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No issue can be resolved through military conflict alone: Modi

press our grief in that regard".

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, had issued a detailed statement, without naming Khamenei, to make four points: express "deep concern and great anxiety" over the fast-deteriorating situation, impact on Indian nationals in the region along with trade and traffic, express condolences over the deaths due to the strikes, and Delhi's efforts to help those in distress.

With Iran retaliating by targeting countries hosting US personnel and, in the process, widening the theatre of conflict, Jaiswal also linked the conflict to India's "critical stakes" in the "security and stability of the region" and said "some Indian nationals have lost their lives or are missing" following the attacks in the last few days.

The MEA statement came on a day PM Modi had reached out to more leaders of countries in the region. Without naming Iran, Modi had spoken to the leaders of Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, condemning the violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and "the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy". This was in line with his earlier conversations with the leaders of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

India calls on int'l community to act together against ISIS, Al Qaeda

of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, an issue Puri said is of acute importance for several Member States.

In October 2022, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), chaired by India that year, had organised a special meeting in New Delhi and Mumbai on the overarching theme of 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'.

As an outcome of the special meeting, the committee had adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

India continues to work closely with the UN via its various entities to build capacity and make its partners future ready to take on the ever-evolving scourge of terrorism, he said.

Indian Navy joins search operation

cording to Sri Lankan authorities.

In a statement, the Indian Navy said it promptly launched its search and rescue (SAR) efforts with a long-range maritime patrol aircraft at 10 am on Wednesday to augment the rescue operations led by Sri Lanka.

"Another aircraft with air droppable life rafts was also kept standby for immediate deployment. INS Tarangini which was operating in vicinity was deployed for aiding the rescue efforts and arrived in search area by 4 pm," it said.

"By this time search and rescue had been undertaken by Sri Lankan Navy and other agencies," it said.

The Indian Navy said a distress call from IRIS Dena was received at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCC) Colombo in the early hours of Wednesday as reported by the Sri Lankan Navy.

It said the Iranian ship was operating 20 nautical miles West of Galle in an area under Sri Lanka's responsibility.

"On receipt of the information, the Indian Navy promptly launched its SAR efforts commencing with a long-range maritime patrol aircraft at 1000 hours to augment the search efforts led by Sri Lanka," the Navy said.

It said another Indian naval ship INS Ikshak also sailed from Kochi to augment the search efforts and continues to remain in the area to search for missing personnel.

"Coordination with the Sri Lankan side on Search and Rescue efforts is ongoing," the Navy said.

No payment without royalty clearance certificate

counts & treasuries, finance department. The order follows instructions issued during a review meeting held on February 27, 2026.

The letter states that several departments and agencies, including NHAI, PMGSY, PWD (R&B), I&FC, BRO/GREF, Jal Shakti Department, NHIDCL, Airports Authority of India and KRCL, have already been instructed not to release payments to firms or contractors for works involving consumption of minor minerals unless the RCC is obtained from the geology & mining department.

The directorate has requested the finance department to issue necessary directions to all the J&K treasuries to strictly ensure that no payment is processed in favour of any agency or contractor without the mandatory RCC.

The move aims to ensure proper regulation of minor mineral extraction and royalty compliance in development projects across the Union Territory.

BOSE notification on syllabi for 9th-12th classes

been made in the syllabi of some subjects for classes 11 and 12.

The revised subjects included Punjabi and Physical Education for Class 11, while Education and Environmental Science have been revised for class 12.

BOSE said that question papers for regular and fresh private candidates appearing in the annual session examinations scheduled in October-November 2026 for Kashmir Division and Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division, and February-March 2027 for Summer Zone areas of Jammu Division, would be set as per the revised syllabi of these subjects.

The board also informed that the updated syllabi were available on its official website for students and other stakeholders.

Officials said the move aims to ensure clarity and uniformity in academic courses for the upcoming sessions.

India beat England in T20 WC semifinal

Jacob Bethell hit a century for England in the chase, but it was not enough to prevent the tournament co-hosts reaching the final.

India, who are also the tournament co-hosts along with Sri Lanka, topped their group with four wins from four but, after defeat by South Africa in the Super Eights, faced a winner-takes-all final match at that stage against West Indies.

England were beaten by the West Indies in a slow start to the tournament, but stormed through their Super Eights group with three wins from three.

Underdogs New Zealand hammered South Africa, who had been the last unbeaten side at the tournament, in the first semifinal on Wednesday.

Jitendra presents healthcare awards to medicos

Complimenting the media house which had organised the event, he appreciated the decision to award such doctors who were just entering the prime of their career and an award at this stage meant a huge recognition as well as a boost for them, compared to an award received in the later stage of the career.

The minister said that recognising young doctors at an early stage of their careers was important for strengthening the future of healthcare services in the country.

