



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19th May 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



support@tathastuics.com

HEAD OFFICE: 53/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BADA BAZAR ROAD,
OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060

1. **'Understanding' with Pak. has no 'expiry date': Army**
2. **PSLV: centre of attention**
3. **India to apprise FATF of latest evidence on terror infrastructure in Pakistan**
4. **Editorial: A caste census is not a silver bullet for social justice**

'Understanding' with Pak. has no 'expiry date': Army

On **May 10**, after several days of military tensions, India and Pakistan **agreed to stop all firing** on land, air, and sea. This was seen as a step towards peace.

By **May 15**, the Indian Army confirmed that both countries had agreed to **continue** the ceasefire and take steps to lower military alertness. However, they did not provide details on what specific "confidence-building measures" were being taken or whether DGMOs had spoken again.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, told his Parliament that India and Pakistan had military-level talks on **May 14 and 15**, and claimed the ceasefire would end on **May 18**.

'Understanding' with Pak. has no 'expiry date': Army

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Following repeated assertions by Pakistan that the understanding to "stop all firing and military action on land, in the air, and sea" ended on Sunday, the Indian Army said that there was "no expiry date" to the agreement.

"No Director-General of Military Operations [DGMO] talks are scheduled today. As far as continuation of break in hostilities, as decided in DGMOs' interaction of May 12, there is no expiry date to it," the Army said on Sunday.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had earlier informed the country's Parliament that India and Pakistan held "military-to-military communications" on May 14 and 15 and the ceasefire was till May 18.

On May 15, the Indian



Calm watch: Security personnel at Gupkar Road on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday. PTI

and Pakistan had agreed to continue the stoppage of all firing that came into effect from 5 p.m. on May 10 following days of military confrontation, and continue the "confidence building measures" to reduce the alertness level. But the Army did not clarify if the DGMOs spoke that day and what confidence-building measures would be taken.

RELATED REPORTS ON

India to apprise FATF of terror bases in Pakistan

NEW DELHI

Indian authorities are planning to apprise the Financial Action Task Force of the latest evidence related to the terror infrastructures in Pakistan which were destroyed by the defence forces during the Operation Sindoor in the aftermath of the Pahalgam

In response, the **Indian Army clarified** on **May 19 (Sunday)** that:

- **There is no end date** to the ceasefire agreement from the DGMOs' talk on May 12.
- No fresh DGMO talks were scheduled for that day.
- The **ceasefire continues**, and there's no "expiry date" to it.

In Simple Terms:

Pakistan said the ceasefire had a deadline (till May 18), but the Indian Army made it clear that there is **no such deadline**, and the agreement to stop firing **remains in place** unless officially changed by both sides.

Related:

Shimla Agreement

The Shimla Agreement was signed **after the 1971 India-Pakistan war**, which led to the creation of **Bangladesh** (earlier East Pakistan). India had captured over **90,000 Pakistani soldiers**, and Pakistan had suffered a major defeat. To normalize relations, both countries agreed to meet at Shimla.

Both countries agreed to settle all disputes — including **Kashmir** — **only through peaceful means and bilateral talks** (no third-party mediation like UN or other countries).

Both sides agreed to **respect the existing Line of Control** in Jammu & Kashmir and **not try to change it by force**. They committed to **not use threats or violence** against each other.

PSLV: centre of attention

On **May 18 at 5:59 a.m.**, ISRO launched a rocket called **PSLV-C61** (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) in its **XL version**. The rocket was carrying a satellite named **EOS-09**, meant to be placed in a **sun-synchronous polar orbit** around Earth.

However, just a few minutes after takeoff, there was a **problem in the third stage** of the rocket, and the mission **failed**.

The ISRO Chairman, V. Narayanan, said that pressure dropped inside the motor casing of the third stage during the flight.

Because of this drop in pressure, the rocket couldn't perform

WHAT IS IT?

PSLV: centre of attention

Vasudevan Mukunth

At 5.59 am on May 18, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a PSLV rocket in its XL configuration. It was carrying a satellite called EOS-09, which it planned to deposit into a sun-synchronous polar orbit (SSPO) around the earth. The mission was designated C61. But a few minutes after liftoff, the rocket suffered a problem in its third stage and the PSLV-C61 mission ended in a failure.

PSLV stands for 'Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.' It was originally built to launch satellites into SSPOs. It's a four-stage rocket. Each stage is defined by a set of engines that often fire together. Once they are done, the rocket jettisons that stage so that the remaining stages have less mass to lift.

