

India may've 'deployed' 12 nuke warheads: SIPRI

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New Delhi: A global peace think tank has claimed that India may have shifted its nuclear posture to ready-to-strike mode by 'deploying' 12 warheads on delivery vehicles, including possibly one nuclear submarine. This marks a big change because India had so far kept warheads and delivery systems separately.

When a nuclear warhead is 'deployed', it means the nuclear warhead is actively mounted on missiles or loaded onto bombers and, having been mated, is ready for immediate use. This assessment is part of the latest report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The report also mentioned that the number of India's nuclear warheads had increased to 190 as of Jan 2026, compared to the

earlier 180. However, there is no change in India's "no first use" policy when it comes to a nuclear attack.

It said, "It has long been assumed that India stores its nuclear warheads separate from its deployed launchers during peacetime. However, the country's recent moves towards placing missiles in canisters and conducting sea-based deterrence patrols suggest India could be shifting in the direction of mating some of its warheads with their launchers in peacetime. "These (nuclear) weapons were assigned to a maturing nuclear triad of aircraft, land-based missiles and SSBNs (a specialised class of nuclear-powered submarines designed to carry and launch nuclear-armed ballistic missiles). More warheads are thought to be in production for additional missiles," it said. Pakistan's stockpile remains unchanged at 170 warheads, the report said.

Trump: Iran downed Apache helicopter patrolling Hormuz

Vows To Respond; Israel Kills 8 People In Fresh Strike In Lebanon's Tyre

Washington/Beirut/Dubai: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday Iran had shot down a US Apache helicopter overnight and vowed to respond, but gave no other details. "I have just been informed by our Great Military that last night the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache Helicopters while patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz," Trump wrote in a social media post. He said the two US pilots involved in the incident were both safe and uninjured. "Nevertheless, the US must, of necessity, respond to this attack," he added. His remarks threw into deeper uncertainty the prospects for a truce announced on April 8 in the Gulf.

On Monday, Israel and Iran said they would halt attacks on each other after an appeal by Trump to end their first direct exchanges of fire since April, but Tehran warned it would resume hostilities if Israel continued to attack its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Monday's flare-up added further strain to efforts to broker a peace deal to end the wider West Asia war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

In remarks earlier on Tuesday about the downing of the Apache helicopter, Trump had said the two US helicopter



People flee from Tyre in Lebanon after Israel's evacuation warning

You better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon, Trump told Bibi

US President Donald Trump has cautioned Israeli PM Netanyahu that Israel risks international isolation if it resumes extensive military operations against Iran, following a volatile 24-hour period of escalating cross-border hostilities. Detailing his conversation with Netanyahu, Trump told Axios, "I said, 'Bibi, you better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon.'" The warning highlights Trump's mounting anxieties that renewed combat could sabotage ongoing attempts to broker a diplomatic accord with Tehran and pull Washington further into a regional war. Trump reportedly pressed Netanyahu to exercise restraint, asserting that a breakthrough in diplomatic talks could materialise within days. ANI

crew members were "fine" following their rescue by a US navy drone, but he had made no comment about what brought the Apache down. A US navy surface drone found and rescu-

ed the two crew, the US military told Reuters. US Central Command said the AH-64 Apache went down at around 3 am on Tuesday.

In Tehran, two Iranian air

defence personnel were due to be buried on Tuesday afternoon after being killed in Israeli strikes the day before, Iran's military said. No deaths were reported in Israel after the Iranian strikes.

Israel, meanwhile, struck the historic port city of Tyre in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least eight people. Tuesday's raids were the deadliest on Tyre since fighting erupted in Lebanon in early March, when Hezbollah launched rockets at Israel in support of Tehran after Israel and the US began their war against Iran. Israel had issued an evacuation order for the city earlier on Tuesday. Residents fled and civil defence teams transported elderly residents into temporary shelters, state media reported. The eight victims were killed in a single strike on the city's eastern edge, Lebanon's health ministry said. A video verified by Reuters showed debris strewn across a road at the site of the attack. Last week, Israel's military said Hezbollah fighters were hiding out in Tyre. Lebanese state media had reported people fleeing the city on Tuesday morning after the online evacuation order, with civil defence teams transporting elderly residents into temporary shelters. REUTERS

BRICS meeting begins in Indore

Food security and agri cooperation were discussed

INDORE, June 9 (PTI)

A FIVE-DAY meeting of BRICS member countries began on Tuesday in Indore, focusing on issues such as food security, climate-friendly smart agriculture and farmer welfare.