He said that encouraging medical professionals during their formative years motivates them to pursue excellence and continuously upgrade their knowledge in a rapidly evolving medical landscape.

Addressing the conclave, Dr Singh expressed satisfaction that many of the honours presented at the event were awarded to young doctors rather than only to senior professionals at the end of their careers.

Referring to the awards, he remarked that recognising talent early not only boosts confidence but also inspires young medical professionals to continue contributing to society with greater commitment.

Birla to be present in House but not chair proceedings

chief whip K Suresh submitted the notice to the Lok Sabha secretary on behalf of several opposition parties, including his party, Samajwadi Party and DMK.

TMC MPs, however, did not sign the notice.

Achary, a former Lok Sabha secretary general, said the "allocation of the seat, which the Speaker occupies under such circumstances is not mentioned in the rules".

He said Birla will also not be able to vote on the resolution using the automated vote system, but will have to fill a slip to register his vote.

He presumes that a seat belonging to a union minister, who is from the Rajya Sabha, could be given to him as only Lok Sabha members will be able to cast their votes for or against the resolution.

Deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha and deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha have their earmarked seats in their respective Houses when they are not presiding over.

Front seats in the opposition benches are allocated to them.

Article 96 of the Constitution bars a speaker or a deputy speaker from presiding over the House sitting while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration.

The speaker has a constitutional right to defend himself in the House if the resolution is discussed in the Lok Sabha.

At least two Lok Sabha members have to sign the notice to move a resolution for the speaker's removal. Any number of members can sign the notice but a minimum of two is mandatory.

The speaker can be removed from office by a resolution passed by the House through a simple majority.

Article 94C of the Constitution has provisions for such a move.

"All the members of the House are counted to compute the majority, not the members present and voting, which is the normal practice. It means the effective membership of the House, except for the vacancies, is used to calculate the majority," Achary said.

The notice has to be submitted to the Lok Sabha secretary general, and not the deputy speaker or anyone else, he said.

The document is then examined at the preliminary stage to see whether it contains "very specific charges", he said.

"At the threshold itself, there is a process of admissibility. At that stage, it is seen whether it contains specific charges. Specific charges are required as only then the speaker will be able to respond," Achary explained.

The resolution must not contain defamatory language or content.

Article 96 gives the speaker the opportunity to defend himself or herself in the House.

The language of the proposed resolution is usually examined by the deputy speaker, but since the present Lok Sabha does not have a deputy speaker, it may be examined perhaps by the senior-most member of the panel of chairpersons.

The panel helps the speaker run the House in his or her absence.

"The speaker examining a resolution that seeks his re-

moval looks absurd," Achary said, adding that the rule is silent on the subject.

Once the processing part is over, the resolution reaches the House. But it can go to the House after 14 days, Achary said.

The chair then places it in the House for consideration. It is actually the House which admits it, or as the rule says, "grants permission".

Achary said, "The chair then asks members in favour of the resolution to stand up. If 50 members stand up in support of it and if the criteria is fulfilled, the Chair announces that the House has granted permission. Once the House grants permission, it has to be taken up for discussion and disposed of within 10 days."

Lok Sabha sources said it will be taken up for discussion on Monday itself.

There are precedents of resolutions being moved. However, none has been adopted so far.

"The reason - governments have a majority," Achary said.

The resolution alleges that Speaker Birla had acted in a "blatantly partisan" manner in conducting the business of the House and "abused" the constitutional office he occupies.

The Opposition also accused the speaker of making certain false allegations against members of the Congress.

Three Lok Sabha speakers - G V Mavlinkar (1954), Hukam Singh (1966) and Balram Jajhar (1987) - had faced no-confidence motions in the past, which were negated.

BJP's earning accounted for 85 pc of national parties' income: ADR report

spent 54.72 per cent of its total income.

The six national parties have declared a total income of Rs 7960.09 crore, collected from all over India.

The Congress was second with an income of Rs 918.28 crore, which forms 11.53 per cent of the total income of national parties, while the NPEP declared the least income of Rs 2.18 crore, which forms 0.02 per cent of the total.

Between 2023-24 and 2024-25, the BJP's income increased by 55.95 per cent (Rs 2428.6768 crore), while the CPI(M) registered a marginal rise of 2.96 per cent (Rs 4.96 crore).

During the same period, the income of the Congress declined by 25.05 per cent (Rs 306.83 crore), and the BSP's income decreased by 9.56 per cent (Rs 6.19 crore).

AAP's income witnessed a significant growth of 73.20 per cent (Rs 16.60 crore).

In FY 2024-25, national parties declared a total income of Rs 7960.09 crore, of which 85.08 per cent (Rs 6772.53 crore) came from donations/contributions and 14.92 per cent (Rs 1187.56 crore) from other sources.

