

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## India Hits Out At Pak Over Ahmadiyyas Persecution, Air-Bombings Against Afghan In UNGA

**UNITED NATIONS, MAY 26:** India called out Pakistan for its habit of "fabricating imaginative" tales of Islamophobia in neighbouring countries, questioning how Islamabad's own brutal repression of Ahmadiyyas or air-bombing campaigns during Ramzan against Afghanistan can be characterised as.

"India's western neighbour is an excellent example of fabricating imaginative tales of Islamophobia in their neighbourhood," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said.

"One wonders what would brutal repression of Ahmadiyyas in this country be termed, or the large-scale re-outrage of the helpless Afghans or air-bombing campaigns in this Holy Month of Ramadan?" Harish said.

Harish was addressing the UN General Assembly commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia on Monday.

In a strong retort, he also said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which "our western neighbour has systematically attempted to weaponise against India", has repeatedly made false and baseless allegations against my country.

He stressed that it is important for the UN to take note of the rising trend and dangers of weaponising religious identity and instrumentalising it to serve narrow political ends by state and non-state actors alike.



Underlining that India is home to more than 200 million Muslims, one of the largest populations of the community in the world, he said Muslims in India, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, elect their own representatives to speak for them.

The only 'phobia' evident here appears to be directed against the multicultural and peaceful coexistence that all communities in India enjoy, including Muslim communities," he said.

"Such narratives run counter to India's fundamental ethos and reflect instead the sectarianism and terrorist mentality that this country has perpetuated since its inception. That is the real issue at hand," he said.

Harish said that history bears repeated witness to how the politicisation of religion does not solve and resolve grievances; however well-intentioned, they risk lending legitimacy to precisely this kind of selective, polarising narratives that

breed further division. "The United Nations was conceived as an institution that transcends religion, culture, and politics. Its credibility rests on universality and impartiality. We, therefore, urge caution against frameworks that exclusively focus on one faith, without addressing the broader phenomenon of religio-phobia in all its manifestations," he said.

India noted that the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief remains a very balanced and enduring instrument that enshrines the rights of all religious followers without privileging any.

India also strongly condemned violence and hatred in the name of religion, regardless of the religion in question. As a nation where followers of virtually every major world religion coexist peacefully and a nation that has given birth to four major world religions, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, India, more than any other country, is acutely aware of the need for a world free from religious discrimination.

"Global public goods, like sunshine, should be available to one and all, irrespective of affiliations. The UN has built its credibility through tireless work on conflict resolution, poverty alleviation, and protection of civilians. We urge the UN to remain anchored to this founding spirit," he said.

India reaffirmed its commitment to a world free from religious hatred and violence in all its forms. "We urge the UN to channel its time and limited resources towards building inclusive societies grounded in equality, dignity, and the rule of law — for every individual of every faith," Harish said. (Agencies)

Underlining that if the trial was unlikely to conclude within a reasonable time, continued detention could result in curtailment of personal liberty, the Supreme Court has granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in jail in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which observed that there were bleak chances of the trial's early disposal and the 74-year-old had been in custody for a prolonged period, however, imposed stringent bail conditions on Shah, including not commenting to the media about the case, according to a detailed order of the March 12 verdict.

Noting that Shah, who the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested on June 4, 2019, had been incarcerated for over eight years, the bench said, "Prolonged incarceration of an accused, particularly in circumstances where the trial

## 40% Of India's Graduates Cannot Find Jobs, Few Get Secure Salaried Jobs Within One Year: Report

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26:** Eleven million out of sixty-three million graduates between the ages of 20 and 29 in India are unemployed, with only a small proportion securing stable salaried jobs within a year of graduation, according to a report by Azim Premji University.

The 'State of Working India' report found that only about 7 per cent of graduates can find permanent salaried employment within a year of reporting themselves as unemployed.

Graduate unemployment remains high — nearly 40 per cent among those aged 15 to 25 and 20 per cent among the 25 to 29 age group, it said.

"Only a small share secure stable salaried jobs within a year of graduation. The problem of graduate unemployment has been magnified in recent years owing to the growing size of the graduate population," the report said.

According to the report, the youth population has grown substantially in the last few decades, and so has the tertiary enrolment rate, resulting in an increase in the absolute number of young graduates.

"This, together with the high incidence of unemployment, has resulted in a large number of unemployed graduates — 11 million out of 63 million graduates between the ages of 20 and 29 were unemployed as of 2023," it said.

The report noted that since Independence, India has made remarkable progress in closing some of the educational gaps of the past.

"Gross enrolment ratios in higher education are in keeping with India's level of development. Socioeconomic barriers in access to education along gender and caste lines have been reduced (although there is still a long way to go), and India has a

much more connected and capable workforce entering the labour market as a result.