A senior official from the Department of Agriculture said issues such as food security, the impact of climate change on agriculture, and enhancing cooperation in the sector are being discussed. Officials from BRICS member countries participated in the first round.

"The meeting is discussing common issues in the agricultural sector of BRICS countries to enhance cooperation and jointly address the problems

faced by farmers. These include issues such as the impact of climate change on agriculture and financing for the agricultural sector," Ajit Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, told reporters.

He said BRICS countries are home to nearly half the world's population, and therefore, ensuring food security in these countries and maintaining it in the future is an important common topic of discussion.

"Agriculture ensures food security and nutritional security. Therefore, agricultural development is essential," Sahu added on Tuesday.

He said the meeting also dis-

cussed issues related to the exchange of agricultural technology and increasing trade among BRICS countries.

According to Sahu, approximately eight meetings had been held across four sessions of the Agriculture Working Group, and the fifth session, which began in Indore, is being held in person.

As part of this conference, held under India's BRICS chairmanship, the Agriculture Working Group will hold deliberations till June 11 with officials from member countries.

The Joint Secretary said that a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of BRICS and its partner countries will be held on June 12 and 13.

Trump claims Iran ready for N-deal

WASHINGTON, June 9 (IANS)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said that Iran was willing to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and sign an agreement with the United States, as he claimed American military operations had severely weakened Tehran's military capabilities.

Speaking during a virtual tele-rally for South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham ahead of Tuesday's Republican primary, Trump devoted much of his remarks to Iran, ongoing negotiations and the broader security situation in the Middle East.

"We're negotiating now and they wanna make a very good deal. They're willing to give us everything. They're willing to give us no nuclear weapon," Trump said. "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon and it's as simple as that."

Trump claimed US military action had inflicted extensive damage on Iran's military infrastructure.

"We've decimated their military. We've decimated their, everything there is to decimate, including their leadership," he said. "Their navy is totally gone. They had 159 ships.



Every ship is underwater right now."

The President predicted a favourable outcome from negotiations and said a formal declaration of victory could come soon. "I think we are winning that battle, but you're really gonna win it over the next two weeks when we declare total victory," Trump said. "It'll be a total victory. It'll happen very soon and oil prices will come tumbling down."

The remarks came as Trump urged Republican voters in South Carolina to support Graham, a long-time ally who has been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates of a hard line towards Iran.

"And Lindsey has been fighting

Netanyahu says Israel halting Iran strikes for now

JERUSALEM, June 9 (IANS)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the attack against Iran is currently "on hold," but warned that Israel will respond forcefully if Iran resumes its attacks.

"At the moment, the fire is on hold because after ... it (Iran) stopped attacking us," Netanyahu said in his first televised statement more than 20 hours after Iran first launched missiles at Israel on Sunday night. If Iran "makes the mistake of attacking us again, we will respond with force," he added.

with me all the way, all the way for that," Trump said. "We've been a very tough team."

Trump also praised Graham's role on border security, military spending and conservative judicial

At least 2 Iranian military members killed in Israeli attack on Iran

DUBAI, June 9 (AP)

IRANIAN state television on Tuesday reported that at least two members of an air defence unit were killed in the Israeli attacks that rocked the country the day before. Iranian state TV identified the men as Bahman Hosseini and Ali Reza Abiri, without offering a rank for them. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said that they have neither abandoned the field nor the negotiating table.

appointments.

"I've known Senator Lindsey Graham for many years and he's always been a tireless advocate for the people of South Carolina," Trump said.

BYD, Alibaba, other tech giants aiding China's military: US

Washington Will Have To Suspend Contracts With These Firms Under New Law; Beijing Says 'List Discriminatory'

Washington/Beijing: The US on Monday added Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, internet search provider Baidu, and automakers BYD and NIO to a list of firms it believes are aiding Beijing's military, in a move that could inflame tensions between the countries.

The long-awaited update supersedes a list from early 2025, and comes less than a month after President Donald Trump met China's Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing, where the two leaders maintained a delicate trade war truce.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that the list was discriminatory and "unreasonably suppressed" Chinese companies, urging America to "correct its mistaken practices".

