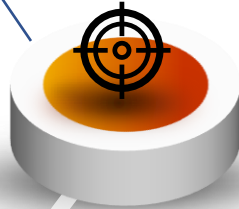


# Daily Current Affairs





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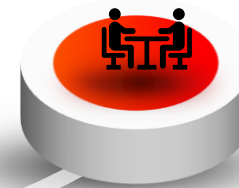
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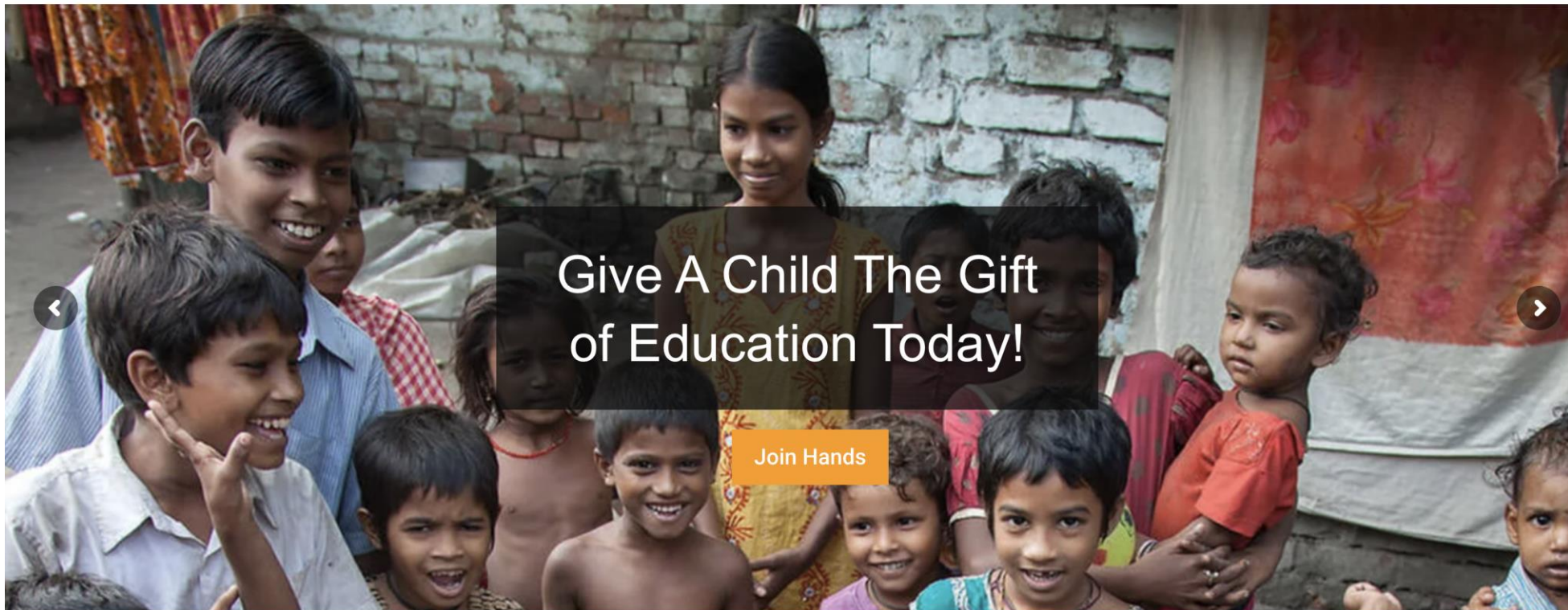
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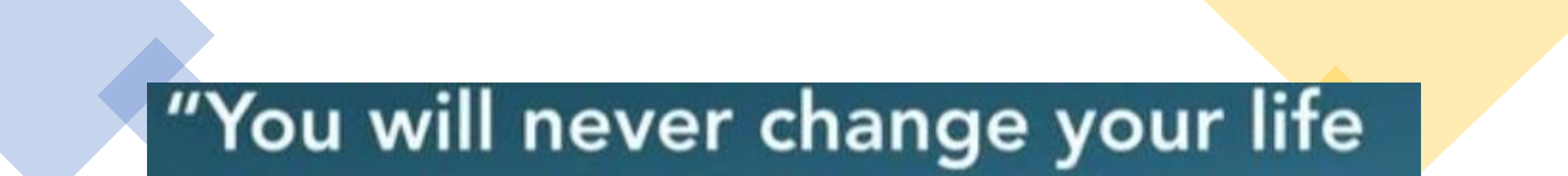
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Contributors



**1,231**  
Kids




**24**  
States



"You will never change your life  
until you change something you  
do daily.

The secret of your success is  
found in your daily routine.

- John C. Maxwell -





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Greyhounds personnel  
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BLACKOUT IN BHARATPUR  
Match between Kings  
and Capitals called off  
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## NEARBY



### Trump says U.S., U.K. have reached trade agreement

LONDON  
U.S. President Donald Trump has announced that the U.S. and the U.K. have reached a trade deal, making this the first such deal for the U.S. since Mr. Trump's April 2 'Libertarian Day' announcement of universal tariffs of 10% or more for all trading partners. » PAGE 14



### 'MP's ludicrous remark not worth contempt action'

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court has found the "ludicrous" comments made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against the court over the Waad law case and Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna not worth the trouble of initiating a contempt of court action. » PAGE 4



### Pakistan gave terrorists state funeral: Misri

NEW DELHI  
Showing a photo of terrorist Abdul Rauf leading prayers for those killed in the strikes on the Left's headquarters, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said they were given 'state honours' draped in the Pakistani national flag. » PAGE 5

# India hits back after intercepting Pak. strikes

India shoots down a 'substantial' number of munitions fired at civilian, military locations

Military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur targeted late in the evening, but no losses suffered

India's response in 'same domain', air defence system in Lahore neutralised: Defence Ministry

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

Escalating tensions, Pakistan launched drone and missile attacks at various locations along the western borders with India late on Thursday evening, but the Indian armed forces swiftly intercepted them, official sources said.

This came after the Indian air defence systems thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike civilian and military locations in northern and western India with a "substantial" number of missiles and loitering munitions in the early hours of Thursday.

India had hit multiple terror infrastructure facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday.

India is said to have launched retaliatory strikes late in the evening, but official confirmation and details are awaited. Blackouts were enforced in several districts in Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan as a preventive measure.

Military stations of Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur in proximity to the Indian border have been in the same domain with same intensity targeted by Pakistan using missiles and drones. The headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff of the military said in a post on X.

"No losses. Threat neutralised by Indian armed forces as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with kinetic and non-kinetic means."

**Indian response**  
In the evening, the Indian air defence systems also intercepted and destroyed eight missiles fired by Pakistan towards Saurat, Sambal, R.S. Pura, and Arnia in Jammu. Drones were also being engaged over Jammu and Pathankot, sources said.

As a response to Pakistan's strikes in the evening, the Indian armed forces hit back a few hours later with loitering munitions targeting Pakistani air defence locations.

The Defence Ministry said the "Indian response has been in the same domain with same intensity as Pakistan."

"It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised," the Ministry said in a statement. "Indian armed forces reiterated their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," it added.

Speaking at an event, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had always played the role of a responsible nation, but cautioned that if anyone tried to take advantage of its restraint, they would face "quality action." "No limit will be placed on the use of force as an obstacle in protecting India's sovereignty," he said.

Pakistan tried to engage a number of military targets



Uncertain times: People at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, during a blackout on Thursday. PTI

in northern and western India - Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalsodi, Udhampur, and Jammu. The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from a number of locations that prove the Pakistani attacks.

On the Indian response, the Ministry said the Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan.

The Pakistan military spokesperson also said at a press conference that India had fired several Herops on their military targets in various locations.

On the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), the Ministry said Pakistan had increased the intensity of unprovoked firing

**'Debris recovered'**  
Giving details of the developments of Thursday morning, the Ministry said Pakistan tried to engage a number of military targets

across the LoC using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Muzaffargarh, Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sixteen people, including three women and five children, were killed in the Pakistani firing, the Ministry said.

**CRPF companies**  
A government official said over 100 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force - over 10,000 personnel - were being sent to the Jammu region in the wake of Operation Sindoor. The personnel have been drawn from training and reserve battalions and will be posted in Jammu region primarily, the official said.

"While some companies are on their way, others will reach in a day or two," the official added.