The BJP derived 90.48 per cent of its total income from donations amounting to Rs 6124.85 crore, while AAP received 99.85 per cent (Rs 39.22 crore) and NPEP received 97.74 per cent (Rs 2.14 crore) of their total income through contributions.

In contrast, the BSP reported 100 per cent of its income (Rs 58.58 crore) from other sources with no donations, whereas INC received 56.86 per cent (Rs 522.13 crore) from donations and 43.14 per cent (Rs 396.15 crore) from other sources, and CPI(M) received 48.77 per cent (Rs 84.17 crore) from donations and 51.23 per cent (Rs 88.42 crore) from other sources.

National parties that received the highest income from donations/contributions include the BJP (Rs 6124.85 crore), Congress (Rs 522.13 crore), CPI(M) (Rs 84.17 crore), AAP (Rs 39.22 crore) and NPEP (Rs 2.14 crore).

The collection from issuing coupons, Rs 350.12 crore declared by the Congress, formed 38.12 per cent of its total income during 2024-25.

The report said the most common and popular items of expenditure for national parties are the election expenses and administrative/general expenses.

The BJP spent Rs 3335.36 crore on election/general propaganda, followed by Rs 323.05 crore for administrative costs.

The Congress spent Rs 896.22 crore on election expenditure, followed by expenses towards administrative and general expenses of around Rs 159.68 crore.

CPI(M) spent Rs 78.11 crore on administrative and general expenses followed by Rs 51.03 crore on Employee Cost.

As Nitish heads to RS, Bihar set to get first 'BJP Sarkar'

the BJP, too, may go for a CM from the weaker sections, mindful of the social realities.

Among the names doing the rounds for the CM's post is Samrat Choudhary, whom Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the BJP's veritable principal strategist, had vowed to make "a big man" during the assembly poll campaign.

Choudhary, currently a Deputy CM with the crucial portfolio of Home, is a Koeri, an OBC caste which has been sore over never having its "own chief minister".

However, it remains to be seen whether the party, known to put a premium on ideology, would be willing to place more trust in Choudhary, who had started off with the RJD and joined the BJP less than a decade ago.

Another name that is doing the rounds is that of Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, a Sangh Parivar veteran who started off as a fiery ABVP activist when the Ayodhya movement was at its peak.

Rai is a Yadav, the most populous of all castes in Bihar, which has so far been aligned with Lalu Prasad and his

RJD.

According to BJP sources, his elevation is "fraught with the risk of annoying the upper castes and alarming the numerically small Kurmis, the caste to which Nitish Kumar belongs, besides extremely backward classes, as these social groups consider the Yadavs to be too aggressive".

BJP sources also admit that the next CM of Bihar could be one of the less fancied leaders of the party, as was seen recently in states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Odisha.

A BJP leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "We must not completely rule out the possibility of an upper caste chief minister. We have demonstrated that the BJP has a place for all. But the Mandal agitation had given rise to an unhealthy impression that henceforth the post of CM in states shall be out of bounds for the upper castes."

"The BJP has successfully changed that perception in UP, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, where the caste dynamics are very much in place, but the top post was given on merit. There is no reason why it should not be the case in Bihar as well, given the fact that we have decimated casteist parties like RJD in the last assembly polls," he added.

Meanwhile, the JD(U) is in turmoil, with a diminution in its clout almost certain. It is being speculated that Nitish Kumar's son Nishant, whose entry into politics was announced two days back, notwithstanding the father's aversion to "dynasty politics", could be accommodated as a Deputy CM.

A JD(U) leader, who did not wish to be named, however, said, "Things are never going to be the same again for us. All ministers in our party, even if these include the son of 'sahab' (Nitish Kumar) shall now have to depend on the BJP's goodwill for survival."

Voting for Nepal elections concludes

and sealing of ballot boxes at polling stations across the country.

Polling officials completed the process of sealing ballot boxes at the stations following the end of voting hours at 5 pm (local time) marking the conclusion of the electoral process.

The 2026 General Elections are seen as a crucial juncture for the Himalayan nation, with high-level leaders across the political spectrum mobilising to exercise their franchise and lead their respective party campaigns.

This high-stakes electoral process is taking place in a single phase across all 77 districts, with polling that began this morning scheduled from 7 am.

According to reports, a total of 18,903,689 eligible voters were participating in the election to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives. The 2026 polls have seen a notable demographic shift, with an increase of over 915,000 voters since 2022. Crucially, 52 per cent of the electorate is now aged between 18 and 40, reflecting a significant youth influence on the national outcome. The election features a diverse field of 6,541 candidates competing across various systems to represent this evolving demographic.

Under the first-past-the-post system, 3,406 contenders, including 1,143 independents, are vying for 165 seats. Meanwhile, for the 110 seats reserved under the proportional representation system, 63 parties have listed a total of 3,135 candidates.

