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WEEKLY

SYSTEM OBSERVER

"Observing the System, Informing the World"

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**Search operation
launched for two
suspected persons
in Samba
JAMMU**

A massive search operation was launched after suspicious movement of two individuals was reported in a village near the International Border in Samba

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AMARNATH YATRA TO BEGIN FROM JULY 3, REGISTRATIONS TO OPEN ON APRIL 15



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

The annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of

Amarnath in south Kashmir will commence on July 3 and conclude after 57 days on August 28, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said

on Sunday.

Pilgrims between the ages of 13 and 70 can undertake the yatra and registrations will begin from April 15, the LG told reporters at the Lok Bhavan here.

The dates for the yatra were decided at a meeting of the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) chaired by Sinha.

"The Amarnath Yatra will commence on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Overall, this year's pilgrimage will be slightly longer, lasting about 57 days," the LG said.

Registration for the

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China Creates 'Cenling' County Near PoK-Afghanistan Border; India Rejects Move Amid LAC Tensions

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
DESK
NEW DELHI**

China has established a new county named Cenling in its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, near Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the Afghanistan border, in a move that adds to sensitivities along India's northern frontiers.

Reported by PTI, the newly created county is located close to the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow but strategically critical strip linking Afghanistan with China. The region falls

under Kashgar Prefecture, which borders areas of Ladakh.

The development is part of China's ongoing administrative restructuring in Xinjiang, with Cenling reported to be the third new county created in recent months. The region's location near the Karakoram range, PoK, and Central Asia gives it added strategic weight, especially as it lies close to routes linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

India strongly objected

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Islamabad Talks Collapse After 21 Hours; US-Iran Deadlock Deepens as Global Tensions Escalate

**AVINASH BASSAN
ISLAMABAD**

What was projected as a breakthrough moment in diplomacy has ended in failure. After more than 21 hours of intense negotiations, high-level talks between the United States and Iran in Pakistan's capital concluded without an agreement, exposing deep divisions on nuclear policy, sanctions, and regional security.

US Vice President JD Vance confirmed the outcome, stating that despite "substantive discussions," both sides failed to bridge key differences.

"We have been at it for 21 hours... The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement," Vance said, adding that Iran declined to accept US terms, particularly on nuclear



commitments.

The talks - the first of their kind at this level since 1979 - centered on Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief, war-related demands, and strategic

concerns including the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei

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Biggest challenge is limited access to justice, not lack of laws: CJI

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
DEHRADUN**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Sunday said that the greatest challenge facing the country's legal system is not a dearth of laws, but rather the limited access that ordinary citizens have to them.

Emphasising the urgent need to bridge the gap between legal rights and their practical availability, the CJI noted that while India possesses a robust framework of rights and policies, these benefits often fail to reach the needy due to issues of distance, delay, and implementation gaps.

The CJI was

addressing a two-day North Zone Regional Conference, titled 'Justice Beyond Barriers: Rights, Rehabilitation, and Reform for the Most Vulnerable,' organised jointly by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the Uttarakhand High Court, and the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority.

He remarked, "The mere existence of justice is not sufficient. Rather, it must reach the doorstep of every last citizen in a timely manner. The strength of a republic should be measured not by its declared rights, but by

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From fake PAN Cards to forged Passports: J&K Police unravels LeT's Pan-India logistical web

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR/NEW
DELHI**

Widening its crack-down on the interstate network of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, in coordination with central intelligence agencies, has detained several people from Haryana and Rajasthan for allegedly facilitating the acquisi-

tion of fraudulent identities, including passports, by terrorists. City & Local Guides

Officials said on Sunday that the detained persons provided critical logistical support to terrorists by making documents like Aadhaar and Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards

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Gen Zorawar Singh Left Legacy Of Model Mountain Warfare Strategy: Senior Army Officer

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

From conquering Ladakh to launching his audacious campaigns in Tibet, legendary warrior General Zorawar Singh has left behind a legacy of model mountain warfare strategy, a senior Army officer said on Sunday.

Colonel of the Regiment of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles & Ladakh Scouts, Lt Gen M P Singh, said this in his keynote address delivered at an event

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415 Building permits issued by TDAs in 2025-26, Highest in 3 Years



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

In a sign of a boom in

the tourism sector in J&K, up to 415 building permissions were issued by tourism development authorities (TDAs) in 2025-26, exceeding the combined total of the preceding two financial years.

Overall, 807 building permissions were granted between 2023 and 2026 in the Union territory, according to official data.

The TDAs also identified

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FROM PAGE-1

Amarnath Yatra.....

pilgrimage has been made mandatory and will begin from April 15. The minimum age for pilgrims has been fixed at 13 years and the maximum at 70 years, he said.

"Advance registration can be done through nearly 556 designated bank branches across the country, while online registration will also be available through the official website of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board," Sinha said.

Yes Bank, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Axis Bank will facilitate registrations through their branches, he said. He said the first puja will be performed on June 29, on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima.

The pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Sinha said that several new initiatives have been introduced over the past four years to improve facilities for pilgrims undertaking the annual yatra, including mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) cards and enhanced insurance cover.

"RFID cards have been made mandatory and 100 per cent pilgrims are issued these cards. Group accidental insurance has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, with an additional Rs 50,000 provided in case of natural or accidental death of ponywalas," he said.

The use of technology has also increased significantly, with RFID systems being extended to multiple services.

"Two years ago, fewer people were availing these services, but last year, nearly 70 per cent of pilgrims used them, indicating considerable success," he said. Highlighting infrastructure upgrades, Sinha said that both pilgrimage routes have been widened significantly to ensure smoother movement of pilgrims.

"The Baltal and Nunwan routes have been expanded up to around 12 ft at several places and vulnerable stretches and bridges have been improved considerably by the BRO, which has done commendable maintenance work over the years," he said.

On capacity enhancement, the LG said arrangements have been made to accommodate more pilgrims even during adverse weather conditions. "Holding capacity has been increased and several shelters have been set up so that a large number of people can stay comfortably during bad weather," he said.

China Creates.....

to the move. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it "categorically rejects" China's attempts to assign new names or alter ground realities in areas that are part of India.

New Delhi reiterated that such actions do not change the "undeniable reality" that Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Ladakh, including Aksai Chin, are integral to India, and warned that such steps complicate ongoing efforts to stabilise bilateral relations.

The move comes at a time when India and China are engaged in continued military and diplomatic talks to resolve the over three-year-long standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), with friction points still persisting in eastern Ladakh.

Analysts view such administrative measures by China as part of a broader strategy to strengthen governance, infrastructure, and state presence in remote border regions, even as boundary disputes with India remain unresolved.

Islamabad Talks.....

acknowledged limited progress but confirmed that disagreements on a few critical issues ultimately derailed the process.

"The success of diplomacy depends on seriousness, good faith, and avoiding excessive demands while recognising Iran's legitimate rights," he stated.

Iranian media reports indicate that Tehran currently has no plans for another round of talks, signaling a hardened stance.

Pakistan's Mediation Effort Falls Short

Pakistan hosted the negotiations in what was seen as an attempt to position itself as a diplomatic bridge. JD Vance praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir for their role, stating the failure was not due to the hosts.

However, the collapse undercuts narratives portraying Islamabad as an emerging global

peacemaker.

Russia Signals Shift in Global Power Balance
Amid the diplomatic breakdown, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a strong statement reflecting a changing world order:

"As long as China, Russia, and Iran exist, it is impossible for anyone to behave like a global ruler."

The remark underscores the consolidation of an alternative geopolitical bloc challenging US dominance.

China Deepens Strategic Support for Iran

In a major parallel development, China has signaled strong backing for Iran through an unprecedented military airlift.

Within just 56 hours, multiple Chinese cargo aircraft - believed to include the Y-20 "Kunpeng" - reportedly landed in Iran, marking a rapid logistical deployment.

The operation is being viewed as:

A direct signal of Beijing's strategic alignment with Tehran

A challenge to US-led sanctions and containment efforts

A demonstration of China's long-range military logistics capability

US President Donald Trump responded with a warning:

"If China does that, China is going to have big problems."

Israel Signals Hardline Position

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated concerns over Iran's nuclear capabilities:

"There is still enriched material in Iran... it must be taken out - either by agreement, or in other ways."

The statement signals continued pressure for either diplomatic or alternative measures.

Saudi Frustration with Washington

Tensions are also surfacing among US allies. A Saudi official sharply criticized Washington's stance following recent regional developments:

Biggest challenge.....

the rights that are actually realised."

Highlighting the unique challenges faced by hilly states like Uttarakhand, the Chief Justice observed that rugged geographical terrain and limited connectivity infrastructure hinder access to justice. In such regions, it is imperative to make the judicial system more accessible and responsive, tailored to suit local conditions.

Sharing his experiences from various parts of the country, including Ladakh, Srinagar, Nagaland, and Kerala, he noted that citizens often struggle not due to a lack of rights, but due to the absence of accessible platforms through which to claim them.

The CJI observed that the true test of the Constitution lies not in major cases, but in the availability of justice in the daily lives of ordinary citizens, underscoring that the success of institutions would be measured by their effectiveness in delivering justice to those most in need.

He identified legal aid schemes, awareness campaigns, and multi-service camps as effective measures in this regard.

The CJI also cited his experiences from across the nation, including his interactions with Army personnel in Ladakh, tribal communities in Srinagar and Nagaland, and fishing communities in Kerala.

Describing this conference as a crucial platform for deliberating on regional legal challenges, the CJI said that, keeping in mind the distinct problems of various regions, it is essential to adopt local and context-specific strategies to ensure that vulnerable sections of society do not become marginalised.

Emphasising the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, such as mediation, pre-litigation conciliation, and Lok Adalats, the CJI noted that these measures not only facilitate the speedy and cost-effective resolution of disputes but also aid in preserving social relationships.

Commending the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority's "Nyay Mitra" portal initiative, he described it as a significant step towards facilitating access to justice, particularly in geographically challenging regions.

415 Building.....

over 500 unauthorised constructions across key tourist destinations in the past three financial years, with authorities issuing notices, lodging FIRs, imposing penalties and carrying out demo-

litions.

Quoting available data, the tourism department officials said 245 building permissions were granted by TDAs in 2023-24, 147 in 2024-25 and 415 in 2025-26.

The permissions included 544 residential houses, 121 commercial buildings, 26 hotels, 14 huts and two guest houses over the three-year period.

As for homestays, 2,613 units have been registered by the Tourism Department across Jammu and Kashmir, with a total bed capacity of 19,328, the officials said.

They said the Bhaderwah in Jammu division accounted for the highest number of illegal constructions at 358, with authorities serving notices to the violators.

Doodhpathri in Kashmir reported 147 unauthorised constructions, with notices issued and FIRs registered, while in Pahalgam, 13 of the 28 illegal structures were sealed, and action is underway against the rest, the officials said.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg reported 21 illegal structures — 20 sealed and one demolished — while five violations were identified in Sonamarg and four unauthorised constructions were penalised in Verinag in the Kashmir valley, the officials said.

They said 15 illegal structures were demolished and several others were halted at the initial stages in Patnitop in the Jammu region.

Gen Zorawar.....

held at the Manekshaw Centre at Delhi Cantonment.

The occasion was the unveiling of a book on the legendary military general's life and legacy. On April 11 last year, at a symposium hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles regiment and think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) at this very venue, it was announced that a "chair of excellence" has been established in his honour at the Delhi-based defence think-tank.

Search operation.....

district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

The joint search operation by police, Army and Border Security Force (BSF) is underway in Pangdour, SIDCO forest and adjoining areas, including Basantar Nallah, the officials said.

They said a caretaker at an animal farm reported movement of two unidentified individuals at Pangdour around 8.30 pm on Saturday, prompting a swift response by the police and army.

However, the suspected persons could not be traced, the officials said, adding a party of Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police noticed the same individuals moving towards SIDCO forest around 1.30 am and challenged them but they escaped.

Accordingly, reinforcements from police and army rushed to the scene and cordoned off the forest area for a thorough search operation which was continuing when last reports were received.

BSF also joined the search operation focusing on Basantar nallah adjoining Pangdour, the officials said, adding additional checkpoints were set up at Khoon village to search vehicles plying on the route.

From fake.....

and even voter cards.

The investigation was spearheaded by the Srinagar Police, which generated the entire intelligence. However, as the scale of the operation and its wider security ramifications became clear, the case was immediately escalated to involve central agencies and police forces of other states to dismantle the network spanning multiple areas of the country.

One of the terrorists, identified as Umar alias 'Kharghosh' (rabbit), had managed to procure a passport and has since fled to Indonesia, from where he is believed to have used another forged travel document and stationed himself in a Gulf country, the officials said.

Umar, a resident of Karachi in Pakistan, had infiltrated into India after 2012 and fled using the forged passport, procured from Jaipur in Rajasthan, in 2024, the officials said.

These details emerged after Srinagar police busted a "deep-rooted" interstate LeT module and arrested five people, including a Pakistani terrorist, Abdullah alias Abu Hureira, who had been on the run for 16 years and had successfully established bases outside the Union Territory.

How a "United States of Africa" Could Break the Neocolonial Grip

SYSTEM OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

Africa's modern political map was shaped not by its people, but by European colonial powers during the Berlin Conference. These borders-now over a century old-were designed for extraction and control, not unity or development.

More than 140 years later, the legacy persists. A fragmented Africa continues to face external influence from global powers, with the United States emerging as a dominant actor in the post-Cold War era. Critics argue that division makes the continent easier to influence economically, politically, and strategically.

Why Washington Prefers a Divided Africa

The US approach toward Africa has often been viewed through a strategic lens rather than a partnership model. Through United States Africa Command, the continent has been treated as a unified security theatre-while politically remaining



divided.

