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No double standards, no compromise on terrorism: PM Modi trade and economic front," he said. Besides a slew of pacts signed in areas like defence and security, digital payments, social security for Indian workers, audio-visual collaboration and tourism, the joint statement emerging out of the delegation-level talks takes a clear stand on terrorism.

The two prime ministers unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, said the joint statement. They called for zero tolerance of terrorism and for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner, it added.

The joint statement is a clear indication that Malaysia, which has a large Indian-origin population, has prioritised its bilateral relationship with India, marking a shift from its stand in the recent past, where it was seen to be aligning with Pakistan on issues like Kashmir.

As per the joint statement, the two leaders "agreed to counter radicalisation and violent extremism; combat financing of terrorism; prevent use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, through cooperation in information and knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices and capacity building".

They also recognised "the linkages between terrorism and transnational organised crime, and agreed to cooperate in the area of transnational organised crime, including through sharing of information and best practices". The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in countering terrorism, including in the UN and FATF, it said.

Modi's remarks in Malaysia come days after India indicated that the extradition of fugitive preacher Zakir Naik would figure among a wide range of issues to be taken up during discussions with Ibrahim.

Following wide-ranging talks between him and Ibrahim, Modi also spoke about New Delhi's approach to the Indo-Pacific, saying, "The Indo-Pacific region is emerging as the growth engine of the world." Ibrahim, for his part, noted that India and Malaysia are steadily expanding cooperation in areas including trade, investment, connectivity and defence, while also pointing to India's significant rise on the global trade and economic front.

Anwar said the partnership included deep collaborations in multiple fields, including trade and investments, food security, defence, healthcare and tourism. "It's really comprehensive, and we believe that we can advance this and execute in a speedy manner with the commitment of our both governments," he said.

SMVDSB to fill vacant posts soon, make purchases from SHGs

said. The board decided to spearhead sports development across Jammu region, cultivating future champions, safeguarding youth health, and transforming Jammu & Kashmir UT into a national sporting powerhouse alongside its spiritual eminence.

The board emphasised on specialised training for religious practitioners (pujaris).

It reviewed and ratified actions taken since the previous meeting and took key decisions on 25 important agenda items aimed at strengthening the board's functioning and improving pilgrim services.

Emphasising pilgrim safety, the board approved enhancement of insurance cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per pilgrim, besides endorsing the preliminary concept for constructing an International Museum with the consultation of Asian Heritage Foundation dedicated to Mata Vaishno Devi at Natali, Katra.

The proposed Shakti Museum will be the first of its kind and would serve as a religious, educational and cultural center. Additionally, the state-of-the-art light & sound shows will bring mythology to life through a fusion of tradition and innovation.

The LG asked the board to provide concrete suggestions, enabling the project to be initiated in the coming months and completed within a two-year timeframe.

Progress of major infrastructure projects was reviewed including construction of the Exit Track at Bhawan, New Vaishnavi Bhawan, widening of the Yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan, slope stabilization works, construction of Shri Shankaracharya Ji Temple and allied amenities at Katra and School for Divyangjan at Chaitanya Ashram, Jammu.

The board directed strict adherence to timelines while ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety.

Regarding the newly developed helipad at Hutt, the board approved that following execution of a revised MoU, SMVDSB will provide a one-time financial grant to Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board under the Shrine Act for development and upgradation of pilgrim infrastructure. It was also approved that heli services for both Shrines will operate from the same helipad for the convenience of pilgrims.

The board appreciated the community welfare initiatives of renovating 15 schools in Reasi and Udhampur districts damaged during the heavy rains of August-September 2025 within just five months.

The board lauded the initiative of establishing a Sadhna Kaksh (Meditation Hall) at Bhawan; terming it a significant step towards enriching the spiritual well-being of pilgrims. Approval was also accorded for grant-in-aid to institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society, including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing.

