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Nothing can justify terrorism, India stands firmly with Israel: Modi

vation, agriculture, water management, defence and security, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties. The two leaders are also expected to exchange views on key regional and global developments.

During the visit, Modi is also scheduled to meet Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

The visit assumes added significance amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East, including strained ties between the United States and Iran.

In recent years, India-Israel cooperation has expanded in defence, cybersecurity, scientific research and innovation. Defence has emerged as a key pillar, with Israel supplying a range of military platforms and weapon systems to India. During the visit of India's defence secretary to Israel in November last year, an important agreement on defence cooperation was signed.

As India pursues development of an indigenous air defence shield dubbed "Sudarshan Chakra", New Delhi is also exploring the possibility of incorporating certain elements from Israel's Iron Dome all-weather air defence system capable of intercepting missiles and artillery shells.

Trade and investment ties are also progressing steadily. During Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to Israel in November, the terms of reference for launching negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement were signed. In September, the two sides inked a Bilateral Investment Agreement to further expand economic cooperation.

People-to-people ties remain a vital component of the relationship, with an over 41,000-strong Indian diaspora in Israel contributing significantly to bilateral goodwill and engagement.

Preserving strategic stability remains vital: India

phased democratizing access to AI and leveraging it for development, particularly in the Global South.

On outer space security, Misri stressed that "outer space should remain a realm for cooperation, not conflict," and reiterated India's support for negotiating a legally binding instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space.

He also referenced India's hosting of a conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention in December 2025, and capacity-building initiatives in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Concluding his remarks, Misri reaffirmed India's support for the Conference as "the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum," urging member states to demonstrate political will and prioritise collective security interests.

"India continues to highlight the need for constructive dialogue and engagement," he said. "We call on all States to demonstrate the required political will by taking into account the collective security interests of all States."

ACB files DA case against police Inspector

the ACB probe revealed that Choudhary, during his posting at different places, had allegedly raised huge assets amounting to crores of rupees which were found highly disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Officials said the verification further revealed that more than 10 properties in the shape of houses, shops & plots of land in 100 of kanals valued in crores had been raised by him mostly in the name of family members, his relatives and others.

On the basis of the verification conducted, a prima facie case of criminal misconduct was found made out against the accused Inspector under offences punishable under section 13(1)(b) read with section 13(2) of PC Act 1988.

Accordingly, a formal case was registered against him at ACB police station, central, and investigation was taken up.

During probe, search warrants were obtained for conducting searches from the court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu. Thereafter, searches were conducted by the ACB teams at different locations which include his residential houses at Santokh Vihar, Kaluchak, residential house at Nonial in Rajouri's Nowshera, stone crusher and tile factory at Tutte di Khui, Bajalta.

Also, on the basis of information revealed during investigation, some other locations of Jammu were searched in terms of section 185 of BNSS, officials said.

During search, incriminating documents were recovered and seized, the officials added.

Further investigation was in progress.

J&K has put TET on hold: Itoo

Kashmir would be the last to enforce the Supreme Court order, which mandates the TET for all in-service teachers of primary and upper primary classes, requiring them to qualify within two years to continue in service.

The minister's clarification came a day after the School Education Department designated the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) as the nodal agency for conducting the TET in compliance with the apex court order.

The government has designated JKBOSE as the State School Standards Authority in the Union Territory.

"There was a ruling from the Supreme Court a few months ago regarding TET. When the file came to us, we kept it on hold to see which states and UTs implement it and on what pattern the test will be held," Itoo told reporters in Kashmir's Kulgam district.

She said the teachers had dedicated decades of service in teaching students - many of whom had become successful doctors, engineers and IAS officers - and now those teachers were being asked to undertake the test.

"So, I stated that we will not implement it immediately. Let us see the impact. As of now, there is no immediate need to conduct this test. If all other states implement it, and if there is any further development from the Supreme Court, then we will see," she added.

Referring to the order issued by the commissioner secretary of the School Education Department, an IAS officer who reports to the lieutenant governor, Itoo said the order would not be implemented.

"I saw the order and discussions on social media. There will be no implementation. The Supreme Court has given two years. Jammu and Kashmir will implement the order if and when it is applied in the rest of the country," she said.

Jitendra launches 'green' building construction at IIIM

Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine here today.

The Biological, Chemical and Quality Control and Quality Assurance (QCQA) block will complement the existing campus, providing critically required laboratory and support facilities for scientists and the researchers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Singh said that the Rashtriya Vigyan Puruskar recently conferred by the President of India upon the "Team Aroma Mission" under CSIR-IIIM is a national recognition of the "Purple Revolution" that originated from Jammu & Kashmir.

