

# Kuwait says it faced missile, drone attack

## Another challenge to Iran war's shaky ceasefire

DUBAI, May 28 (AP)

KUWAIT said it was targeted with a missile and drone attack Thursday, another challenge to the shaky ceasefire in the Iran war following strikes by both Washington and Tehran.

Kuwait's military made the announcement, without providing further details on what had been targeted. Iran said hours later that it launched an attack in the region, but it did not say exactly what was targeted.

Kuwait, a close ally of the US, repeatedly came under fire from Iran and Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq during the war.

The announcement comes as West Asia is on the edge. US President Donald Trump has expressed confidence that his administration is making head-



way in negotiations with Iran to end the war, but the talks remain in flux.

Trump is looking for an agreement that will reopen the Strait of Hormuz - through which about a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas once passed. He is also seeking to get Iran to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium

while the Islamic Republic wants economic sanctions to be lifted and frozen assets to be released to aid its shattered economy.

The war has been unpopular in the US, and Iran's closure of the strait has sent oil prices skyrocketing, driving up fuel prices around the world. As the negotiations continue, there have

been several challenges to the ceasefire in recent days.

On Monday, the US said it conducted what the Pentagon called "defensive" strikes on missile launch sites and minelaying boats in southern Iran.

US officials said late Wednesday in Washington that forces launched more strikes on Iran, shooting down four one-way attack drones that posed a threat around the strait and hitting an Iranian ground control station in Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone.

The officials were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard via the State-run IRNA news agency acknowledged the attack around Bandar Abbas International Airport.

# IAF chief flies with Suryakiran Aerobatic Team to mark 30th anniversary

NEW DELHI, May 28 (IANS)

CHIEF of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, led the ceremonial celebrations of the 30th Anniversary of the iconic Indian Air Force formation aerobatic team, Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), by flying with the pilots, an official said on Thursday.

The event to mark the Team's 30th Anniversary was held at Air Force Station Bidar on May 26 and the occasion commemorated three glorious decades of inspiring the nation through precision aerobatics and exceptional airmanship, said the statement.

The celebrations were also attended by Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, Air Marshal S



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh and Air Marshal S Shrinivas, AOC-in-C, Training Command, visit Air Force Station to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team in Bidar on Wednesday.

(ANI)

Shrinivas.

In a special highlight of the event, CAS and AOC-in-C flew with the team during the commemorative aerial display, said the statement.

A poignant "HollowDiamond" formation was flown in remembrance of the brave team members the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team lost during its illustrious journey, said the statement. The tribute reflected the deep camaraderie, courage and enduring spirit that define the team, it said.

Since its formation in 1996 at Bidar, the team has enthralled millions across India and abroad with over 800 air displays, symbolising the pride, precision and professionalism of the Indian Air Force, it said.

Flying the Hawk Mk-132 aircraft in its iconic red-and-white livery, SKAT continues to inspire generations while upholding its motto - "Sadaiva Sarvottam" - Always the Best, it said.

The SKAT is made up of experienced fighter pilots. Their main mission is to represent the Indian Air Force at national and international events, demonstrating the exceptional skills of its pilots and the power of Indian aviation.

On May 11, the SKAT performed a special air show over the Somnath Temple on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations marking 75 years of the reconstruction of the temple.

# Want to achieve lasting peace: Ukrainian Foreign Minister

NICOSIA, May 27 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha on Wednesday discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, battlefield developments and efforts aimed at achieving a “comprehensive and lasting peace”.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the informal meeting of European Union Foreign Ministers, known as the Gymnich Forum, in Cyprus.

Jaishankar, in a social media post, described the interaction as a “useful meeting” and said the two sides “exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict” and bilateral cooperation.

Sybiha said the “meaningful meeting” focused on Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine and the “battlefield developments,



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during a meeting with Ukraine Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on the sidelines of the Gymnich Forum, in Brussels, Belgium.

(PTI)

in particular, Ukraine’s growing initiative”.

He said, despite Russia’s attempts “to intimidate our peo-

ple through terror”, including a recent massive strike on Kyiv, Ukraine remained determined and resilient.