It expressed appreciation for the greening initiatives undertaken by SMVDSB and approved a comprehensive Annual Green Plan for 2026-27. The Lieutenant Governor directed the CEO to reaffirm the commitment to environmental sustainability with particular emphasis on promoting a clean and green Katra Town and its surrounding areas.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the LG laid foundation stones for several pilgrim-centric facilities aimed at enhancing infrastructure and spiritual experience. These included construction of three new temples in Reasi district, restoration of two ancient temples in Jammu district at an estimated cost Rs 1.21 cr, redevelopment of Bhairon Temple Complex and construction of staff accommodation at Bhawan and Bhairon.

He also inaugurated newly constructed cottages at Katra and launched an improvised Pouch Prasad containing dry fruits, an engraved coin depicting the Holy Pindies and a sacred Mouli (Kalava) for free distribution among pilgrims. Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, presented a detailed overview of the Board's activities and progress achieved in implementation of decisions taken during previous meetings.

The meeting was attended by all board Members including Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Gijriji Maharaj, Baleshwar Rai, Ashok Bhan, Sudha Murty, Gunjan Rana, K K Talwar, Kulbhushan Ahuja, Lalit Bhasin and Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

Gen Dwivedi reviews counter-terror ops

vanced technologies to further enhance operational capability. The chief of army staff attended a high-level security review meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah and visited White Knight Headquarters in Jammu on Friday

before touring the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri on Saturday, Army said on Sunday.

"COAS visited Counter Insurgency Force (R), under the aegis of White Knight Corps to review the prevailing security situation and assess operational preparedness.

"He was briefed on ongoing counter-terrorism operations, the effectiveness of the security grid and measures undertaken to maintain sustained vigilance," Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army wrote on X.

The Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo), or CIF (R), is a specialised formation of the Army responsible for operations against terror networks in the challenging terrain of Rajouri and Poonch districts.

"Deliberations also focused on inter-agency synergy and the infusion of advanced technologies to further enhance operational capability," the ADGPI said.

The Army said the army chief commended all ranks for their unwavering dedication, professionalism and steadfast commitment to duty.

"He lauded their sustained efforts in maintaining a high state of readiness under challenging operational conditions. The interaction reaffirmed the Indian Army's resolute focus on vigilance, preparedness and operational excellence," the post said.

Woman injured in accidental gunshot

She was later referred to the Government Medical College & Hospital, Jammu, for advanced treatment, the officials added.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident and initiated a probe.

2 IAS officers suspended

approached the court for the delay, sources said. Two additional IAS officers are said to have been transferred in connection with this matter, including Vikas Pratap, who was serving as the Additional Chief Secretary for Social Security.

IAS officer Yadav was the administrative secretary of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion and Promotion of Information Technology.

Jaspreet Singh is the managing director of the Punjab Information and Communication Technology Corporation Limited.

Both officers have been suspended under Rule 3 (1) of the All-India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. During the suspension period, they will remain in Chandigarh, as stated in the orders.

This is not the first instance of an IAS officer being suspended during the AAP regime. In February 2023, the State government suspended the then Muktsar Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Tripathi following "serious complaints of corruption."

Additionally, in August 2023, senior IAS officers D.K. Tiwari and Gurpreet Singh Khaira were suspended for making a "technically flawed" decision regarding the dissolution of panchayats.

Jitendra lays foundation of India's first 'Quantum Centre'

Pradesh. Describing quantum technology as a strategic necessity rather than an option, he said India had no choice but to lead in this domain if it seeks to secure its communication systems, defence architecture, healthcare innovation and global technological standing in the coming decades.

The Foundation Ceremony of Amaravati Quantum Valley was attended by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu, State Minister for IT, Electronics and Education Nara Lokesh, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director IIT Madras, senior industry leaders including Dr Amit Singhee (IBM Research India), Dr Harrick Vin (TCS), Mr M. V. Satish (L&T), senior state officials, faculty members and students. The event featured the unveiling of the foundation plaque, launch of the Amaravati Quantum Valley logo, launch of IBM and TCS Quantum Cloud Services, establishment of the IBM-TCS Quantum Innovation Centre, announcement of a Quantum Talent Hub, Quantum Reference Facility by SRM University, Quantum-Safe Applications initiative, and exchange of multiple MoUs with nine industry partners, marking a coordinated industry-academia-government partnership.

Dr Singh expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Chief Minister Naidu, describing him as a leader who "lives in tomorrow and dreams of the day after tomorrow."