He noted that large-scale lavender cultivation under the mission has generated sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities for farmers and youth, particularly in remote areas. It has transformed the region into a hub of aroma-based agri-economy, he added.

Highlighting the significance of the new building, he said that the upcoming complex will be the first-ever green construction of its kind in Jammu. The state-of-the-art complex will incorporate non-fossil energy resources and advanced research facilities to meet global standards.

He added that the enhanced Biological, Chemical and QCQA facilities will strengthen the institute's capacity to produce and export high-quality medicines, reinforcing India's position in the global pharmaceutical sector.

Fight against terrorism must be intensified: Putin

tempts against representatives of state and military authorities."

The president also warned of what he described as increasingly extreme tactics allegedly under consideration by Russia's opponents.

"The adversaries do not shy away from any other means. Reports have already appeared in the media about their attempts - or intentions - to use even some form of nuclear component. They presumably understand how this could end," he said.

Putin cited operational information concerning potential threats to energy infrastructure in the Black Sea.

"Our operational information is also reaching the media on possible plans to blow up our gas pipeline systems along the bed of the Black Sea - TurkStream and Blue Stream. They simply cannot calm down. They do not know what else to do to derail this peaceful process and attempts to achieve a settlement through diplomatic means. Everything is being done to stage some kind of provocation and to disrupt what has been achieved, cautiously speaking, on the negotiation track," he said.

In addition, he cautioned that continued escalation could have consequences. "The adversaries are searching for any method - any at all - to try to inflict defeat on Russia. In doing so, they may push themselves to a dangerous extreme and later regret it," Putin said.

Beyond counterterrorism, the president instructed the FSB to strengthen protection of critical infrastructure, enhance coordination with other security agencies, improve border defenses and bolster counterintelligence operations. He also emphasized safeguarding classified information, combating extremism, ensuring the security of upcoming State Duma elections, and intensifying efforts against corruption and cybercrime.

Concluding the session, Putin expressed confidence in the agency's leadership and personnel, voicing trust that the FSB would continue to address internal and external threats and ensure the country's security in what he described as a period of sustained pressure and instability.

VP arrives on 2-day J&K visit

Manoj Sinha, chief minister Omar Abdullah, chief secretary Atal Dulloo, GOC of Srinagar-headquartered 15 Corps of Army, and DGP.

From the airport, he travelled in a secured cavalcade to Lok Bhawan in Chashma Shahi area of Srinagar, where he would stay during his visit.

This is Radhakrishnan's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after assuming office.

He is scheduled to attend the 21st convocation of the University of Kashmir as chief guest at its Hazratbal campus on Thursday.

The LG is the chancellor, while the chief minister is the pro-chancellor of the university.

FATF warns of rising cyber-enabled fraud, terrorist financing

have expanded opportunities for criminals to commit fraud, then quickly transfer illicit funds across jurisdictions, complicating efforts to trace and recover those proceeds.

The paper identifies that 156 jurisdictions, or 90 pc of those assessed by the FATF, now view fraud as a major ML risk, amplifying concerns about how cyber scams can feed into broader financial crime networks.

FATF President Elisa de Anda Madrazo is quoted in the report saying: "As fraudsters continue to adapt and accelerate their scams, we need to keep pace to safeguard people's money and protect victims from the effects of damaging losses."

She emphasised the importance of fully leveraging the FATF toolkit to prevent fraudsters from exploiting gaps in global standards.

The paper outlines several areas where the FATF Standards can be strengthened to better tackle cyber-enabled fraud, including payment transparency measures to improve traceability of funds, enhanced asset recovery tools to freeze and reclaim illicit proceeds, and stronger regulation of virtual assets which are increasingly abused to facilitate fraud and laundering.

It also calls for improved beneficial ownership transparency, as organised fraud networks often hide activities behind shell companies to obscure illicit flows.

As the threat of fraud continues to grow in scale and scope, the FATF has committed to focusing on fraud over the next few years. This includes through continuing to analyse emerging developments, such as the rise of scam centres and the proliferation of these compounds across the world and identifying measures to strengthen countries' abilities to respond to the fraud epidemic by mobilising the FATF toolkit.

Next month, the FATF will be participating in the Global Fraud Summit in Vienna organised by Interpol and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), where it will emphasise the need for coordinated

global action and highlight measures to enhance countries' operational capabilities to prevent, detect and recover fraud proceeds.