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**EDITORIAL**  
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## At least 100 killed in operation, Rajnath tells all-party meet

Subhanna K. Nair  
NEW DELHI

At least 100 people, including several hardcore terrorists, were killed in the nine cross-border strikes made by Indian armed forces on Wednesday morning, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told an all-party meeting that he chaired on Thursday. All political parties unanimously lauded Operation Sindoor and reiterated their support for the government amid the heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

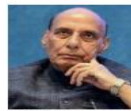
According to multiple leaders who attended the meeting, Mr. Singh told them that the "intent and objectives" of the government have been achieved. He also said that the government has "no interest in escalating the situation."

Mr. Singh also informed the Pakistani firing, the Ministry said.

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**Planes downed?**  
Several Opposition leaders - including Mr. Kharge, AIIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, BJP's Prem Chand Gupta, CPDM's John Brittas, Shiv Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut, NCP (Sharad Pawar)'s Supriya Sule, and the AAP's Sanjay Singh - urged the government to respond to the news reports published in many international publications about Indian aircraft being shot during the operation.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, echoed Mr. Kharge's view on the absence of the Prime Minister at the meeting. It is learnt that he told the meeting that the PM's absence sent a "negative message". Mr. Gandhi advised that the government should have briefed the leaders.



Rajnath Singh

# Robert Prevost, first American Pope, will take the name Leo XIV

Associated Press  
VATICAN CITY

Robert Prevost, a missionary who spent his career ministering in Peru and took over the Vatican's powerful office of bishops, was elected the first pope from the United States in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church.

Pope Prevost, a 69-year-old member of the Augustinian religious order, took the name Leo XIV.

In his first words as Pope Francis's successor, uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo said, "Peace be with you," and emphasized a message of peace, dialogue and missionary evangelization. He wore the traditional red cape of the papacy - a cape that Francis had eschewed on his election in 2013.

Pope Prevost had been a leading candidate for the papacy, but there had long been a taboo against a U.S. Pope, given the country's geopolitical power already wielded in the secular sphere. But Pope Prevost, a Chicago native, was seemingly eligible because he is also a Peruvian citizen and lived for years in Peru, first as a missionary and then as an archbishop.

**His eye on cardinal**  
Pope Francis clearly had his eye on Cardinal Prevost and in many ways saw him as his heir apparent. He brought Cardinal Prevost to the Vatican to serve as the powerful head of the office that vets bishops - nominations from around the world, one of the most important jobs in the Catholic Church. And in January, he elevated him



Marking history: Pope Leo XIV appears on the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Thursday. AP

made the sign of the cross and nuns wept as the crowd shouted "Viva il papa!"

Waving flags from around the world, tens of thousands of people waited to learn who had won and were shocked when, an hour later, the senior cardinal deacon appeared on

the loggia and said "Habemus papam" and announced the winner was Pope Prevost.

He spoke to the crowd in Italian and Spanish, but not English.

**The previous Leo**  
The last pope to take the name Leo was Leo XIII, an Italian who led the church from 1878 to 1903. That Leo softened the church's confrontational stance toward modernity, especially science and politics, and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought.

Earlier Thursday, large school groups joined the outcome in St. Peter's Square. They blended in

with people participating in preplanned Holy Year pilgrimages and journalists from around the world who have descended on Rome to document the election.

"The wait is marvelous," said Priscilla Parlante, a Roman.

Pedro Degert, 22, a finance student from Argentina, said he and his family visited Rome during the Argentine pope's pontificate and were hoping for a new pope in Francis' image.

"Francis did well in opening the church to the outside world, but on other things, maybe he didn't do enough. We'll see if the next one will be able to do more," Degert said from the piazza.

The Rev. Jan Dominik Bogataj, a Slovene Franciscan friar, was more critical

of Francis. He said if he were in the St. Peter's Basilica, he'd be voting for Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem who is on many papal contender lists.

"He has clear ideas, not much ideology. He's a direct, intelligent and respectful man," Bogataj said from the square. "Most of all, he's agile."

## CJI forwards probe report on judge to President, PM

Krishnakumar Rajasampal  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna has forwarded to the President and the Prime Minister the in-house committee report on the allegations about discovery of partially burnt sacks of currency notes in a gutted storeroom of High Court Judge Justice Yashwant Varma's earlier official residence in Delhi after a fire on March 14.

The CJI's action paves the way for the initiation of removal proceedings against Justice Varma in Parliament.

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# India hits back after intercepting Pak. strikes

India shoots down a 'substantial' number of munitions fired at civilian, military locations

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India's response in 'same domain', air defence system in Lahore neutralised: Defence Ministry

**Dinakar Peri**  
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This came after the Indian air defence systems thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike civilian and military locations in northern and western India with a "substantial" number of missiles and loitering munitions in the early hours of Thursday.

India had hit multiple terror infrastructure facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday.

India is said to have launched retaliatory strikes late in the evening, but official confirmation and details are awaited. Blackouts were enforced in several districts in Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan as a preventive measure.

"Military stations of Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur in proximity to the International Boundary, in Jammu & Kashmir targeted by Pakistan using missiles and drones," the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff of the military said in a post on X. "No losses. Threat neutralised by Indian armed forces as per Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) with kinetic and non-kinetic means."

## Indian response

In the evening, the Indian air defence systems also intercepted and destroyed eight missiles fired by Pakistan towards Sattari, Samba, R.S. Pura, and Arnia in Jammu. Drones were also being engaged over Jammu and Pathankot, sources said.

As a response to Pakis-



**Uncertain times:** People at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, during a blackout on Thursday. PTI

tan's strikes in the early hours of Thursday, the Indian armed forces hit back a few hours later with loitering munitions targeting Pakistani air defence locations.

The Defence Ministry said the "Indian response has been in the same domain with same intensity as Pakistan".

"It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised," the Ministry said in a statement. "Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," it added.

Speaking at an event, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had always played the role of a responsible nation, but cautioned that if anyone tried to take advantage of its restraint, they would face "quality action". "No limit will become an obstacle in protecting India's sovereignty, fully prepared for responsible responses in the fu-

ture," he said. The systems from the Indian air defence network that came into action on Thursday morning included the S-400 Triumf very long-range air defence systems from Russia and the indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, among others, it has been learnt. Sources in the know said military targets in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi were among those hit.

The Defence Ministry reiterated that India's response under Operation Sindoor was "focused, measured and non-escalatory" and also that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted.

"It was also reiterated that any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response," the Ministry said.

## 'Debris recovered'

Giving details of the developments of Thursday morning, the Ministry said Pakistan tried to engage a number of military targets

in northern and western India – Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttaral, and Bhuj – using drones and missiles. "These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid and Air Defence systems. The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from a number of locations that prove the Pakistani attacks."

On the Indian response, the Ministry said the Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan.

The Pakistan military spokesperson also said at a press conference that India had fired several Herops on their military targets in various locations.

On the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), the Ministry said Pakistan had increased the intensity of unprovoked firing

across the LoC using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sixteen people, including three women and five children, were killed in the Pakistani firing, the Ministry said.

## CRPF companies

A government official said over 100 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force – over 10,000 personnel – were being sent to the Jammu region in the wake of Operation Sindoor. The personnel have been drawn from training and reserve battalions and will be posted in Jammu region primarily, the official said. "While some companies are on their way, others will reach in a day or two," the official added.

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## At least 100 killed in operation, Rajnath tells all-party meet

**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

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According to multiple leaders who attended the meeting, Mr. Singh told them that the "intent and objectives" of the government have been achieved. He also said that the government has "no interest in escalating the situation", but if Pakistan takes any hasty step, then India will strongly respond. Mr. Singh also informed the leaders that government-run defence manufacturing firms have been told to speed up production.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge expressed his disappointment at the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting.

"He (Mr. Modi) was not present in the last meeting. Maybe he believes he is above the Parliament. We will ask this question at the right time, right now we don't want to criticise anyone," Mr. Kharge said.

Addressing presspersons after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that Mr. Singh had told the gather-



Rajnath Singh

ing that the government could not share the technical details of Operation Sindoor as it was an ongoing operation. "The discussions were conducted in a constructive and serious manner given the gravity of the issue at hand," Mr. Rijiju said. According to him, Mr. Singh had said, "We do not do politics just for forming governments but for building the nation."

