

# India carries out maiden flight-trial of glide weapon system off Odisha coast



DRDO conducts the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system off the coast of Odisha. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, May 8 (PTI)

INDIA has successfully carried out the maiden flight-trial of an indigenously-developed glide weapon system off the coast of Odisha. The Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) sys-

tem, developed to convert unguided warheads into precision guided weapons, was tested on Thursday.

“The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the

maiden flight-trial of TARA weapon off the coast of Odisha,” it said. It said TARA is India’s first indigenous glide weapon system to convert unguided warheads into precision guided weapons.

The weapon system was released from a Jaguar aircraft. The weapon system has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad along with other Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratories to enhance the lethality and accuracy of a low-cost weapon to neutralise ground-based targets, the Ministry said.

It is the first glide weapon to utilise state-of-the-art low-cost systems, it added. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, the IAF and the industry partners involved in the project for the maiden flight-trial of the weapon system.

# Drone, missile attack in UAE as Iran war ceasefire is challenged

■ By Adam Schreck  
and Audrey McAvoy

DUBAI, May 8 (AP)

THE United Arab Emirates said it responded to another Iranian missile barrage on Friday, hours after the US said it traded fire with Iranian forces in the Strait of Hormuz, in the latest blows to a shaky month-old ceasefire.

The UAE's Defence Ministry said three people were wounded after air defences "engaged" two ballistic missiles and three drones launched by Iran. It was not clear if all were successfully intercepted. Authorities told people to stay away from any fallen debris.

The US said it thwarted attacks on three Navy ships and struck Iranian military facilities in the strait. Iran has mostly blocked the critical waterway for global

energy since the US and Israel launched the war on February 28, causing a global spike in fuel prices and rattling world markets.

The US military said it had intercepted Iranian attacks on three Navy ships in the Strait of

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**Forces exchanged fire with 'the enemy' on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz. It also reported loud noises and continuous defensive fire in western Tehran late Thursday night, said Iranian state media**

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Hormuz late Thursday and "targeted Iranian military facilities responsible for attacking US

forces". The US military said none of its ships were hit.

Iranian state media said the country's forces exchanged fire with "the enemy" on Qeshm Island in the strait. It also reported loud noises and continuous defensive fire in western Tehran late Thursday.

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning what it called "hostile" US military action against two Iranian oil tankers near the Iranian port of Jask and the strait, as well as strikes on nearby coastal areas.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country has been in contact with the US and Iran "day and night" in an effort to extend the ceasefire and reach a peace deal.

US President Donald Trump played down the exchange of fire on Thursday.

# Ready to resolve border issue with India through diplomatic channels: Nepal

■ **By Shirish B Pradhan**

KATHMANDU, May 8 (PTI)

NEPAL on Friday said it is committed to resolving the border issue with India through diplomatic channels.

“We have already made public our views regarding Lipulekh. We have also expressed our view regarding the proposed Kailash Mansarovar journey between India and China via Nepalese territory, Lipulekh,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Chhetri said.

Nepal is willing to resolve the issue in accordance with the spirit of close and friendly relations existing between Nepal and India, Chhetri said.

“The Nepalese Government is always committed to resolving the border-related issue through diplomatic channels on the basis of historical agreements and understanding, facts, map and

evidence,” he added.

His comments came days after India firmly rejected the Himalayan nation’s objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the long-established Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, dismissing Kathmandu’s territorial claims over the region as an “unilateral artificial enlargement” that New Delhi finds “untenable.”

New Delhi’s sharp reaction came after the Nepalese foreign ministry objected to preparations by India and China for the annual pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass, claiming the region belongs to it. Chhetri said that Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani areas lying east of the Mahakali river are “inseparable parts of Nepal on the basis of the Sugauli Treaty of 1816.”

“We have already informed our stance and concern to both India and China,” he said.

# Outmaneuver adversaries with strategic surprise: Rajnath to top commanders

JAIPUR/NEW DELHI, May 8 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday directed the top military commanders of the three services to integrate an “element of surprise” into modern warfare to outmaneuver India’s adversaries and bolster strategic posture.