“Our message is clear: we want to end this war and achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace,” the Ukrainian Foreign Minister said in a social media post. Sybiha said the two leaders also exchanged views on peace efforts and the need for stronger global engagement.

“As Europe steps up its responsibility, we would welcome India’s strong voice and input,” he said.

The two sides also discussed strengthening bilateral ties and agreed to maintain regular dialogue on issues of mutual interest. India has consistently called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the Ukraine conflict while maintaining close relations with

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# Heatwave to ease over North India in next 3 days: IMD

## IMD warns of thunderstorms, strong winds

NEW DELHI, May 28 (ANI)

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a shift in weather conditions across Northwest India, with heatwave conditions expected to ease over the next three days due to incoming western disturbances and easterly winds, alongside warnings of thunderstorms, strong winds and hailstorms in several regions.

According to the IMD, maximum temperatures that have been hovering around 45 degrees Celsius or above are likely to drop sharply between May 28 and May 30, bringing much-needed relief to several Northern and Central States.

Speaking to ANI on Thursday, IMD scientist Akhil Srivastava said, "If we look at Northwest India, maximum temperatures have primarily been running



Women carry water pots in blazing heat amid a drinking water crisis in Mali village of Umaria district, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. (PTI)

high, hovering at 45 degrees Celsius or above. Our forecast indicates that over the coming three days, under the influence of a Western Disturbance and the simultaneous arrival of

easterly winds over the plains of Northwest India, thunderstorm activity is expected across the Western Himalayan region as well as the adjacent plains."

Srivastava added that a sharp fall in temperatures is expected in the coming days.

"Consequently, a drop in maximum temperatures of 5 to 8 degrees Celsius and in some iso-

## IMD predicts heavy rain in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 28 (IANS)

WITH the southwest monsoon set to arrive over Kerala in the coming days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of intensified rainfall activity across the State till Sunday, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds. The IMD said isolated places in Kerala are likely to receive moderate to heavy rain along with gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kmph.

Weather officials cautioned that sudden cloud formation and intense spells of rain could trig-

ger localised damage, especially in vulnerable regions.

According to meteorologists, satellite images indicate strengthening westerly winds over the Arabian Sea, a key indicator of the approaching monsoon, locally known as 'Edavappathi'. The atmosphere is expected to remain heavily clouded over the next few days, with intermittent rain likely across all districts. Though no district-specific alert has been issued in the IMD's official five-day forecast, the State Disaster Management Authority has urged the public not to lower their guard.

lated pockets, up to 10 degrees Celsius is anticipated between the 28th May and the 30th May. As a result, significant relief is expected from the prevailing heatwave conditions across regions such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh," he added.

However, the IMD also cau-

tioned about intense weather activity, including high wind speeds and thunderstorms.

"Wind speeds in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and surrounding areas could be quite high, ranging from 60 to 70 kilometres per hour, potentially reaching up to 80 kilometres per hour," Srivastava said.

# India, China hold 'constructive' talks on LAC in Ladakh



Both sides agreed that maintaining peace along the LAC is important for improving overall India-China relations. The next meeting of Special Representatives will be held in China

NEW DELHI, May 28 (PTI)

INDIA and China held “constructive” and “forward-looking” talks on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, noting that maintaining border peace and tranquillity enabled progress in the normalisation of overall relations.

The two sides discussed various aspects of the border situation during a meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) in Beijing on Wednesday.

“The discussions were constructive and forward looking,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, a day after the talks.

India and China rolled out a series of measures in the last over one year to rebuild their relationship after it came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 and the subsequent military face-off that lasted for over four years,

“The two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas. They expressed satis-

faction with the progress made in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which has enabled progress towards gradual normalization of bilateral relations,” the MEA said.

The two sides also agreed to work together to make “substantive preparation” for the next meeting of the Special Representatives (SR) which is to be held in China.

In August last year, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held Special Representatives dialogue in New Delhi that produced a number of outcomes to maintain peace along the border. “The two sides discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation,” the MEA said on the WMCC meeting.

“Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military levels through mechanisms including those that were agreed as part of outcomes of 24th Special Representative talks,” the MEA said in a statement.