To facilitate this massive exercise, the Election Commission has established 23,112 polling centres at 10,963 polling stations nationwide. The Kathmandu Post noted that a robust security framework is in place to ensure a peaceful vote, with 341,113 personnel deployed, including 149,000 temporary "election police" recruited specifically for the polls.

The commission has expressed its commitment to a swift conclusion, stating that it aims to "publish first-past-the-post results within 24 hours after counting begins".

Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki cast her vote this morning at the Dhapasi polling centre in Kathmandu.

The interim Prime Minister's participation marks a pivotal moment in the transition toward a newly elected government following months of political turbulence, with the "Gen-Z movement" leading to the resignation of multiple political leaders, including former PM KP Sharma Oli.

After exercising her franchise, Karki reflected on the conclusion of her administrative mandate, stating, "My duty is completed."

These high-stakes snap polls were necessitated by the historic "Gen Z movement" in September. The uprising resulted in the removal of the KP Sharma Oli-led coalition and the subsequent dissolution of the House of Representatives, leading to Karki's appointment as executive head on September 12.

The Election Commission, backed by the Karki-led administration, confirmed that all arrangements are finalised to return the country to an elected government after a six-month interim period.

Kavinder Gupta appointed Himachal Pradesh Governor

L-G, the communique said.

Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has been made the Telangana Governor in place of Jishnu Dev Varma, who has been appointed the Maharashtra Governor.

Nand Kishore Yadav has been appointed the Nagaland Governor, the communique said.

Awareness camp organised for Senior Citizens

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
RAJOURI, MAR 05

An Awareness Camp for senior citizens was today organized by the District Administration Rajouri under the Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY) to spread awareness among elderly citizens about their rights, welfare schemes and services available for their well-being.

The programme began with a welcome address by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Abdul Raheem. He highlighted the efforts of the Social Welfare Department in ensuring that senior citizens receive the respect,

care and support they deserve. He also emphasized the importance of such awareness programmes in connecting elderly citizens with the schemes meant for their welfare.

The event was graced by MLA Rajouri Ifthar Ahmed, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Malikzada Shaerazul Haq who appreciated the initiative taken by the district administration. They acknowledged the valuable role played by senior citizens in shaping society and stressed the need to ensure their dignity, security and well-being.

A resource person from the Medical Department delivered an informative ses-

sion on active ageing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, encouraging senior citizens to stay physically active, maintain a balanced diet and prioritize regular health check-ups for a healthier life.

Advocate Ashfaq Lone from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) addressed the gathering and sensitized participants about the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, explaining the legal protections available to senior citizens and the support mechanisms in place for their welfare.

A representative from J&K Bank also interacted

with the participants and shared information about various financial inclusion schemes and banking facilities designed specifically for senior citizens, encouraging them to make use of these services.

One of the most heartening parts of the programme was the motivational interaction by senior citizens themselves, who shared their experiences and inspired others with their positive outlook and active engagement in life.

On the occasion, pension sanction orders were distributed, wheelchairs and free-of-cost medicines were provided to eligible senior citizens.

CRPF organises Volleyball Tournament at Chanderkote to mark 87th Anniversary

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
RAMBAN, MAR 05

The CRPF Anniversary Volleyball Tournament 2026, organized by the 84 Battalion CRPF, commenced today at Chanderkote in Ramban district, marking the celebrations of the 87th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force.

The tournament was inaugurated by Commandant 84 Battalion CRPF N Ranbir Singh in the presence of Second-in-Command Vikram Singh, Assistant

Commandants Roop Ram Meena and Shree Ram Meena, along with CRPF personnel, players and local youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Commandant Ranbir Singh highlighted the glorious history of the CRPF and its significant contribution to nation-building. He encouraged the youth to actively participate in sports for physical and mental fitness, discipline, team spirit and a healthy lifestyle.

Entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining internal security in the vast and diverse country of India,

the CRPF has been serving the nation with dedication and commitment. The Force was presented with its Colour by the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on March 19, 1950. This year, the CRPF is celebrating its 87th anniversary across the country.

Apart from safeguarding the nation, the CRPF also undertakes various social outreach initiatives to strengthen its bond with the local population. In this regard, the 84 Battalion CRPF is organizing the volleyball tournament at Chanderkote, Ramban with effect from

March 5, 2026.

The 84 Battalion CRPF is presently deployed in Jammu & Kashmir with all its companies stationed in Ramban district, securing a stretch of more than 47 kilometres of the NH-44, the major lifeline connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country.

Considering that Ramban is a mountainous district with limited playgrounds and sports infrastructure, the tournament has been organized to promote sports culture, physical fitness and positive engagement among the youth.