

Russia, Ukraine announce separate ceasefire ahead of Victory Day

KYIV, May 5 (ANI)

RUSSIA'S Defence Ministry said it will observe a two-day ceasefire in Ukraine from May 8 to 9 to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, while cautioning that any disruption to Victory Day commemorations by Ukraine would prompt a response.

According to the statement, the decision was taken by President Vladimir Putin, declaring that "a ceasefire is declared on 8-9 May 2026 in honour of the celebration of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War." Moscow added, "We expect the Ukrainian side to follow this example."

"Should the Kiev regime attempt to carry out its criminal plans aimed at disrupting the celebration of the 81st anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will launch a retaliatory, massive missile strike on the centre of Kiev,"



Emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire on a vehicle following a Russian drone attack in Kyiv region of Ukraine on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

it added. Also, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a separate ceasefire window Ukraine would initiate a truce from midnight on May 5 to 6. In a post on X, he said, "As of today, there has been no official appeal to Ukraine regarding the modality of a cessation of hostilities that is being claimed on Russian social media." Emphasising humanitarian concerns, he added, "We believe that

human life is far more valuable than any anniversary 'celebration'."

Kyiv declared that it would initiate a ceasefire from midnight on May 5 to 6. "In this regard, we are announcing a ceasefire regime starting at 00:00 on the night of May 5-6. In the time left until that moment, it is realistic to ensure that silence takes effect. We will act reciprocally starting from that moment," he said.

Army to get 5 ground-based mobile electronic systems

NEW DELHI, May 5 PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed a Rs 1,476 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to procure five ground-based mobile electronic systems for the Indian Army.

The mobile electronic systems are expected to boost the Army's surveillance and networking infrastructure. The Ministry said the mobile electronic systems will have a minimum of 72 per cent indigenous content.

"The contract, under the buy

(Indigenously designed, developed and manufactured) category, was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh," the Ministry said.

"The system will modernise the Indian Army units and strengthen the indigenous defence manufac-

turing ecosystem of the country," it said in a brief statement.

The Defence Ministry said the contract reinforced Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India in the defence sector.

CDS bats for using Brain-Computer Interface tech in national security

NEW DELHI, May 3 (IANS)

CHIEF of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday called for sustained collaboration among the Armed Forces, academia, industry, and research organisations to harness the full potential of Brain-Computer Interface technologies for national security and broader societal benefit. He gave the call while inaugurating a conference on 'Brain-Computer Interface (BCI): Expanding Neural Frontiers; Its Strategic Implications' jointly organised by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) and the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies.

The conference, envisioned by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman COSC (CISC), Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, brought together senior military leadership, policymakers, scientists, medical experts, industry representatives, start-ups and academia to deliberate upon the emerging field of Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) and its strategic implications.

India, Jamaica agree to boost trade, skilled mobility



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Jamaica Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith during the signing of an agreement in Kingston on Monday. (AP/PTI)

KINGSTON, May 5 (PTI)

INDIA and Jamaica agreed to further strengthen trade linkages and explore cooperation for recruitment and mobility of skilled professionals, including healthcare workers and teachers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

Addressing a joint press conference here after talks with his Jamaican counterpart Kamina J Smith on Monday, Jaishankar said the discussions were comprehensive, and they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties,

identifying new avenues to deepen the partnership.

"We signed several important agreements and discussed effective implementations of MoUs which have been recently concluded in the fields of digital transformation, cultural exchange, sports and digital payments to ensure tangible outcomes on the ground," he said. India recognised Jamaica's growing role as a logistics hub and gateway to the Caribbean for trade and investment, Jaishankar said.

"We agreed to further strengthen trade, business and invest-

ment linkages, explore cooperation for recruitment and mobility of skilled professionals, including nurses, healthcare workers and teachers," he said.

The two sides also discussed expanding cooperation in defence and security, healthcare, digitisation, agriculture, education and infrastructure, the Minister said.

Highlighting development cooperation as a key pillar of ties, Jaishankar noted the successful completion of the Improving Rural Livelihoods Project in Kitson Town in March 2026, implemented with Indian assistance of USD 1 million under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, benefiting over 200 individuals and impacting thousands more.

He said India is also discussing the feasibility of establishing an artisan empowerment hub in Jamaica and reiterated support for the country's recovery following Hurricane Melissa.