PSLV's first stage engine burns hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene-bound (HTPB) propellant to generate a peak thrust of 4.8 MN. (In its XL configuration, six strap-on boosters augment the first stage.)

The second stage is powered by a Vikas engine,



The PSLV-C57 mission lifts off on September 2, 2023, carrying the Aditya-L1 spacecraft. PTI

which uses unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine as fuel and nitrogen tetroxide as oxidiser to develop a thrust of 0.8 MN. The third stage is back to using HTPB as fuel whereas the fourth burns a combination of monomethylhydrazine and mixed oxides of nitrogen in two engines.

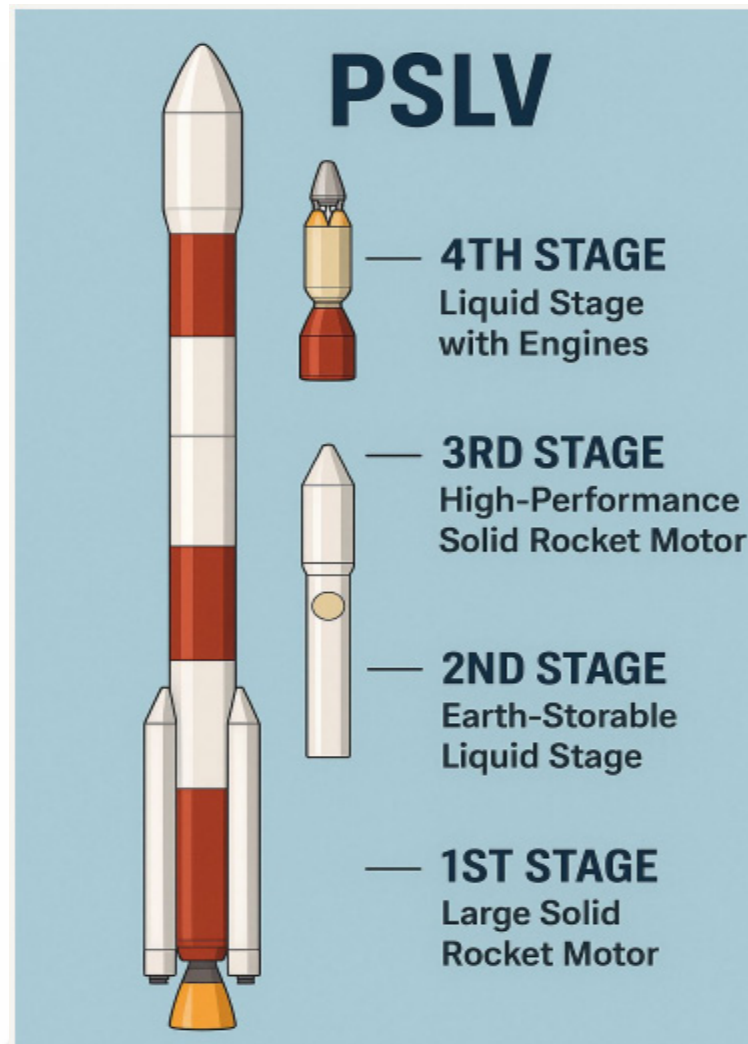
After the failure of PSLV-C61 became clear, ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said the chamber pressure in the casing that contained the third-stage motor fell during the flight, leading to the unfortunate outcome. ISRO will assess the reasons for the loss of pressure in the coming days and subsequently reattempt the mission to launch (another copy of) EOS-09.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

PSLV

PSLV rocket:

- PSLV is a **four-stage rocket**, meaning it works in 4 parts (stages), one after the other.
- Each stage fires its engines, then **drops off** to reduce weight so the next stage can work more efficiently



India to apprise FATF of latest evidence on terror infrastructure in Pakistan

India plans to share **new evidence** with the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** about **terror camps in Pakistan** that were destroyed during **Operation Sindoor**—a response to the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

Why is India doing this?

- **FATF mainly focuses** on whether countries are **technically following anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) rules**.
- The **brutal Pahalgam attack** has made it necessary for India to highlight that **terror infrastructure still exists in Pakistan**.
- India will now **raise this issue in global forums**, showing how **Pakistani authorities are still supporting banned terrorist groups**.