Recalling his early exposure to the Chief Minister's technology-driven governance during the first term in Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City, he said the rapid progress seen in Andhra Pradesh over the past year reflects the true spirit of cooperative federalism and what Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi describes as the "double-engine" approach - alignment between the Centre and the State.

Referring to his visit to Visakhapatnam last week, the Minister cited the long-pending National Centre for Ocean Sciences project, conceived in 2006 and stalled for nearly two decades, which was completed within months after the present state government assumed office.

The centre will serve as a critical node for India's Deep Ocean Mission, further strengthening the Blue Economy vision announced by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort.

US drops bombshell, says China performed n-test after Galwan clash

formally expired this week, leaving the world's two largest nuclear powers without binding limits on their strategic arsenals for the first time in more than five decades.

"New START was signed in 2010 and its limits on warheads and launchers are no longer relevant in 2026 when one nuclear power is expanding its arsenal at a scale and pace not seen in over half a century and another continues to maintain and develop a vast range of nuclear systems unconstrained by New START's terms," DiNanno said.

He said the treaty imposed uneven constraints on nuclear powers.

"...almost all of the U.S. deployed nuclear forces were subject to New START while only a fraction of Russia's much larger stockpile was... exactly zero Chinese nuclear weapons were covered by New START," he said.

DiNanno said alleged covert testing by China, alongside Russian violations and the growth of global nuclear stockpiles, made it necessary to pursue a new arms control framework suited to present-day threats.

China has denied the US allegations of covert nuclear testing and has said it will not participate in disarmament negotiations at this stage, arguing that its nuclear arsenal remains far smaller than those of the United States and Russia.

US President Donald Trump had previously hinted at similar accusations without offering details. On October 31 last year, Trump said Washington would begin nuclear testing "on an equal basis" with Moscow and Beijing, without elaborating on the nature of such tests.

Analysts have warned that the end of New START marks a turning point in global nuclear stability, with the absence of formal limits increasing the risk of a renewed arms race amid rising geopolitical tensions and mistrust.

High-level panel on banking soon: Sitharaman

India. "We want the committee to tell us what kind of things

we need to do so that banking is made available for funding Viksit Bharat," she said.

Asked if it would suggest a merger of public sector banks, Sitharaman said one should not narrow it down like that.

"It is for India's banking sector to be made big enough, big enough in the sense, made or primed to take care of Viksit Bharat funding. You have to reach Viksit Bharat destination...it (Viksit Bharat) needs money, it needs financing, it needs credit, it needs banking facility to reach the common man." When asked about the timeframe for formation of the committee, she said, "We will do it at the earliest".

"I propose setting up a 'High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat' to comprehensively review the sector and align it with India's next phase of growth, while safeguarding financial stability, inclusion and consumer protection," she had said in the Budget speech on February 1.

To achieve scale and improve efficiency in the public sector NBFCs, as a first step, the Budget also proposed to re-structure the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

"A lot of work has happened in the ministry concerned. They have come up with this expectation. Let's see how they play it out," she said, when asked if a merger was on the cards.

REC is a subsidiary of state-owned power sector lender Power Finance Corporation (PFC). Both entities play a key role in funding power generation, transmission and distribution projects.

In March 2019, PFC completed the acquisition of a majority stake in REC Ltd by transferring Rs 14,500 crore to the government.

PFC acquired 103.94 crore shares, constituting 52.63 per cent stake, held by the government in REC, along with the management control. The acquisition price was worked out to Rs 139.50 per share. This stake acquisition came following the in-principle approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Both PFC and REC are Navratna central public sector enterprises, and this acquisition was a step toward consolidating companies operating in the same space.

Last week, the PFC board gave in-principle approval for the merger of the non-banking finance company REC Limited with itself.

The board approval for the merger of PFC and REC came after an announcement made in this regard in the Budget on Sunday.

Bangladesh faces rise in Islamist politics after uprising

More than regime changes, but not more than that. It wasn't a rupture. So that's the outcome of the uprising," Hassan said.

Hassan noted that the political vacuum created after the collapse of what he described as an oppressive regime allowed previously suppressed Islamist groups to gain prominence.