Key patterns shaping this dynamic include:

Resource-linked security deals: Agreements in resource-rich nations like the Democratic Republic of the Congo often tie critical minerals to

Western supply chains under security frameworks.

Geopolitical pressure: African states are frequently pushed to align with US interests, sometimes under the threat of reduced aid or diplomatic isolation.

Strategic rivalry: The continent is increasingly seen as a frontline in competition with China, rather than as an equal economic partner.

The Sahel Signals a Shift

A growing wave of resistance is emerging in West Africa's Sahel region. Countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have taken decisive steps to assert sovereignty by distancing themselves from Western military presence.

In 2024, both Niger and Chad called for the withdrawal of US troops, highlighting a broader regional sentiment: growing dissatisfaction with foreign-led security frameworks and their outcomes.

What a United Africa Could Achieve

The idea of a "United States of Africa" envisions a continent that speaks and acts collectively on the

global stage. Such unity could reshape global power dynamics:

Collective bargaining power: A single integrated market would transform Africa from dozens of small economies into a formidable global bloc.

Resource sovereignty: Control over strategic minerals-such as cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements-could shift from foreign corporations to African institutions.

Security independence: A unified continental defense framework could reduce reliance on external military powers and prioritize African-led solutions.

The Path Forward

The vision of a united Africa is ultimately about sovereignty-economic, political, and strategic. By leveraging its vast resources, demographic strength, and geographic position, the continent holds the potential to redefine its place in the global order.

The question is no longer whether change is possible-but whether Africa can translate rising momentum into lasting unity.

THE GREAT FOOD POISONING How America Turned Its Food System Into a Chemical Weapon



By System Observer

A Food System Engineered - Not Grown

The United States is no longer feeding its population - it is chemically engineering consumption.

By 2026, more than 10,000 synthetic chemicals, additives, pesticides, and industrial compounds are circulating through America's food supply. What appears on shelves as "food" is, in many cases, a laboratory-designed product built for profit, not health.

At the heart of this transformation lies a regulatory escape hatch: the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) rule.

Corporations can declare substances safe without public disclosure

No mandatory independent review

Hundreds of additives have never been examined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

This is not oversight. It is institutionalised self-regulation. Addiction by Design

Decades ago, the food industry stopped asking what nourishes the body - and started asking what hooks the brain.

Their answer was simple: Salt, sugar, and fat - engineered to perfection.

Scientists identified the "bliss point" - the exact level of sugar that maximises craving

Fat textures were refined to create a dopamine-triggering mouthfeel

Products were designed for repeat consumption, not satiety

This is not food innovation. It is behavioral manipulation on an industrial scale.

The Power Behind the Plate This system did not evolve naturally - it was protected and expanded through influence.

Millions spent on lobbying Washington every year

Regulatory resistance crushed at the state level

Front groups emerging to

block bans on harmful additives

Behind the language of "consumer choice" lies a coordinated effort to keep the system untouched and opaque.

A Slow-Motion Health Collapse

The human cost is now impossible to ignore:

Over 40% of American adults are obese

Nearly 70% of children's diets come from ultra-processed products

Fertility rates have dropped to historic lows

Early puberty, autoimmune disorders, and metabolic diseases are rising sharply

Meanwhile, invisible chemical exposure continues daily through substances like:

Bisphenol A

Phthalates

PFAS

These are not fringe risks - they are embedded in the system itself.

When Safety Takes a Back Seat

In 2025, critical food safety mechanisms were quietly weakened:

Food traceability enforcement delayed

Protections against contaminated produce diluted

Rising reports of hospitalisations linked to unsafe food

At a time when risks are increasing, oversight is retreating.

The System Observer insight This is not a failure.

It is a model.

A system where:

Chemicals replace nutrition

Addiction replaces appetite

Profit overrides public health

The result is a population kept consuming, while growing sicker.

America did not accidentally create this system.

It designed it, legalised it, and defended it.

And until the structure itself is challenged, the question is not whether the crisis will deepen -

but how far it will go.

Post-American era begins: Asian nations reject war against Iran

A quiet but decisive geopolitical shift is underway. What was meant to be a temporary pause-the US-Iran ceasefire-has instead exposed a deeper reality: the world is no longer waiting for Washington to lead.

Across Asia and parts of Europe, nations are recalibrating their strategies, prioritising economic security, regional stability, and independent diplomacy over alignment with US pressure tactics. The Strait of Hormuz remains a critical artery for global energy, but control over its politics-and its currency-appears to be slipping from American hands.

Here is how the realignment is unfolding ??

Ceasefire that changed the game

The ceasefire between the US and Iran was expected to create space for diplomacy led by Washington. Instead, it has accelerated independent decision-making among global powers. The US, struggling to consolidate a unified coalition, now finds itself increasingly isolated as others act in their own strategic interests.

Strait of Hormuz: From US leverage to multipolar control

Still the world's most vital oil chokepoint, the Strait of Hormuz is no longer dominated by US influence alone. Trade continues, but under new dynamics-where currencies, alliances, and security arrangements are diversifying beyond Washington's control.

Japan: Quiet ally, independent course

Japan, traditionally aligned with the US, is now asserting autonomy. Its oil tankers are moving toward the Strait of Hormuz, coordinating with other vessels but operating on national interests rather than waiting for US-led security guarantees.

South Korea: Dialogue over confrontation

Facing stranded vessels and economic risk, South Korea has opted for diplomacy. By sending a special envoy to Iran, Seoul is prioritising negotiation and maritime stability over participation in any potential military escalation.

Spain: Europe's first visible shift

Spain's reopening of its embassy in Tehran signals the beginning of a broader European rethink. Moving away from the US "maximum pressure" doctrine, Madrid may be setting the tone for other EU nations to re-engage Iran diplomatically.

India: Strategic balance in action

India has taken a pragmatic route, allowing sanctioned Iranian cargoes into its ports while maintaining open communication with Tehran. This reflects New Delhi's long-standing approach-balancing global pressures with national energy and geopolitical interests.

China: Currency power play

China is reshaping the rules of engagement by enabling transactions in yuan within the Strait of Hormuz. By bypassing the US dollar and declining direct US requests for intervention, Beijing is reinforcing its position as an alternative global power centre.

Turkey: Mediator and energy hub in the making

Turkey is strengthening diplomatic channels with Iran while positioning itself as a future transit hub for Iranian gas. Ankara's dual strategy combines mediation with long-term economic ambition.

Pakistan: Strategic refusal

Despite its complex relationship with Iran, Pakistan has refused to support any military action against Tehran. Its leadership views a US-Iran conflict as a direct threat to regional stability and its own security.

Bottom line

The Strait of Hormuz remains a chokepoint-but the power to control its narrative is no longer exclusively American. A multipolar order is emerging, where nations are choosing autonomy over alignment, and diplomacy over confrontation.

For the first time in decades, the world is not just reacting to the US-it is moving ahead without it.

Digital War Escalates: Iranian Hackers Target Israel's Military Elite in Massive Data Breach



SYSTEM OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

Inside the Leak: Personal Meets Strategic

According to the group's claims, the breach goes far beyond routine intelligence gathering. The leaked material reportedly blends sensitive state-level content with deeply personal data.

The exposed files allegedly include:

Videos of confidential military and diplomatic meetings

Images of strategic facilities and command environments

Personal and family-related content, raising concerns about coercion and psychological pressure

Among the visuals are interactions between Halevi and senior international figures, including Michael Kurilla, highlighting the depth of US-Israel military coordination.

Regional Footprint Exposed

The material also appears to trace Israel's mil-

itary outreach across the Middle East:

Engagements in Qatar involving US Central Command

A visit to the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, reflecting evolving regional ties

A meeting in Jordan with military chief Yousef Huneiti

One reported video captures a symbolic gesture involving a dagger linked to a Jordanian soldier killed during the Six-Day War, blending historical memory with present-day military diplomacy.

Unreleased Material Raises Stakes

While thousands of files are said to be compromised, the most sensitive elements may not yet be public.

The hackers claim access to:

Command centre layouts

Strategic maps

Classified operational systems

If accurate, the controlled release of such data could be used to apply sustained pressure rather than deliver a one-time shock.

Pattern of Escalation

This is not the first time Handala hacker group has surfaced in high-profile cyber incidents. The group previously claimed to have breached the communications of Kash Patel, suggesting a widening scope that now spans both Israeli and American figures.

A New Battlefield Emerges

This incident underscores a broader transformation in modern conflict. The targeting of personal devices belonging to top officials signals a shift where individual vulnerability becomes a strategic entry point.

Cyber operations are no longer confined to infrastructure or institutions—they are now deeply personal, blurring the boundaries between intelligence gathering, psychological warfare, and geopolitical signaling.

If the claims surrounding Herzl Halevi are substantiated, this breach may serve as a defining example of how future conflicts are fought: quietly, digitally, and with consequences that extend far beyond the battlefield.

In what could mark a dangerous escalation in the shadow conflict between Iran and Israel, a cyber group linked to Tehran has claimed responsibility for breaching the personal communications of one of Israel's most senior military figures.

The group, identifying

itself as Handala hacker group, alleges it accessed and extracted over 19,000 files from the phone of former Israeli Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi—a development that, if verified, could rank among the most serious personal-level cyber compromises involving a top military official.

East-West Pipeline in Flames: World's Last Oil Lifeline Under Threat



SYSTEM OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

The global oil market is staring at a worst-case scenario unfolding in real time. Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline—long considered the only fallback if the Strait of Hormuz were disrupted—is now partially crippled after a targeted drone strike.

What was once the world's only contingency plan is no longer reliable. With the Hormuz chokepoint effectively blocked and the backup route under attack, global energy security has entered uncharted territory.

What Happened

Within hours of a US-Iran ceasefire, a drone strike hit a key pumping station on Saudi Arabia's Petrolina.

The attack occurred in the Eastern Province, targeting critical midstream infrastructure.

Saudi officials confirmed a disruption of around 700,000 barrels per day, nearly 10% of pipeline capacity.

Despite continued operations at Yanbu port, the strike signals a dangerous shift: energy infrastructure is

now a direct battlefield target—even during ceasefires.

Why This Pipeline Matters

Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline stretches 1,200 kilometres, linking oil fields in the Gulf to the Red Sea.

It was designed to bypass Hormuz, the world's most critical oil chokepoint.

At peak wartime usage, it can move roughly 3 million barrels per day.

While far below Hormuz capacity, it served as the only viable emergency outlet for Gulf oil exports.

Now, even that limited safety valve is compromised.

A Crisis Without a Backup

The Strait of Hormuz normally carries 20 million barrels per day—about 20% of global consumption.

With the strait effectively shut and Petrolina damaged, no alternative export route exists at scale.

Countries like Kuwait remain fully dependent on Hormuz, with zero redundancy.

This is no longer a disruption—it is a structural breakdown of global oil logistics.

Echoes of the 1980s Tanker War

The current escalation mirrors the Tanker War—but with a far more

dangerous outcome.

Between 1981 and 1988, 451 ships were attacked during the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The conflict escalated with missile strikes, exclusion zones, and direct US naval intervention.

Yet even at its peak, Hormuz was never fully closed.

2026 has crossed that line.

For the first time in modern history, both the chokepoint and its only bypass are under simultaneous threat.

The Global Impact

Oil markets are now facing a dual shock: supply restriction + infrastructure vulnerability.

Insurance costs, freight rates, and geopolitical risk premiums are expected to surge.

Strategic reserves may slow the

impact—but cannot replace sustained supply flows.

Energy trade is rapidly shifting toward alternative currencies and routes, reshaping global power dynamics.

System Observer Assessment

The world is no longer dealing with a temporary disruption. This is the collapse of a carefully balanced energy system built around a single chokepoint and a single backup.

With the Strait of Hormuz reduced to a geopolitical pressure valve and the Petrolina under fire, the global oil market has lost both its primary artery and its only emergency bypass.

What remains is a fragile, fragmented system—one shock away from full-scale energy crisis.

J&K minister urges MEA to expedite repatriation of six locals killed in Kuwait

JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir tribal affairs minister Javed Ahmad Rana on Sunday urged the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to expedite all legal and procedural formalities for the early repatriation of the mortal remains of six accident victims from Kuwait.

Six men - five from Poonch and one from Rajouri - were killed in a road accident near Kuwait City on April 8.

Rana visited Bachaianwali village in Surankote area of Poonch on Sunday and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

The minister assured that every possible effort would be made to provide immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to the affected families.

He asserted that the government is committed to supporting them during this toughest period.

Rana also urged the MEA to expedite all necessary legal and procedural formalities to ensure the early repatriation of the mortal remains of the accident victims.

The minister told the families that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure swift action in this regard.

From War Push to Ceasefire Sabotage: How Netanyahu Outmanoeuvred Washington



SYSTEM OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

On February 11, Netanyahu reportedly presented Trump with a classified and highly aggressive plan centered on rapid regime change in Iran.

The proposal included: Assassination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior officials

Destruction of Iran's missile infrastructure

Orchestrating internal unrest via intelligence operations

Installing a Western-aligned leadership, with exiled figure Reza Pahlavi highlighted as a potential face of transition

Netanyahu reportedly dismissed risks, claiming Iran lacked the capacity to retaliate effectively or disrupt global oil routes like the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump's reaction: "Sounds good to me."

Intelligence Revolt Inside Washington

Within 24 hours, the plan triggered sharp backlash inside the US national security apparatus.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe reportedly called the proposal "farcical"

Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissed it as "bull-

shit"

Military leadership warned Israel was drastically overselling success while ignoring catastrophic risks

Despite this, Trump brushed aside concerns, reportedly stating that any fallout from regime change would be "their problem."

