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Modi says India-Brazil bilateral trade to go beyond \$20 billion

rare earths is a major step in building a resilient supply chain. Our cooperation in the defence sector is also steadily growing. This is a great example of mutual trust and strategic alignment. We will continue to strengthen this win-win partnership," Modi said.

"There is also immense potential for cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sectors. We will work to increase the supply of affordable and quality medicines from India to Brazil," he added.

Modi thanked Lula for his participation in the Global AI Impact Summit and praised his visionary leadership in giving a fillip to India-Brazil ties.

Earlier on Saturday, a ceremonial welcome was held at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the Brazilian President, who is on a state visit to India. Lula was accorded a Guard of Honour and was received by Modi and President Droupadi Murmu.

Lula also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. Lula's visit to India follows a July 2025 visit to Brasilia by Modi, the first by an Indian prime minister in more than 50 years. The Brazilian President has arrived in India with a large delegation of top executives from Brazilian companies, who are expected to participate in a business forum.

86 nations sign AI Impact Summit declaration: Vaishnav

Participation and dialogue was phenomenal, Vaishnav said.

The investment pledges have crossed USD 250 billion for infra-related capital and around USD 20 billion on VC/deep tech investments.

Vaishnav had said that the Summit reflected the world's confidence in India's role in the new AI age.

Delhi played host to a lineup of global tech heavyweights this week - Google's Sundar Pichai, OpenAI's Sam Altman, Microsoft's Brad Smith and Anthropic's Dario Amodei - as discussions spanned most intensely debated global topics in the tech universe, from AI's opportunities and risks, all the way to AGI, governance and the future of jobs.

Youth held for assaulting police SI

and present at Trikuta Nagar Park for medical purposes, a youth approached him and started using abusive and unparliamentary language.

In his complaint, Rajesh alleged that the youth issued threats and physically assaulted him despite being aware that he was a serving police officer in uniform performing his lawful duties.

Taking immediate cognisance of the matter, an FIR under various sections of BNS was registered at Bahu Fort police station, and an investigation was launched, officials said.

During probe, the accused, who was identified as Sumit Verma of Maanpur, Kathua, was arrested. He was currently said to be living in Trikuta Nagar locality.

IED detected, defused

was called to the spot and the IED was destroyed without causing any harm to life & property of the people, the officials added.

Amit Shah vows to wipe out Naxalism by Mar 31

eration over 21 days in extremely-challenging geographical conditions, enduring a temperature of 45 degrees Celsius under the scorching sun, and eliminated the Naxalites' stronghold.

He said displaying exceptional courage, the CRPF jawans did not retreat even an inch while operating for those 21 days on rocky hills heated up by extremely-high temperatures, ultimately dismantling the strategic base of Naxalites.

Shah said the CRPF and the CoBRA force have made a very significant contribution in freeing the country from "red terror".

He pointed out that 14 CRPF jawans were awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry on Saturday, five received the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and five battalions of the force were honoured with medals for outstanding performances.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, CRPF Director General G P Singh and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Singh said Operation Black Forest "broke the back" of Naxals.

He asserted that Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by the March 31 deadline given by the government.

Shah said in the 86-year history of the CRPF, this was the first time that the force's Raising-Day celebrations were held in the northeast, in Assam, which is a matter of pride for everyone and the entire region.

"In 2019, it was decided that the annual parade of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) would be held in different parts of the country. And today, the CRPF parade is being held in one of the most important parts of the country - the northeast," he said.

Eight CRPF contingents, drawn from formations across the country, staged a ceremonial parade at the meticulously-groomed Sarusajai Stadium here.

Resplendent in colourful headgear and marching to the reverberating drumbeats, the march past drew a sustained applause from a large crowd.

The parade was led by Commandant Deepak Dhoundiyal of the 225th Battalion.

The marching units represented the Northern Sector, comprising women personnel, as well as contingents from the North Western sector, Jharkhand, Odisha, the Rapid Action Force (RAF), the CoBRA unit and the Western and North Eastern sectors.

The ceremony concluded with a series of precision displays and tactical demonstrations. Women personnel executed an intricate rifle drill, commandos simulated a high-risk hostage-rescue operation and CoBRA commandos staged a jungle-warfare exercise, depicting an anti-Naxal operation.

