# Narendra Modi to skip Russia’s Victory Day as India-Pakistan tensions escalate



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not attend Russia’s upcoming Victory Day celebrations, scheduled for 9 May, according to a Kremlin spokesperson. Dmitry Peskov stated on Wednesday, "The leader of India will not come, India will not be represented at the highest level," though he did not provide specific reasons for the decision.

Earlier in April, India’s foreign ministry had confirmed that Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended an invitation to Mr Modi to join the commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany. At the time, the ministry indicated an official announcement about India’s participation would be made “in due course.” However, no formal confirmation has been given by India, and Mr Modi's absence appears linked to escalating tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad.

The tensions intensified following one of the deadliest attacks on tourists in Indian-administered Kashmir last Tuesday. In the scenic Baisaran Valley, militants opened fire, killing at least 26 people. Mr Modi, who was on a state visit to Saudi Arabia, cut his tour short to return home. The Indian government has accused Pakistan of supporting the terrorist attack, a charge Pakistan denies, resulting in New Delhi cancelling visas for all Pakistanis residing in India and suspending a crucial water-sharing treaty.

In response, Pakistan has closed its airspace to Indian airlines and halted trade with India. Cross-border shelling along the Line of Control—the de facto border dividing Kashmir between the two countries—has also increased amidst this heightened state of hostility.

Pakistan’s Information Minister, Attaullah Tarar, claimed on Wednesday that Islamabad possessed credible intelligence suggesting India might launch military action within 24 to 36 hours, based on what Pakistan describes as “baseless and concocted allegations of involvement” in the Kashmir attack.

China has expressed support for Pakistan’s call for an impartial investigation into the incident. China’s top diplomat Wang Yi told his Pakistani counterpart that “as an ironclad friend and all-weather strategic cooperative partner,” China fully understood Pakistan’s security concerns and supported its efforts to uphold sovereignty and security.

Among the 20 world leaders attending the Victory Day event in Moscow is Chinese President Xi Jinping. Although Mr Modi will not be present, India is expected to send Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to represent the country at the event. Mr Singh previously visited Russia last year for the commissioning of the INS Tushil and paid respects at Moscow’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in March had confirmed that President Putin had accepted an invitation from India’s head of government, and a visit by Putin to India was being prepared.

In related developments, President Putin announced a “humanitarian” ceasefire in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, to be in effect from midnight on 8 May until midnight on 11 May, coinciding with Victory Day celebrations. The Kremlin stated that “during this period, all military actions will cease” and expects the Ukrainian side to reciprocate.

The Independent is reporting these developments amidst rising geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan alongside Russia's ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.reuters.com/world/pakistans-minister-tarar-says-india-may-launch-military-strike-within-next-24-36-2025-04-29/> - Pakistan's Information Minister, Attaullah Tarar, claimed on April 29, 2025, that Islamabad possessed credible intelligence suggesting India might launch military action within 24 to 36 hours, based on what Pakistan describes as 'baseless and concocted allegations of involvement' in the Kashmir attack.
2. <https://apnews.com/article/a16c6fc5cf190f0ce0759ad4370a29cc> - Pakistan has claimed to have 'credible intelligence' suggesting that India is planning a military strike within 24 to 36 hours, warning of a forceful response if provoked, following the deadly attack in Indian-administered Kashmir that killed 26 civilians.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/3a872cd2-466e-4fc3-a312-87609c22724f> - U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions after the deadly attack in Indian-administered Kashmir, urging both nations to cooperate on the investigation and restore direct communication to maintain regional stability.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-touch-with-india-pakistan-urges-work-toward-responsible-solution-2025-04-27/> - Following an Islamist militant attack in Kashmir on April 22, 2025, that killed over two dozen people, the U.S. State Department urged both India and Pakistan to engage in a 'responsible resolution' and noted ongoing diplomatic communications.
5. <https://www.thedailyguardian.com/india/pm-modi-to-miss-russias-victory-day-parade-after-pahalgam-attack/> - In response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26, Prime Minister Modi canceled his Russia visit. India suspended Pakistani visas, downgraded diplomatic staff, halted the Indus Waters Treaty, and gave the military full freedom to respond along the Line of Control.
6. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-unlikely-to-attend-russia-s-victory-day-parade-101740580417960.html> - Sources indicated that while there is an invitation from the Russian side, a visit by the Indian prime minister to attend the May 9 Victory Day parade is currently not under consideration.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/india/modi-russia-visit-victory-day-kashmir-attack-b2742168.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data