As part of humanitarian assistance, India has supplied relief material, deployed a medical team and is in the process of providing 30 dialysis units. It is also sending 40 fishing boats and 200 GPS units to aid recovery efforts.

The ministers reaffirmed close cooperation in multilateral fora and discussed issues such as reformed multilateralism, climate justice and priorities of the Global South.

3 Indians injured in Iran drone attack on UAE

DUBAI, May 5 (PTI)

THREE Indian nationals were injured on Monday after a fire broke out on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone (FOIZ) in the UAE following a drone strike, officials said.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in the UAE confirmed that three Indians sustained injuries in attacks in Fujairah.

"We are in touch with local authorities for ensuring adequate medical care and welfare of the affected Indian nationals," it added.

Earlier, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported that the relevant authorities in the eastern emirate of Fujairah confirmed that a fire had broken out in the FOIZ, resulting from a drone attack coming from Iran.

Fujairah Civil Defence teams immediately responded to the incident and are continuing efforts to bring the fire under control, it added.

Three Indian nationals sus-

tained moderate injuries after the fire broke out on the oil facility, the Khaleej Times reported,

quoting authorities in Fujairah. The injured were taken to the hospital for treatment, it added.

In a post on X, the UAE's Ministry of Defence said that Iran launched four missiles toward

various areas across the country. "Three were successfully engaged over the country's territorial waters, while one fell into the sea," it said.

The Ministry urged the public to comply with all public safety procedures when warning messages are issued to the public. Authorities have urged the public not to circulate rumours and to rely only on official sources for information, Gulf News reported.

The UAE's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned what it called "renewed unprovoked Iranian aggression" using missiles and drones.

In a statement, the ministry said that these "attacks constitute a dangerous escalation, an unacceptable act of aggression, and a direct threat to the UAE's security, stability, and territorial integrity, in violation of the

principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations."

PM MODI CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON UAE: PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday strongly condemned the attacks on the United Arab Emirates' port city of Fujairah that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals.

Modi's sharp denunciation of the attacks came a day after the Indians were injured after drone strikes caused a fire at a major oil industry zone in Fujairah. The UAE had accused Iran of carrying out the strike.

"Strongly condemn the attacks on the UAE that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals. Targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable," Modi said on social media.

"India stands in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

Drone strikes caused fire at oil industry zone in Fujairah

Ceasefire with Iran holding despite attacks in Strait of Hormuz: US military leaders

DUBAI, May 5 (AP)

US military leaders said Tuesday that a ceasefire with Iran remains in effect a day after Tehran was blamed for new attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and against the United Arab Emirates.

The fragile truce, reached nearly a month ago, appeared to be holding as US forces pressed ahead with efforts to reopen the vital waterway for global energy. On Monday, the

US said it sank six small Iranian boats that had threatened commercial ships. So far, only two merchant ships are known to have passed through a new US-guarded route, with hundreds more bottled up in the Persian Gulf. It's unclear whether continued US military action will reassure shippers without reigniting the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

The UAE, a key American ally, said it came under attack by

Iranian missiles and drones for a second straight day on Tuesday. At least three people were wounded in attacks the day before, and a drone sparked a fire at a key oil facility in the eastern emirate of Fujairah.

Iran's effective closure of the strait, through which major oil and gas supplies passed before the war, along with fertilizer and other petroleum-derived products, has sent fuel prices skyrocketing and rattled the global economy.

BJP-led Govt to take oath in WB on May 9

KOLKATA, May 5 (ANI)

THE newly-elected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in West Bengal will take oath on May 9 (Saturday), coinciding with the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, said West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Samik Bhattacharya on Tuesday.

“The Prime Minister announced yesterday that on 25th Baisakh, that is May 9, Rabindranath Tagore’s birthday, this Government will take the oath,” Bhattacharya told ANI, terming the moment historic for the State.

Addressing concerns over post-election incidents, he condemned reports of vandalism involving BJP flags and warned of strict action. “Some minor incidents have come to light where vandalism was done... We condemn this. If anyone does this, we will be forced to expel them from the party,” he said, adding that the administration must also ensure law and order.

Bhattacharya urged party workers to celebrate responsibly. “Celebrate the victory, but don’t do anything that hurts anyone’s feelings. As big as our victory, our responsibility is also that big,” he said.

Highlighting the scale of support, he credited voters across regions and even overseas supporters for contributing to the party’s success. “From Toronto to Silicon Valley... people came and supported. Migrant labourers spent from their own pockets
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