A Divided White House

The proposal exposed deep fractures within the US administration:

Vice President JD Vance warned of a full-scale disaster - predicting regional collapse, mass casualties, and economic shockwaves

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth backed the aggressive posture

Policy experts have since described the entire episode as resembling a "foreign influence operation" - alleging that Netanyahu fed exaggerated or misleading intelligence to steer US decision-making toward war.

Ceasefire Undermined

The most explosive development came after a US-Iran ceasefire was briefly established.

Within days:

Israel launched its heaviest strikes on Lebanon

Hundreds were reported killed, including in the capital

Iran condemned the attacks as a direct violation of the ceasefire terms

Netanyahu rejected the

premise entirely, declaring:

"There is no ceasefire in Lebanon."

By expanding the conflict theatre, Israel effectively reopened the risk of direct confrontation with Iran - undermining diplomatic efforts and escalating tensions once again.

The Bigger Picture

What emerges is not just a policy disagreement - but a strategic clash:

Washington (at least internally): wary of another Middle East war

Netanyahu's government: determined to neutralize Iran at any cost

Outcome: a fragile ceasefire derailed, and the region pushed back toward escalation

Calls are now growing within US political circles to reassess Netanyahu's access and influence in Washington, with some commentators demanding unprecedented diplomatic restrictions.

System Observer Insight

This episode signals a dangerous shift:

Not merely alliance friction - but the possibility of policy capture, where a foreign leader's agenda begins to override domestic strategic caution.

If confirmed, it raises a critical question:

Who is really steering America's war decisions?

A growing body of insider accounts, political disclosures, and intelligence pushback is painting a deeply unsettling picture: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not only persistently pushed the United States toward war with Iran, but may have actively undermined a fragile ceasefire to keep the conflict alive.

A Long Campaign to Drag the US into War

Former US Secretary of State John Kerry has confirmed that Netanyahu has, for years, lobbied American presidents to take direct military action against Iran.

From George W. Bush to Barack Obama and Joe Biden, successive administrations resisted these calls - opting instead for diplomacy, sanctions, or containment.

Only under Donald Trump did this resistance begin to erode.

Former Secretary of State Antony Blinken also revealed that Israel had pressured the Obama administration with threats of unilateral strikes, forcing Washington into a corner - yet Obama chose negotiations, leading to the Iran nuclear deal.

The February War Blueprint

The War That Never Came: How China Is Taking Taiwan From the United States Without Firing a Shot

SYSTEM OBSERVER EXCLUSIVE

A slow-motion shift is underway in the Indo-Pacific - and Washington may be watching it happen in real time, unable to stop it.

The Strategy No One Can Strike Back At

This is not how superpowers were supposed to clash.

No invasion fleets. No opening salvos. No shock-and-awe campaign.

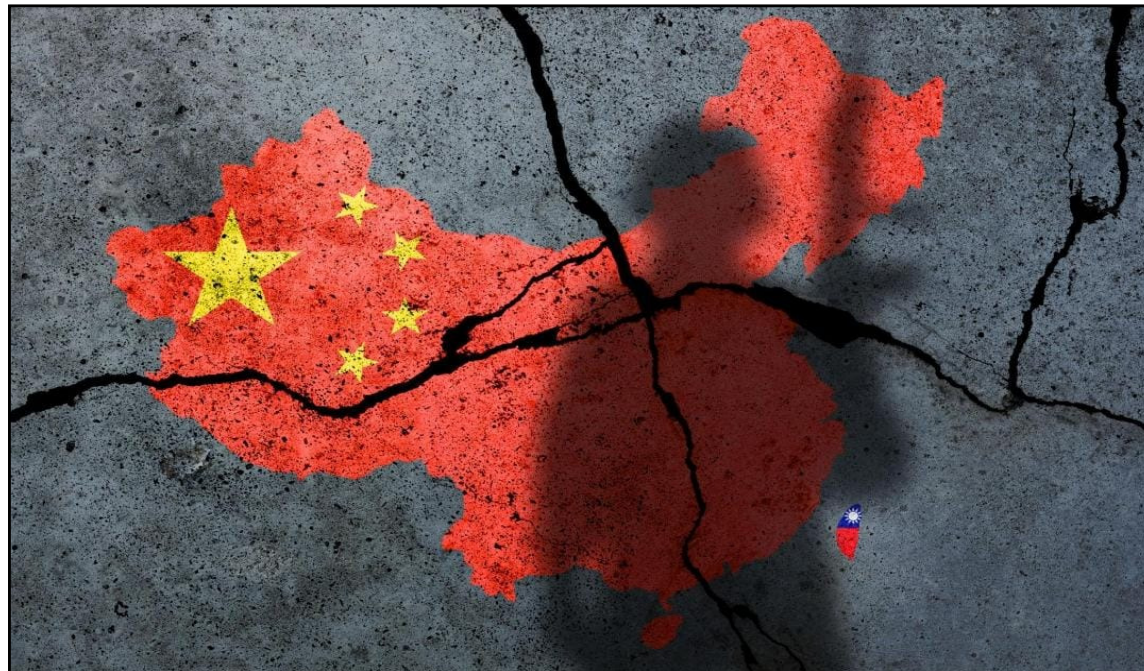
Instead, Beijing is executing something far more difficult to counter: a long-game strategy that makes war unnecessary.

Under Xi Jinping, China is not rushing Taiwan - it is surrounding it politically, economically, and psychologically. Each move is calibrated below the threshold that would trigger a US military response, yet collectively they are shifting the balance of reality on the ground.

The result is a creeping inevitability: by the time a crisis becomes visible, it may already be too late.

Deterrence Is Failing - Quietly

For decades, US policy rested on one assumption: that the threat of military



force would prevent China from acting.

That assumption is now eroding.

China's anti-access/area denial systems have rewritten the battlefield:

US forces would struggle to even reach Taiwan quickly

Supply lines could be severed early

Initial losses could be severe enough to deter escalation

This creates a strategic trap. Washington can still respond - but at a cost that

may be politically and militarily unacceptable.

Deterrence still exists on paper. In reality, it is losing credibility.

Taiwan: The Most Valuable Island on Earth

Taiwan is not just a geopolitical prize - it is the backbone of the modern world.

Its semiconductor industry powers:

Advanced weapons systems

Artificial intelligence

Global healthcare technologies

Everyday electronics

A disruption here would not be a regional crisis. It would be a systemic shock - deeper and longer-lasting than the pandemic-era shortages.

Control over Taiwan is, in effect, influence over the future of technology itself.

The Domino Effect No One Wants to Admit

If Taiwan drifts into Beijing's orbit - whether by pressure or political shift - the consequences will cascade:

Japan and South Korea

begin to doubt US security guarantees

Regional alliances weaken, not overnight - but steadily

China gains stronger leverage over Indo-Pacific trade routes

The real loss for Washington would not just be Taiwan.

It would be trust.

A New Kind of Victory

What makes this moment dangerous is not just what is happening - but how it is happening.

China is demonstrating a model of power where:

Wars are avoided, not fought

Outcomes are shaped before conflict begins

Opponents are constrained without direct confrontation

If successful, this becomes a blueprint - not just for Taiwan, but for future geopolitical contests.

The Bottom Line

If Taiwan is lost in silence, it will mark more than a regional shift.

It will signal that the era of American primacy in the Indo-Pacific did not end with a war - but with a strategy it could not counter.

And by the time that reality is fully recognised, the outcome may already be irreversible.

MLA expresses concern over low OPD footfall during review of Ayurvedic Medical College facilities



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR**

Local MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat visited the Government Ayurvedic

Medical College in Akhnoor on Thursday to review the healthcare services and facilities available at the institution. Nodal Officer Dr. Narendra Sharma was also present

and briefed the MLA in detail about the functioning and infrastructure of the college.

During the visit, the MLA assessed patient care services and interacted with staff and students to understand their concerns. Several issues were highlighted, including the shortage of a sonologist, irregular power supply, and the lack of essential facilities such as buses and ambulances.

Mohan Lal Bhagat stated that necessary directions would be issued to address the electricity issues at the earliest. He also assured that a formal request would be sent to the Health Ministry for the appointment of a sonologist and the provision of transport and ambulance services. He emphasized that all possible assistance would be provided within the framework of rules.

After the review, the MLA described the presence of an Ayurvedic Medical College in the region as a significant achievement

that has the potential to deliver better healthcare services to the public. However, he expressed concern over the lower-than-expected patient turnout in the OPD (Outpatient Department).

He held discussions with the nodal officer and other doctors on ways to increase OPD footfall.

He further stated that Ayurveda offers effective treatment for many conditions where allopathy has limited solutions. He suggested promoting the positive outcomes of Ayurvedic treatments through electronic and social media, along with organizing health camps in different areas to raise awareness.

The MLA stressed that increasing public awareness about Ayurveda is the need of the hour so that more people can benefit from it. He directed the hospital administration to ensure widespread promotion of Ayurvedic treatments and the facilities available at the institution.

BJP Mahila Morcha holds Mega Bike Rally supporting women's reservation in J&K

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

BJP Mahila Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, organized a women-led bike rally in strong support of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam and the provision of 33% reservation for women. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of women riders who raised spirited slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Nari Shakti Zindabad." The rally commenced from Mubarak Mandi and culminated at Press Club, Jammu.

BJP National General Secretary and Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, along with J&K BJP Vice-President Priya Sethi, BJP General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, District President Jammu East Adv. Rajesh Gupta, MLA East Yudhvair Sethi, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana, MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, State Spokespersons Rajni Sethi and Purnima Sharma, BJP Mahila Morcha President Neha Mahajan, led the rally marking a strong message of women empowerment and unity.

Speaking on the occasion, Tarun Chugh said that the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is a historic and visionary reform under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed at ensuring equitable participation of women in the democratic framework of the country. He stated that this legislation is not merely about reservation but about empowering women to take leadership roles in shaping the nation's future. He further added that the growing participation of women in such initiatives reflects a new era of confidence, awareness, and political awakening among women,



especially in Jammu & Kashmir. He appreciated the efforts of BJP Mahila Morcha for organizing such a grand

rally and said that women today are becoming key drivers of social and political transformation. He also

emphasized that the government is committed to creating equal opportunities for women across all sectors,

ensuring their active role in nation-building.

Priya Sethi termed the rally as a powerful symbol of women's awakening and said that the Act will ensure rightful representation of women in decision-making bodies.

Sanjita Dogra expressed pride over the overwhelming participation and stated that women are now ready to lead from the front in every sphere.

On the occasion, MLA Jammu East Yudhvair Sethi, State Spokespersons Rajni Sethi, Purnima Sharma and Mahila Morcha President Neha Mahajan also spoke and shared their views.

The rally was organized under the leadership of Urvashi Gupta, General Secretary, BJP Mahila Morcha J&K, who ensured its grand success with excellent coordination and participation.

Shiv Sena accuses Centre of permanently separating Ladakh

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir unit president Manish Sahni strongly reacted to the decision of granting Ladakh a separate identity in Aadhaar records, terming it a "well-planned conspiracy to permanently detach it from Jammu & Kashmir."

Addressing a press conference held today at the party's central office, Sahni said that the developments are a continuation of the process that began in 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir.

In sharp remarks, Sahni stated that stripping the region of its statehood and



special status was only the beginning, and now the central government is attempting to divide people's hearts through administrative lines on paper. "The relationship between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is not merely geographical, but rooted in centuries-old shared culture, trade, and brother-

hood. No authority can erase this bond through arbitrary decisions," he said.

Targeting the BJP-led central government, Sahni added that those who once claimed to stand for an "undivided Jammu & Kashmir" and asserted that PoK is an integral part of India are now themselves

endorsing the fragmentation of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sahni demanded the immediate restoration of full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. He also called for the implementation of special constitutional provisions under Article 371 to safeguard cultural identity, land, and employment rights of the local population.

He further emphasized that all unilateral decisions taken in the name of Aadhaar records or administrative changes must be halted immediately, and that no major decision should be implemented without the consent of the people and their elected representatives. On this occasion Sanjay Bhatt (Gen Secretary (Org.)), Aditya Mahajan (vice president) we're present.

L-G Vinay Kumar Saxena Inaugurates RDD Complex, Resource Centre & Co-Working Space in Kargil



SYSTEM OBSERVER KARGIL

The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the newly constructed Rural Development Department (RDD) Complex and the District Resource Centre at Kurbathang, along with the Co-Working Space at Kargil.

The RDD Building, constructed at a cost of 19.56 crores, incorporates all key officers under a single roof, including Directorate,

Assistant Commissioner Development, District Panchayat Officer and others. The building complex has a Resource Centre, Library, and a Conference Hall.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the RDD Complex and District Resource Centre would play a pivotal role in strengthening rural planning, institutional capacity, and the overall delivery of governance in the district.

He said the new facilities would enable more effective and well-coordinated implementation of development programmes, particularly benefiting rural and remote areas of Kargil.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that this significant addition to Kargil's infrastructure landscape strongly aligns with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat initiative. He described the project as an important step

towards realising the Prime Minister's vision of inclusive and sustainable development, especially in geographically challenging regions.

Emphasising rural transformation, the Lieutenant Governor stated that the ongoing infrastructure development in Kargil reflects the Government of India's unwavering commitment to Gramin Vikas, guided by the principles of speed, sensitivity, and skill. He underlined that the objective of these efforts is to ensure equitable development, reaching every individual across all regions of the country.