The report also warns that the rise of political Islam could disproportionately affect women in Bangladesh.

"Absolutely, especially women. Minority, I think the right-wing can tolerate the minority, they can absorb them since they're not a major threat. But in terms of, you know, disciplining women, we will see a lot of bad things coming up with the rise of political Islam, until the future political party, whether it's BNP or Jamaat, if they can handle it properly. But there would be a shift. So, this is the first time Bangladesh will see some kind of, you know, formal and informal Islamic governance, and that would create some problems for the women. That's the sad story here," he added.

Anti-Naxal strategy yielding results: Shah

menace will be completely eradicated before March 31. He made the remarks after chairing a high-level security review meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, weeks ahead of the Centre's March 31 deadline to eliminate Maoist insurgency.

"Today in Raipur, I held a review meeting with the Chhattisgarh government and officials on anti-Naxal operations. The security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, targeting of the Naxal financial network and the surrender policy have yielded positive results, and Naxalism will be completely eradicated before March 31," Shah wrote.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs attended the meeting held at a hotel in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, an official said.

Directors general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and National Investigation Agency (NIA), as well as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Telangana, along with several senior officers, were also present, he added.

Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, comprising seven districts, shares borders with Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, and has long been considered the strongest bastion of Maoists. However, the region has witnessed intensified anti-Naxal operations over the past few years, considerably weakening the extremist movement.

Since January 2024, more than 500 Naxalites, including top cadres such as CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju, have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh, while around 1,900 Naxalites were arrested and over 2,500 surrendered during the same period in the state, as per police.

LG Kavinder releases book, appreciates author

and audience for their encouragement and support.

On the occasion, senior associate professor Prem Singh, incorporator Narotam Sharma and social worker Opinder Sharma were also present. They also addressed the event, lauding the author's efforts.

The ceremony was followed by an interactive discussion, where participants appreciated the author's balanced academic approach and wished him success in his future research endeavours.

Japan's first woman PM Takaichi wins resounding mandate in snap polls

expressed confidence that India-Japan bilateral ties will reach "greater heights" under the Japanese PM's leadership.

Posting on X, he wrote, "Congratulations Sanae Takaichi on your landmark victory in the elections to the House of Representatives! Our Special Strategic and Global Partnership plays a vital role in enhancing global peace, stability and prosperity."

He added, "I am confident that under your able leadership, we will continue to take the India-Japan friendship to greater heights."

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent praised Takaichi as a great ally, noting her endorsement by President Donald Trump. "She is a great ally, great relationship with the president," Bessent said in an interview.

He said, "And when Japan is strong, the US is strong in Asia." Though the conservative Takaichi is hugely popular in Japan, the LDP, which has ruled the Asian country for

most of the last seven decades, has struggled with funding and religious scandals in recent years.

Law ministry hikes fees for govt advocates across courts

Rs 13,500 for group A counsels and Rs 9,000 for group B and C counsels.

The fee payable to government counsels was last revised in October 2015.

Fees for other category of cases and setting up conferences with various central ministries has also been revised.

Fee payable to counsels appearing in courts outside their headquarters -- which could be Delhi or state capitals -- has also been hiked.

A top official said the hike was long overdue keeping in mind inflation and rising costs of hiring professionals.

"The fee revision notification for central government counsel, an exercise initiated during my tenure as Law Secretary, has come into effect. Congratulations to all counsels. This was long overdue, for over a decade. I'm glad the effort has reached its rightful conclusion," former Union law secretary Anju Raihi Rana posted on X.

Rana, who is now member secretary, Law Commission, said the hike was must to retain talented advocates to represent the Union government in courts.

Besides law officers comprising the attorney general, the solicitor general and various additional solicitors general, the central government also hires advocates to represent it in judicial fora as legal counsels.

India now negotiates trade deals from position of strength: Goyal

countries.

"We are even today importing 300 billion dollars of goods that can be imported from the US. We are importing from all over the world. That is going to grow up to two trillion in the next five years...I told my counterparts that look, I can assure you that there is demand in India, but you have to be competitive," he said.