Underlining that India's internal security cannot even be imagined without the CRPF, Shah said since its inception, the force has stood as a strong internal-security pillar due to its dedication to duty and has been delivering results as well.

Shah said bomb blasts, bullets, bandhs, blockades and destruction were once prominent at these three hotspots but now, all three regions have become engines of growth, driving the development of the entire country forward.

He asserted that without the sacrifices made by the CRPF personnel, it would have been impossible to bring these three hotspots onto the path of development.

Shah pointed out that the CRPF's journey began in 1939 with just two battalions and today, with 248 battalions and a strength of 3.25 lakh personnel, it has become the world's largest CAPF.

He said even when 78 police personnel in Kolkata were killed in an attack by Left-wing extremists, the CRPF continued to hold the front with courage.

The home minister noted that the force also foiled a terrorist attack on Parliament and thwarted an attack on the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in 2005.

After the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, not a single bullet had to be fired in Jammu and Kashmir and the CRPF played a very significant role in ensuring this, he said.

Shah added that the number of stone-pelting incidents

has come down to zero in Jammu and Kashmir, industries are coming in and development is taking place, thanks to major contributions from the CRPF, BSF and especially, the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

He also said the CRPF played a big role in establishing peace in the north-eastern states.

The home minister said whether it is the Amarnath Yatra or the Maha Kumbh, the force has played a major role in ensuring the safety and success of the country's cultural events as well.

He noted that 700 CRPF personnel were killed in the northeast, 780 in Naxal areas and 540 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Without these sacrifices, it would have been impossible to take these three hotspots on the path of development today. If I talk about Assam, 79 jawans have done their best to establish peace in Assam," Shah said.

The first battalion of the force was raised in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police (CRP) under the British rule.

Post Independence, in 1949, it was re-christened as the Central Reserve Police Force under the Indian Union by the first home minister, Vallabhbhai Patel.

CB files chargesheet in land fraud case

land at Purkhoo Garhi and received Rs 2 lakh as advance out of a total sale consideration of Rs 12.50 lakh.

The accused allegedly failed to execute the sale deed and was later found to have no title or ownership over the said land, officials said.

The investigation included seizure of documents, verification of financial transactions through bank records, and revenue verification by the authorities concerned, which confirmed that the land was not recorded in the name of the accused, the officials added.

Officials said the forensic examination also corroborated the execution of the agreement by the accused.

Terrorist hideout busted in Poonch woods

one pistol, its two magazines, clothes, eatables and some other items, the officials added.

The hideout was later destroyed by the forces, officials said.

"The operation highlights sustained surveillance and proactive domination of the area to prevent terrorist activities," the officials added.

BJP MLA caught by Lokayukta while accepting bribe

under Section 7(a) read with 7(A) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Complainant, Vijay Pujar, is a class-I contractor from Chinchali in this district.

Lokayukta officials said the alleged bribe demand was linked to works under the Minor Irrigation Department, including the construction of retaining walls along a road.

"The accused had demanded Rs 11 lakh from the complainant to execute the work. During the trap, an amount of Rs 5 lakh was accepted," officials said.

Along with the MLA, who represents Shirahatti assembly constituency, his personal assistants - Manjunath Valmiki and Guru Naik - had also been secured in connection with the case.

The investigation was in progress, the Lokayukta said in a statement.

Following terror threat, security heightened in Delhi

places in India on its target list.

Sources said specific inputs suggested that a temple in the Chandni Chowk area could be among the potential targets.

While the intelligence inputs are being verified and assessed, security has been stepped up in and around sensitive religious places and crowded public areas, they added.

Intelligence agencies indicated that LeT could be attempting to carry out an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)-based attack. The alleged plan is reportedly linked to attempts by the terror group to avenge the February 6 blast at a mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, sources said.

Central agencies and Delhi Police units are maintaining close coordination, and surveillance has been intensified through CCTV monitoring, vehicle checks and deployment of additional personnel at vulnerable points. Bomb disposal squads, dog squads and quick reaction teams have also been placed on standby at strategic locations, they added.

The alert comes in the backdrop of the deadly car explosion near the historic Red Fort on November 10, 2025, which killed at least 13 people and injured more than 20 others. The blast occurred when a car loaded with explosives detonated near Gate No 1 of the Red Fort metro station, igniting multiple vehicles nearby and causing panic in the densely populated area.