Delhi-Katra Expressway set for completion by next year: NHAI

most prominent pilgrimage destinations - Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple or Darbar Sahib in Amritsar (Punjab) and Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra (Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir)," he said.

A large number of devotees visit Mata Vaishno Devi annually, the official said, explaining that they currently rely on rail and air travel. The expressway would provide a third option, enabling Delhi-Katra travel in approximately six hours.

"We had only five to six months of effective work last year. One of the biggest challenges was retaining manpower during tense security situations. Many workers left due to safety concerns and had to be persuaded to return. Additionally, heavy rains washed away two bridges, severely disrupting supply lines," Kumar said.

Strategically, the NHAI official said, the expressway is significant for Jammu and Kashmir due to its proximity to the International Border.

"Running parallel to sensitive border areas, the corridor is expected to facilitate faster deployment and improved mobility for defence forces," he said.

Kumar said advanced segmental bridge construction technology - a method adopted during the construction of Delhi Metro and Dwarka Expressway - is being used in the current project.

Packages 15 and 16 along the Jammu-Samba stretch included an elevated corridor of nearly 21.5 kilometres, which posed a challenge due to heavy traffic movement. However, the target was achieved using segmental bridge construction technology without disrupting traffic, the NHAI official said.

Keeping the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra in mind, the official said, a target has been set to complete nearly 30 kilometres of the Jammu-Kathua stretch before the start of the pilgrimage later this year.

Terror hideout busted; IEDs, pistol recovered

joint search party of Army and police came across a hideout of terrorists in the forward Salani Kasblari village of Mendhar, Poonch.

Its search led forces to the recovery of one big IED (4.5 kg), one small IED (800 gm), two Chinese grenades, one 9-mm pistol, two 9 mm rounds and 22 7.62 mm rounds, officials said.

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

In a post on X, Army's White Knight Corps said the recovery was made on the basis of synergised intelligence inputs from own sources and police from Gani forest area.

SC questions NIA for referring to Shabir Shah's 'inflammatory' speeches

ready examined.

He said now the protected witnesses would be examined during the trial.

The bench, which heard the submissions advanced by the NIA, posted the matter for March 12 when senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who is representing Shah, would advance his rejoinder arguments.

While hearing the matter on January 13, the top court pulled up the NIA for not properly presenting its case and asked the agency to justify Shah's detention for more than six years.

It had asked the NIA to produce a couple of his speeches and other relevant facts in the case.

On September 4 last year, the apex court refused to grant interim bail to Shah in the case and issued notice to the NIA seeking its response on his plea challenging the Delhi High Court's June 12, 2025 order.

The high court refused bail to Shah in the case, observing that the possibility of his carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses could not be ruled out.

Shah was arrested by the NIA on June 4, 2019. In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising funds to disrupt by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the central government.

Shah was alleged to have played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of Jammu and Kashmir's secession, paying tribute to the family of slain terrorists or militants by eulogising them as "martyrs", receiving money through hawala transactions and raising funds via cross-LoC trade, which were allegedly used to fuel subversive and militant activities.

The high court dismissed Shah's appeal against the trial court's July 7, 2023, order refusing him bail.

It also rejected his alternative prayer seeking "house arrest", given the serious nature of the charges.

The high court noted that he was the chairman of an unlawful organisation, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.

It examined a table elaborating on the 24 pending cases against Shah, indicating his involvement in several criminal cases of a similar nature and related to conspiring for the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

US announces 126 pc duty on imports of Indian solar goods

defying earlier signals that the levy would be imposed at a higher level.

The move marked the administration's latest attempt to reassert its trade agenda after a recent legal setback forced a rethink of how broad-based import duties could be implemented.

While Trump had publicly indicated that a steeper rate was under consideration, the formal notification set the levy at 10 per cent, creating an immediate gap between political messaging and policy execution.

Administration officials had left the door open to a possible increase later.

According to official documents issued by the US Customs, the tariffs had been fixed at 10 pc, which took effect from yesterday.

The scaled-back rate offered limited relief to markets and businesses that had braced for a sharper shock. Even at 10 per cent, the tariffs were expected to raise costs for importers and manufacturers reliant

on global supply chains, with knock-on effects for pricing and margins.

At the same time, the lower-than-flagged rate suggested an attempt to balance political objectives with concerns about inflation, market volatility and potential retaliation from trading partners.

CJI objects to NCERT book chapter on corruption in judiciary

matter for urgent consideration.

The NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) social science textbooks for Class 8 say corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the judicial system.

A section titled "corruption in the judiciary" in the new textbooks states that judges are bound by a code of conduct that governs not only their behaviour in court, but also how they conduct themselves outside it.