## Planes downed?

Several Opposition leaders – including Mr. Kharge, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, RJD's Prem Chand Gupta, CPI(M)'s John Brittas, Shiv Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut, NCP (Sharad Pawar)'s Supriya Sule, and the AAP's Sanjay Singh – urged the government to respond to the news reports published in many international publications about Indian aircraft being shot during the operation.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, echoed Mr. Kharge's view on the absence of the Prime Minister at the meeting. It is learnt that he told the meeting that the PM's absence sent a "negative message". Mr. Gandhi added that the government should have briefed the leaders.

# PAK LAUNCHES DRONES, MISSILES AT JAMMU, **ALL SHOT DOWN**

PHOTO: PTI

## 8 MISSILES INTERCEPTED OVER JAMMU

- On **Thursday night**, Pakistan sends loitering munitions targeting multiple locations in Jammu
- Sources say Pakistan launched 8 missiles in the region, including at Satwari (Jammu airport), Samba, RS Pura, and Arnia. All of these were intercepted by Indian air defence
- Officials say **attacks on military stations in Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur thwarted**
- Complete blackout enforced in Jammu. **Blackouts in Chandigarh and Mohali** as well

## EARLIER IN THE DAY

- Early morning, **Pak tried to hit military targets in J&K's Awantipora, Srinagar, Jammu, Punjab's Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Rajasthan's Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Gujarat's Bhuj. All drones and missiles neutralised**
- **Debris recovered from a number of locations proves Pak attacks**, said defence ministry
- India retaliated with strikes that **destroyed Lahore's HQ-9 surface-to-air missile and radar system of Chinese origin**. Other locations targeted in Pakistan included Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Khenju (Sindh), Attock, Miano, Bahawalpur, and an area near Karachi
- **Pak's increased intensity of unprovoked firing along LoC in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar & Rajouri. India retaliating with force**



Golden Temple in Amritsar amid a blackout, which was enforced in several cities, including Chandigarh, Pathankot, Jalandhar, and Hoshiarpur. Schools and colleges across Punjab have been ordered shut for the next 3 days

## **BLOCK & TACKLE** | S-400, HARPY & HAROP DRONES

- Russia-built S-400 system — **called Sudarshan Chakra by IAF** — can track airborne targets up to 600km away, intercept aircraft, drones, and missiles at ranges up to 380km
- Network of radars tracks targets, up to 300 simultaneously. Once threat is identified, the command centre selects

the optimal missile to intercept it

- To break Pak air defence systems, India uses Israeli Harpy & Harop drones (specialised loitering munitions). With high-explosive warheads and a special radar, they can **autonomously detect and engage enemy radar-emitting assets** and other targets

# Robert Prevost, first American Pope, will take the name Leo XIV

**Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY

Robert Prevost, a missionary who spent his career ministering in Peru and took over the Vatican's powerful office of bishops, was elected the first pope from the United States in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church.

Pope Prevost, a 69-year-old member of the Augustinian religious order, took the name Leo XIV.

In his first words as Pope Francis's successor, uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo said, "Peace be with you," and emphasised a message of peace, dialogue and missionary evangelisation. He wore the traditional red cape of the papacy – a cape that Francis had eschewed on his election in 2013.

Pope Prevost had been a leading candidate for the papacy, but there had long been a taboo against a U.S. Pope, given the country's geopolitical power already wielded in the secular sphere. But Pope Prevost, a Chicago native, was seemingly eligible because he is also a Peruvian citizen and lived for years in Peru, first as a missionary and then as an archbishop.

## Heir apparent

Pope Francis clearly had his eye on Cardinal Prevost and in many ways saw him as his heir apparent. He brought Cardinal Prevost to the Vatican in 2023 to serve as the powerful head of the office that vets bishop nominations from around the world, one of the most important jobs in the Catholic Church. And in January, he elevated him



**Marking history:** Pope Leo XIV appears on the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Thursday. AP

into the senior ranks of cardinals. As a result, Cardinal Prevost had a prominence going into the conclave that few other cardinals had. The crowd in St. Peter's Square erupted in cheers when white smoke poured out of the Sistine Chapel on the second day of the conclave. Priests

made the sign of the cross and nuns wept as the crowd shouted "Viva il papa!"

Waving flags from around the world, tens of thousands of people waited to learn who had won and were shocked when an hour later, the senior cardinal deacon appeared on

the loggia and said "*Habemus Papam!*" and announced the winner was Pope Prevost.

He spoke to the crowd in Italian and Spanish, but not English.

## The previous Leo

The last pope to take the name Leo was Leo XIII, an Italian who led the church from 1878 to 1903. That Leo softened the church's confrontational stance toward modernity, especially science and politics and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought, most famously with his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed workers' rights and capitalism.

Earlier Thursday, large school groups joined the mix of humanity awaiting the outcome in St. Peter's Square. They blended in

with people participating in preplanned Holy Year pilgrimages and journalists from around the world who have descended on Rome to document the election.

"The wait is marvelous!" said Priscilla Parlante, a Roman.

Pedro Deget, 22, a finance student from Argentina, said he and his family visited Rome during the Argentine pope's pontificate and were hoping for a new pope in Francis' image.

"Francis did well in opening the church to the outside world, but on other fronts maybe he didn't do enough. We'll see if the next one will be able to do more," Deget said from the piazza.

The Rev. Jan Dominik Bogataj, a Slovene Franciscan friar, was more critical

of Francis. He said if he were in the Sistine Chapel, he'd be voting for Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem who is on many papal contender lists.

"He has clear ideas, not much ideology. He's a direct, intelligent and respectful man," Bogataj said from the square. "Most of all, he's agile."

## Short conclave

Some of the cardinals had said they expected a short conclave.

For much of the past century, the conclave has needed between three and 14 ballots to find a pope. John Paul I – the pope who reigned for 33 days in 1978 – was elected on the fourth ballot. His successor, John Paul II, needed eight. Francis was elected on the fifth in 2013.

## 1. Historic Election:

- Robert Prevost, a 69-year-old member of the **Augustinian religious order**, has been elected as the **first American Pope** in the **2,000-year history** of the Catholic Church.
  - He takes the name **Pope Leo XIV**.
  - Previously served as a **missionary in Peru** and later took over the **Vatican's powerful office of bishops**.
- 

## 2. Significance of the Name and Symbolism:

- The last pope to take the name **Leo** was **Pope Leo XIII**, who served from **1878 to 1903**.
- Pope Leo XIII was known for **modernizing the church's approach** to science, politics, and workers' rights.
- Pope Leo XIV's first message emphasized **peace, dialogue, and missionary evangelization**.

### 3. Conclave and Election Process:

- The conclave was **short**, lasting only two days, with **Cardinal Prevost** emerging as a prominent candidate.
  - Prevost's selection followed a **visible shift in the church**, with Pope Francis having brought him to the Vatican in **2023**.
  - **White smoke** appeared from the **Sistine Chapel**, signaling the election of the new pope.
  - The new Pope appeared on the **central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica**, delivering his first message in **Italian and Spanish**.
- 

### 4. Reactions and Public Sentiment:

- Crowds at **St. Peter's Square** erupted in celebration as the new Pope made his appearance.
- **Flags from around the world** were seen, and the crowd shouted "**Viva il papa!**" (Long live the pope).
- Observers appreciated the **peaceful and inclusive message** delivered by Pope Leo XIV.

## 5. Political and Geopolitical Context:

- Traditionally, there has been a **taboo against a U.S. Pope** due to America's **geopolitical influence**.
  - Prevost's **Peruvian citizenship** and missionary work in South America played a role in his **eligibility**.
  - Cardinal Prevost's **elevation** marks a **new direction for the Church**, focusing on **global inclusivity**.
- 

## Contextual Analysis:

### A. Historical Context:

- The Vatican historically favored **European Popes**, with Pope Francis being an exception as the first **Latin American Pope**.
- Pope Leo XIV's election represents a **significant departure** from the tradition of electing Popes primarily from **Europe**.

## IN BRIEF



## Nine killed, eight injured in gas cylinder blast in Bikaner

The death toll in an explosion in a gas cylinder in the basement of a three-storey commercial building in Rajasthan's Bikaner increased to nine on Thursday, while eight persons were injured. Over 20 shops on the ground floor and in the basement in Madan Market were damaged in the blast. The explosion occurred at a jewellery shop on Wednesday, after which three bodies were recovered from the spot. On Thursday, five more bodies were pulled out from the rubble. A 17-year-old boy died of injuries. The explosion had led to the collapse of roof of the building's first floor, trapping people under the debris.