"This has not, however, been accompanied by an effective transition into employment. Unemployment rates are stubbornly high for young graduates. Access to education is uneven. The school-to-work transition is uncertain and for many, not into stable, remunerative employment," it said.

The share of young men in education fell from 38 per cent in 2017 to 34 per cent in late 2024, with a large share citing the need to support household incomes as a reason for their withdrawal, it said. "The most common reason given for withdrawing from education is the need to support household incomes. In 2017, the share citing this reason was 58 per cent. By 2023, it had increased to 72 per cent," the report said.

Between 2004-05 and 2023, while approximately 5

million graduates were added each year, only around 2.8 million found employment, and an even smaller share entered salaried employment, contributing to rising graduate unemployment and slowing earnings growth, it said.

"Graduate salaried earnings exceed those of non-graduates at the time of entry into employment and over their lifetime: Graduate salaries are twice that of non-graduates at the time of entering the labour market. These differences widen over their lifetime.

"For men, the earnings premium has stagnated in recent years. However, growth in entry-level salaries of young graduate men has slowed down. At the same time, gender gaps in graduate earnings have narrowed significantly, indicating improved labour market outcomes for young women," the report said.

## Postal Deptt Launches Premium Services With 24-Hour, 48-Hour Delivery Guarantee

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26:** The Department of Posts on Tuesday rolled out three premium services, with 24-hour and 48-hour delivery guarantees for urgent and time-sensitive consignments.

The services — 24 Speed Post, 24 Speed Post Parcel, and 48 Speed Post — were launched by Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Initially, these services are being rolled out in six cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. The department will utilise dedicated processing and priority air transport to adhere to delivery timelines.

Scindia said the launch marks a moment of renewal for India Post and outlined a massive underlying opportunity.



The e-commerce market, he said, is set to grow to Rs 30 lakh crore by 2030, almost tripling from Rs 11 lakh crore at present.

The new offerings will fea-

ture OTP-verified deliveries and comprehensive end-to-end tracking paired with real-time SMS alerts, according to an official statement.

Businesses will have options of 'Book Now, Pay Later

(BNPL)', centralised billing, and API integration. Additionally, free pickup for bulk shipments and a money-back guarantee, in case of a delayed delivery, will also be provided. (Agencies)

## Indian Vessel Nanda Devi, Carrying 46,500 MT LPG, Arrives At Gujarat's Vadinar Port After Safe Transit Through Hormuz Strait



**GANDHINAGAR (GUJARAT), MAY 26** Indian LPG carrier Nanda Devi on Tuesday arrived at the Vadinar port in Gujarat's Jamnagar, carrying 46,500 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas for ship-to-ship transfer at the anchorage.

The ship-to-ship transfer of LPG from mother vessel MT Nanda Devi to daughter vessel MT BW Birch will commence today.

Sushil Kumar Singh, Chairman of the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), went on board the vessel to facilitate and interact with the captain and crew of Nanda Devi.

This is the second LPG carrier that arrived in India after successfully passing through the Strait of Hormuz. On Monday evening, the Indian carrier LPG Shivalik, carrying a total of 46,000 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas, had arrived at the Mudra Port. Of this, 20,000 MT will be unloaded at Mundra, while the remaining 26,000 MT is scheduled for Mangalore.

Earlier, the Chief Officer of the Nanda Devi vessel said that the initiative was taken by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Shipping Corporation of India, with the Indian and

Iranian navies providing the necessary assistance to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

"I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this operation of crossing the Strait of Hormuz. The initiative was taken by the Indian Ministry, Shipping Corporation of India, with the help of the Indian Navy and the Iranian Navy.

Vessel transmitted the Hormuz safely, now it is en-route to Kandla, Gujarat and will be serving a huge amount of LPG, 46,000 metric tonnes.

This will help in the worldwide crisis of LPG. We will continue to serve the LPG in

future also," he said.

Indian-flagged vessel, 'Jag Laadki', which sailed from the UAE, carrying about 81,000 tonnes of Murban crude oil, is safely en route to India. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Shipping Ministry said in an inter-ministerial briefing on Monday.

The official said that all Indian seafarers in the Persian Gulf area are safe and no incident has been reported in the last 24 hours.

Consequently, there are now 22 Indian-flagged vessels remaining in the Persian Gulf, carrying a total of 611 seafarers. (Agencies)

## SC Cites 'Bleak Chance' Of Trial's Early Disposal, Long Incarceration To Grant Bail To Separatist Shabir Shah

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26:** Underlining that if the trial was unlikely to conclude within a reasonable time, continued detention could result in curtailment of personal liberty, the Supreme Court has granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in jail in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which observed that there were bleak chances of the trial's early disposal and the 74-year-old had been in custody for a prolonged period, however, imposed stringent bail conditions on Shah, including not commenting to the media about the case, according to a detailed order of the March 12 verdict.