In his address at the joint commanders conference in Jaipur, Singh also described the Operation Sindoor as a testament to the “swift, precise, and joint response” of the Indian armed forces to safeguard national interests and called upon the military to remain ready to deal with any security challenges. In their two-day deliberations, the commanders carried out a comprehensive review of the combat preparedness of the military in the wake of the evolving regional security situation.

Operation Sindoor was a demonstration of India’s growing capabilities and a symbol of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the joint commanders’ conference in Jaipur, Rajasthan. (PTI)

the nation’s collective resolve and new military ethos, Singh said, a day after the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

He also unveiled a ‘Joint Doctrine for Integrated Communication Architecture’

that is aimed at strengthening doctrinal clarity, interoperability and integrated communications across the armed forces in future multidomain operations.

The joint commanders’ conference, themed ‘Military

Capability in New Domains’, brought together the top leadership of the defence ministry and the three services to deliberate on emerging security challenges and future readiness.

Comprehensive deliberations were held on future warfare, multidomain operations, technological transformation and joint capability development.

The conference witnessed extensive discussions on cognitive warfare, cyber resilience against evolving quantum and AI-enabled threats, military capability development in emerging domains, indigenous innovation and AI-enabled warfighting concepts. It was attended by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh among others.

# India, Singapore resolve to target terror financing, radicalisation jointly

NEW DELHI, May 8 (PTI)

INDIA and Singapore have vowed to jointly work to combat the challenge of terrorism including cross-border movement of terrorists, radicalisation, and financing of terrorism.

Both sides deliberated on bolstering their anti-terror cooperation at the fifth meeting of their Joint Working Group (JWG) on combating terrorism and transnational crime, held in New Delhi on Thursday.

According to a joint press release, the JWG unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and reaffirmed the principle of “zero tolerance” toward terrorism.

In the meeting, both sides condemned, in the strongest possi-

ble terms, the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam last April and the terror incident near Red Fort in November. They stressed that those responsible for terrorism must be held accountable, the release said.

“The JWG discussed a wide range of traditional and emerging threats and challenges, including terrorist recruitment, cross-border movement of terrorists, radicalisation, abuse of technology for terrorist purposes, and financing of terrorism,” it said.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global terrorism threat assessments, cyber-crimes, drug trafficking and the nexus between transnational organised crime and terrorism, and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in dealing with these challenges, it said.

# Foreign Secy Vikram Misri visits UAE

NEW DELHI, May 8 (PTI)

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FOREIGN Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and discussed the prevailing situation in West Asia with Minister of



State Reem Al Hashimy. The two sides also reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, economic cooperation, energy, connectivity, defence and security, fintech, health, education, culture and people to people connections, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Hashimy is also the UAE's special envoy for India.

# US court strikes down President Trump's 10% global tariffs as illegal

- In a split 2-1 decision, a judicial panel at the US Court of International Trade determined that the Government failed to provide adequate legal grounds to implement the levies under Section 122 of the 1974 Trade Act

WASHINGTON, DC, May 8 (ANI)

THE ambitious trade agenda of the Trump administration has encountered a fresh legal hurdle as a federal court on Thursday declared the 10 per cent blanket tariffs unlawful, marking a significant defeat for the President's cornerstone economic strategy, *CNN* reported.

In a split 2-1 decision, a judicial panel at the US Court of International Trade determined that the Government failed to provide adequate legal grounds to implement the levies under Section 122 of the 1974 Trade Act.

This particular set of tariffs was

introduced as a replacement after a Supreme Court intervention earlier this year struck down an even more extensive series of duties. According to *CNN*, the court's directive requires the administration to immediately halt the collection of these duties from the plaintiffs involved in the case and to issue refunds for previous payments. While the ruling currently only shields the specific companies that brought the lawsuit, it represents a profound blow to the administration's ability to unilaterally reshape trade through executive action.

Under the provisions of Section 122, a President may impose tariffs of up to 15 per cent across all import categories without the consent of Congress, provided specific criteria are satisfied. However, the judges found the administration's justification for the current move to be lacking. The majority ruling pointedly observed that the presidential proclamation "identifies no 'large and serious US balance-of-payments deficits' as Congress understood that phrase."

# SUVENDU ADHIKARI to take oath as WB's 1st BJP CM

## Swearing-in at 11 am today

KOLKATA, May 8 (PTI)

SENIOR BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari was on Friday elected the leader of the BJP legislature party in West Bengal, paving the way for him to become the first BJP Chief Minister in the State.

