

# CEASEFIRE, INTERRUPTED

India says Pakistan violated de-escalation agreement hours after it was announced on Saturday; Trump takes lead in making ceasefire public on social media

PTI, NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON: Hours after India and Pakistan reached an understanding on stopping military actions, New Delhi on Saturday accused Islamabad of breaching it.

In a late night media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with "seriousness and responsibility".

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After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence



People gather near the debris of an unidentified projectile which landed amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan, in Sirsa, Haryana, on Saturday

The governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire... Over the past 48 hours, Vice President Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik

Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State

## TWISTS AND TURNS ALL DAY

◊ MAY 10 EARLY MORNING: Exchange of missile and drone strikes between Indian and Pakistani forces

◊ AROUND 3.35 PM: Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO. Both sides agreed to cease all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea effective from 5:00 PM IST. Orders were issued on both sides to implement the ceasefire.

◊ 5 PM: A ceasefire between India and Pakistan officially takes effect. Both sides halt all firing and military operations

◊ 5.25 PM: US President Donald Trump breaks the ceasefire news to the world on Truth Social, hailing the "FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE" and congratulating both countries

◊ SOME MINUTES LATER: Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar confirms the ceasefire on X

◊ 6 PM: Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri officially announces the ceasefire in a press briefing

◊ JUST AFTER 9 PM: Omar Abdullah shares video from Srinagar where loud explosions can be heard and drones flying in the sky, claiming the ceasefire has been violated

## Tourism takes a huge blow as holidayers desert Goa

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MARGAO: The already dismal tourism scene in Goa — marked by empty hotels and restaurants for much of the recent tourist season — has now taken a complete nosedive. Over the past month, murmurs of the tourism downturn have grabbed headlines, with ministers and MLAs of the ruling BJP speaking openly about the tourism sector taking a big hit.

Stakeholders have pointed at multiple factors — from unusually high hotel rates to taxi unions that refuse to cooperate with visitors. Now the tense situation between India and Pakistan seems to have added to this, with numerous cancellations of hotel bookings and events.

"Goa hotels are further affected by the current escalated Indo-Pak conflict, with several hotels receiving cancellations for group reservations," said a senior hotelier on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the situation.

"Hotels are experiencing less than 50% occupancy in May, and June isn't looking too good either. Likely to be the worst quarter for Goa tourism in many years."

Responding to queries from O Herald on the issue, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) president Jack Sukhija acknowledged the impact of

Significant cancellations have been received due to the uncertain scenario. This is a situation expected during a conflict, and we are hopeful of rebounding strongly

— Jack Sukhija, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa president

Almost all events in Goa have been cancelled due to the shutdown in North Indian airports. Please note, these are events that were booked by tourists/corporates and not government or Goa-run events

— Event management professional

As regional tensions between India and Pakistan cast a shadow on international travel sentiment, we're already seeing early signs of impact on Goa's tourism sector

— Resort Rio, a five-star property in Arpora, in an appeal to industry stakeholders

the recent developments on tourism in Goa. "Significant cancellations have been received due to the uncertain scenario," said Sukhija.

"This is a situation expected during a conflict, and we are hopeful of rebounding strongly," said Sukhija.

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## Pope Leo XIV identifies AI as main challenge for humanity

AP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV laid out the vision of his papacy Saturday, identifying artificial intelligence as one of the most critical matters facing humanity and vowing to continue in some of the core priorities of Pope Francis.

In his first formal audience, Leo repeatedly cited Francis and the Argentine pope's own 2013 mission statement, making clear a commitment to making the Catholic Church more inclusive, attentive to the faithful and a



church that looks out for the "least and rejected."

Leo, the first American pope, told the cardinals who elected him that he was fully committed to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernised the church. He identified AI as one of the main issues facing humanity, saying it poses challenges to defending human dignity, justice and labour.

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## Beware: Drone warfare is here to stay

'Contactless war' is the mantra of new-age war strategy as its cost effective and impactful, robust air defence system only countermeasure

SHASHWAT GUPTA RAY

PANJIM: After the Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Hamas conflicts, drone warfare has made its presence felt in a big way during the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict. According to military experts, going ahead, drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) will have a critical role to play in inflicting maximum damage to the opposition in the 'contactless war'.