Noting that Shah, who the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested on June 4, 2019, had been incarcerated for over eight years, the bench said, "Prolonged incarceration of an accused, particularly in circumstances where the trial

has made little or no substantial progress, is a relevant factor in adjudicating the matter of bail." It highlighted that if the trial was not likely to conclude within a reasonable time, continued detention could result in the curtailment of personal liberty guaranteed under the Constitution.

"Without making any observations on the merits of the case and considering the fact that there are bleak chances of an early disposal of the trial, the prolonged period of custody suffered by the appellant and his advanced age, we are inclined to enlarge the appellant on bail during the pendency of the trial," the apex court said.

It imposed several conditions on Shah, such as not leaving the national capital, surrendering his passport, using only one mobile phone or landline number and providing its details, keeping the mobile phone switched on at all times, reporting to the investigating officer every fortnight, and not tampering

with evidence or influencing witnesses.

"He shall furnish an undertaking before the trial court that he shall not commit any further offence of a similar nature while being on bail, and he shall not make any comment in the media about the present case or his role in the case," the top court said. It said that if Shah violated any bail conditions, the prosecution could seek cancellation of the relief.

The bench passed the order after hearing rejoinder arguments on behalf of Shah, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra appeared on behalf of the NIA. During the hearing, the bench pointed out several anomalies in the trial and flagged the long incarceration of Shah.

On September 4 last year, the apex court refused to grant interim bail to Shah in the case and issued notice to the NIA, seeking its response on his plea challenging a Delhi High Court order

dated June 12, 2025, that denied him relief.

The high court had refused to grant bail to Shah, observing that the possibility of his carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses could not be ruled out.

In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising funds to disrupt peace by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the central government.

Shah was alleged to have played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of Jammu and Kashmir's secession, paying tributes to the family of slain terrorists by eulogising them as "martyrs", receiving money through hawala transactions and raising funds via cross-LoC trade, which were allegedly used to fuel subversive and militant activities.

## US Embassy, Hotel In Baghdad, South Iraqi Oilfield Targeted By Iranian Drones

**BAGHDAD [IRAQ]/WASHINGTON, MAY 26:** The US Embassy and a hotel in Baghdad were targeted by drones early Tuesday, with video appearing to show air defences engaging a projectile near the embassy, CNN reported.

The Majnoon oil field in southern Iraq also came under attack, the spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of Iraq's armed forces said, according to the US broadcaster.

Meanwhile, a report in the Anadolu Agency cited an un-

named security source telling the Shafaq news agency that four drones attempted to target the US Embassy in Baghdad. The report added that Iraq's air defences managed to intercept and shoot down all drones before they reached their targets, the source said, noting that one drone fell on Abu Nuwas Street, while another landed near the embassy inside the Green Zone.

A new wave of rockets has struck an American diplomatic facility near Baghdad airport, as per a report by Al Jazeera.

Iraq's Ministry of Interior confirmed that a drone fell on the Al-Rasheed Hotel early Tuesday local time, according to CNN.

"The ministry wishes to clarify that, after specialized forensic teams conducted an on-site and technical inspection, it was found that a drone had struck the upper fence of the hotel, without resulting in any loss of life or significant material damage," Iraq's interior ministry said in a statement.

Videos, geolocated by CNN, shows an explosion close to the

vicinity of the US Embassy in Baghdad. Other videos showed a projectile consistent with a drone impacting the area near the embassy, and air defence systems engaging a projectile over Baghdad around 600 meters away from the embassy compound.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates temporarily closed its airspace after two separate fires broke out at the Fujairah oil zone and the Shah gas field after drone strikes at both locations, CNN reported.

Tensions seem to escalate further between the US-Israel and Iran as both sides continue with attacks.

Earlier, the Ministry of Defence in Saudi Arabia confirmed that several unmanned aerial vehicles were neutralised in the eastern portion of the kingdom. According to officials, the drones were "intercepted and destroyed" after being detected in the region.

This defensive action follows an earlier report from the ministry regarding a similar security

operation in the same area. In that instance, Saudi forces engaged six drones, all of which were "successfully destroyed" to prevent any impact.

In the context of these heightening tensions, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, held a telephone conversation yesterday with Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, to review regional developments, as reported by Gulf News.

During the call, the two leaders assessed the impact of escalating military actions, which they identified as presenting "grave threats to regional and global security and stability".

The discussion, according to Gulf News, also addressed the ongoing and "blatant Iranian attacks" directed at nations throughout the region. Both parties noted that these actions constitute a "violation of sovereign rights" of the affected countries and contravene established international norms.