Meanwhile, Suwendu Adhikari met Governor R N Raviv on Friday evening and staked a claim to form the first BJP-led Government in the State.

Accompanied by several top leaders of the BJP's State unit, including Dilip Ghosh, Locket Chatterjee, and Tapas Roy, the CM-elect reached the Lok Bhavan barely two hours after being elected the leader of the BJP legislative party in a meeting that was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Adhikari's selection and described it as a unanimous endorsement during a meeting of the newly-elected BJP MLAs and senior party leaders. "Eight proposals were received, and all of them had only one name. Adequate time was given for a second name, but no other name was proposed. Therefore, I announce Suwendu Adhikari as the Chief Minister of West Bengal," Shah said after the meeting. Adhikari's elevation paves the way for the formation of the first BJP Government in West Bengal after the party's emphatic victory in the assembly elections, ending the Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule in the State.

Adhikari, a former close aide of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, who switched over to BJP in December 2020, emerged as the central face of the BJP's campaign in Bengal and played

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah with BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari during a press conference after the BJP legislature party meeting in Kolkata, West Bengal on Friday. (R) Preparations are underway at the Brigade Parade Ground ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new West Bengal Government. (PTI)



## 'Will fulfill all promises made in BJP manifesto'



KOLKATA, May 8 (PTI)

WEST Bengal Chief Minister-designate Suwendu Adhikari on Friday said the first BJP Government in the State would fulfill all promises made in the party's election manifesto and work in coordination with the Centre to realise the aspirations of the people.

Addressing party legislators after being elected the leader of the BJP Legislature Party, Adhikari said the atmosphere of fear in Bengal had ended and asserted that the State would now move towards an era of "trust".

"Bhoi is out and, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has said, bharosa is in," Adhikari said amid loud cheers from party MLAs and supporters.

"The people of Bengal have given us a historic mandate. We will fulfil all the promises made in the BJP's poll manifesto in Bengal," Adhikari said. He also stressed the need for coordination between the Centre and the incoming BJP Government in the State.

"Let the Centre and the State work together to fulfill the aspirations of the people of West Bengal," he said.

## Infiltration, cattle smuggling will be impossible under BJP rule: Shah

KOLKATA, May 8 (PTI)

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said infiltration and cattle smuggling would become "impossible" in West Bengal under BJP Government, as he formally announced Suwendu Adhikari as the leader

of the BJP legislature party and the party's chief ministerial face.

Addressing BJP MLAs and senior leaders at a charged legislature party meeting here, Shah described the party's emphatic victory in West Bengal as far more than an electoral milestone, portraying it as a

decisive political shift tied to national security, democratic restoration and the ideological culmination of a journey that began with Syama Prasad Mookerjee in the early Fifties.

"Friends, this victory is not merely about BJP's expansion or its ideology. Nor is it only about

BJP-NDA forming a Government in its 21st State. The biggest importance of this victory is that it plugs one of the biggest holes in India's national security. Now infiltration and cow smuggling will become impossible in West Bengal," Shah asserted.

## WB Police recover 2nd two-wheeler used in killing of Suwendu's aide

KOLKATA, May 8 (PTI)

INVESTIGATORS on Friday recovered the second motorcycle allegedly used in the murder of Chandranath Rath, a close aide of senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, even as the West Bengal Police intensified search for a car suspected to have been used in the crime, a senior officer said.

A seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed on Thursday with officers from the State CID, Intelligence Branch (IB) and the Bengal STF to probe the murder, left for Uttar Pradesh to "collect technical and field-level evidence" in the case, he said without giving any further details.

The second motorcycle, allegedly used in the crime, was

seized near Rail Gate No. 11 in Barasat, around 6 km from the North 24 Parganas district's Madhyamgram, where Adhikari's personal assistant was shot dead on Wednesday night, the officer said.

Investigators had seized another motorcycle from near Gate No. 2.5 of the Kolkata airport area. However, the police found that the registration num-

berplate of that two-wheeler was fake. The investigators were now examining whether the numberplate and engine number of the second motorcycle were genuine, the officer said.

"Efforts are on to trace a four-wheeler, which might be used in crime. Investigation is underway, and all possible angles are being examined," he said.

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