## Six killed as helicopter with Char Dham pilgrims crashes

Six people — five women and the pilot Captain Robin Singh, 60 — were killed and one person sustained grievous injuries after a private helicopter, heading towards the Gangotri temple, crashed near the Bhagirathi river in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand on Thursday morning. The State Disaster Response Force said the helicopter owned by AeroTrans Services Private Limited was flying with pilgrims to the Gangotri temple after a visit to the Yamunotri temple.

## Researchers call for wider access to genetic screening for diabetes patients in India

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Scientists from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, in collaboration with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, United States, have discovered a previously unrecognised subtype of Maturity-onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), and have called for wider access to genetic screening and precision treatment for diabetes patients, particularly in India.

The findings were presented to the media at a conference held at the MDRF here on Thursday.

13 subtypes recognised

MODY is a rare, inherited form of diabetes caused by mutations in a single gene, typically appearing in adolescents and young adults. While 13 MODY types have been recognised to date, the newly identified variant challenges long-standing assumptions



Dr. V. Mohan

about the condition, doctors said.

The study was published in the journal — *Diabetes* — of the American Diabetes Association.

Collin G. Nichols, lead researcher, Washington University School of Medicine, highlighted in the study that the LCP mutation impairs potassium channel function in pancreatic beta cells, disrupting insulin secretion.

He said the study marked the first observed switch from congenital hyperinsulinism to diabetes in maturity-onset diabetes

## MMR shows a declining trend, reveal latest data

The highest MMR is seen in the 20-29 age group and second highest in the 30-34 age group; the maternal mortality ratio in a region is a measure of the reproductive health of women

Hindu Shayan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-20 from 97 in 2018-20, and 103 in 2017-19, show the latest data released by the Office of the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India.

The data show the highest MMR occurs in the 20-29 age group, and the second highest in the 30-34 age group.

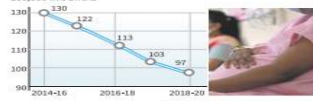
Several States, including Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106), have high MMRs.

The Registrar-General arrives at estimates on fertility and mortality using the sample. Registrar-General, one of the largest demographic sample surveys in the country.

The MMR is a measure of the reproductive health of women in a region.

## Drop in maternal death rate

The chart shows the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), which is the number of maternal deaths during a given period per 100,000 live births.



Source: Office of the Registrar-General, India

Every day in 2023, over 700 women died of preventable causes related to pregnancy, says WHO

NEW DELHI

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aim at reducing global MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. In 2023, the MMR...dropped by about 40% worldwide, just over 90% of all maternal deaths occurred in low- and low-middle childbirth, or abortion.

"Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy from any cause, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from an incidental or accidental cause," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The data state that maternal deaths, being a rare event, require prohibitive large sample sizes to provide robust estimates.

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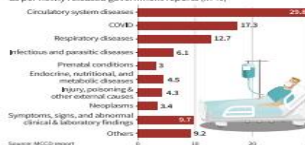
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## Tracking fatalities

The chart shows the cause-wise share of registered deaths in 2021 as per newly released government reports (in %)



## India recorded 21 lakh additional deaths in 2021, say RGI reports

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India recorded over one crore deaths in 2021 — the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic which was around 21 lakh deaths more than in 2020, show two key reports on registered births and deaths published this week by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) after a five-year gap.

In the case of registered deaths, the number of registered events has gone up from 81.2 lakhs in 2020 to 102.2 lakhs in 2021, i.e., an increase of 26.0%.

The report, "Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System for the year 2021", said. In 2019, 79 lakh deaths were registered.

The other report on the medical certification of the cause of death in 2021, compiled by the RGI, said that deaths with COVID-19 as the underlying cause in 2020 to 4,13,580 in 2021, which included 2,67,363 male, 1,46,215 female, and two transgender fatalities.

In 2021, out of 10,224,506 deaths, as many as 23,95,128 were medically certified deaths, which was 5,83,440 more compared with those of 2020.

The report said a total of 5,74,198 COVID-19 deaths were reported in 2020 and 2021. The COVID-19 dashboard maintained by the Union Ministry of Health says that as on May 5, the total number of deaths induced by the pandemic stood at 5,33,665.

The report said that among the leading groups of causes, diseases of the circulatory system, including pulmonary ailments, constituted 20.8% of the total number of medically certified deaths, followed by deaths caused by COVID-19 at 17.3%; deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory system at 12.7%; and deaths caused by certain infectious and parasitic diseases at 6.1%.

COVID-19 was the second leading cause of death in 2021; it was the third leading cause of death in 2020.

Among the 32 States and Union Territories, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand, and Delhi contributed significantly to the increased number of deaths registered from 2020 to 2021, the report said. The number of registered deaths decreased by about 0.1%, it added.

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## Centre unveils draft 'climate taxonomy' document to aid clean energy investment

The Hindu Bureau

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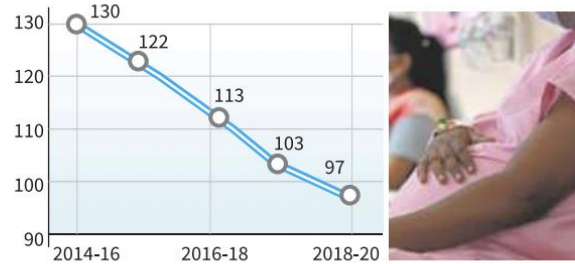
Several States, including Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106), have high MMRs.

The Registrar-General arrives at estimates on fertility and mortality using the Sample Registration System, one of the largest demographic sample surveys in the country.

The MMR is a measure of the reproductive health of women in a region.

## Drop in maternal death rate

The chart shows the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), which is the number of maternal deaths during a given period per 100,000 live births



Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

**Every day in 2023, over 700 women died of preventable causes related to pregnancy, says WHO**

One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period as reported.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim at reducing global MMR to to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

Many women in the reproductive age span die from complications during and following pregnancy and childbirth, or abortion.

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tion and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

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"A maternal death occurred almost every 2 minutes in 2023. Between 2000 and 2023, the MMR...dropped by about 40% worldwide. Just over 90% of all maternal deaths occurred in low- and lower-middle-income countries in 2023. Care by skilled health professionals before, during and after childbirth can save the lives of women and newborns," the WHO said.

## 1. Decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):

- The MMR in India has **declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21** from **97 in 2018-20**, and **103 in 2017-19**, as per the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**.
  - The highest MMR is recorded in the **20-29 age group**, followed by the **30-34 age group**.
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## 2. Regional Variation:

- States with High MMR:
  - Madhya Pradesh (175)
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## 6. Efforts to Reduce MMR:

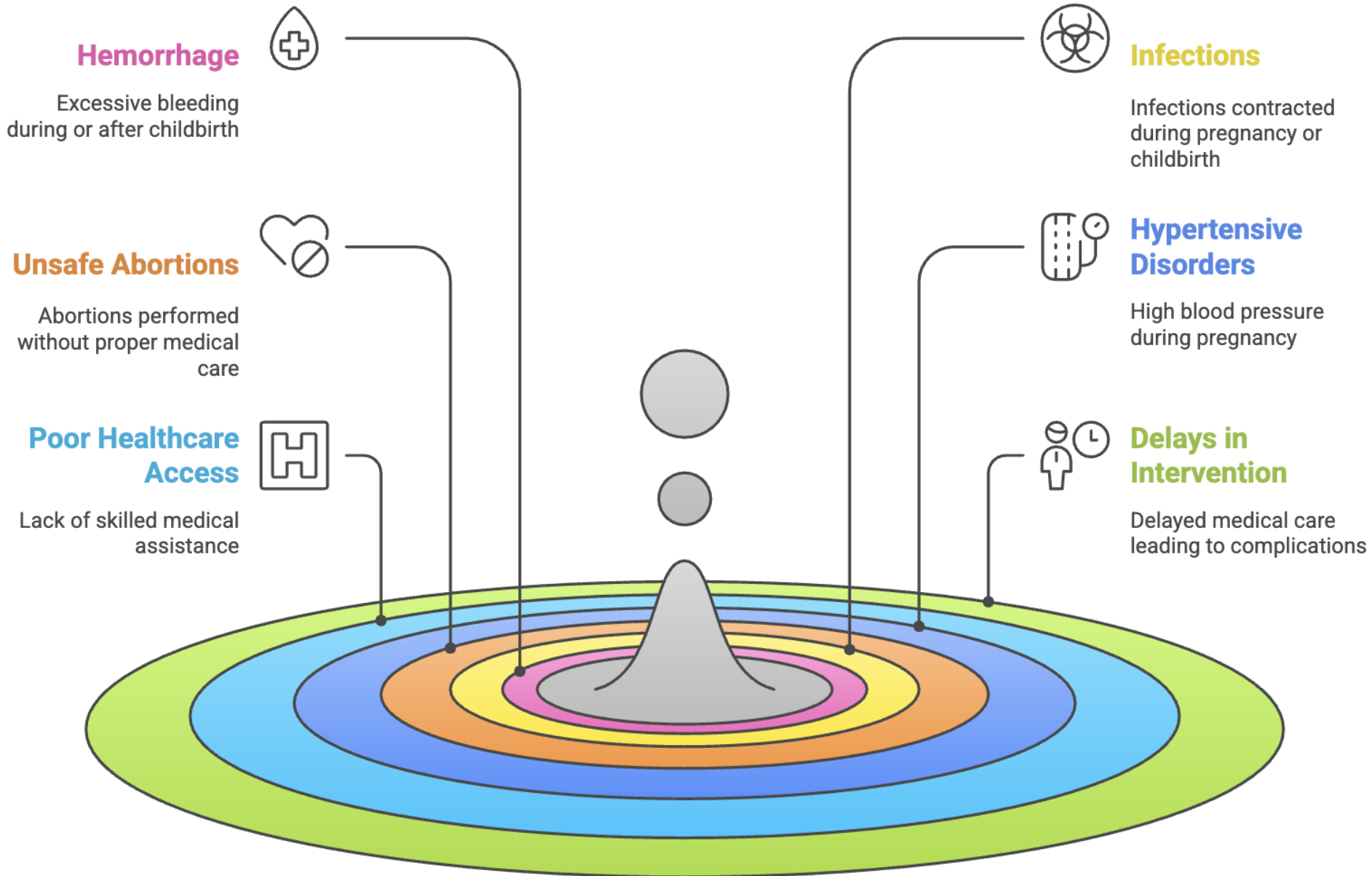
- The **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** aim to reduce the global MMR to **less than 70 per 100,000 live births** by 2030.
  - Skilled healthcare before, during, and after childbirth is essential for reducing maternal mortality.
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### Contextual Analysis:

#### A. Historical Perspective:

- In the early **2000s**, India's MMR was significantly higher, over **200 per lakh live births**.
- Government schemes like **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** and **Ayushman Bharat** played a pivotal role in improving **maternal healthcare access**.

## Maternal Mortality Causes



## Top 10 Countries with the Lowest Maternal Mortality Ratios

Rank	Country	MMR (per 100,000 live births)
1	Norway	1.7
2	Denmark	2.0
3	Netherlands	2.0
4	Finland	3.0
5	Italy	4.0
6	Sweden	4.0
7	Austria	4.0
8	Germany	4.0
9	Switzerland	5.0
10	Japan	5.0

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**The Hindu Bureau**  
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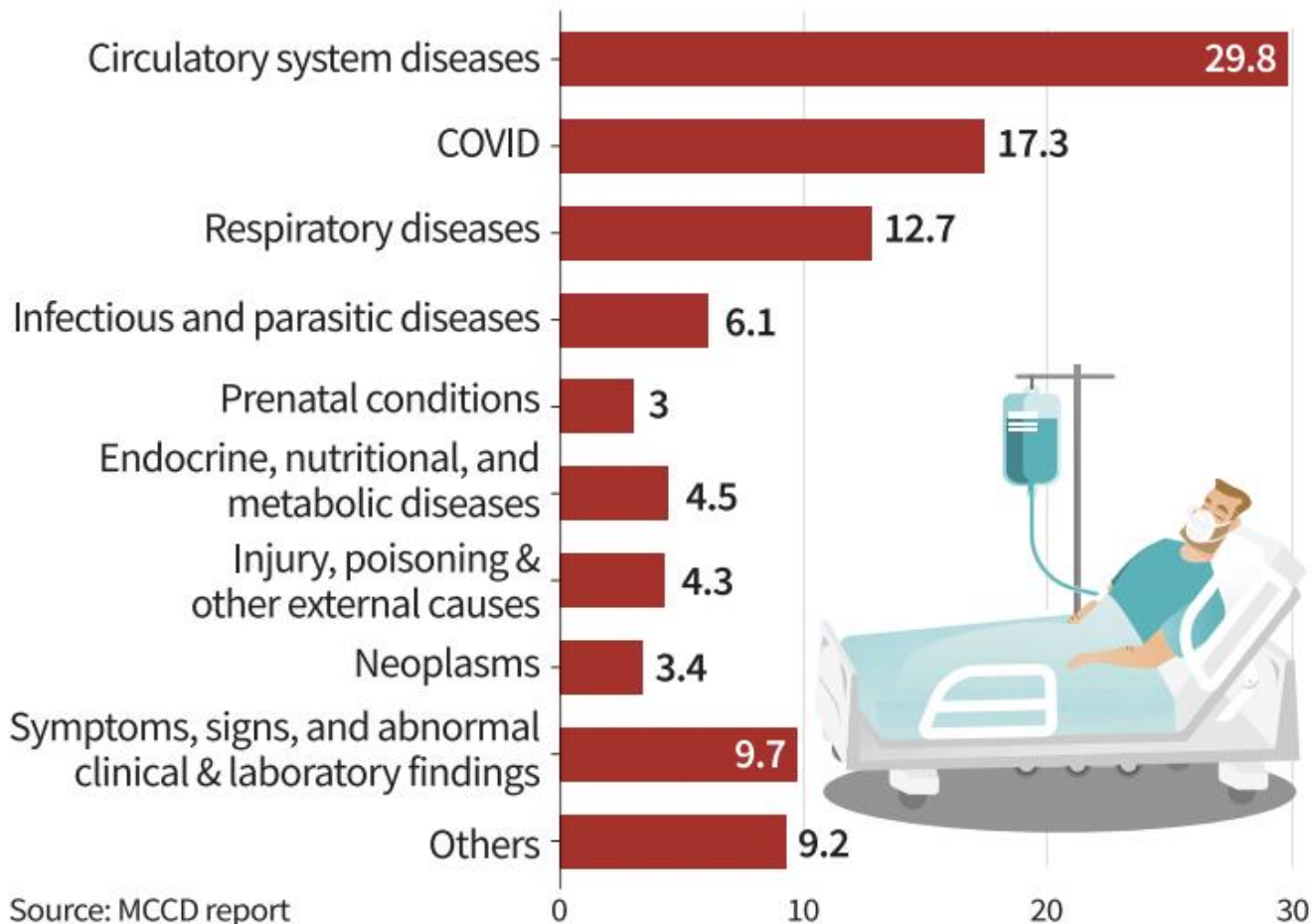
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Among the 32 States and Union Territories, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand, and Delhi contributed significantly to the increased number of deaths registered from 2020 to 2021, the report said. The number of registered births decreased by about 0.1%, it added.

## Tracking fatalities

The chart shows the cause-wise share of registered deaths in 2021 as per newly released government reports (in %)



## 1. Significant Increase in Deaths:

- India recorded **over 1 crore deaths in 2021**, marking an increase of around **21 lakh additional deaths** compared to 2020.
  - This data was reported by the **Registrar-General of India (RGI)** after a **five-year gap**.
- 

## 2. Increase in Registered Deaths:

- In 2020, **81.2 lakh** deaths were registered, while in 2021, the number increased to **1.02 crore**, marking a **26% rise**.
- In comparison, **75.9 lakh** deaths were registered in 2019.

### 3. COVID-19 Impact:

- The **second year of the COVID-19 pandemic** contributed significantly to this increase.
  - Deaths with **COVID-19 as the underlying cause** rose from **1.60 lakh in 2020 to 4.13 lakh in 2021**.
    - **Male deaths:** 2,67,363
    - **Female deaths:** 1,46,215
    - **Transgender deaths:** 2
  - COVID-19 was the **second leading cause of death in 2021**, compared to being the **third leading cause in 2020**.
- 

### 4. Major Causes of Death in 2021:

- **Circulatory system diseases (29.8%)** - including pulmonary ailments.
- **COVID-19 (17.3%)** - marked as the second leading cause.
- **Respiratory system diseases (12.7%)**
- **Infectious and parasitic diseases (6.1%)**

## 5. Regional Distribution:

- Major states contributing to increased deaths in 2021:
    - **Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand, Delhi**
- 

## 6. Certification and Reporting:

- Out of **1.02 crore deaths in 2021**, around **23.95 lakh (23%)** were medically certified.
- Compared to **2020**, there was an increase of **5.83 lakh certified deaths**.
- The **number of registered births decreased by about 0.1%**.