Security agencies have urged people to remain vigilant and immediately inform police or emergency services about any suspicious objects or activity. However, officials said there is no cause for panic and that the measures are precautionary in nature.

Further intelligence gathering and verification of inputs are underway, an official said.

Law must shift from 'fortress to forum' for wider access: CJI

certain sciences, law admits no finality.

Quoting Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, he reminded that the life of the law has not been logic but experience.

Law evolves because society evolves, and its legitimacy depends on its ability to engage with change, he added.

Tracing this to history, he referred to the 'Magna Carta' as an early assertion that power must answer to law.

"What began as a limited safeguard against arbitrary imprisonment eventually expanded into doctrines of due process, equality and dignity," he asserted.

In India, he noted, Article 14 of the Constitution, as a guarantee of equality before the law, has similarly developed from a formal assurance into a dynamic instrument of substantive fairness.

The CJI warned, "Law, having once liberated, may distance itself again, wrapped in jargon and complexity, accessible only to a privileged few." He urged the young lawyers to "resist rebuilding a fortress of sophistication, and not to make the law arcane, but intelligible; not to narrow the forum, but to widen it."

In his concluding remarks, he turned to the University, praising its intellectual rigour and the accomplishments of its alumni across the Bar, academia, public service and the judiciary.

He said, "Excellence must not become exclusion".

"As the graduating class steps into professional life, they must carry forward not merely degrees, but a commitment to ensuring that law in India remains an open forum in an unfinished Republic," he asserted.

India now faces lower tariff rate of 10 pc

Trump on nations around the world were illegal and that the president had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies.

Earlier this month, as the US and India announced they reached a framework for an Interim Agreement on trade, Trump issued an Executive Order removing the 25 per cent punitive tariffs imposed on India for its purchases of Russian oil, with the US president noting the commitment by New Delhi to stop directly or indirectly importing energy

from Moscow and purchasing American energy products.

Under the trade deal, Washington would charge a reduced reciprocal tariff on New Delhi, lowering it from 25 per cent to 18 per cent.

Trump signed the proclamation "imposing a temporary import duty to address fundamental international payments problems and continue the Administration's work to rebalance our trade relationships to benefit American workers, farmers, and manufacturers".

A fact sheet issued by the White House said Trump is invoking his authority under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which "empowers the President to address certain fundamental international payment problems through surcharges and other special import restrictions".

The proclamation imposes, for a period of 150 days, a 10 per cent ad valorem import duty on articles imported into the United States. The temporary import duty will take effect February 24 at 12:01 am eastern standard time.

The fact sheet noted that some goods will not be subject to the temporary import duty because of the needs of the US economy or in order to ensure the duty more effectively addresses the fundamental international payments problems facing the United States.

The goods include certain critical minerals, metals used in currency and bullion, energy, and energy products; natural resources and fertilizers that cannot be grown, mined, or otherwise produced in the United States or grown, mined, or otherwise produced in sufficient quantities to meet domestic demand; certain agricultural products, including beef, tomatoes, and oranges; pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients; certain electronics; passenger vehicles, certain light trucks, certain medium and heavy-duty vehicles, buses, and certain parts of passenger vehicles, light trucks, heavy-duty vehicles, and buses and certain aerospace products.

Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court justices who ruled against him, calling them "fools and lapdogs".

"The Supreme Court's ruling on tariffs is deeply disappointing, and I'm ashamed of certain members of the Court, absolutely ashamed for not having the courage to do what's right for our country," Trump said in a news conference at the White House on Friday, just hours after the verdict came in.

When asked whether the framework for an interim agreement on trade with India, expected to be signed soon, stands in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, Trump said "nothing changes".

"Nothing changes. They'll be paying tariffs, and we will not be paying tariffs. So deal with India is they pay tariffs. This is a reversal for what it used to be, as you know, India and I think Prime Minister Modi is a great gentleman, a great man, actually, but he was much smarter than the people that he was against in terms of the United States, he was ripping us off. So we made a deal with India. It's a fair deal now, and we are not paying tariffs to them, and they are paying tariffs. We did a little flip," Trump said.

"The India deal is on...all the deals are on, we're just going to do it" in a different way," Trump said.