India to apprise FATF of latest evidence on terror infrastructure in Pakistan

Pahalgam killings have necessitated sharing of information about existing terror bases in Pak. with the watchdog, a govt. official says country was removed from the FATF Grey List in 2022

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Indian authorities are planning to apprise the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the latest evidence related to the terror bases in Pakistan that were destroyed by the defence forces during the precision attacks as part of Operation Sindoor, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Although the decision making in the FATF is based on technical compliance of its anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) recommendations, which is evaluated through the measures taken by the country concerned and on-ground verification, the gruesome killings in Pahalgam have necessitated the sharing of information about the existing terror infrastructure in Pakistan with the international watchdog, said a government official.

In the coming days, the official said, India is expected to highlight, at all



the international forums, the latest evidence about the patronage being given by the Pakistani State machinery to banned terrorist organisations.

The FATF Plenary had removed Pakistan from the Grey List in October 2022, but with the reminder that Pakistan will continue to work with the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to further improve its AML/CTF system.

The last time the FATF had placed Pakistan on its Grey List was in June 2018. It found several strategic deficiencies with respect to

the Grey List on October 21, 2021. The FATF Plenary noted that it had completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 plan. The one remaining issue was about continuing to demonstrate that the terror financing investigations and preventive measures targeted senior financiers and commanders of UN-designated terror outfits.

Earlier, in response to the additional deficiencies flagged in Pakistan's 2019 APG Mutual Evaluation Report in June 2020, it had given further commitment to address them.

Pakistan was put on the Grey List for the first time in 2008, then removed in 2009, and again it was brought under increased monitoring from 2012 to 2015. Greylisting by the FATF is said to limit a country's access to international loans.

Background on FATF and Pakistan:

- The **FATF is a global watchdog** that monitors how countries deal with **terror funding and money laundering**.
- If a country is not doing enough, it can be placed on the **“Grey List”**, which affects its economy and global image.

Timeline of FATF and Pakistan:

- **2008:** Pakistan was put on the **Grey List** for the first time.
- **2009:** Removed.
- **2012–2015:** Put under increased monitoring again.
- **June 2018:** Back on the Grey List due to **serious gaps** in tackling terror financing.
- **October 2021:** FATF said Pakistan had done **26 out of 27 tasks**, but still hadn't fully shown action against **senior leaders of terror groups**.
- **October 2022:** Pakistan was **removed from the Grey List**, but was told to **keep improving**.

Being on the **Grey List** limits a country's access to **international financial aid** and **foreign investments**.

A caste census is not a silver bullet for social justice

The Indian government has announced that the next **national Census will include caste data**, especially focusing on **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**.

Why caste census is important?

- It provides **data on the socio-economic condition of different castes**, especially OBCs.
- It can help design better **affirmative action** policies.
- It can **legitimize welfare schemes** in court by offering solid evidence.
- It can reveal **inequality within OBCs**, helping **identify Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs)**.

But there are limitations:

- A caste census alone **can't solve social injustice**.
- The **Census is meant to collect neutral data**, not guide policy or become a political tool.
- Relying too much on the Census **risks politicising it** and **burdening it beyond its role**.

Data alone doesn't make policy

- India has often made **major policy moves without perfect data** — e.g., **Mandal Commission, land reforms, and EWS reservations**.
- Despite already having **extensive data** (from SECC, NFHS, NCRB, etc.), the government has **not implemented bold reforms** for OBCs, SCs, and STs.
- **Marginalised groups still lack representation** in the private sector, higher education, judiciary, and bureaucracy.

Conclusion:

- A caste census may provide better data, but **real change needs political will**.
- Without strong leadership and moral commitment, **data remains unused**.
- Social justice in India depends more on **action and intent** than on statistics.

Place in News: New Caledonia

New Caledonia, a French island territory in the Pacific, has a long-standing demand for **independence**, especially from the **indigenous Kanak population**.

The **1998 Nouméa Accord** gave the region **autonomy** and led to **three independence referendums** (2018, 2020, 2021).

All rejected independence, but the final vote was **boycotted by pro-independence groups**, making its legitimacy disputed.

Current Crisis: A French proposal in 2024 to “unfreeze” the electoral roll sparked deadly riots, as this was seen as diluting Kanak influence. (to change rules which restrict voting rights to only long-term residents)



What is a Presidential reference?

What does Article 143 of the Constitution state? Do other nations also have provisions wherein the government can raise legal questions with their respective judiciaries? What has President Droupadi Murmu raised with the Supreme Court? Should the top court answer these questions compulsorily?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R.
President Droupadi Murmu, has made a reference to the Supreme Court, under Article 143 of the Constitution, on certain questions of law and has sought its opinion on these questions.