 **Top 10 Countries by Total COVID-19 Deaths (as of April 13, 2024)**

Rank	Country	Total Deaths	Deaths per Million
1	United States	1,219,487	3,655
2	Brazil	711,380	3,316
3	India	533,570	382
4	Russia	402,756	2,761
5	Mexico	331,897	2,540
6	United Kingdom	232,112	3,397
7	Italy	196,487	3,259
8	Germany	183,027	2,183
9	France	167,642	2,565
10	Peru	220,975	6,601

# RIL bows out as race for tagline Operation Sindoor gathers pace

**Lalatendu Mishra**

MUMBAI

On a second thought and probable advise, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) on Thursday withdrew its application for a patent on wordmark “Operation Sindoor” – the codename of India’s “precision strike” military action on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK – a day after applying for it.

The Mukesh Ambani-led company said it had no intonation of trademarking the phrase and abided by its “India First commitment”.

“Reliance Industries has no intention of trademarking Operation Sindoor, a phrase which is now a part of the national consciousness as an evocative symbol of Indian bravery,” RIL said in a statement.

“Jio Studios, a unit of Reliance Industries, has withdrawn its trademark application, which was filed inadvertently by a junior person without authorisation,” it said. “Reliance Industries and all its stakeholders are incredibly proud of Operation Sindoor, which came about in response to a Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack in Pahalgam,” it added.

“Operation Sindoor is the proud achievement of our brave Armed Forces in India’s uncompromising fight against the evil of terrorism,” the company stated. “Reliance stands fully

**The company said it had no intonation of trademarking the phrase and abided by its ‘India First commitment’**

in support of our government and armed forces in this fight against terrorism. Our commitment to the motto of ‘India First’ remains unwavering,” it added. Hours after news broke about the bombings in Pakistan and PoK, RIL and five others applied for trademarking the term on Wednesday. They had applied to the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks, seeking to use the phrase in entertainment-related services, including audio and video content which could be produced as movies, documentaries and serials.

A retired Air Force officer, Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh, and Alok Kothari, a Delhi High Court lawyer, are among the contenders after RIL pulled out. The others include Mukesh Chetram Agarwal and Jayaraj T.

While Mr. Kothari told *The Hindu* that he would give away all the profits from the movie to war widows, the retired Air Force officer said as someone who had worked in the forces and participated in operations, he would do justice to the title.

## 1. Withdrawal of Trademark Application:

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) **withdrew its application** to trademark the wordmark "**Operation Sindoor**".
  - The decision came **a day after filing** for the trademark.
  - The company clarified that the **application was filed inadvertently** by a junior employee **without authorization**.
- 

## 2. Commitment to 'India First':

- RIL stated that it had **no intention of trademarking** the phrase, aligning its stance with its '**India First**' commitment.
- The phrase is seen as an **evocative symbol of Indian bravery** and **national consciousness**.

## 5. Other Trademark Applicants:

- After RIL's withdrawal, other individuals, including:
    - **Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh (Retd.)** - Air Force Officer.
    - **Alok Kothari** - Delhi High Court lawyer.
    - **Mukesh Chetram Agarwal and Jayaraj T.**
  - They applied to use the phrase for **entertainment-related services** such as movies and documentaries.
- 

## 6. Ethical Consideration:

- Group Captain Oberh stated that **profits from the movie** would be given to **war widows**, emphasizing a **social responsibility aspect**.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPRs)

*IP refers to intangible assets owned/legally protected by an individual/company from outside use or implementation without consent.*



## NEED FOR IPR

- Encourages Innovation
- Economic growth
- Safeguard rights of creators
- Enhances ease of doing business



## RELATED CONVENTIONS/TREATIES (INDIA SIGNATORY TO ALL)

- WIPO Administered (first recognised IPR under):
  - Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property 1883 (**Patents, Industrial Designs**)
  - Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works 1886 (**Copyrights**)
- WTO - TRIPS Agreement:
  - Ensures adequate standard of protection
  - Argues for incentives for technology transfer to developing countries
- Budapest Treaty 1977:
  - International recognition of the deposit of micro-organisms for the purposes of patent procedure
- Marrakesh VIP Treaty 2016:
  - Facilitate access to published works by visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities
- IPR also outlined in **Article 27** (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)



## INDIA AND IPRS - INITIATIVES

- National IPR Policy 2016:
  - Motto:** "Creative India; Innovative India"
  - Compliant with TRIPS Agreement
  - Brings all IPRs to single platform
  - Nodal Dept - Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce)
- National (IP) Awareness Mission (**NIPAM**)
- Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (**KAPILA**)

**World Intellectual Property Day: 26th April**

Intellectual Property	Protection	Law in India	Duration
Copyright	Expression of Ideas	Copyright Act 1957	Variable
Patent	Inventions- New Processes, Machines, etc.	Indian Patent Act 1970	20 years Generally
Trademarks	Sign to distinguish business goods or services	Trade Marks Act 1999	Can last Indefinitely
Trade Secrets	Confidential Business Information	Protected without Registration	Unlimited time
Geographical Indication (GI)	Sign used on specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to site of origin	Geographical Indications of Goods (R & P) Act, 1999	10 years (Renewable)
Industrial Design	Ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article	Design Act, 2000	10 years

# HOW WE INTERCEPT PAK DRONES, MISSILES, AND HOW WE HIT BACK

## AIR DEFENCE (AD) SYSTEMS

are sophisticated military installations designed to protect against incoming aerial threats like aircraft, missiles, drones and helicopters. These systems comprise multiple layers of defensive capabilities working together to detect, track, and neutralise airborne dangers.

Modern air defence networks consist of several crucial components. Radar systems serve as the primary detection mechanism, constantly scanning the skies for potential threats. Early warning systems complement radar networks by gathering and processing data about approaching aircraft, missiles, or drones.

- **Command and control centres** form the brain of AD systems. They receive information from various sensors, process the data, and coordinate defensive responses. These centres house advanced computers and communication equipment, enabling rapid decision-making and response deployment.

- **Surface-to-air missiles (SAMs)** constitute the primary weapon systems in air defence. These missiles vary in range and capability, from short-range systems protecting specific installations to long-range missiles defending larger areas. Modern SAMs feature sophisticated guidance systems and can engage multiple targets simultaneously.

- **Mobile air defence units** provide flexibility and can be rapidly deployed to protect moving forces or respond to emerging threats. These units typically consist of vehicle-mounted radar, missiles, and command systems, allowing for quick repositioning as tactical situations change.

## INDIA'S AD ARSENAL

### S-400 Triumph Surface-to-Air Missile System

- 380-km range
- 3 squads deployed under Rs 40,000cr deal with Russia in Oct 2018
- 2 squads delayed to 2026-27 due to Russia-Ukraine war

### Barak-8 MR-SAM

- Over 70-km range
- Jointly developed with Israel under projects initially worth Rs 30,000cr
- A large no. of units being progressively inducted by IAF, Navy & Army

### Akash

- 25-km range
- IAF has inducted the bulk of 15 squads of Akash 1 & 2 systems ordered for Rs 10,900cr
- Army has 4 regiments for Rs 22,340cr. More in pipeline

### Spyder

- 15-km range
- Israeli low-level quick-reaction anti-aircraft missile system
- Several units inducted by IAF & Army

### Shorter Range

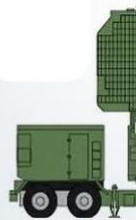
- Newer Russian shoulder-fired Igla-S (6-km) systems
- Older Russian Igla-1M (5-km), OSA-AK-M (10-km), Pechora missiles & upgraded L-70 anti-aircraft guns (3.5-km)