Highlighting Ladakh's unique geographical and strategic significance due to its proximity to China and Pakistan, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of a holistic development approach. He said that while safeguarding national borders remains a top priority, strengthening infrastructure and promoting tourism are equally vital for enhancing livelihood opportunities and enabling the people of Ladakh to become self-reliant.

The Lieutenant Governor also underscored the immense potential of locally produced goods such as pashmina, apricot, and sea buckthorn to establish a

strong presence in international markets. He noted that improved finishing standards, enhanced packaging, and well-planned marketing strategies could significantly boost the global competitiveness of these products. The Lieutenant Governor assured that the Administration would work in close collaboration with all stakeholders to strengthen value addition, branding, and market linkages, thereby enabling local producers to access wider markets and achieve sustainable growth.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Co-Working Space at Kargil, established by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Union Territory of Ladakh. He said the initiative marks a significant step towards promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and start-up culture in the region. The facility is envisioned as a collaborative hub for young entrepreneurs, freelancers, startups, and professionals, providing a modern shared workspace, essential infrastructure, networking opportunities, and avenues for skill development. The initiative, he added, aligns with the Administration's broader vision of inclusive development and sustainable economic progress in the Union Territory.

J&K Central To BJP's Ideological Journey Since Jana Sangh Days: Dr Jitendra



SYSTEM OBSERVER JAMMU

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Jammu & Kashmir holds a unique place in the ideological evolution of the Bharatiya Janata Party, tracing its roots to the early years of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founded by Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee in 1951. He recalled that one of the first major movements led by Dr. Mukherjee was for the complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir with India, during which he visited the region in 1953 and passed away in Srinagar under tragic circumstances.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that this historic association not only gave an early impetus to the Jana Sangh but also firmly linked the identity of the party with

Jammu & Kashmir for generations to come.

Stating that BJP workers in Jammu & Kashmir are direct inheritors of this legacy, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this legacy is both a privilege and a challenge for them, a privilege because they represent the foundational ideals of the party, and a challenge because they are expected to uphold and exemplify that legacy in their conduct, commitment, and public life. He said that across the country, BJP's political discourse and election campaigns frequently draw reference to Jammu & Kashmir, making the conduct and credibility of workers from the region a matter of national relevance.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing a meeting of BJP office bearers and senior functionaries in Jammu,

convened in view of organisational discussions that are usually held alongside executive committee meetings. In the absence of a scheduled executive meeting, the meeting was organised to review activities undertaken in the intervening period and to plan organisational programmes ahead. The meeting was attended by J&K BJP President Sat Paul Sharma, senior leader and former MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, Organisation General Secretary Ashok Koul, and other senior office bearers and party workers.

At the outset, condolences were expressed on the demise of senior personalities, including veteran singer Asha Bhosle, as informed during the proceedings, and BJP MLA from Kathua Bharat Bhushan, who passed away earlier in the day.

Referring to organisational growth, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the BJP's journey from its Jana Sangh origins to becoming the world's largest political organisation reflects decades of ideological commitment and grassroots perseverance. He congratulated Sat Sharma on being elected

for a second consecutive term as J&K BJP President, describing it as a rare development in the party's organisational framework.

Calling for greater inclusivity within the organisation, Dr. Singh said that there is ample scope for accommodating new members and encouraging young leadership. He emphasised that growth of individuals within the party should be seen as a strength rather than a concern, adding that opportunities within the organisation are vast and expanding.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also referred to the evolving communication landscape, noting that real-time information flow and social media have significantly changed political engagement. He stressed the need for discipline in public communication and advised party functionaries to focus on issue-based responses, backed by facts, while also understanding when restraint is necessary.

On governance and development, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing rapid progress through sustained central support. He referred to long-pending projects such as the Ujh

Multipurpose Project, which had remained unresolved for nearly a century, and the Shahpur Kandi Project, both of which are now moving forward. He said such initiatives reflect both developmental commitment and corrective action on delays of the past.

The Minister also mentioned new initiatives including a cannabis-based research project in Jammu under a public-private partnership with international collaboration, as well as India's advancement in nuclear energy, including entry into the fast breeder reactor stage, placing the country among a select group of nations with such capability.

Dr. Jitendra Singh urged party workers to actively communicate these developmental achievements to the public and strengthen outreach at the grassroots level. He also called for constructive engagement with the administrative machinery to ensure effective implementation of schemes.

Dr. Jitendra Singh urged party functionaries to work with a sense of responsibility and coordination, strengthening both organisational effectiveness and developmental delivery in Jammu & Kashmir.

EDITORIAL



AVINASH BASSAN

The long-standing alliance between the United States and Israel has often been framed as a partnership rooted in shared values and mutual security. But recent developments and growing criticism from within the American security establishment suggest a more complicated reality: one in which Washington may be bearing the costs of conflicts it does not fully control.

At the centre of this debate is former CIA paramilitary officer Joe Kent, who has argued that U.S. military and diplo-

AMERICA'S POWER, ISRAEL'S WARS: WHO SETS THE AGENDA?



matic support is increasingly being leveraged to advance Israeli regional objectives, rather than strictly American strategic interests. His comments on the 2026 escalation involving Iran are particularly striking. According to Kent, there was no imminent threat to the United States-raising uncomfortable questions about why tensions escalated so sharply, and at whose urging.

This is not merely a matter of perception; it is also one of scale. Between October 2023 and September 2025, the United States provided at least \$21.7 billion in military aid to Israel, in addition to its long-standing annual commitment of \$3.8 billion. That support has helped sustain Israel's record \$45 billion defence budget, enabling operations across multiple theatres, including Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. American-

made weapons systems, logistical backing, and diplomatic cover have become integral to these campaigns.

Supporters of this relationship argue that such assistance is essential. Israel remains one of America's closest allies in a volatile region, and its military strength is seen as a deterrent against broader instability. From this perspective, U.S. backing is not charity—it is an investment in regional balance and security cooperation.

Yet critics counter that the costs are mounting, and not just financially. Each new escalation risks entangling the United States in conflicts that generate global backlash, strain alliances, and deepen anti-American sentiment. Kent and others have drawn parallels to the lead-up to the Iraq War, when threat assessments and political pressure

combined to produce a costly and controversial intervention.

The issue becomes even more complex when diplomacy enters the picture. Recent disagreements over ceasefire terms highlight the growing disconnect. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Vice President JD Vance have suggested that Lebanon falls outside certain ceasefire frameworks, while mediators such as Pakistan reportedly viewed it as included. Such divergences create ambiguity—one that can be exploited, intentionally or otherwise, to justify continued military action.

This ambiguity carries real consequences. Ceasefires that are selectively interpreted risk becoming little more than pauses in an ongoing cycle of violence. They undermine trust, weaken diplomatic credibility, and make future negotiations even more difficult.

Ultimately, the question is not whether the United States and Israel should remain allies. It is whether the terms of that alliance are being defined in a way that genuinely serves both parties—or disproportionately benefits one at the expense of the other.

For American policymakers, this is a moment for reassessment. Strategic partnerships require clarity, accountability, and alignment of interests. Without those elements, even the strongest alliances can become sources of friction rather than stability.

The United States must ask itself a difficult but necessary question: Is it shaping events in the Middle East—or being shaped by them?

The many lives of India's real Dhurandhar

BY SAYAN CHATTERJEE

Not every patriot fights in plain sight. Some speak from podiums. Some march in protest. And some, under the shadow of an empire, disappear behind false names, cross borders in silence, and return not just as men, but as movements. He belonged to that rare last category. He was not merely a freedom fighter in the familiar sense. He was a planner, a risk-taker, a man of discipline, a military organiser, and someone who understood that freedom would never be handed over by an empire out of kindness. It had to be pursued - with courage, strategy, sacrifice, and absolute clarity of purpose.

In simple terms, Dhurandhar means someone who is highly capable, sharp-minded, dependable, and able to carry great responsibility. It is not just about bravery. It is about strength of mind, seriousness of mission, and the ability to act decisively when history demands it.

That is Bose, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. One of India's most operationally brilliant sons, also an apt Dhurandhar. Before he became a legend in military uniform, before he became a symbol of resistance, he first became a man who moved in secrecy for the sake of freedom. He travelled under cover names such as Mohammad Ziauddin and Orlando Mazzotta, slipping past British watch and confusing one of the most powerful empires in the world. That alone tells us something important: he was not only bold, but he was also deeply strategic. He did not fight the British only with words. He fought them with planning.

That is why the real story of Netaji is far more vast than this piece of article; it is much bigger than the few familiar images we remember - the military cap, the round glasses, the powerful slogan: "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom." That line still stirs the

heart, but Netaji was much more than a powerful speaker. He was a man of action, and in many ways, one of the sharpest political minds of India's freedom struggle.

Among the many remarkable chapters of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's life, few are as gripping as the moments when he chose to vanish into the shadows so that India's hope could remain alive. In 1941, when the British believed they had him cornered under strict surveillance at his Calcutta residence, Bose quietly slipped away right under their noses. Disguised as a Pathan or Afghan traveller and using the name Mohammad Ziauddin, he carried not only a false identity but also the burden of a nation still waiting to be free.

His journey through Peshawar and Kabul unfolded in a world thick with danger - spies, double agents, embassy manoeuvring, and the paranoia of war. This was far more than an escape. It was an act of immense courage, sharp planning, and extraordinary composure under pressure.

As his mission carried him deeper into wartime Europe, another name became linked to his secret movement: Orlando Mazzotta. It was yet another borrowed identity in a life that had willingly embraced risk for a cause far greater than personal safety. After weeks of uncertainty in Afghanistan and unsuccessful efforts to secure Soviet support, Bose was eventually able to move forward under this Italian identity - often described as that of an Italian diplomat and radio operator. Over time, Orlando Mazzotta came to be remembered as one of the most fascinating aliases in Netaji's covert journey across continents.

Under this cover, Bose went on to undertake one of the boldest and least spoken-about missions of India's freedom struggle. In 1943, he travelled nearly 18,000 kilometres through perilous wartime waters

aboard the German submarine U-180, before making a dramatic mid-ocean transfer near Madagascar to the Japanese submarine I-29. It was the kind of journey that feels less like political history and more like a wartime thriller. By then, Bose had already outwitted British surveillance in India through disguise, secrecy, and astonishing nerve. But he was not done. He was determined to reach East Asia and build a military front against the British Raj. Through rough seas, hostile territory, and constant threat, he is said to have remained calm, disciplined, and unwavering - reportedly even dictating instructions in the midst of grave danger.

And yet, beneath every disguise, every changed route, and every assumed name, the man himself never changed. The face may have been altered. The passport may have been different. But the mission remained the same. Behind Mohammad Ziauddin and Orlando Mazzotta stood the same unyielding spirit - Netaji, moving through silence, shadows, and immense risk, so that one day India could walk towards freedom in the light. Netaji understood something very important: an empire is not defeated only by emotion or moral anger. It is defeated when it is challenged from every side - politically, psychologically, and strategically.

This is why one of the most remarkable chapters of his life is not just what he said, but how he escaped. In 1941, while he was under strict British surveillance in Calcutta, Netaji carried out one of the most daring escapes in India's anti-colonial history. He left his family home in disguise, avoided the eyes of British intelligence, and began a dangerous journey out of India.

This was not just an act of personal courage. It was proof of his discipline, his planning, and his willingness to take enormous risks

for the country; all of these were executed by the man in an era when communication was far slower, riskier, and far more dependent on human networks, coded movement, and physical transmission than it is today.

And that is what made him different. He did not want Indians to remain afraid of British power. He wanted them to believe that the empire could be challenged - and defeated. Netaji understood that British rule was not held together only by guns or laws. It was also held together by fear. The British wanted Indians to believe that their rule was permanent, that resistance was useless, and that freedom was too far away to be real.

Netaji wanted to break that mindset. He wanted Indians to stop thinking like subjects and start thinking like a free people. He was also among the few Indian leaders of his time who clearly understood the global political moment.

When the Second World War broke out, he saw that Britain was no longer unbeatable. Its power was stretched. Its enemies were growing. The empire was vulnerable. While many saw only danger, Bose saw a possible opening for India's freedom.

His efforts to seek support from countries like Germany and later Japan are still debated, and rightly so. But these decisions cannot be understood in a shallow or simplistic way. Bose was not thinking in comfortable moral terms from a safe distance. He was acting in a brutal world, under colonial rule, with one overriding goal: to free India from British control.

People may disagree with some of his choices. Historians may continue to debate them. But what cannot be denied is the scale of his commitment and foresight as an eligible ICS candidate. He was willing to risk reputation, safety, and even history's judgement for the cause of India's freedom.

Salt, Patidar outgun MI in 462-run Wankhede thriller

MUMBAI

Cricket, like old marriages, is often decided not by who shouts the loudest at the end, but by who commits the earliest act of recklessness. On Sunday night at the Wankhede Stadium, that act belonged to Philip Salt, a man who treated the new ball not as a challenge but as an insult requiring immediate correction.

Salt's 78 off 36 balls was not just a normal innings—it was a statement that playing carefully is overrated and that bowlers were simply there to be attacked, not respected. He didn't build his innings slowly or cautiously; he tore down the very idea that one needs time to settle.

Every ball he faced seemed to end up in the wrong place, as if the bowlers had already made a mistake even before releasing it. Every over he played against looked worse for wear, as though it had aged badly under pressure. By the time Mumbai realised what was happening, they were no longer really fielding in control. They were just trying to survive the assault. And by then, Salt had already taken charge of the match and changed its entire direction.

Around him, Virat Kohli played the more civilised role, as though someone had to maintain dignity while the furniture was being broken. His 50 off 38 balls was composed, almost editorial in nature, an innings that underlined, corrected, and



occasionally sighed at the chaos unfolding at the other end. It was the kind of knock that reminds one that discipline still exists, even if it no longer dominates.

