

INDIA'S SHIELD HOLDS FIRM

Retaliatory drone barrage on 4 Pak air defence sites, radar destroyed

PTI, NEW DELHI: India on Friday said Pakistan launched between 300 and 400 Turkish drones across 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek in its failed attempt to target Indian military installations on Thursday night and also accused that country of using its civilian planes as a 'shield' for its aerial attacks endangering the flights.

As Pakistan launched multiple drone attacks again on Friday night, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Pakistan's strike on places of worship and its "preposterous" attempts to put the blame on Indian armed forces is reflective of Islamabad's evil design and efforts to deceive and mislead the world.

Citing Pakistan's attack



Colonel Sofiya Qureshi at a special briefing amid India-Pakistan military conflict, in New Delhi

on a gurdwara in Amritsar and its subsequent attempt to blame it on Indian armed forces, Misri said Islamabad's thinking that India

would attack its own cities is the kind of "deranged fantasy" that only the Pakistani state can come up with.

The Border Security Force (BSF), meanwhile, said it has foiled an infiltration bid.

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DRONE WARFARE

- ✦ Pakistan launched 300-400 Turkish Asisguard Songar drones across 36 Indian locations from Leh to Sir Creek on May 8-9, targeting military installations
- ✦ Drones were neutralised using kinetic and non-kinetic means, including Barak-8, S-400, Akash missiles, and anti-drone systems
- ✦ India accused Pakistan of using civilian airliners as a 'shield' by keeping civil airspace open, endangering flights

Power tariff hike plan sparks public outcry

Critics say proposed hike will hit citizens and industry; but why was Congress missing when common people needed the party to speak up?

Team Herald

PANJIM: A wave of public opposition swept through the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) hearing in Panjim on Friday as common citizens, activists and political party representatives voiced fierce criticism against the Goa Electricity Department's proposal to hike power tariffs.

The proposed hike - 5.95% for 2025-26, followed by 5.64% and 4.88% in the subsequent two years under the Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) plan - was described as a direct blow to the common man and a threat to Goa's industrial and economic landscape.

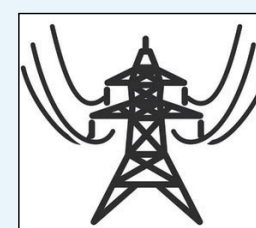
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HERALD ASKS

- ✦ Many consumers were recently forced to upgrade to three phase and had to pay around 1 lakh or more for the cable from the transmission box to their house. Why should they now be burdened with this tariff hike?
- ✦ Frequent and prolonged power cuts still affect urban and rural areas alike.

Why should consumers be forced to pay more when there is no corresponding improvement in service quality, reliability, or response time to complaints?

✦ Why aren't citizens not clearly informed about the logic behind the hike - mismanagement, outdated infrastructure, or purchase of costly power from outside?



MASSIVE RELIANCE ON EXPENSIVE EXCHANGE POWER

Goa's power purchase from the IEX (Indian Energy Exchange) is projected to jump 481%, from 495.61 MU to

2,387.08 MU between FY 2025-26 and FY 2029-30. In FY 2023-24, Rs 332.7 crore worth of power was purchased through the exchange. The document proposes cost increases of 428% to Rs 954.83 crore between FY 2025-26 and FY 2029-30. This steep rise suggests serious flaws in long-term power planning and procurement strategy

Particularly alarming is the proposed hike for the low-tension domestic category, which includes substantial increases across various consumption slabs... It will place an additional burden on families, especially those with limited or fixed incomes

- Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party President

Pope Leo XIV celebrates his first Mass

AP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV, history's first US-born pontiff, said Friday that his election was both a cross to bear and a blessing as he celebrated his first Mass as the head of the Catholic Church.

Leo spoke off-the-cuff in English in the Sistine Chapel to the cardinals who elected him to follow in the footsteps of Pope Francis, who put a commitment to social justice at the core of his papacy. He acknowledged the great responsibility they had placed on him before delivering a brief but

"You have called me to carry that cross and to be blessed with that mission, and I know I can rely on each and every one of you to walk with me as we continue as a church, as a community, as friends of Jesus, as believers, to announce the good news, to announce the Gospel

- Pope Leo XIV



Pope Leo XIV during a mass with cardinals in the Sistine Chapel in The Vatican, on Friday

dense homily on the need to joyfully spread Christianity in a world that often mocks it.

"You have called me to carry that cross and to be blessed with that mission, and I know I can rely on

each and every one of you to walk with me as we continue as a church, as a community, as friends of Jesus, as

believers, to announce the good news, to announce the Gospel," he said.

It was in the same frescoed chapel that Leo, the Chicago-born Augustinian missionary Robert Prevost, was elected Thursday afternoon as the 267th pope, overcoming the traditional taboo against a pope from the United States because of the secular power the country wields.

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Instead of keeping its word on electoral promises of three free gas cylinders and free water supply, the government is now pushing a 15% power hike in three years and covering up scams like the bunch cabling fiasco

- Amit Palekar,

AAP Goa Convenor

FOND MEMORIES OF POPE'S PRIOR VISITS TO INDIA

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: As the world welcomes Pope Leo XIV as the new Supreme Pontiff, many in India's Augustinian communities fondly recall his visits to the country in 2004 and 2006. Then serving as the General of the Order of St Augustine, he spent time with religious communities and faithful in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, leaving behind a legacy of humility, spiritual depth and simplicity.

During his first visit in April 2004, he spent over a week at the Augustinian residences in Mariyapuram, Aluva (Archdiocese of Verapoly) and Edakochi (Diocese of Cochin), both in Kerala's Ernakulam district.



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Pope Leo XIV visited India in 2004 and 2006

CHURCH OF GOA WELCOMES POPE LEO XIV

MARGAO: The Church of Goa has joined Catholics across the world in prayerfully welcoming the election of Pope Leo XIV.

Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão and Auxiliary Bishop Simião Fernandes, along with all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, conveyed their prayerful wishes and sentiments of filial devotion to Pope Leo XIV as he assumes the ministry of shepherding the Universal Catholic Church.

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Indo-Pak tensions force IPL suspension

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Indian Premier League (IPL) was on Friday suspended because of the deepening military confrontation between India and Pakistan with the BCCI saying that national interest trumps other considerations at a time when the country is responding to a terror attack and unwarranted aggression from across the border.

A cloud of uncertainty had loomed over the future of the ongoing edition since the cancellation of Thursday's match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala midway following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot.

"The BCCI has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL with immediate effect for one week," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia stated in a press release, after early information from the Board suggested that the suspension was indefinite.

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