

Vice Admiral McCarty takes charge as chief of the ANC

SRI VIJAYA PURAM, June 1 (PTI)

VICE Admiral Vineet McCarty on Monday assumed charge as the 20th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), India's only tri-service command, a statement said. Commissioned into the Navy on July 1, 1989, Vice Admiral McCarty is a gunnery and missile warfare specialist with over 36 years of experience spanning operational, staff, training and tri-service assignments.

An alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and the National Defence College, New Delhi, he was part of the commissioning crew of INS Delhi and held several specialist appointments aboard the frontline destroyer.

During his naval career, he has

commanded the patrol vessel INS Ajay, missile corvette INS Khanjar and the stealth frigate INS Shivalik.

His key training and staff appointments include serving as

Training Commander at the Indian Naval Academy and Command Plans Officer at the Headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command. At Naval Headquarters, he served as Commodore Naval Plans. After being

promoted to Flag Rank in 2020, Vice Admiral McCarty held several senior appointments, including Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Staff Requirements), Controller of Personnel Services and Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet in 2023.

He also served as the 10th Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy in 2024.



India, Aus underscore maritime freedom, supply chain security

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

INDIA and Australia on Monday underscored the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded maritime trade amid disruptions in energy supply chains following the West Asia crisis as well as concerns over China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

These issues figured prominently during wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles in New Delhi.

The two Ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific while emphasising the strategic importance of defence industrial collaboration and engagement between India and Australia.

Following the talks, Singh and Marles announced that the two countries would begin developing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of defence articles

and defence services as the next step in deepening defence industrial collaboration.

"The Ministers discussed advancements in bilateral maritime security cooperation and efforts to finalise the Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap," a joint Statement said.

It said Singh and Marles agreed to progress the collaborative maritime domain awareness activities by maritime patrol aircraft and explore opportunities to enhance undersea domain awareness.

"The Ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific," according to the Statement.

"The Ministers underscored the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, and their strong support for unimpeded trade in the region and other lawful uses of the sea consistent with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)," it said.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, in New Delhi. (PTI)

S-W monsoon to arrive in Keralam in 2-3 days: IMD

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

THE south-west monsoon is expected to arrive in Keralam in the next two to three days, the India Meteorological Department said in its forecast on Monday.

Typically, the season begins around June 1.

“Conditions are favourable for further advance of south-west monsoon into some more parts of south-west and south-east Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep Islands, some parts of Keralam and Tamil Nadu during the next two to three days,” the weather department said.

The advance can also take place in some more parts of southwest, west-central, east-central and northeast Bay of Bengal, and remaining parts of southeast Bay of Bengal during the period, it predicted.

US bombs Iranian military sites, Tehran targets American troops in Kuwait

DUBAI, June 1 (AP)

THE United States said Monday that it bombed radar and drone sites in Iran after Tehran shot down an American drone over the weekend. Iran then said it targeted American soldiers in Kuwait with missiles, which the US says it shot down.

The nominal ceasefire between Iran and the US has been repeatedly tested with such back-and-forth attacks, even as officials from both countries try to negotiate an end to the war. It's not clear how close they are to a deal - and there is always the risk that an attack could derail those talks.

In the meantime, Iran has maintained its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global energy supplies and driving up the price of fuel around the world, with far-reaching consequences. A cargo ship came



File photo of Kuwait hit by drone.

under attack off Iraq Monday afternoon, the British military said. The US military's Central Command said it carried out the strikes in Iran on Saturday and Sunday around the city of Geruk and on Qeshm Island, hitting air defences, a ground control station and two attack drones it said

threatened ships in the region. Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is at a trickle compared to before the war, with ship owners deterred by the risk of an Iranian attack. Only 36 ships transited the waterway in the seven days leading up to Friday, a third of them carrying crude oil or

'Israel, Hezbollah agreed to stop fighting'

BEIRUT, June 1 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Monday that Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to dial back fighting after he held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and communicated with the Lebanon-militant group through mediators.

Trump announced the development in a social media post following his call with Netanyahu.

Earlier in the day, Israel's Government ordered strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Monday, a day after its ground forces reached their deepest point in Lebanon in 26 years and as Hezbollah fired rockets at northern Israel including the outskirts of coastal city of Haifa.

petroleum products, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence.

That compares to an average of more than 130 ships per day before the war began. Kuwait said its air defences opened fire early Monday morning to intercept incoming drone and missile fire. Around the same time,

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it responded to an American attack without saying where, likely referring to the attack on Kuwait. In a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency, the Guards said that US forces had targeted a telecommunications tower.

SC gets 5 new judges; strength to go up to 37

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

FIVE new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court, which will now have 37 judges, one short of the upgraded sanctioned strength of 38.

According to separate notifications issued by the Department Of Justice in the Union Law Ministry on Monday morning, senior SC advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana, Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court, and Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court have



been elevated as top court judges.

Once they take oath and assume charge, the SC will formally have 37 judges. The Government last month promulgated an ordinance amending a law to increase the sanctioned

strength of the apex court to 38 from 34, including the Chief Justice of India.

While there were already two vacancies, after the sanctioned strength was increased, altogether six posts

became vacant in the apex court.

With five appointments on Monday, the Supreme Court has one vacancy. The five new judges are scheduled to be sworn in on Tuesday. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant will administer the oath of office to the judges at the apex court premises.

India's taxable supply rises 27% in early FY27

NEW DELHI, June 1 (IANS)

INDIA'S consumption and economic activity, because of strong domestic demand momentum, remained robust in early period of FY27, with goods taxable supply rising 27% and services expanding 22.2% in April, according to data from Government sources on Monday.



Taxable supply across goods sectors grew 26.9% year-on-year to Rs 40.10 lakh crore in April 2026 from Rs 31.61 lakh crore a year ago, with all 27 commodity groups registering positive growth, according to the data.

The data of April -- reported in GST returns filed during May -- showed that growth remained broad-based across agriculture, manufacturing, chemicals, metals, electronics, automobiles and consumer goods.

Sectors such as gold and precious metals recorded a 46.9% rise in taxable supply, while electric machinery and electronic appliances grew 34.1%.

Telecom equipment expanded 24.6%, passenger vehicles and buses rose 21.3%, while prepared food products registered a growth of 27.1%, the data showed.