Then came Rajat Patidar, who seemed to treat the idea of "pacing an innings" as something optional, almost outdated. His 53 off just 20 balls was a sudden burst of brilliance that arrived at the worst possible time for the bowlers.

It was the kind of hitting that leaves bowlers staring at the pitch, wondering where exactly their plans went wrong. He didn't just speed up the innings, he took it over completely and made it his own. What was already a strong total was pushed into dangerous territory, becoming almost rude in its dominance and far too

much for Mumbai to comfortably process.

By the time Tim David added his finishing touches, 34 not out off 16 balls, the scoreboard had swollen to 240/4, a number that looked less like a cricket score and more like a warning issued without courtesy.

Mumbai, to their credit, responded not with surrender but with that familiar Mumbai mixture of bravado and statistical denial.

Rohit Sharma started his chase with a calm 19 off 13 balls, looking in control and ready to anchor the innings. But just as things were beginning to settle, he had to retire hurt—an unexpected interruption that briefly stalled Mumbai's momentum and added a layer of concern in the dugout. It wasn't dramatic, but it mat-

tered; the chase lost a bit of its spine in that quiet exit, as though the structure of belief itself had been gently loosened.

Ryan Rickelton (37 off 22) and Suryakumar Yadav (33 off 22) kept the chase alive with strokes that suggested belief, if not certainty. Hardik Pandya, with 40 off 22, played as though he had decided that arithmetic was merely advisory.

But cricket, unlike hope, is precise in its cruelty.

Wickets fell at intervals that felt almost administrative in nature, each one stamping a quiet end to a phase of optimism. Suyash Sharma was particularly effective in this slow erosion, removing batsmen at moments when partnerships were beginning to forget their fragility.

And yet, the most memorable resistance came not from restraint but from excess. Sherfane Rutherford produced a late innings of such violent beauty, 71 not out off 31 balls, that it briefly made mathematics blush. Sixes flew into the night with the ease of birds escaping confinement. Even Romario Shepherd's final over, repeatedly punished, could only reduce the margin, not alter the outcome.

When Mumbai finished at 222/5, the defeat was respectable, which is another way of saying it was still a defeat.

In the end, the match belonged to Salt not because he finished it, but because he began it with such decisive irreverence that everything that followed—however heroic, however loud-felt like commentary rather than consequence.

Cricket, once again, proved its oldest truth: the match is often won not in the last over, but in the first act of disorder.

Brief scores:

Royal Challengers Bengaluru 240/4 (20 overs) - Philip Salt 78, Rajat Patidar 53, Virat Kohli 50, Tim David 34*, Trent Boult 1/50, Hardik Pandya 1/39, Mitchell Santner 1/43, Shardul Thakur 1/32; Mumbai Indians 222/5 (20 overs) - Sherfane Rutherford 71*, Hardik Pandya 40, Ryan Rickelton 37, Suryakumar Yadav 33, Suyash Sharma 2/47, Krunal Pandya 1/26, Jacob Duffy 1/58, Rasikh Salam Dar 1/23.

ISL: Cummings free-kick seals late win for Mohun Bagan against Punjab FC

KOLKATA

A dramatic late free-kick from Jason Cummings capped a pulsating contest as Mohun Bagan Super Giant returned to winning ways with a 3-2 victory against Punjab FC in Indian Super League 2025-26 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

In a game filled with attacking intent and momentum swings, goals from Dani Ramirez and Nsungusi Jr. Effiong twice gave Punjab the lead, before Jamie Maclaren and Sahal Abdul Samad drew the Mariners level, with Cummings' stoppage-time strike ultimately deciding the contest.

The result sees Mohun Bagan move up to second in the standings with 17 points, keeping the pressure on league leaders Mumbai City FC, while Punjab FC remain seventh with 11 points. Jamie Maclaren was adjudged Player of the Match.

The match began at a lively tempo, with Mohun Bagan looking to assert early control. Maclaren had the first opportunity inside three minutes, but his effort was well blocked by center back Bijoy Varghese. Punjab responded with attempts from distance, testing

Vishal Kaith through Bede Osuji and Samir Zeljkovi? as the Shers looked confident in possession.

Punjab broke the deadlock in the 12th minute with a well-worked move down the left. Zeljkovi? initiated the attack before Muhammed Uvais surged forward and delivered a teasing cross into the area. Nsungusi Jr. Effiong's initial attempt was missed, but skipper Dani Ramirez reacted quickest, controlling the ball smartly before slotting home to give the Shers a 1-0 lead.

Mohun Bagan were dealt a further setback shortly after, as Alberto Rodriguez was forced off due to injury. Despite this, the hosts grew into the game, controlling possession and probing for openings against a well-organised Punjab defence.

The equaliser arrived in the 29th minute through a moment of individual brilliance from Jamie Maclaren. A clever exchange between captain Subhasish Bose and Robson released the Australian striker inside the box, where he twisted past his marker before unleashing a powerful strike at the near post, leaving Arshdeep Singh with no chance.

The remainder of the first half

saw both sides exchange chances in an open contest. Punjab continued to threaten through Ramirez and Zeljkovi?, while Mohun Bagan pushed forward through Robson and Liston Colaco, but neither side was able to find a second goal before the interval.

The second half resumed in similar fashion, with both teams creating opportunities. Vishal Kaith was called into action on multiple occasions, producing key saves to deny Osuji and Nsungusi Jr., while Arshdeep Singh responded at the other end with a sharp stop to keep out Abhishek Singh's effort.

Punjab regained the lead at the hour mark following a swift attacking move. Ricky John Shabong drove forward before combining with Dani Ramirez, who squared the ball into the path of Bede Osuji, and an attempted tackle from Mohun Bagan defender Abhishek became a cross for Nsungusi Jr. Nsungusi Jr., who met the ball with a powerful volley into the far corner to make it 2-1.

Mohun Bagan responded with renewed urgency, and head coach Sergio Lobera's introduction of Sahal Abdul Samad proved decisive. In the 73rd minute, the midfielder produced a moment of brilliance,

unleashing a stunning long-range strike from over 30 yards that soared into the top corner to bring the hosts level once again.

The contest remained finely poised in the closing stages, with both sides continuing to search for a winner. Punjab came close through Manglenthang Kipgen and Leon Augustine, while Nsungusi Jr. a constant threat, but Kaith stood firm in goal for the Mariners.

As the match entered stoppage time, Mohun Bagan were awarded a free-kick in a dangerous position on the right. Jason Cummings stepped up and delivered a superb left-footed effort that curled into the top-left corner and keeper Arshdeep, despite his effort couldn't do much, sealing a dramatic late winner for the hosts.

Punjab pushed forward in the dying moments in search of an equaliser, but Mohun Bagan managed the closing stages effectively to secure all three points in what was a high-quality and fiercely contested encounter.

The final whistle confirmed a thrilling 3-2 victory for Mohun Bagan Super Giant, as they edged a spirited Punjab FC side in one of the most entertaining matches of the season.

Arunachal Dy CM stresses harmony of tradition & technology at Delhi meet



ITANAGAR

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said that Arunachal Pradesh stands as a unique example where development and tradition coexist in harmony, emphasising that the State's rich tribal heritage, diverse languages and deep-rooted spiritual values are guiding forces for sustainable and inclusive growth.

"Transformation must not mean erasure. It must mean empowerment with identity intact," he stated, underscoring that science and technology should act as enablers to strengthen cultural foundations rather than replace them.

Mein was addressing a conference on "Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions - Preserving Language, Faith and Culture" held at Bharat Mandapam on Sunday.

The conference, organised by

the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Dehradun, and brought together policy-makers, academicians and thought leaders from across the country.

The event was attended by the Vice President of India, C P Radhakrishnan, and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, among other dignitaries.

Highlighting the role of technology in remote regions, Mein cited initiatives such as telemedicine, solar energy and digital education platforms that are improving access to healthcare, electricity and learning opportunities in far-flung areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

He also stressed the need to preserve indigenous languages, oral traditions and cultural practices, noting that technology can be leveraged to document folklore, digitise manuscripts

and promote local crafts globally, thereby ensuring both cultural preservation and economic empowerment.

Referring to linguistic preservation, he spoke about ongoing efforts to develop digital tools, including Unicode integration for tribal scripts, to ensure their relevance in the digital era.

He further acknowledged national initiatives such as the Gyan Bharatam Mission, aimed at preserving India's vast manuscript heritage, including traditional knowledge systems of tribal communities.

"True progress is not measured by the speed of change, but by the strength of our connection to our roots," he remarked.

On the occasion, Mein was also conferred with the Brahmaputra Gaurav Samman during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Dehradun.

He received the honour along with his wife and former MLA, Nang Sati Mein, from the Vice President in recognition of their contributions to preserving and promoting the culture of the Northeast.

Expressing gratitude, Mein dedicated the award to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, stating that the recognition reflects the resilience, cultural richness and enduring spirit of the State's tribal communities.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, he said Arunachal Pradesh will continue to pursue a development path where modernisation complements cultural identity, empowers local communities and safeguards the State's unique heritage for future generations.

UP BJP set to appoint party leaders in corporations, commissions & boards

LUCKNOW

After a long wait and well ahead of the 2027 assembly polls, senior BJP leaders of Uttar Pradesh could soon be given plum posts of chairman or vice-chairman or members of corporations, commissions and boards in the state.

Party sources said in the presence of senior BJP leader Vinod Tawde, a consensus was reached about the appointment of party leaders to these posts. The names of party functionaries reportedly received the green light in a meeting with party state president Pankaj Chaudhary and general secretary (organization) Dharampal Singh on Sunday.

The list of these appointees is expected to be out shortly. Tawde also held separate meetings with both Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak on the proposed expansion of the state ministry and the selection of a new state BJP executive committee.

Sources said on Monday Tawde's arrival in the state capital on Sunday sparked a flurry of back-to-back meetings surrounding the formation of a new BJP team in Uttar Pradesh.

Indications are that the new team may see the removal of certain office-bearers who have held their positions for an extended period, while several new faces are likely to be accommodated. With a consensus reached on many names, the current focus is on striking a balance between caste and regional representation within the organizational structure.

Given the significant influence of the Purvanchal region within both the government and the party organization, regions such as western UP, Awadh, Bundelkhand, and Kashi are now likely to receive increased representation within the party setup.

According to sources, the meeting between Tawde, the party state president, and the general secretary (organization) also included discussions on the impending reshuffle within the party organization during which a consensus was reached on several names.

After his meeting with Tawde, the state party president headed to Delhi where he met Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the appointment of state office-bearers, political appointments, and the upcoming cabinet expansion. On Saturday, Pankaj Chaudhary had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after returning from Delhi.

Triple murder in Fatehpur: Man runs over three while fleeing with minor sister-in-law

FATEHPUR

A shocking incident has been reported from Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, where a youth allegedly ran over three people with a car, killing them on the spot, while attempting to flee with his sister-in-law, police said on Monday.

According to police sources, the incident took place in the Bindki police station area of Jenihha town on Sunday night.

The accused, identified as Deepak, had reportedly developed a close relationship with his minor sister-in-law, a 15-year-old girl (name withheld). Two days prior to the incident, he allegedly eloped with her.

Following a complaint lodged by the girl's family, a local mediation was held at the police outpost, but no resolution was reached. The police advised the family to approach the court.

On the day of the incident, Deepak was reportedly driving away with the girl in his car when her brother and some of his friends chased him on motorcycles. After the chase, they managed to stop his car by blocking the road and tried to get the girl out of the vehicle.

An argument ensued, during which Deepak, allegedly in a fit of rage, drove his car into the group. Three individuals-Anu Sonkar (35), Awadh Bihari (23), and Satyavan Saini (50)-were killed instantly.

The accused fled the scene, triggering panic and chaos in the area. Police soon arrived, took control of the situation, and sent the bodies for postmortem examination.

Rijiju writes to Kharge, says delay in women quota law implementation will only delay justice to millions of women

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday told Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge that delaying implementation of the Women's Reservation Act is nothing but delaying justice to millions of women and asked the principal opposition party to rise above politics and come forward to support its implementation in 2029 for 'nari shakti'.

In response to Kharge's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which the Congress chief accused the government of hurrying the implementation of the women's reservation law for "political mileage", the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said it is not about politics but about "keeping our promise" to the daughters of India.

"Promises to India's women cannot become politics of postponement. When it is time to deliver the Women's Reservation Act, hesitation and questions are being raised. I respectfully differ," he said.

"This is not about politics. This is about keeping our promise to the daughters of India. Let us rise above hesitation & move forward, together, for 'Nari Shakti'," Rijiju wrote to Kharge.



In his letter to the prime minister, Kharge said it would be "impossible" to have any useful discussion on the women's quota law without details of delimitation and other aspects, and demanded that an all-party meeting be called on the matter after the current round of state polls gets over on April 29.

The Budget Session of Parliament has been extended, and a special three-day sitting of the House has been convened from April 16 to 18, during which the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', more commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act, will be amend-

ed for its implementation in 2029.

The union minister said the Modi government turned the law into reality and now the necessary amendments linked to delimitation are crucial to ensure that the country's women get rightful representation before 2029 and it is not pushed further into uncertainty.

He said he has personally reached out, written and engaged with leaders across parties. "Dialogue has happened, and it continues, but at some point, intent must translate into action."

"Marry Me, Turkish Beauty": Uganda Army Chief Sparks Diplomatic Storm



Uganda's Chief of Defence Forces, Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has ignited controversy after issuing a series of unusual and provocative demands directed at Turkey.

