO chairman V Narayanan said.

He said ISRO will guide the HAL team on the preparedness-to-flight tangent of SSLVs that would define the next phase of deep-tech collaboration in space in India.

"ISRO, HAL, NSIL and INSPACe coming together for the SSLV technology transfer signals a vital leap towards this endeavour. It reflects Government of India's vision to empower the space industry and establish India as a global hub for affordable and reliable launch services," INSPACe chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka said.

He said the agreement will allow HAL to independently take up realisation of SSLV and cater to both domestic and international markets.

# NATO scrambles jets to shoot down Russian drones in Poland

WOHYN, Sept 10 (AP)

MULTIPLE Russian drones crossed into Poland in what European officials described Wednesday as an deliberate provocation, causing NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down. A NATO spokesman said it was the first time the alliance confronted a potential threat in its airspace.

The incursion, which occurred during a wave of strikes by the Kremlin on Ukraine, and the NATO response swiftly raised fears that the war could spill over — a fear that has been growing in Europe as Russia steps up its attacks and peace efforts go nowhere.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it did not target Poland, while Belarus, a close ally of Moscow, said it tracked some drones that "lost their course" because they were jammed.

However, several European leaders said they believed the incursion amounted to an intentional expansion of Russia's

assault against Ukraine.

"Russia's war is escalating, not ending," European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas told reporters in Brussels. "What (Russian President Vladimir) Putin wants to do is to test us. What happened in Poland is a game changer," and it should result in stronger sanctions.

Polish airspace has been violated many times since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, but never on this scale in Poland or anywhere else in NATO territory. Poland said some of the drones came from Belarus, where Russian and Belarusian troops have begun gathering for war games scheduled to start Friday.

It was not immediately clear how many drones were involved. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told Parliament 19 violations were recorded over seven hours, but he said information was still being gathered. Polish authorities said nine crash sites were found, with some of them hundreds of kilometers from the border.

"There are definitely no grounds to suspect that this was a course correction mistake or the like," German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius told parliament. "These drones were very clearly put on this course deliberately."

Dutch fighter jets came to Poland's aid and intercepted some drones. Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski later thanked the Dutch government "for the magnificent performance of Dutch pilots in neutralizing" the drones.

NATO met to discuss the incident, which came three days after Russia's largest aerial attack on Ukraine since the war began.

**Poland says some drones came from Belarus**

Tusk told parliament that the first violation came at approximately 11:30 pm Tuesday and the last around 6:30 am Wednesday. Earlier, Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz wrote on X that more than 10 objects crossed into Polish airspace.

# PM Modi speaks to Italian counterpart Meloni; discusses EU-India FTA, Ukraine conflict

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday discussed with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni the proposed free trade agreement between India and the European Union (EU) and thanked her for supporting it.

In a phone conversation, Modi also discussed with Meloni ways to end the conflict in Ukraine as well as the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEEEC).

“Had an excellent conversation with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. We reaffirmed our joint commitment to deepen India-Italy Strategic Partnership, and shared interest in bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine,” Modi said on X.

“Thanked PM Meloni for Italy’s proactive support for concluding a mutually beneficial India-EU trade agreement and pro-

moting connectivity through the IMEEEC initiative,” he said.

India and the EU are looking at firming up the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of this year. The two sides are holding the 13th round of negotiations in New Delhi this week.

India and the EU relaunched the negotiations for the free trade agreement (FTA) in June 2022 after a gap of over eight years.

An Indian readout said the two leaders reviewed and positively assessed the developments in bilateral strategic partnership across sectors such as investment, defence, security, space, science and technology, education, people-to-people ties and counter-terrorism.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards further deepening of the partnership, in line with the joint strategic action plan -2025-29, it said.

“They also exchanged views

on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They agreed on the need for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. PM Modi reiterated India’s full support for efforts in this direction,” the readout noted. It said Meloni reiterated Italy’s strong support for conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-EU free trade agreement at the earliest, and for the success of the AI Impact Summit to be hosted by India in 2026.

The leaders also agreed on taking steps to promote connectivity under IMEEEC initiative.

The IMEEEC initiative was firming up on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023.

Billed as a pathbreaking initiative, it envisages a vast road, railroad and shipping networks among Saudi Arabia, India, the US and Europe with an aim to ensure integration among Asia, Middle East and West.