The list now includes a broad swathe of China's top technology firms key to advancing Beijing's military and industrial prowess, reflecting Washington's security concerns amid intense geopolitical competition between the countries.

In Feb, when Trump's trip to China had been pending, the Pentagon briefly posted an updated list, known as the I260H or CMC list, but then quickly withdrew it with little explanation. The new version released on Monday mirrors the withdrawn Feb list with the exception of the inclusion of China's top memory chipmakers CXMT and YMTC.

Other firms added include biotech firm WuXi AppTec, AI-driven robotics company RoboSense Technology Co Ltd and



The list comes less than a month after President Trump met China's Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing

Unitree, a leading Chinese maker of humanoid and quadruped robots. On June 1, US AI chipmaker Nvidia said it plans to work with Unitree to build robots for researchers.

Though the list does not formally impose sanctions on Chinese firms, under recent US law the defence department will be prohibited starting la-

ter this month from contracting directly with companies on the list, and from buying their products or services via third parties beginning in 2027.

Firms vow legal challenge

BYD, the world's largest EV seller, said in a statement that it firmly opposed being labelled a military company and would use "administrative and legal means" to safeguard its rights and interests, adding that the decision harmed "its development achievements in the US".

Alibaba said in a statement there was "no basis" for its inclusion on the list. "Alibaba is not a Chinese military company nor part of any military-civil fusion strategy. We will take all available legal action against attempts to misrepresent

our company," the e-commerce and tech conglomerate said. Other firms too hinted that they would take the legal route.

Removal from list possible

Companies can at times be removed from the list not because the US determines they aren't linked to China's military, but because they no longer operate in the US or because an entity's name has changed. The listed firms "qualify for designation as 'Chinese military companies,'" and operate in the US, the Pentagon said in its filing, which is required at least annually. The firms can petition for removal, it added.

Chinese genetic sequencing firm Novogene said in a statement to Reuters that it was already in touch with US au-

thorities to seek its removal from the list.

'Reality check'

Being added to the list also sends a potentially damaging message to Pentagon suppliers and other US govt agencies about the US military's opinion of the firms, some of which have sued the US over their inclusion. Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank in Washington, said the publication of the list served as a post Trump-Xi summit reality check on the heightened state of US-China competition. "Washington is no longer treating these as isolated firms. It is treating the entire technology stack as strategically contested," Singleton said. REUTERS

...oured Apache

Militants kill 6

'Great Nicobar project vital for strategic interests'

NEW DELHI, June 9 (PTI)

INDIA is undertaking the Great Nicobar Island project to advance its strategic maritime and economic interests, Defence Ministry sources said on Monday, dismissing its critics as suffering from "geographical illiteracy".

The Government is planning to build an international container transshipment port (ICTP), a civilian-cum-naval airport, a township and a power plant under the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Government's argument that the Great Nicobar Island project is about defence and a transshipment port is a "lie", and alleged that it is actually about benefiting one businessman so that he can build hotels and casinos on India's most irreplaceable ecological land.

The sources said the project is a strategic necessity considering the geopolitical environment and the Government wants to leverage the location the way



Singapore has used its geographic advantage to build key infrastructures and logistics.

The region has promising hydrocarbons deposits and unless "we have a sustainable presence, it will not be possible to take the advantage", they said.

It is learnt that the defence ministry's contribution for the construction of the green field airport will be around Rs 13,000 crore while the rest of the cost will be incurred by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

The airport shall enhance India's maritime domain awareness (MDA) and operational outreach in a way that standalone

expansion of an existing defence facility cannot fully achieve, the sources said.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has envisaged the airport, with an initial capacity of 1.35 million passengers per annum by 2040.

The sources said, the runway at the INS Baaz, the Indian naval air station, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will not be part of the GNI project.

The runway of INS Baaz was recently expanded to 4,500 ft and its further expansion requires significant land reclamation and it will impact tribal area, flora and fauna, they said.

PM Modi to undertake visit to France, Slovakia for G7 meet

NEW DELHI, June 9 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a week-long visit to France and Slovakia beginning June 13 to explore ways to expand bilateral ties and discuss pressing global challenges.

The Prime Minister will attend G7 Summit in Evian in France on June 16 and 17, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In the first leg of his trip, Modi will visit French city of Nice from June 13 to 14. He will also visit Evian and Paris from June 16 to 19, the MEA said.