Goyal said that as the country's economy is growing at a faster pace, demand for a variety of goods ranging from semiconductor chips, high-end machinery and data centre equipment to aircraft, aircraft parts and energy goods is also increasing.

He said at present, India is importing goods worth about \$40-50 billion from the US every year.

Citing examples where purchases from the US can be enhanced, he said big tech firms have announced large investments in India and, therefore, "my sense is that we will see 10 gigawatts of data centres" in the country, and for that India will need equipment, which the US can supply.

"We are going to need aircraft. We are going to need engines for aircraft. We are going to need spare parts. We already have \$50 billion worth of orders on Boeing alone for aircraft. We have orders for engines," he added.

"So, almost 80-90 billion (dollars) is already on order for the next five years. We will actually need more than that. I read the other day that Tata plans to place some more orders," Goyal said.

Further, the country requires cooking coal for the steel industries. India is already importing about 17-18 billion tonnes of coking coal.

"When we reach 300 billion (dollars), which is a stated target, expansion is going on at breakneck speed in the steel industry. We'll need 30 billion dollars per year for cooking coal alone. And all of these products I'm mentioning are already being imported since the Congress time, since the UPA was in power. Nothing new," he said.

"There's a growth in demand and consumption of all of these products. In addition, we announced in the budget that we want to promote data centres, we want to promote the AI mission, and we want to promote critical manufacturing and critical minerals processing in India. All of this will require high-quality machinery, ICT products, and Nvidia chips, as well as machinery for AI for quantum computing. Where is all of that going to come from?" he said.

He added that the most powerful technology provider is the United States.

"So, 100 billion (dollars per year) is very conservative. I think it's extremely conservative for a country which wants to become a 30 trillion-dollar economy, which India intends to," Goyal noted.

Asked whether the \$500 billion purchase plans from the US include orders India has already placed for Boeing aircraft, he said: "Everything that we are talking about is in continuation and includes what we already are purchasing."

He said reciprocal tariffs (RTs) on India are now among the lowest compared to its competitor nations.

These countries include China (35 per cent), Thailand (19 per cent), Myanmar (40 per cent), Cambodia (19 per cent), Bangladesh (20 per cent), Indonesia (19 per cent), Brazil (50 per cent), and Vietnam (20 per cent).

"This is a two-page document (the India-US joint statement)," Goyal said, adding that "it's a lot of things, which are yet to be brought in. And it cuts both ways. I'm sure the United States would equally want to safeguard, if we flood their market...It's something, which is a normal outcome of any negotiation".

"So, it's work in progress...Safeguards are always there. So, it's something which, if anybody is trying to highlight that it's not in this two-page joint statement, is trying to mislead the people, and there's still a lot of clarity required," he said.

He added that India and the US have sensitivities about a certain set of products, and both have safeguards for those.

"We've safeguarded all of them," he said, adding that India has not granted any duty concessions in dairy products, GM (genetically modified) products, meat, poultry, soya meal and corn.

India-Canada to appoint liaison officers to tackle transnational crimes

criminal networks.

Doval held meetings with his Canadian counterpart Nathalie G. Drouin, as well as engaging in discussions with Gary Anandasangaree, the Canadian Minister for Public Safety. The visit comes as India and Canada continue to strengthen their ties in security cooperation, after years of issues surrounding New Delhi's concerns of the activity of violent extremist groups operating transnational criminal networks that included the North American nation.

"They also committed to formalizing cooperation on cybersecurity policy and information sharing on cybersecurity issues, as well as continuing discussions on cooperation related to fraud and immigration enforcement, consistent with domestic laws and international obligations," said the statement.

Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada shifted discussions surrounding security cooperation to the appropriate levels, which has allowed for a thaw in ties and regular meetings between the two NSAs. Ties between India and Canada cratered at the end of 2023, when then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Indian officials of being linked to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar, a Sikh extremist and designated terrorist in India, was killed outside a gurdwara in June 2023 in Surrey, British Columbia. Ties took a nose dive in October 2024, with Canadian authorities requesting India to waive diplomatic immunity for the then Indian High Commissioner in Ottawa, Sanjay Kumar Verma.