In a public statement, Kainerugaba demanded \$1 billion from Turkey over its involvement in Somalia, while also making a bizarre personal request—that the "most beautiful Turkish woman" be given

to him as his wife. He further warned that failure to meet these demands could result in the closure of Turkey's embassy in Uganda and a complete severing of diplomatic ties.

The remarks have drawn widespread attention due to their unconventional and controversial nature, raising concerns about diplomatic decorum and the seriousness of the threats.

This is not the first time Kainerugaba has made headlines for such statements. In 2022, he similarly stirred global reactions after publicly expressing his desire to marry Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Kainerugaba, known for his outspoken social media presence and strong pro-Israel stance, continues to blur the lines between personal rhetoric and official military authority—prompting debate both within Uganda and internationally about the implications of such statements on foreign relations.

West Asia Crisis, Geopolitical upheaval to top agenda at 3-Day Naval Commanders' Conference



NEW DELHI

Top commanders of the Indian Navy will deliberate on implications of the West Asia crisis in the context of safeguarding India's energy security during a three-day conclave beginning Tuesday.

The commanders will also comprehensively review the Navy's operational posture to protect national maritime interests and capability development in line with national security objectives.

The biannual naval commanders conference will be held in New Delhi from April 14 to 16.

"This edition holds significant importance in light of swift naval deployments to safeguard India's energy security, amidst ongoing conflict in West Asia with convergence of Multi-National Forces in the Indian Ocean Region," the Navy said on Sunday.

However, it did not elaborate on the role it has in safeguarding India's energy security given disruptions in the transit of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

For last several years, the Indian Navy has been escorting Indian-flagged merchant vessels, specifically those carrying crude oil and natural gas, to ensure their safe passage through the Gulf of Oman.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, along with the operational commanders and senior naval leadership, will review and

assess plans to address multi-dimensional challenges in current geo-strategic environment, the Navy said.

"Alongside security imperatives, the deliberations will focus on achieving decisive operational success, enhancing blue-water capabilities, training, human resource management, sustainable maintenance practices, effective employment of uncrewed systems, operational logistics, and other key enablers for combat readiness of platforms," it said.

"The conference also bears prominent significance in reaffirming Navy's operational doctrine, inter-services coordination and technology driven response mechanisms post 'Operation Sindoor'," the Navy said in a statement.

The deliberations at the conference would aim toward promoting the Indian Navy as the 'preferred security partner' in the Indian Ocean Region and Indo-Pacific, it said.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan will be among those to address the commanders, it said.

The Navy said interactions aim at enhancing interoperability and jointness, and deriving a broader perspective on national stability, security architecture, and a collaborative approach to address future maritime challenges.

Pakistan Air Force Begins Deployment in Saudi Arabia, First Batch Arrives at King Abdulaziz Air Base

The first batch of personnel from the Pakistan Air Force, along with fighter jets and support aircraft, has arrived at King Abdulaziz Air Base, marking the start of Pakistan's military deployment in Saudi Arabia.

The deployment is part of ongoing defense cooperation between the two countries, aimed at strengthening regional security and operational readiness. Officials indicate that the

contingent will participate in joint exercises, training missions, and air defense coordination.

This move highlights the long-standing strategic and military ties between Islamabad and Riyadh, particularly in the areas of aerial defense and joint military collaboration. Further deployments are expected in the coming days as part of the broader mission.

Erdo?an Warns of Possible Turkish Intervention if Gaza War Escalates

Recep Tayyip Erdo?an has issued a fresh warning toward Israel, stating that Türkiye could consider entering the conflict if the ongoing war expands and diplomatic efforts fail.

Speaking amid rising tensions, Erdo?an indicated that if reported peace talks between the United

States and Iran—allegedly involving Pakistan—do not succeed, Ankara may take a more direct role. He reiterated past statements, comparing potential action to Turkey's previous military involvement in Libya.

During the Gaza conflict, Erdo?an had previously hinted at

intervention but stopped short following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, an incident that significantly escalated regional tensions.

His latest remarks signal a renewed hard-line stance, raising concerns over a broader regional escalation if diplomatic channels collapse.

UK puts Chagos Islands handover deal on hold after Trump withdraws support

LONDON

Britain's agreement to hand Mauritius the Chagos Islands that are home to a strategic UK-American military base is on indefinite hold because US President Donald Trump's administration has withdrawn its support for the deal.

The British government acknowledged Saturday that legislation to ratify the agreement for the islands in the Indian Ocean has run out of time in Parliament.

It's the latest fallout from souring relations between Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government and the Trump administration.

Trump initially backed the deal, but changed his mind in January, calling a deal to transfer sovereignty of the islands, home to the joint military base on Diego Garcia, "an act of GREAT STUPIDITY" in a social media post.

The UK put the bill's progress on hold, and the government now concedes it will run out of time to become law before the current session of Parliament ends in the next few weeks. It is not expected to be included in the list of bills announced by King Charles III for the next session of Parliament, which begins May 13.

Despite British frustration with the US change of stance, officials still hope the deal can be revived.

"Diego Garcia is a key strategic military asset for both the UK and the US," the British government said in a statement. "Ensuring its long-term operational security is and will continue to be our priority – it is the entire reason for the deal."

"We continue to believe the agreement is the best way to protect the long-term future of the base, but we have always said we would only proceed with the deal if it has US support. We are continuing to engage with the US and Mauritius."

Simon McDonald, who was head of Britain's Foreign Office until 2020, said the government "had no other choice" except to put the deal on ice.

"When the president of the United States is openly hostile, the government has to rethink. So this agreement, this treaty will go into the deep freeze for the time being," he told the BBC.

The remote chain of more than 60 islands off the tip of India, south of the Maldives, has been under British control since 1814.

A military base on Diego Garcia, one of the islands, has supported US military operations from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan and as a base for American bombers in the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Starmer initially blocked American planes from using British air bases for attacks on Iran. He later agreed to let the United States use bases in England and on Diego Garcia to strike Iran's missile sites, but not other targets.

Trump has disparaged the United States' NATO allies for their reluctance to join the war. He derided Starmer last month as "not Winston Churchill" and mocked the Royal Navy.

Under the agreement struck between the UK and Mauritius after years of negotiation, Britain would lease back the Diego Garcia base for at least 99 years.

Starmer's government says the deal protects the base from international legal challenge. In recent years, the United Nations and its top court have urged Britain to return the islands to Mauritius.

Britain's opposition Conservative Party and Reform UK opposed the agreement, saying giving up the islands puts them at risk of interference by China and Russia. They have pushed the Trump administration to rescind its support.

Islanders who were displaced from Diego Garcia in the 1960s and 1970s to make way for the base say they weren't consulted and worry the deal will make it harder for them to go home.

An estimated 10,000 displaced Chagossians and their descendants now live primarily in Britain, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Music legend Asha Bhosle dies in at 92

LGs J&K & Ladakh, DPAP chairman mourns death of legendry singer Asha Bhosle



Asha Bhosle, the legend who refused to be bracketed into any one genre and stepped out of the shadows of her sister's greatness to create her own universe in Hindi playback singing, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday. She was 92.

Asha, one half of the Mangeshkar duo whose versatility was unmatched even by her sister Lata, was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital on Saturday evening due to chest infection and exhaustion, her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle said.

The singer, who defied convention to add heft, depth and even oomph to women's voices in cinema, be it the lovelorn Meena Kumari in "Hum Intezar Kareng" or the unapologetically seductive Helen in "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja", is survived by her son Anand.

The last rites will be held on Monday.

"People can pay their last respects to her at 11 am tomorrow at Casa Grande, Lower Parel, where she lived. Her last rites will be performed at 4 pm tomorrow at Shivaji Park," Anand told reporters.

Her voice – which got listeners jiving to "Aaja, Aaja" just as skillfully as she got them to mourn lost love in "Chain Se Ham Ko Kabhi" – filled the growing years of generations of Indians. And millions mourned her loss.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched Indian cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Asha Bhosle ji, one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known... I will forever cherish the memories of my conversations with her. My condolences to her family, fans and music lovers. She will continue to inspire generations and her songs will forever resonate in people's lives," Modi said in a post on X.

Asha ruled the Hindi playback singing world along with her sister Lata for seven decades with virtually every movie song recorded in Bollywood for female leads using their voices.

Asha herself sang for more than eight decades, recording an incredible 12,000 songs, a career graph almost impossible to take stock of. Her first song was in 1943 at the age of 10 for the Marathi film "Majha Bal". She continued to sing until the late 2010s and beyond, making her the longest performing singers in global music history.

Irrepressible, effervescent, vivacious. The adjectives were many for the artiste who sang almost till the end – and gamely danced too.

Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar put out a post on X of the inimitable Asha Tai, as she was fondly called, singing a bhajan just a few days ago.

Two years ago, she was seen recreating Vicky Kaushal's signature hook step in "Tauba Tauba" at a concert in Dubai. Just as it had been in the years past when she would readily shake a leg in tune with one of her songs.

Dressed in her trademark ivory-gold saree, diamonds and a white rose tucked in her hair, she recently posed for media cameras at Arjun Tendulkar's wedding in what was probably her last public appearance.

Asha got married to Ganpatrao Bhosle in 1949 when she was 16 and later in life married composer R D Burman with whom she had a long, fruitful collaboration – right from "Mera Kuch Samaan" and "Dum Maaro Dum" to "Chura Liya Hai Tumne" and "Nahin, Nahin, Abhi Nahi". The songlist inspired by cabarets, romance, lament and every other tonality.

"She can sing all kinds of songs very well – sad songs, dance numbers and cabarets. I am not saying this because she is my sister, but it's my duty to speak about her qualities. Looking at the variety of songs she can sing, no singer can match her," Lata

Mangeshkar is quoted as saying in the book 'Lata Mangeshkar in Her Own Voice' by Nasreen Munni Kabir.

The elder sister died in February 2022, also at the age of 92.

There was plenty of speculation about the rivalry between the two sisters – both extraordinarily accomplished -- but little to substantiate it.

"It's wrong to talk of rivalry having spoilt our relationship. We are sisters and neighbours. We talk to each other and eat together. If either of us has a problem, we tell each other," Lata told Kabir.

While Lata was the go-to choice for music director Madan Mohan, the master of melody and ghazals, Asha was equally accomplished in that genre, and is still remembered for her ghazals in "Umrao Jaan". She won a National Film award for the movie.

Among Asha's most popular songs are "Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar", "In Ankhon Ki Masti", "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja", "Duniya Mein Logon Ko", and "Zaara Se Jhoom Loon Main".

She was the voice for many leading ladies, from Meena Kumari, Madhubala, Zeenat Aman to Kajol, Urmila Matondkar and also South actors such as Padmini and Vyjayanthimala.

In 2023, she performed at a special concert, ASHA@90: Live in concert', in Dubai to celebrate her 90th birthday.

The voice remained steady, elastic and timbre fresh almost till the end.

She last lent her voice to Gorillaz's album 'The Mountain' where she sang the track "The Shadowy Light". The song was released on February 27, 2026.

Born on September 8, 1933 in Sangli (Maharashtra), she was initiated into music by her father Dinanath Mangeshkar just like her sister was. Music was perhaps in her destiny. Of the four sisters, Lata, Usha and Asha were playback singers while Meena is a music composer. As is their brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

The much awarded Asha, who was also a successful entrepreneur and ran the popular restaurant Asha's in Dubai and the UK, won multiple awards, including the Dadasaheb Phalke, Padma Vibhushan, National Awards and other music honours.

Tributes poured in from the fraternity that loved and admired Asha.

Singer Usha Uthup couldn't stop crying.

"She was such an amazingly versatile singer. It is unbelievable to speak about

Asha ji in the past tense... From my side, it has always been a relationship of admiration and awe," she said.

A R Rahman, who composed "Rangeela", shared a photo with Bhosle on Instagram and posted, "She lives forever with her voice and aura..What an artist @asha.bhosle."

Actor Kajol, one of the many female stars for whom the legendary singer lent her voice, recalled watching Asha Bhosle record a song when she was 19.

"Ashatai was, is and will always be a legend... as a singer, as a persona and as a human being... loved everything about her," she wrote.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Ladakh Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed their grief over the demise of iconic singer Asha Bhosle.

The 92-year-old singer, who ruled Bollywood for over seven decades with her wide range of memorable songs, passed away on Sunday due to multi-organ failure at Breach Candy Hospital in south Mumbai.

"With Asha Bhosle ji's passing, the nation mourns a cultural icon whose timeless melodies will resonate in hearts for generations. From immortal songs & soulful ghazals to devotional masterpieces, her voice captivated millions across eras. My condolences to her family & admirers," Lt Governor Sinha said in a post on X.

Ladakh Lt Governor also expressed his grief on the death of Bhosle and said she was a personification of unparalleled versatility and her soulful voice enriched innumerable songs across genres.

"With her unparalleled contribution to the world of music, she left an indelible mark on India's cultural and entertainment landscape. Her melodies will keep entertaining several generations of music lovers and her artistry will inspire artists for decades to come," Saxena said, expressing condolences with her family and millions of admirers across the world.

Azad, former chief minister of J-K, said he was saddened to hear about the passing of Bhosle, a legendary singer known for her unmatched versatility.

"She was one of the most iconic voices in Indian music, leaving behind a rich and timeless legacy in cinema and the music industry. Her songs will continue to inspire generations to come. My heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones. May her soul rest in peace!" Azad said in a post on X.

BJP pays tribute to social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule



SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) OBC Morcha today paid rich tributes to the great social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and recalled his immense contribution towards eradicating social evils and promoting equality in society.

BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, also paid heartfelt tributes to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule at the party headquarters. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Phule ji was a visionary reformer who dedicated his life to uplifting the downtrodden and challenging deep-rooted social discrimination. He added that Phule's pioneering efforts in the field of education and social justice continue to inspire generations and remain highly relevant in today's society. Koul emphasized that the BJP remains committed to carrying forward his legacy by working for inclusive growth and empowerment of all sections of society. BJP State General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, State President OBC Morcha Braham Jyot Satti, along with his team and other prominent leaders, also participated in the programme. The programme was organised by the BJP OBC Morcha team. Floral tributes were paid to Mahatma Jyotiba

Phule, and his remarkable social contributions were remembered.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjita Dogra said that Jyotiba Phule dedicated his entire life to the upliftment of the oppressed and weaker sections. She said Phule ji raised his voice fearlessly against social evils such as Sati Pratha and child marriage, and championed the cause of women's education and rights.

She further stated that Mahatma Phule laid the foundation for social equality by starting schools for girls and the deprived classes at a time when it was considered a taboo. His revolutionary vision changed the mindset of society and opened doors for generations to come.

She said that the BJP Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is working on the same ideals of social justice and empowerment of backward classes. "We are committed to ensuring that every citizen gets equal opportunities to progress in life, just as Phule ji dreamed," she added.

Braham Jyot Satti highlighted Phule's role as a pioneer of the movement for social justice. He said that his work laid the foundation of a progressive society where every individual, especially women and deprived classes, could access education and dignity.

He added that Mahatma

Phule's activism was not just limited to speeches — he started several institutions, promoted widow remarriage and worked for farmer rights. "Phule ji taught us that social change comes through action, courage and compassion," he said.

He emphasized that the younger generation must study the life of Mahatma Phule to understand the true meaning of equality and national development. "His message of removing discrimination and promoting education is more relevant today than ever," he asserted.

He also expressed gratitude to all the participants and reaffirmed the Morcha's resolve to follow the path shown by Mahatma Phule. "We must draw inspiration from his mission and continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of OBCs and all marginalized communities," he added.

Prominent among those present were Reeta Verma and Suresh Salgotra (State Vice Presidents OBC Morcha), Sunny Sangotra (State General Secretary OBC Morcha), Ashok Salgotra (State Secretary OBC Morcha), Shivali Khangar (State Office Secretary OBC Morcha), Ashok Pandey (State Media Secretary), Vinod Choudhary (State Publicity Secretary OBC Morcha), Ram Pal (State Treasurer OBC Morcha), Jyoti Verma (Additional Media Secretary OBC Morcha), Parshotam Pona (State IT & Social Media OBC Morcha), Manohar Lal (State Executive Member OBC Morcha), Shamsher Prajapati (District President Jammu North OBC Morcha), Ashok Verma (District President Jammu South OBC Morcha), Anil Salgotra (District General Secretary Jammu North), Bhushan Choudhary (Block President Phallan Mandal), Vishal Mehra (District Secretary), Ashok Kumar, Yousuf Telli, Rakesh Thackeray (District Vice Presidents), Surinder Mehra and Tarsem Lal (District General Secretaries), Amit Musky (District Secretary), Anil Dogra (District Media Secretary), Ashu Kumar (District General Secretary Jammu Border).

BJP announces Bike rally to celebrate Nari Shakti and democratic participation

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

A press conference was held today in Jammu, bringing together women leaders and public representatives to highlight the expanding role of women in India's democratic framework. The interaction took place at the BJP Headquarters, Jammu, where State Spokespersons Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, along with Neha Mahajan, President, Mahila Morcha, and General Secretaries Urvashi Gupta and Poonam Gupta, addressed the media.

The speakers elaborated on the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, describing it as a transformative constitutional reform aimed at enhancing women's

participation in governance. The Act provides for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies. They noted that this historic step, brought forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflects a strong commitment towards strengthening inclusive democracy and ensuring greater representation of women in decision-making processes.

Emphasizing the evolving role of women, the speakers highlighted that women's empowerment today extends beyond representation and has become a key driver of social and economic transformation. They pointed to the growing participation of women in education, entrepreneurship, and public life.

The leaders also underlined the significant rise in women's

electoral participation. As per recent data, women constitute nearly 48.62% of the total electorate, with voter turnout reaching approximately 65.78%, in several cases even surpassing male participation. However, representation in legislative bodies still remains comparatively lower, making the effective implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam essential.

As part of an outreach initiative, a Women's Bike Rally has been announced to be held in Jammu on April 12, 2026. The rally will commence from Mubarak Mandi and conclude at the Press Club, Jammu, and is expected to witness enthusiastic participation from women across different sections of society.

Sat, Ashok review BJP's organizational programmes, focus on Nari Shakti

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

Sat Sharma, J&K BJP President & Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), along with Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization) addressed an organizational meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior leaders including Vice-Presidents, General Secretaries, and other office bearers, and focused on reviewing ongoing organizational programmes while strategizing for upcoming party activities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma emphasized the need to further strengthen grassroots-level engagement through sustained organizational efforts such as booth-level outreach, "Gaon Chalo/Basti Chalo Abhiyan," and public welfare-oriented initiatives. He highlighted that the BJP remains committed to connecting with every section of society through its service and ideological clarity.

Focusing particularly on women empowerment, Sat Sharma spoke in detail about the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023, stating that it reflects the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the BJP towards ensuring greater participation of women in governance and nation-building. He remarked that the legislation is a milestone in realizing the vision of "women-led development," which is central to India's growth story.

Sat Sharma asked the Mahila Morcha leaders and women representatives of the party to take this message to every household and ensure that women across all sections are made aware of the transformative steps taken by the government for their empowerment.

Ashok Koul, in his address, stressed the importance of organizational discipline, coordination, and effective implementation of party programmes. He called upon party leaders to actively engage in forthcoming programmes, ensuring maximum outreach and public participation.

Highlighting the role of women in strengthening the party structure, Ashok Koul said that women workers are the backbone of the BJP's grassroots network. He encouraged Mahila leaders to intensify their efforts, mobilize women at the local level, and play a proactive role in disseminating the achievements of the government.

Healing Hands, others organise disease screening camp

SYSTEM OBSERVER
UDHAMPUR

A free disease screening camp was organised at Ramnagar, Udhampur by Healing Hands in association with Seva Dal and Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital.

Under this camp the doctors and medical experts reached to the doorsteps of people in remote areas, providing much-needed diagnostic and consultation services to those who otherwise have limited access to quality healthcare.

The camp was inaugurated by MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj in the presence of Rajinder Sharma, district vice president Seva Dal and it witnessed an overwhelming response, with nearly 1,400 patients from Ramnagar and adjoin-

ing areas, turning up for comprehensive health check-up.

The camp offered a wide range of free screening facilities including Fibro-Scan, Spirometry, Neuropathy testing, Bone Mineral Density, Blood Pressure monitoring, ECG, eye examination and blood tests.

In addition to diagnostics, patients were also provided expert consultations and guidance by specialists, particularly focusing on lifestyle-related diseases.

The medical camp was led by noted Physician Specialist, Dr Rajesh Gupta along with a team of eminent doctors including Dr Puneeta Gupta and Dr Neeraj Mahajan, cardiologist, Dr Ankit Mahajan, gastroenterologist and Dr Shally Kandhari, ophthalmologist.

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort celebrates birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEWS
JAMMU**

The Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort, Jammu, celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule at the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj, Bahu Fort, under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Shivgotra. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, born on April 11, 1827, in Pune, Maharashtra, was a visionary social reformer who played a crucial role in challenging the

rigid caste system and championing education and equality for women and marginalized communities in India. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Basson, General Secretary of the Sabha, highlighted that Phule's ideology was rooted in equality, justice, and rationalism. He emphasized that Phule was one of the earliest advocates of gender equality in India and placed education at the core of his reform agenda, believing it to be the key to empowerment and social transformation.

Basson further noted

that Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to promote social equality. The organization was open to all castes and religions and worked towards advancing women's rights, education, and caste equality.

Quoting Phule, Basson reiterated the importance of education: "Without education, wisdom was lost; without wisdom, morals were lost; without morals, development was lost; without development, wealth was lost; and without wealth, Shudras were ruined." Phule

also played a pioneering role in women's education. He educated his wife, Savitribai Phule, and together they opened the first girls' school at Bhidewada, Pune, on January 1, 1848.

Jenab R.A. Inqlavi, while addressing the gathering, stated that Phule's work inspired Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who regarded him as one of his three gurus. It was also highlighted that in 1848, at the age of 21, Phule visited a girls' school in Ahmednagar run by Christian missionary Cynthia Farrar. Around the same time, he read the book Rights of Man by Thomas Paine, which helped shape his strong sense of social justice. He realized that marginalized castes and women were at a disadvantage in society and that education was essential for their upliftment.

B.D. Thapa, a Krantikari singer, presented inspirational songs during the programme. F.C. Satia, State President of the All India Backward Classes Federation, described Phule as a great social reformer, educator, and fierce critic of the caste system. He said Phule's work laid the foundation for a more equitable social order based on dignity, equality, and redistribution of power.

Prof. C.L. Shivgotra elaborated on Phule's life and mission, noting his unwavering commitment to the rights of marginalized communities and women, and his lifelong adherence to his principles. Tarsem Mulnvasi, former CEO, also addressed the gathering and emphasized that a true follower of Dr. Ambedkar should walk the path shown by Lord Buddha. He reiterated that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one of the three gurus of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. Vijay Shivgotra, President of the Sabha, presented the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all participants for making the event successful.

Several prominent members, including Prof. G.L. Thapa, K.K. Fotra, Er. Hem Raj Langeh, Mohinder Bhagat, Er. Pawan Bhagat, Er. V.K. Kundal, Baldev Raj Nargotra, M.R. Bangotra, Ab Ghani Teli, D.D. Mehra, Kuldeep Fouji, Mangat Kalsi, Tej Ram, Karan Kumar, Dr. Buti Ram, Prof. Kali Dass, Rangesh Chander, Hans Raj, Makhan Singh, Mahesh Shivgotra, Smt. Asha Shivgotra, Darshana Devi, Raj Kumar Chalotra, R.L. Bhagat, Bahadur Lal, Manohar Lal, Krishan Lal, Rattan Lal, Om Prakash, O.P. Thapa, and others paid rich tributes to Mahatma

Jammu Rural Congress holds crucial meeting of Block Presidents

**SYSTEM OBSERVER NEWS
JAMMU**

A significant meeting of Block Presidents of Jammu Rural District Congress was organized by District President Neeraj Kundan. The meeting was chaired by Working President Raman Bhalla, and focused on strengthening the party organization at the grassroots level in preparation for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections.

Working President of JKPCC, Raman Bhalla, graced the meeting as the chief guest and gave a stirring address. Former Minister GM Saroori and Former MLC Ved Mahajan were also present and actively participated in the deliberations. Working President Raman Bhalla directed all Congress workers to intensify the movement against the proposed US Trade Deal. He said that the deal is against the interests of Indian farmers, industry, and the national economy. Bhalla ji called upon the workers to mobilize people at the grassroots level and raise a strong voice against any trade agreement that compromises India's economic sovereignty and agricultural sector.

During the meeting, District President Neeraj Kundan strongly demanded immediate compensation for the farmers of Jammu Rural whose crops, especially wheat and vegetables, have been severely damaged due to the recent hailstorm and heavy rains. He expressed deep concern over the plight of the affected farming also and urged the government to announce a suitable relief



package without delay.

Demand Compensation for Hailstorm-Affected Farmers and Intensifies Movement Against US Trade Deal. Speaking further, Working President Raman Bhalla said, "In the coming days, regards have to go into the elections with doubled energy and strengthen the flag of the Congress party firmly. Along with electoral preparations, we must intensify our agitation against the US Trade Deal which poses a serious threat to our farmers and local industries."

District President Neeraj Kundan directed all Block Presidents to immediately gear up for the upcoming local bodies elections. He instructed them to strengthen the booth-level and block-level organization so that Congress can achieve remarkable success in the elections. He also reiterated his demand for adequate compensation to the hail-

storm-affected farmers and assured full support from the Congress party to the farming community.

Former Minister GM Saroori highlighted the importance of Panchayats and Municipalities in building a strong party organization. He said, "Panchayats and Municipalities are the foundation of our organization. All workers and leaders must work unitedly and with complete coordination to ensure victory in the upcoming elections." He also supported the demand for immediate relief to the affected farmers and backed the call to oppose the US Trade Deal.

Former MLC Ved Mahajan stressed the need for strengthening the Congress organization at the grassroots level and urged all block presidents and workers to connect with the people at the village and ward level. He expressed solidarity with the farmers suffering due to

crop damage and supported the intensified movement against the US Trade Deal.

The meeting was specifically convened to strategize for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections while addressing pressing local issues like crop loss due to unseasonal weather and national concerns such as the US Trade Deal. Detailed discussions were held on organizational strengthening, worker mobilization, effective election management strategies, and farmers' issues.

In his concluding remarks, District President Neeraj Kundan expressed full confidence in the team and said, "I will personally ensure that the Congress party performs excellently in the upcoming local bodies elections. Neeraj Kundan Said, the government must immediately announce compensation for the farmers whose wheat and vegetable crops have been destroyed by hailstorm and rains. He backed the Working President Raman Bhalla ji Statement in intensifying the movement against the US Trade Deal."

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment among all participants to work tirelessly for the success of the Indian National Congress, support the affected farmers, and oppose policies detrimental to the nation. Prominent leaders who attended the meeting Capt Kalidass, Kailash Saini, Vijay Tagotra, Romal Singh, Jagataar Singh, Daljeet Singh, Sham Lal, Rajkumar Sharma, Kaka Ram Sharma, Ashok Sharma and others..