"We are very disturbed as members of this institution to find that children of Class 8 are being taught about corruption in the judiciary. It is part of the NCERT book. We have great stake in the institution, it (the chapter) is entirely scandalous. We have the copies of the book," Sibal said.

"I can assure you all that I am fully aware of this," the CJI said, adding that he received various calls and messages and many high court judges were "perturbed".

When Sibal hoped the bench would take suo motu cognizance, the CJI said, "Wait for a day. This is definitely concerning the entire institution. The bar and the bench are perturbed. Every stakeholder in the system is really perturbed. I am receiving a lot of calls and messages. There are judges of the high courts who are perturbed."

The CJI told Sibal he had already passed an order taking suo motu cognizance of the issue.

"I will not allow anyone on earth to taint the integrity of the institution and defame the institution. At any cost, I will not permit it. Howsoever high it may be, the law will take its course. I know how to deal with it," a visibly irked CJI said.

Singhvi raised the issue of the NCERT adopting a selective approach and said it presumed that "there was no corruption elsewhere. There was not a word about corruption in bureaucracy, politics, public life and other institutions".

"It seems to be a very calculated and deep-rooted measure to... we don't want to say anything more... I am aware and I have done my duty," the CJI said and thanked the lawyers for raising the issue.

Justice Bagchi referred to the basic structure doctrine and said "constitutional integrity to the basic structure is missing in the contents of the textbook".

Ladakh fast emerging as global tourism hub: Kavinder

Managing Director, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals and Pasang Dorjee Sona, Minister of Tourism, (Arunachal Pradesh), were among those present on the occasion.

In his address, the union tourism minister said that tourism, which had remained on the margins of national policymaking for decades, had now moved to the centre of India's development agenda under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He maintained that tourism is not merely about travel, but a powerful engine for livelihood generation, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic growth. Emphasising that the future belongs to nations that successfully blend culture with commerce, he noted that today's global travellers seek authentic experiences, wellness, heritage and meaningful human connections.

He added that the government is transforming the sector through a comprehensive national approach focused on heritage conservation, environmental sustainability and community empowerment, with the vision of establishing India as an experience-led destination and a global leader in responsible tourism.

LG Gupta highlighted the unprecedented development witnessed in the Union Territory of Ladakh under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also referred to the rapid progress of the Zoji La Tunnel, which will ensure all-weather connectivity to Ladakh and further accelerate tourism growth.

He said that Ladakh is home to several world-renowned tourist destinations known for their natural beauty, adventure, and spiritual heritage. Prominent attractions include Pangong Lake, famous for its changing blue hues; Nubra Valley, known for sand dunes and double-humped camels; Leh, the historic capital; and Khardung La, one of the highest motorable passes in the world. Other major attractions include Magnetic Hill, Tso Moriri, Hemis Monastery, Shanti Stupa, Zaskar Valley, Lamayuru Monastery, Drass, Aryan Valley, and Hanle, which also hosts the Indian Astronomical Observatory with the MACE Telescope, he added.

Describing Ladakh as a fast-emerging global tourism destination, he pointed to its pristine landscapes, spiritual heritage and adventure tourism appeal. He said the administration has taken several initiatives to promote year-round tourism, including fixing dates for UT-level festivals, participation in national and international travel marts, launch of a new tourism logo, and organisation of FAM tours.

He added that steps are being taken to simplify registration processes for hotels and travel operators through an online portal, while environmental sustainability is being prioritised through support for sewage treatment infrastructure.

Inviting tour and travel operators to include Ladakh prominently in their packages, he assured full support from the administration to ensure that every visitor leaves with a safe, memorable and enriching experience.

The LG said that the administration will extend every possible support, coordination and facilitation to strengthen the tourism sector and ensure that visitors receive the best possible experience in Ladakh. He urged stakeholders to work collectively to ensure that every tourist returns with a safe, pleasant and unforgettable journey.

Gupta invoked the popular line associated with Amitabh Bachchan - "Kuch Din Toh Guzariye Gujarat Mein" - and, in the same spirit, invited travellers to explore Ladakh, saying, "Kuch Din Toh Aaiyein Ladakh Mein," encouraging all to experience the region's breathtaking beauty, rich culture and warm hospitality.

Later, the LG inaugurated the Ladakh Pavillion and interacted with tourism stakeholders.

Around 2,000 exhibitors from both India and abroad are participating in the 33rd edition of SATTE 2026, which has started in Yashobhoomi International Exhibition Centre. There are representatives from 60 countries who will participate in the B2B meetings.