The Prime Minister will be in Slovakia from June 14 to 16.

“In the first leg of the visit, the Prime Minister will visit Nice for a bilateral meeting with President Emmanuel Macron on June 14.

Both leaders will review the full spectrum of the India-France bilateral relationship, which was elevated to the level of a Special Global Strategic Partnership earlier this year,” the MEA said.

In the second leg of the trip, Modi will travel to Slovakia for a State visit after concluding his trip to Nice. This will be the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Slovakia since its Independence in 1993.

The visit will reaffirm India’s commitment towards strengthening its bilateral relationship with Slovakia in various sectors, including trade, investment, and automobile and railway manufacturing, the MEA said. In the third leg of the visit, the prime minister will participate in the G7 Summit in Evian on June 16-17.

'Breakthrough' in Zojila tunnel

World's longest single-tube bi-directional bypass

■ By Sheikh Suhail
MINIMARG, June 9 (PTI)

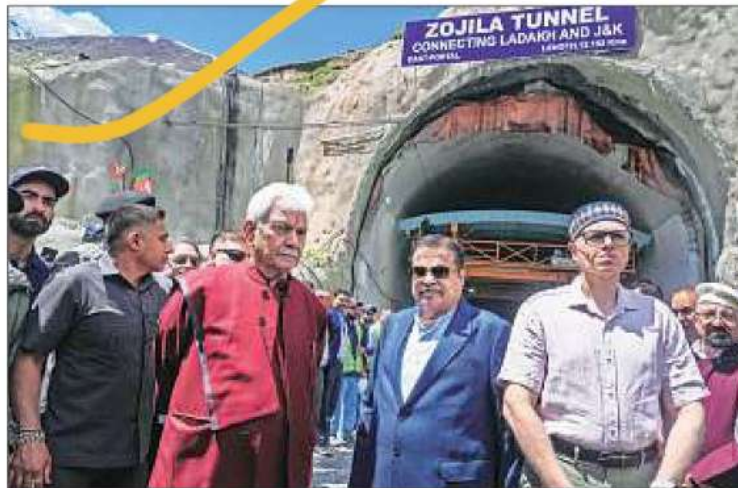
THE Zojila tunnel connecting the Kashmir Valley to Ladakh took a crucial step towards completion on Tuesday with a blast breaking through the last 2.5 metres of the high-altitude infrastructure project that cuts through the Himalayas.

With this, the two ends of the world's longest single-tube bi-directional bypass, which will cut travel time from 1.5 hours to 15 minutes, have now been connected, officials said.

"Breakthrough in the 2.5 metre distance in the tunnel has been successfully achieved," an official said.

The breakthrough has brought the decades-old dream of all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh closer to reality.

Union Minister for Road



J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and State Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during the breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel near its east portal at Minimarg, in Kargil district, Ladakh, on Tuesday. (PTI)

Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari pressed the remote button, blasting the breakthrough site near the East Portal of the tunnel at Minimarg in Ladakh

Union Territory, they said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were also present.

Officials of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) said the breakthrough is six months ahead of schedule.

As of now, about 85 per cent of the total work has been completed, Authority Engineer for the project, Yousef Es'haghpour Rahimabadi, told PTI here.

The tunnel is likely to be thrown open to the public in February 2028, the officials said, adding that after the breakthrough, the civil works will take another 7-8 months and then the electrical works will begin.

The tunnel -- 9.5 metre wide, 7.57 metre high, 13.153 km long -- is a horseshoe-shaped single-tube, a two-lane road tunnel built at the height of around 11,578 feet above sea level.

The geostrategically important tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh

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India slams Pak for 'trade, transit terrorism' at UN

■ **By Yoshita Singh**

UNITED NATIONS, June 9 (PTI)

INDIA has launched a scathing attack on Pakistan at the UN, condemning its "trade and transit terrorism" and military airstrikes against Afghanistan.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, delivered a sharp attack against Pakistan in the UN Security Council during its meeting on the 'Situation in Afghanistan' on Monday.

"Pakistan's campaign of military airstrikes against Afghanistan is causing huge civilian casualties and suffering to the Afghan people. Such unconscionable acts of violence are a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to the region's peace and stability," Parvathaneni said.

Strongly condemning the airstrikes on Afghan territory, India said these are flagrant violations of international law, the UN Charter and the principle of state sovereignty.