S-400 TRIUMF  
RANGE:  
**380km**

S-400

## HOW TH

1 Acquisition r  
any aerial target



2 The targets' details are passed to the command post

3 The command post crew select the most suitable missile and launch vehicle for intercepting the target



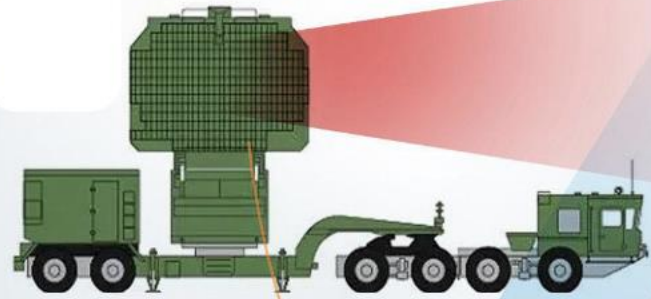
ENGAGEMENT RAD  
Can control 12 mi  
on six targets

India's Akash ADS  
in action (File pic)

S-400

## HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

- 1 Acquisition radar tracks and identifies any aerial targets within range



**ACQUISITION RADAR**

Crew of four.  
Can track 300 targets

- 2 The targets' details are passed to the command post

**COMMAND POST**

Crew of five



- 3 The command post crew select the most suitable missile and launch vehicle for intercepting the target



**ENGAGEMENT RADAR**

Can control 12 missiles  
on six targets

- 4 The engagement radar initially guides the missiles towards the target



**LAUNCHER**

Equipped with  
four missile  
canisters

- 5 Missiles can hit a target based on radar inputs



Two missile series  
are commonly used,  
one short- and  
another long-range.

S-400 can lock two  
missiles on a single target  
and also simultaneously  
hit 80 separate targets

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RANGE:  
**200km**

**HARPY**

## DRONE TARGETS PAK AIR DEFENCE

The Israeli-made Harpy is a suicide, or Kamikaze, drone that was reportedly used by Indian forces against Pakistani air defence and radar targets. These unmanned drones belong to a category known as loitering munitions, that is, they are designed to wait (or 'loiter'), airborne in a specific area and dive down to hit their target upon intercepting signals from it.

Israel Aerospace Industries, the maker of Harpy, says it's specially enabled for "suppression and destruction of enemy air defences (SEAD/DEAD)". It can pick up radiation emitted by systems such as radars and target those autonomously.

USE: **Anti-Air Defence**

ENDURANCE:  
**Up To 9 Hrs**

MAX SPEED: **225 Knots**  
(over 400kmph)

PAYLOAD:  
**16Kg  
Warhead**

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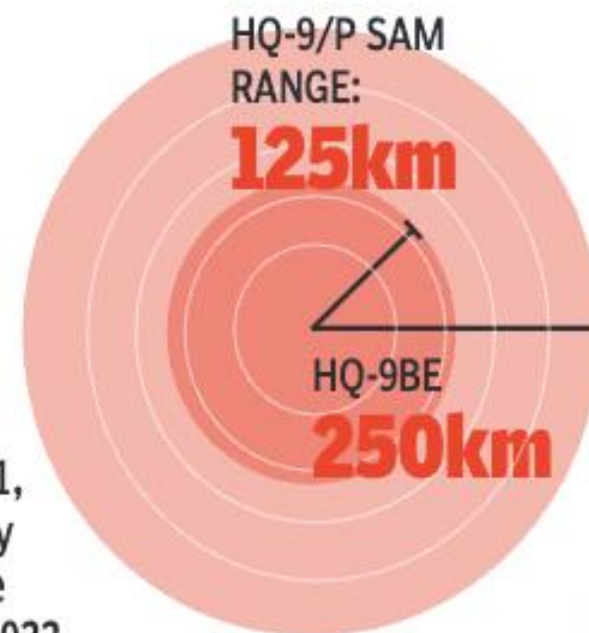
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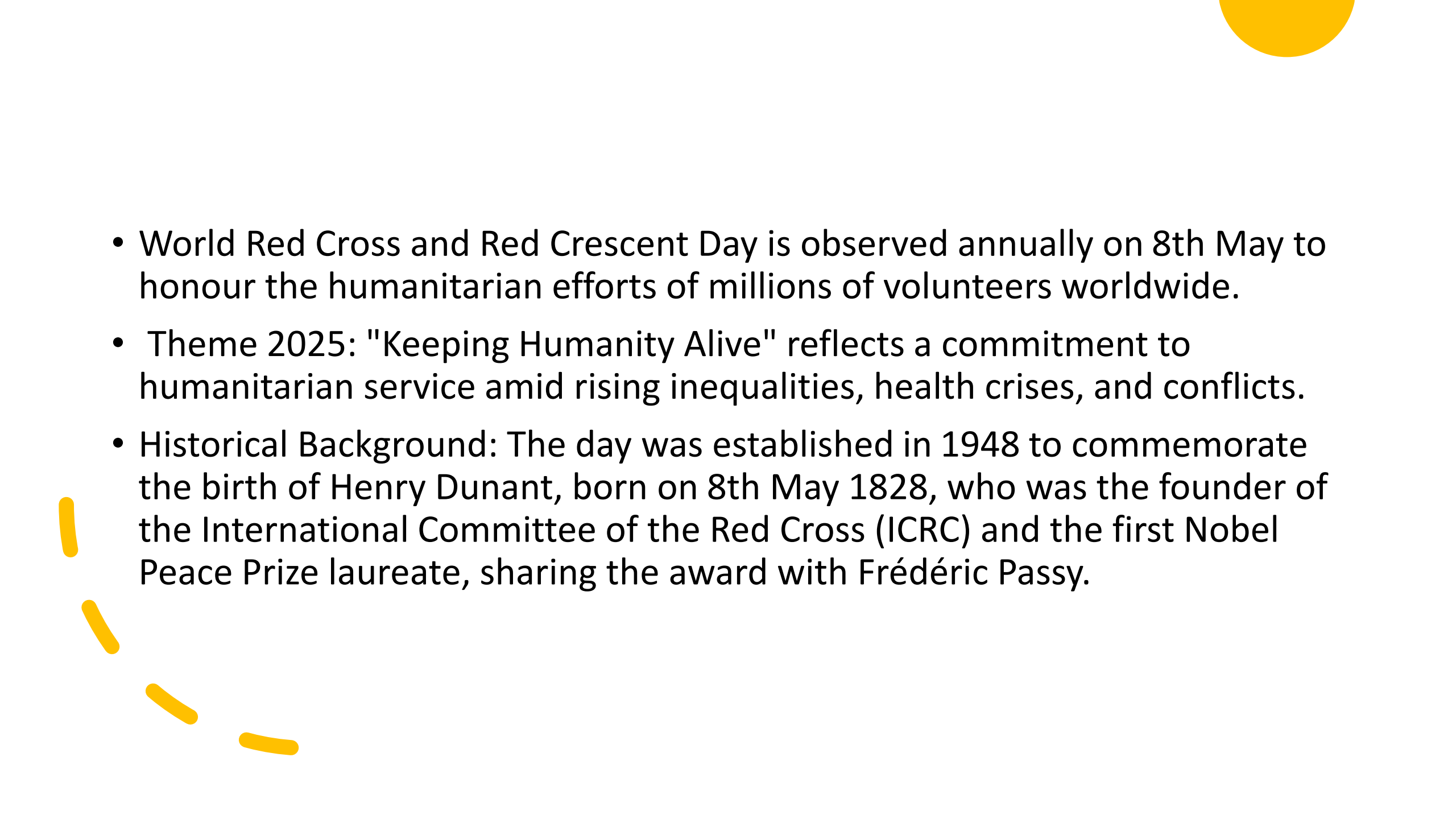
## 80% OF PAKISTAN'S ARMS IMPORTS IS FROM CHINA

Between 2014 and 2024, China became Pakistan's dominant arms supplier, accounting for over 80% of Pakistan's major weapon imports in recent years. During this period, Islamabad entered numerous high-profile deals with Beijing across all service branches — army, air force, and navy — covering everything from main battle tanks and air defence systems to advanced fighter jets, drones, frigates and submarines. These arms transfers were often accompanied by technology sharing and joint production. Pakistan, in the late 2010s, turned to

China's **HQ-9 series of long-range surface-to air missiles** (comparable to Russian S-300/400 systems). In 2021, the Pakistani military reportedly inducted the HQ-9/P long-range SAM (with ~125 km range). By 2022, the Pakistan air force had also deployed the newer HQ-9BE variant (with extended 250+ km range). These are deployed around major cities and strategic sites.