To another question on his relationship with India, he said "I think my relationship with India is fantastic and we're doing trade with India. India pulled out of Russia. India was getting its oil from Russia. And they pulled way back at my request, because we want to settle that horrible war where 25,000 people are dying every month," Trump said.

"Tariffs have likewise been used to end five of the eight wars that I settled. I settled eight wars, whether you like it or not, including India, Pakistan, big ones, nuclear, could have been nuclear," Trump said.

India's youth will play decisive role in shaping destiny of nation: Kavinder

tance of education in nation-building, he called upon students to cultivate a spirit of innovation, integrity and service. He said the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" can only be achieved when youth actively participate in governance, entrepreneurship, research and community development.

He encouraged graduates to embrace challenges with confidence and contribute meaningfully to society.

Highlighting the transformative power of knowledge and skill development, Gupta called upon educational institutions to focus on holistic learning that combines academic excellence with character-building.

He stressed the need to harness technology, promote start-ups and create sustainable solutions to local and national issues.

Describing the occasion as deeply emotional and personally significant, he recalled his own journey as a former student of the same institution. Standing on the college stage once again was like returning home, he said and acknowledged that his journey from the classroom to the LG's office was made possible by the blessings of his teachers, the values instilled by his parents and the discipline imparted by the institution.

The LG emphasised that the transformation in his life was not about position, but about responsibility and service.

Highlighting his experience in Ladakh, he said that serving in the high-altitude Union Territory was not merely an administrative assignment but also a sacred commitment to nation-building.

He spoke about his extensive tours across remote and border villages, interactions with soldiers' families and youth, and underlined that governance was about service, trust and direct engagement with people.

He informed the gathering about the rapid development of higher education and research infrastructure in Ladakh, particularly at the University of Ladakh, where modern laboratories, digital libraries and advanced research technologies were strengthening academic excellence.

He also shared his interactions with students of premier institutions like IIM Jammu and IIT Jammu, noting their spirit of innovation and dedication to national progress.

Referring to his participation in the India AI Impact Summit, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence and stressed that technology must serve humanity.

He underscored that while AI offers immense opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture and governance, it must be guided by strong moral values and a commitment to inclusivity.

The LG encouraged graduates to equip themselves with emerging technological skills and to leverage digital tools to create sustainable solutions that benefit society at large. He also urged them to use AI responsibly, ethically and innovatively to address real-world challenges, enhance productivity and improve public service delivery.

Gupta was later conferred with Shri Laxmi Chander Vishist Sewa Rattan Award in recognition of his distinguished public service and contribution to nation-building. Congratulating the graduating students, he urged them to move forward with integrity, innovation and a spirit of service. He called upon them to become job creators, innovators and responsible citizens who contribute positively to society and the nation.

He extended his best wishes to the students for a bright and successful future and expressed confidence that the youth of India will play a decisive role in shaping the destiny of the nation.

Earlier, the Annual Report (2025-26) of the college was presented, highlighting academic achievements, cultural activities, sports accomplishments and various student development programs undertaken during the year.

Raman Bahl, Halqa Incharge Gurdaspur, and Dr Sandeep Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab

Technical University, Bathinda, were also present.

Former principals and senior faculty members, including Prof Raj Kumar Sharma, Prof G S Kalsi, Om Prakash, V K Maudgil, Kamal Kishore Atri, V K Singh and Prof JS Grover were among those present on the occasion.

Registrar (Prof) Seema Mahajan and principal Ashwani Kumar Bhalla led the proceedings of the event.

On this occasion, Bahl, Bhalla and former principal (Prof) Raj Kumar Sharma also extended their best wishes to the graduating students.

The convocation ceremony commenced with the academic procession and concluded with the national anthem.

Cong asks PM to pause India-US trade deal

the American side. He argued that the agreement, as it stands, could adversely affect Indian farmers.

He questioned the timing of the deal's announcement, referring to Trump's February 2 statement that the agreement would take effect immediately. "The chronology of events is important," Ramesh said, asking why the prime minister "was in a hurry" to conclude the framework when a US Supreme Court verdict on tariffs was widely anticipated.

He asked whether Modi agreed with Trump's assertion after the ruling that "nothing changes" for the India-US trade deal. Ramesh noted that the framework allows for modification of commitments in the event of policy changes by either side and said the government should seek fresh negotiations.