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Drones are the new toys of probing defences and preparedness. This medium still needs to be defined. Low-cost drones, like the Turkish Asisguard Songar or similar models, are cheap but effective. Armed with basic explosives or used for reconnaissance, they can flood the battlespace

— Brigadier (retd) Neil John

The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have demonstrated the operational effectiveness of swarm drone attacks. These systems, owing to their low cost and high impact, have emerged as potent tools for saturation strikes

— Col (retd) C M Chavan



File photo of an Indian Army soldier operating a kamikaze drone with anti-tank munition

## WHY ARE DRONES WAR FAVOURITES NOW

- Used for reconnaissance
- Easy to deploy
- Cost effective and lethal
- Engages enemy from a distance
- Reduces risk to soldiers
- Can be equipped with weapons to conduct strikes with precision
- Can also be used for jamming enemy communication lines

## Monsoon likely to reach Kerala on May 27: IMD

PTI, NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on May 27, earlier than the usual date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

If the monsoon arrives in Kerala as expected, it will be the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began on May 23, according to IMD data.

The arrival of the main rain-bearing system over the Indian mainland is officially declared when it reaches Kerala, usually around June 1.

The monsoon typically covers the entire country by July 8. It starts withdrawing from northwest India around September 17 and completes by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern State on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018.

An IMD official said there is no direct relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. "The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features," the official said.

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MAX. TEMP 35.2 °C  
MIN. TEMP 26.7 °C

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Retaliating against fake news on social media, right now!

## What's in a Pope's name? Trilogy has unique link

Australian writer Morris West's Papal trilogy rings out quite true with the choice of the name Leo XIV

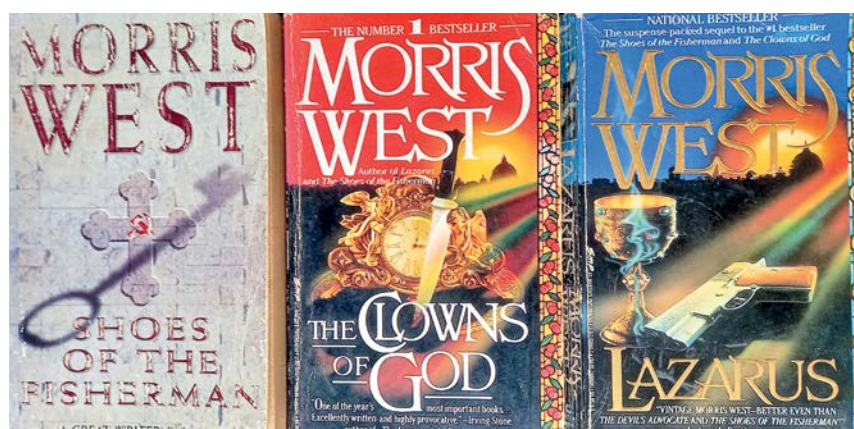
ALEXANDRE MONIZ BARBOSA

The choice of name of Leo XIV, completes in a manner of speaking the Papal trilogy of Morris West, where fiction has come as close to reality as possible.

As an avid reader of fiction, one writer whose works came rushing back to memory as the announcement of the new Pope was read out from the balcony at St Peter's Square are those of West.

West may not be too familiar a name in Goa. He was an Australian writer who died in 1999, but what triggered the mind were his three books on Popes and the Vatican, and how what he penned has turned almost prophetic.

West's first book in this trilogy was published in 1963 and is titled 'Shoes of the Fisherman'. It was about Kiril Lakota, a Pope who was elected from behind the Iron Curtain. Some 15 years later, in



Three books on Popes and the Vatican by of Morris West

1978, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II and came from Poland, a country that was under communist rule and on the other side of the Iron Curtain. The similarity in the names of Kiril and Karol was not lost on me when I first read

the book, sometime in my teenage days. The book was subsequently turned into a film with Anthony Quinn playing the role of Pope Kiril I and also starred Lawrence Olivier.

West's next book in the trilogy was

'The Clowns of God', published in 1981, about a Pope who abdicates. John Paul II's successor, Pope Benedict XVI resigned from the Papal throne in 2013. In the book, the Pope announces his resignation in the presence of a full consistory of cardinals. In reality, Pope Benedict did so to the Cardinals.

Of course the reasons for the resignation in the book are, well dramatic and fictional, and better left for reading in the book than discussing them here.

Which brings us to West's third offering in the Papal trilogy, 'Lazarus', published in 1990 and about a Pope Leo XIV, a conservative. How the papacy of Leo XIV pans out will be seen over the next few years, for now, it is only the name that is significant.

These are not the only works of West on the Vatican, but other eminently readable books include 'The Devil's Advocate' of which there is also a movie version and 'Eminence'.