# World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

- 
- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on 8th May to honour the humanitarian efforts of millions of volunteers worldwide.
  - Theme 2025: "Keeping Humanity Alive" reflects a commitment to humanitarian service amid rising inequalities, health crises, and conflicts.
  - Historical Background: The day was established in 1948 to commemorate the birth of Henry Dunant, born on 8th May 1828, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate, sharing the award with Frédéric Passy.

After witnessing the horrors of the Battle of Solferino (1859), Dunant advocated for humanitarian aid bodies, leading to the formation of the ICRC in 1863 and later the Geneva Conventions.



The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with over 80 million members, includes the ICRC, 191 National Societies, it provides protection and aid during conflicts and disasters, upheld by the red cross, red crescent, and red crystal emblems.

# INDEX Asia 2025

# About

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Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan arrived in Singapore to participate in **IMDEX Asia 2025 at the Changi Exhibition Centre.**

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It is **Asia Pacific's premier naval and maritime defence exhibition**, held in **Singapore** and was established in **1997**.

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It is a biennial **event that brings** together naval leaders, maritime defence companies, and technology innovators from around the world.

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**The 2025 edition** features over 230 exhibitors from 25 countries and welcomes more than 12,000 attendees from 70 nations.

# Early Onset of Indian Monsoon

# Mechanism of the Indian Monsoon: The Driving Forces

- **Differential Heating of Land and Sea:** In summer, India's landmass heats faster than the ocean, creating low pressure over land and drawing in moisture-laden winds from the sea.
- **Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ):** The ITCZ, where trade winds meet near the equator, shifts north during summer, intensifying low pressure over the Indo-Gangetic plain and drawing in monsoon winds.
- **Tibetan Plateau:** Its high elevation heats up, creating an upper-air low-pressure zone that strengthens vertical circulation and attracts monsoon winds.
- **Tropical Easterly Jet:** Develops during summer, strengthening monsoon trough and rainfall.
- **ENSO:**
  - El Niño: Warms Pacific waters, usually weakening Indian monsoon.
  - La Niña: Cools Pacific, often strengthening monsoon.
- **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):**
  - **Positive IOD:** Strengthens monsoon with warm western Indian Ocean.
  - **Negative IOD:** Weakens monsoon.

10 MCQ

## **Consider the following statements about World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day:**

- 1.It is observed annually on 8th May.
  - 2.The theme for 2025 is "Keeping Humanity Alive".
  - 3.It commemorates the birth of Frédéric Passy, the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate.
- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
    - A) 1 and 2 only
    - B) 2 and 3 only
    - C) 1 and 3 only
    - D) All of the above

## **Which of the following is true regarding Henry Dunant?**

- A) He founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- B) He was the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate, sharing it with Frédéric Passy.
- C) He was born on 8th May 1828.
- D) All of the above

## **Consider the following statements regarding IMDEX Asia 2025:**

- 1.It is a major maritime defense exhibition held in Singapore.
- 2.The event showcases naval technology and innovations.
- 3.India participated with its indigenous naval vessels.

- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

## **Which of the following correctly describes the mechanism of the Indian Monsoon?**

- A) It is driven by the differential heating of land and sea.
- B) The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remains stationary throughout the year.
- C) The Tibetan Plateau has no role in monsoon formation.
- D) Monsoon winds are primarily westerlies.

## **What role does the Tibetan Plateau play in the Indian Monsoon?**

- A) It cools the surrounding region, reducing monsoon intensity.
- B) It creates a high-pressure system, inhibiting monsoon winds.
- C) Its elevation heats up, forming an upper-air low-pressure zone that attracts monsoon winds.
- D) It has no significant impact on the monsoon

## **Consider the following about the Tropical Easterly Jet:**

- 1.It develops during the summer monsoon.
- 2.It strengthens the monsoon trough and increases rainfall.
- 3.It is absent during El Niño years.

- **Which of the above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

**Which of the following correctly matches the climatic phenomenon with its impact on the Indian Monsoon?**

- A) El Niño - Strengthens Monsoon
- B) La Niña - Weakens Monsoon
- C) Positive IOD - Strengthens Monsoon
- D) Negative IOD - Enhances Monsoon

**Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):**

1. Positive IOD warms the western Indian Ocean, enhancing the monsoon.
2. Negative IOD leads to a dry monsoon season.
3. IOD has no impact on the monsoon when combined with La Niña.

• **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

**Which of the following is correct regarding El Niño and La Niña's impact on the Indian Monsoon?**

- A) El Niño warms Pacific waters, weakening the monsoon.
- B) La Niña cools Pacific waters, strengthening the monsoon.
- C) Both statements are correct.
- D) Neither statement is correct.

## **Which of the following correctly describes the significance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2025?**

- A) The theme for 2025 is "Together for Humanity".
- B) It focuses on the humanitarian efforts of millions of volunteers.
- C) It commemorates the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.
- D) It was established in 1968.

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# Word of the day

## **Shibboleth:**

A favourite saying of a group, organisation or individual

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**Synonyms:** Catchword, motto, slogan

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**Usage:** *Her use of slang was a shibboleth of youth culture.*

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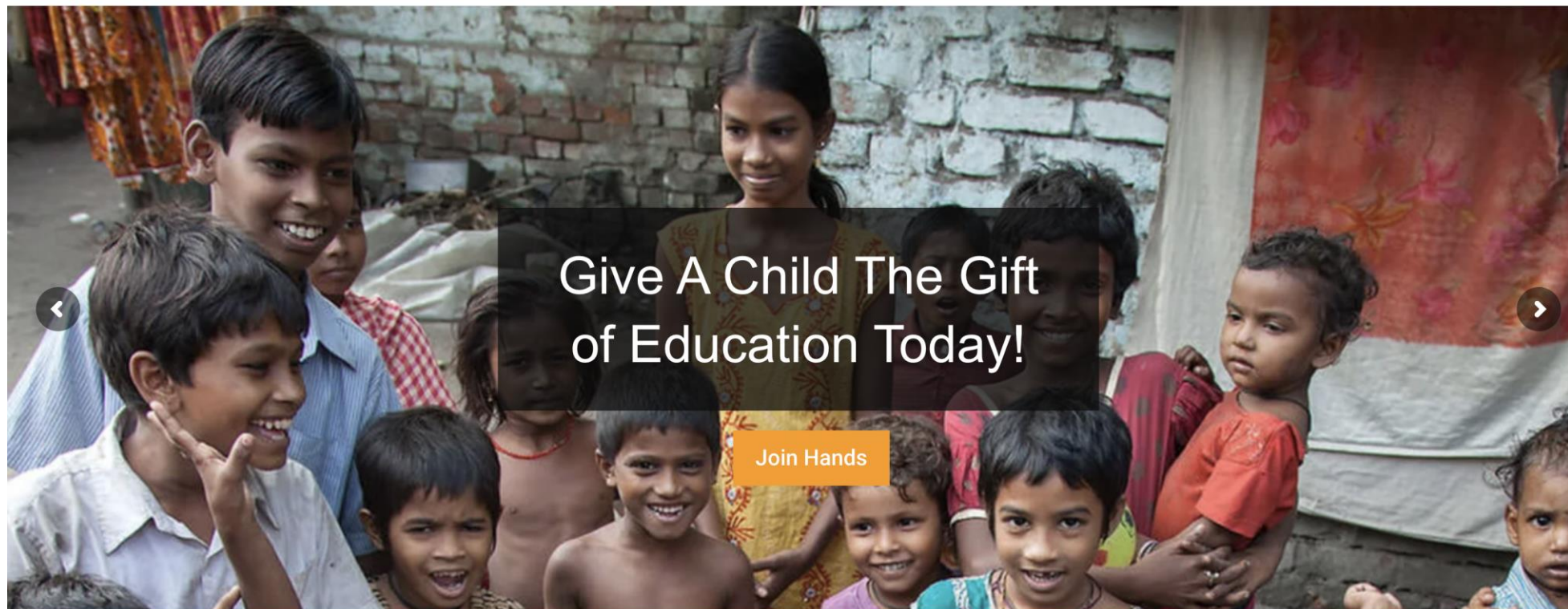
## **Pronunciation:**

[newsth.live/Shibbolethpro](http://newsth.live/Shibbolethpro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** ʃɪbəlɛθ

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**5,534**  
Volunteers



**671**  
Contributors



**1,231**  
Kids



**24**  
States



Thank you  
guys.

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