Lieutenant Governor launched historic mass movement for "Drug-Free J&K"



SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

Spearheading a decisive battle against the drug menace, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched the historic mass movement for a "Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir" from MA Stadium in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor flagged-off Padyatra and joined the public representatives, senior officials and thousands of citizens in the walkathon from MA Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign under Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Addressing a massive gathering, the Lieutenant Governor gave a clarion call to make Jammu Kashmir free from the scourge of drugs.

"We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region.

Next three months are pivotal, with campaign advancing in six clear phases- Awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation and evaluation. We will move forward with the whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the eradication of drug addiction is a collective responsibility that rests upon us all.

"We pledge resolutely that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction. I firmly believe that drug addiction statistics show mere percentages and case files but behind each lies a vivid story, a family's struggle and agony.

Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor

said that drug abuse is among J&K's gravest challenges and we stand firm in our commitment to confront drug abuse and emerge victorious.

"Bound by shared purpose, we will rise against drug abuse and claim the victory that awaits us. The three-month long people's movement across J&K will make every person grasp the issue, turning information into responsibility through public participation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor vowed decisive and uncompromising action against drug smugglers to free the J&K UT from the grip of the drug menace.

"Those who destroy society will face the full and uncompromising weight of the law. Our neighbor is using cross-border smuggling to poison our communities and undermine our nation's future. Every officer carries one obligation: this must stop. The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers. Their networks will be dismantled without delay," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a stern warning, the Lieutenant Governor stated that Drug Smugglers' assets will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment will be delivered swiftly. "The administration will confiscate all property, revoke licenses, passports, Aadhaar, and freeze bank accounts of all those involved. This crackdown against drug smugglers will echo through generations," he said.

"We have issued a new SoP against drug traffickers. Under this SOP, we have taken a crucial decision to revoke passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar numbers, and arms licenses of smugglers involved in drug trafficking. If they are absconding, a Look Out Circular will be issued immediately. Additionally, their movable and immovable properties will be attached under the NDPS Act, bank accounts frozen, and financial investigation will be launched.

On 2nd April, we had notified the Jammu and Kashmir Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Counselling and

Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse: LG

Rehabilitation Centres Rules, 2026, ensuring every center is genuine, dedicated to patients affected by addiction, equipped with all required human resources, and under continuous monitoring. Action will be taken against centers operating without support staff or in violation of the rules," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the senior officers for swift action on complaints and strengthening of grassroots intelligence with the help of panchayats, mohalla committees, chowkidars, lambardars and ward surveillance committees to identify and punish every culprit.

"Our strength in Drug-Free J&K Campaign lies in collective action. When departments unite with shared purpose, we prevail.

Since early 2021 we have moved beyond planning to decisive action for Drug-Free J&K. We are successfully implementing initiatives that have reached previously untouched communities, engaged youth in schools, and expanded rehabilitation services. No individual faces this battle alone; the administration stands firmly committed," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth, social workers, community leaders, teachers, women and athletes to participate in large numbers since they are the face, force and future of this campaign.

"The next three months will sow seeds of lasting change. Let anti-drug sports tournaments brim with fervor, debates steel youth resolve, quizzes embed awareness. Map drug-affected areas accurately; unity marches, Padyatra inspire neighborhoods; marathons from panchayats to cities declare that J&K will never bow to drugs," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that from village chaupals to district headquarters, every event must pulse with mass movement spirit, followed by reviews because feedback will be our compass to refine, strategize and act stronger.

"April 11 is not a ceremonial start but the first step of a transformative march. Let us build a movement so broad, so resolute, and so deeply people-driven that it lays the foundation of a drug-free J&K," he further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the "Anti-Drug Pledge" to the citizens and unveiled the official campaign mascot. Awareness Video, singing and cultural performances by renowned artists echoed the message of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

The Padyatra was warmly received by business organizations, civil society members, and various stakeholders along the route.

HC denies bail in NDPS case, slams trial delay

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has rejected the bail plea of an NDPS accused in a commercial quantity charas case, while at the same time sharply criticizing the trial court for mechanically deferring proceedings after the case had already reached the stage of final arguments.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the order in bail application filed by Afroz Ahmed Sheikh, a resident of village Wikibalan, Shangas, district Anantnag, presently lodged in District Jail Amphalla, Jammu. The case arises out of a complaint titled Union of India Versus Afroz Ahmad Sheikh pending before the Special Judge, NDPS Cases, Jammu.

According to the prosecution case, NCB Jammu intercepted the accused at Parmandal Morh on September 28, 2020, after receiving specific information that he was travelling from Anantnag to Surat carrying narcotics in a black shoulder bag. During the search, officials allegedly recovered 5.400 kilograms of charas from his possession, bringing the case within the category of commercial quantity under the NDPS Act.

The petitioner sought bail mainly on the ground of prolonged incarceration, arguing that he had remained in custody for nearly five years and that prosecution evidence had already concluded. His statement under Section 313/342 CrPC had also been recorded, but final arguments were stalled because of a supplementary complaint against co-accused Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, leading to indefinite delay in conclusion of the trial.

The High Court noted that although the bar contained in Section 37 of the NDPS Act applied because the recovered contraband was of commercial quantity, the trial court had deferred proceedings in a mechanical manner without formally deciding whether such deferment was legally justified. The Court also recorded surprise that despite the supplementary complaint having been filed on March 11, 2025, arguments on charge or discharge had still not been heard.

Observing that NDPS trials must be conducted with utmost expedition because of the stringent punishment provisions and restrictions on bail, the High Court held that the manner in which the case had been put on hold could not be appreciated. However, instead of granting bail, the Court directed the trial court to re-examine within 15 days the issue of deferring proceedings against the petitioner and then proceed in accordance with law. It also directed the trial court to conclude arguments on charge/discharge in the supplementary complaint within 30 days.

The Court made it clear that if the trial court again decides to defer proceedings in the complaint against the petitioner, he will be at liberty to file a fresh bail application.

Shiv Sena stages anti-Pak protest

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

J&K unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) here today staged a protest demonstration and torched the effigy of Pakistan.

The protest was led by J&K Shiv Sena president, Manish Sahni and while addressing the protesters he said that on one hand Pakistan pretends to be a custodian of peace at international platforms while in reality it continues to promote infiltration and terrorism in J&K.

"The recent threats targeting major cities like Kolkata, along with hollow warnings of nuclear attacks, exposes Pakistan's frustration and desperation," the Shiv Sena leader maintained demanding immediate implementation of a National Bunker Policy to further strengthen the security of the nation and the region.

He emphasized that countries like Pakistan and China cannot be trusted and in the changing nature of warfare, enemies may directly target cities and civilians and in such a scenario bunkers have become essential for civilian safety.

Sahni urged the PM, Union Home Minister and J&K LG to establish a widespread network of modern safe bunkers across J&K and other sensitive and border areas of the country to ensure the safety of civilians during emergencies.

Power of Satsang Transforms Lives, Says Sahib Madhuhans Ji Maharaj in Mishriwala

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Sadguru Sahib Ji of Sahib Bandgi, while mesmerizing the congregation today in Mishriwala with a shower of nectar-like discourses, stated that the glory of *Satsang* (spiritual assembly) is immense. Without *Satsang*, one cannot shed their evil inclinations. Whether you visit Mathura or Kashi, the knot of deceit harbored within the heart cannot be untied.

The transformation you have undergone is attributable to two causes: firstly, the *Naam* (Divine Name), and secondly, *Satsang*. Previously, you consumed meat; however, you have now developed an aversion to it—indeed, you now detest even its very stench. You used to engage in deceit and trickery, but you do so



no longer. You once possessed no understanding of the distinction between sin and virtue; yet, through the glory of *Satsang*, you have been transformed. Now, you find yourself incapable of committing sinful acts.

The glory of *Satsang* is truly profound. There is a distinction to be made:

one is *Katha* (religious narrative), and the other is *Satsang*. *Katha* refers to a mere story—an account of events that have already transpired. *Satsang*, however, can only be conducted by a true Saint. The Master (Sahib) asserts that there are sixty-eight renowned pilgrimage sites in this

world; yet, merely beholding the *Guru* (spiritual guide) yields spiritual merit equivalent to performing a complete pilgrimage to all sixty-eight of them.

Do not engage in conflict with anyone and under no circumstances, not even inadvertently, should you pick a quarrel with the weak or vulnerable.

Their suffering carries a potent, heavy weight. They possess a formidable weapon: the *Aah*—their anguished cry. That single cry of anguish has the power to bring about your utter and total destruction.

I have bestowed the *Naam* upon many notorious gangsters, upon courtesans, and even upon thieves. Every individual who commits a crime is, deep down, a suffering soul. I guided them away from the path of sin. We do not sit here armed with cannons or swords; rather, we are armed with the sword of spiritual wisdom (*Gyan*). Many women have approached me to say, "You bestowed the *Naam* upon a certain individual, and he has since become a virtuous person; please bestow the *Naam* upon my husband as well." When such indi-

viduals received the *Naam* and subsequently transformed into better human beings, they, in turn, inspired others to connect with the Sahib Bandgi tradition.

Through *Satsang*, a sense of spiritual discernment (*Vivek*) awakens within you. You begin to acquire a profound understanding of the nature of sin and virtue. The words of the Saint possess an extraordinary power, and you naturally begin to emulate their conduct and way of life. Your parents, too, told you not to drink alcohol or engage in wrongful acts; yet, you persisted in doing so. However, now that I have spoken, you no longer do them. Spiritual rays emanate even from the physical bodies of saints, and these rays reach you. That is why *Satsang* is so essential.

Ujh Multipurpose Project Given Final Nod, Additional Land For Hiranagar's Jaitley Stadium: Dr Jitendra

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
KATHUA**

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh, today made a series of key announcements aimed at accelerating development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at DC Office here, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the long-pending Ujh Multipurpose Project has finally received approval, describing it as a historic milestone. He noted that the project was originally conceived nearly a century ago but remained stalled for decades due to administrative and financial constraints.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that sustained efforts over the past 13 years helped resolve issues arising from cost escalation. He further informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs extended crucial support in view of national security considerations, as the Ujh river has been identified as a vulnerable point for infiltration. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the project is expected to significantly enhance irrigation capacity and contribute to overall regional development.

Highlighting progress on the ShahpurKandi Barrage, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the national project is nearing completion, and it is expected to be commissioned within a month. He recalled that the foundation stone was laid by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the early 1980s, but the project remained pending for decades. Dr. Singh said the project was revived following the intervention of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu in 2019. The Minister stated that the ShahpurKandi Barrage, along with the Ujh Multipurpose Project, will provide surplus irrigation to border districts of Kathua and Samba in Jammu & Kashmir, as well as Pathankot and Gurdaspur in Punjab.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is progressing at a rapid pace, and it will soon be opened up to Vijaypur in Samba district. He added that construction work on the remaining stretch up to Katra is underway, and it is expected to be completed in the coming months. The expressway will significantly reduce travel time, improve connectivity, and promote economic activity and tourism in the region, he added.

In a major boost to sports infrastructure, the Union Minister announced that the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Office has approved the transfer of additional land for the construction of the ArunJaitley International Stadium at Hiranagar. He said the project will facilitate the development of modern sports facilities and create new opportunities for youth in the region.

Referring to the West Asia Situation causing energy crisis across the world, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the work for laying a pipeline to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) up to Kathua will be completed within the next six months. The project will be undertaken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and is expected to provide a reliable and environment-friendly energy source to households.

DyCM releases teaser of Dogri film 'Shah Shahni' in Jammu

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary released the teaser of the upcoming Dogri feature film Shah Shahni at the Press Club of Jammu today, where he hailed cinema as a vital instrument for the preservation of regional heritage.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister commended Director Rajnesh Kumar Gupta and the entire production team for their commitment to highlighting regional identity through the medium of film.

He emphasized that such creative endeavors are essential for strengthening cultural roots and ensuring that the younger generation remains deeply connected to their linguistic legacy.

During the event, Choudhary assured the filmmaking community that the government is actively implementing vigorous measures to

support the industry in Jammu and Kashmir. These initiatives include providing policy support and various incentives designed to create a more conducive environment for local film production.

He further noted that cinema possesses a unique potential to bridge social divides by showcasing shared histories and universal human emotions.

Closing the event, the Deputy Chief Minister made a passionate appeal to the public to watch and promote Dogri cinema, asserting that the language belongs to every community regardless of religion or background.

He expressed his firm belief that Shah Shahni will receive wide appreciation and help the Dogri language continue to flourish as an integral part of the region's identity.

The launch was attended by a diverse group of senior officials, film personalities, media representatives, and prominent local citizens.

PoJK displaced families celebrate Baisakhi Parv in Delhi, NCR

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

Families displaced from Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimber, Muzaffarabad, Poonch and other areas of Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), now settled in Delhi and NCR, celebrated Baisakhi with religious fervour and enthusiasm today.

The programme was held at Mirpur Balidan Bhawan in Lajpat Nagar-I and was organised by Mirpur Balidan Bhawan Samiti and POJK Youth Forum in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum.

A statement said a large number of displaced families attended the event, reflecting their continued cultural and social unity despite dis-

placement.

The function was presided over by Dr Deepak Kapoor, President of POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti, Jammu, while Uttam Prakash from RSS was the Chief Guest.

Renu Bhatia, Chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, and Dr Sanjogita Soodan, Mahila Pramukh of the Samiti, were guests of honour.

Several prominent personalities, including Justice Anil Dev Singh, former Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Bharat Bhushan Gupta, former Registrar General of Delhi High Court, and Justice Vidhya Bhushan Gupta, former Judge of Delhi High Court, who are themselves from displaced families, were also present.