According to Ramesh, a 10 per cent tariff on imports would apply for 150 days under US law. He said the possibility of the US court overturning Trump's tariff regime had been known since December and pressed the government on why it proceeded with the agreement despite that uncertainty.

Soon after the US Supreme Court verdict, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Modi of being "compromised," claiming the prime minister's "betrayal" in the interim trade deal had been exposed. The party described the pact as an "ordeal" brought about by "desperation and surrender."

In a 6-3 decision authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, the US Supreme Court ruled that Trump's sweeping tariffs on countries worldwide were illegal, stating that the president had exceeded his authority.

Earlier this month, the US and India announced they had reached a framework for an interim trade agreement. Following that, Trump issued an Executive Order removing 25 per cent punitive tariffs on India linked to its purchases of Russian oil, citing New Delhi's commitment to reduce direct or indirect energy imports from Moscow and increase purchases of American energy.

Under the framework, Washington would levy a reduced reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, lowering it from 25 per cent to 18 per cent.

Responding to the court's ruling, Trump said there would be "no change" in the trade arrangement with India. Speaking at a White House news conference on Friday, he described his relationship with Modi as "great" and called the revised pact "a fair deal." Trump also repeated his claim that tariffs had helped stop the India-Pakistan conflict last summer.

The government has not yet responded publicly to the Congress' demand for a pause or renegotiation.

NMC approves 24 super-specialty PG seats for Jammu, Sgr GMCs, SKIMS

flects chief minister Omar Abdullah-led government's sustained efforts to improve healthcare standards, and ensure that advanced & specialised medical services are available within Jammu and Kashmir. The addition of super-specialty PG seats will not only empower our young doctors with opportunities for advanced training locally but will also significantly benefit patients by improving access to specialised care," she said.

"The expansion of super-specialty seats aligns with the broader vision of strengthening healthcare ecosystem, reducing patient referrals outside J&K, and ensuring timely, high-quality treatment closer to home," Itoo said.

She acknowledged the continuous efforts of the faculty, medical college administrations and the department, adding that their dedication and compliance with NMC standards made this approval possible.

She reiterated that the government would continue to prioritise investments in medical education, infrastructure, and human resource development to ensure that people of Jammu and Kashmir had access to world-class healthcare facilities.

"This development marks another milestone in the government's ongoing healthcare reforms and reinforces our commitment to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a centre of excellence in medical education and specialised healthcare," the minister said.

Shantmanu takes oath as SEC, hints at holding local body polls

pillars of our democratic framework, particularly in strengthening decentralised governance and grassroots development. Since they have not been held for some time now, it becomes all the more important. I am happy to formally begin my responsibilities. I will work with full commitment to ensure effective discharge of my duties," he added.

While the tenure of municipal councils ended in October-November 2023, the panchayats and block development councils completed their five-year term on January 9, 2024. With the tenures of district development councils ending on February 24, there will be essentially no elected local bodies functioning in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said local body elections could not be conducted on time due to multiple factors, including the delimitation exercise and the reservation of wards for Other Backward Classes.

Recently, the chief minister had said that his government was making necessary arrangements to hold these elections at the earliest, but the vacancy of the State Election Commissioner was a major hurdle.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act and relevant Municipal Acts, the State Election Commission holds the authority to prepare electoral rolls and conduct local elections.

On February 17, the LG had appointed Shantmanu as the new State Election Commissioner for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever was earlier.

Shantmanu, who recently retired as additional chief secretary and financial commissioner in Jammu and Kashmir, replaced B R Sharma who completed his tenure in April 2024.

Economic mismanagement pushes poverty to record highs in Pak

now surged to 28.9 pc, marking the highest level since 2014. At the same time, income inequality has reached 32.7, the steepest since 1998. Rural communities have borne the brunt of the crisis.

Poverty in villages rose sharply from 28.2 pc to 36.2 pc, while urban poverty climbed from 11 pc to 17.4 pc. Provincial data paints an equally troubling picture. Punjab's poverty rate increased from 16.5 pc to 23.3 pc, Sindh's from 24.5 pc to 32.6 pc, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 28.7 pc to 35.3 pc, and Balochistan, already the poorest province, from 42 pc to 47 pc. Security and limited access to markets have worsened conditions in KP and Balochistan.