# UNSC reforms essential for peacekeeping ops to be effective: India

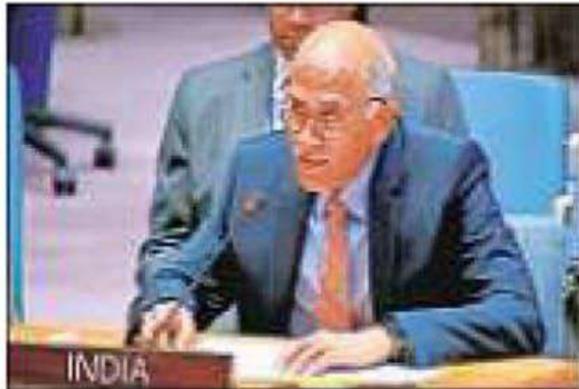
UNITED NATIONS, Sept 10 (IANS)

PEACEKEEPING operations can be effective only if the Security Council is reformed to give it the legitimacy that comes from reflecting the contemporary realities, according to India.

“The effectiveness of UN peacekeeping is tied to the structure and legitimacy of the UN Security Council, which must be reformed to ensure expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories to reflect the contemporary realities,” India’s Permanent Representative P Harish said on Wednesday.

The major contributors, like India -- which has sent the most troops - to peacekeeping operations are shut out of the permanent membership in the Council, which gives the missions their mandates. To address the emerging challenges to peacekeeping, consensus arrived through a member state-driven process of wide-ranging consultations is essential, Harish said.

All stakeholders, particularly the troop and police-contributing countries, should participate in the process, he added.



India's Permanent Representative P Harish

# Airspace violated by Russian drones: Poland

WARSAW, Sept 10 (AP)

POLAND said early on Wednesday that its airspace was violated by Russian drones, and that the country and its NATO allies shot down some that posed a direct threat.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk wrote on social media that "Last night the Polish airspace was violated by a huge number of Russian drones. Those drones that posed a direct threat were shot down."

Poland's armed forces were on a heightened state of alert overnight Tuesday and early Wednesday because of what they described as "further massive airstrikes against targets located in Ukraine."

Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz wrote on X that



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk

"more than ten objects" crossed into Polish airspace, and those that constituted a risk to Poland's security were neutralised.

Warsaw's Chopin Airport suspended flights for several hours, citing the closure of airspace due to military operations.

The Polish armed forces said

Wednesday morning that a search for possible crash sites is ongoing and urged people not to approach, touch or move any objects they see, warning that they may pose a threat and could contain hazardous material.

Poland has complained about Russian objects entering its airspace during attacks on Ukraine before. In August, Poland's defence minister said that a flying object that crashed and exploded in a cornfield in eastern Poland was identified as a Russian drone, and called it a provocation by Russia. In March, Poland scrambled jets after a Russian missile briefly passed through Polish airspace on its way to a target in western Ukraine, and in 2022, a missile that was likely fired by Ukraine to intercept a Russian attack

landed in Poland, killing two people. Russian drones injured three people in Ukraine's western Khmelnytskyi region, its head Serhii Tiurin wrote on Telegram early Wednesday morning. He said a sewing factory was destroyed, a gas station and vehicles were damaged, and windows in several houses were blown out. One person was killed and one injured in the Zhytomyr region overnight, regional administration head Vitalii Bunehko wrote on Telegram, while homes and businesses suffered damage. In the Vinnytsia region, Russian drones damaged "civilian and industrial infrastructure," according to regional head Natalia Zabolotna. Nearly 30 residential buildings were damaged, and one person was injured. In the Cherkasy region,

several houses and a power grid were damaged in a Russian attack. In Zolotonosha district, a shock wave destroyed a barn killing two cows, regional head Ihor Taburets wrote on Telegram.

The Russian Defence Ministry said in its morning report on Wednesday that it had destroyed 122 Ukrainian drones over various Russian regions overnight, including over the illegally annexed Crimea and areas of the Black Sea. Joint military drills involving Russian and Belarusian troops are due to take place in Belarus starting Friday and will last until September 16.

Troops from both countries will simulate repelling an attack, including airstrikes and sabotage, according to official reports of the games, dubbed "Zapad 2025," or "West 2025."