What is the historical context?
The advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 143 is a relic of the Government of India Act, 1935. It vested the Governor-General with discretionary power to refer any question of law of public importance to the federal court for its opinion.
A similar provision is available in the Canadian constitution. This mechanism allows the Supreme Court of Canada to offer opinions on legal questions referred to it by the federal or provincial governments. The U.S. Supreme Court on the other hand has consistently declined to provide any advisory opinion to the executive as it would violate the strict separation of powers envisaged in its constitution.

What are the provisions?
As per Article 143, the President may refer any question of law or fact of public importance to the Supreme Court for its opinion. The President makes such a reference shall be heard by a bench of minimum five judges.
The Supreme Court may provide its opinion after such hearing as it thinks fit. The opinion is legally not binding on the President, and does not hold a presidential value for the courts to follow in subsequent cases.
However, it carries a strong persuasive value and is usually followed by the executive and the courts.



Pointed questions: President Droupadi Murmu during the swearing-in ceremony of Justice Bhuvan Varshney at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, on May 14, 2024.

What were past instances?
There have been around fifteen references made since 1950 before the current reference. Some of the landmark opinions from such references is summarised here.
The first reference was made in the Delhi Laws Act case (1951) which had down the contours of 'delegated legislation', through which the legislature could delegate legislative powers to the executive for effective implementation of any law. The reference in the Kerala Education Bill (1958) resulted in the court laying down the principle of harmonious construction between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy as well as interpretation of protection given to minority educational institutions under Article 30. In the *Thirumathi case* (1960), the court opted that coding or acquisition of territory by India would need a constitutional amendment under Article 368. In the *Keshar Singh case* (1965), the court interpreted the powers and privileges of the legislature. In the Presidential poll case (1974), the court opined that Presidential elections should be held notwithstanding vacancies in the electoral college due to dissolution of State assemblies.
The opinion provided in the *Special Courts Bill* (1978) was significant on many counts. It provided that the court may decline to answer a reference; that the questions referred must be specific and not vague; and that the court, while answering a reference, should not encroach upon the functions and privileges of Parliament. The Third Judges case reference (1998) laid down detailed

guidelines for the collegium system with respect to the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.

It is not obligatory for the Supreme Court to render its opinion. However, out of the references made till date, the court has declined to provide its opinion for only one reference in 1993 with respect to the *Kam Jhambhwal case*.

What is the current reference?
The current reference is a result of a recent Supreme Court judgment that had specified timelines for Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by State legislatures. The court had also held that decisions by Governors and the President on such Bills are subject to judicial review.

The present reference has raised 14 questions, primarily surrounding the interpretation of Articles 200 and 201, for the court's opinion. The government has raised questions regarding the authority of the courts to prescribe timelines when they are not specified in the Constitution. It has questioned whether the actions of Governors and the President can be made justiciable at a stage prior to the enactment of a Bill into a law. The reference also seeks opinion on the extent of powers that can be exercised by the Supreme Court under Article 142.

Political differences between the Union government and Opposition ruled State governments have been the principal reason for this conflict. The Supreme Court had adopted the timelines prescribed for the President in the Office Memorandum of the Home Ministry while passing its judgment. In the *Carvery dispute reference* (1992), the court had opined that it cannot sit on appeal over prior judgments in its advisory capacity. However, an authoritative opinion on this reference will hopefully settle the issues surrounding these constitutional provisions that are crucial for the smooth functioning of our democracy and federalism.
Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courageous on Policy Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ The advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 143 is a relic of the Government of India Act, 1935.

▼ The current reference is a result of a recent Supreme Court judgment that had specified timelines for Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by State legislatures.

▼ There have been around fifteen references made since 1950 before the current reference.

Q-1

Q. With reference to the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) developed by ISRO, consider the following statements:

1. PSLV is a four-stage rocket that uses both solid and liquid propellants.
2. Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 were launched from PSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q-2

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: New Caledonia, a French island territory in the Pacific, is demanding for independence.

Statement-II: Most recent reason is the reaction of kanak people to a French proposal which talk about “unfreezing” the electoral roll.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

Options: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I*

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Q-3

Q. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an inter-governmental body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
2. Recently Pakistan was removed from the Grey List, but was told to keep improving.
3. Grey List limits a country's access to international financial aid and foreign investments.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None