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Iran's supreme leader Khamenei killed in US-Israeli strikes

eration" ever targeting Israeli & American bases. The attack opened a stunning new chapter in US intervention in Iran, carried the potential for retaliatory violence and a wider war, and represented a startling flex of military might for an American president who swept into office on an "America First" platform and vowed to keep out of "forever wars."

The killing of Khamenei in the second Trump administration assault on Iran in eight months appeared certain to create a leadership vacuum given the absence of a known successor and because the 86-year-old supreme leader had final say on all major policies during his decades in power. He led Iran's clerical establishment and the Revolutionary Guard, the two main centres of power in the governing theocracy.

State media also reported the deaths of the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard and a top security adviser to Khamenei in airstrikes. Maj Gen Mohammad Pakpour took over as the Guard's top commander after Israel killed its past commander in the 12-day war last June. The adviser, Ali Shamkhani, had long been a figurehead within Iran's security establishment, IRNA said.

As reports trickled out about Khamenei's death, eyewitnesses said some residents were rejoicing, cheering from rooftops, blowing whistles and letting out ululations.

Mourners raised a black mourning flag over the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and a major pilgrimage site for Shiite Muslims. The Iranian government declared 40 days of public mourning and a seven-day nationwide public holiday to commemorate Khamenei's death.

Citing unidentified sources, reports said that several relatives of Khamenei were also killed, including a daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchild.

The joint US-Israel operation, which officials say was planned for months, took place yesterday during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan and at the start of the Iranian workweek. It followed stilted negotiations and warnings from Trump, who last year trumpeted his administration's success in incapacitating the country's nuclear program but nonetheless cast the latest round as necessary to head off its potential resurgence.

About 12 hours after the attacks began, the US military reported no US casualties and minimal damage at US bases despite "hundreds of Iranian missile and drone attacks." It said targets in Iran included Revolutionary Guard command facilities, air defence systems, missile and drone launch sites, and military airfields.

Israel, for its part, said it had killed the commander of the Revolutionary Guard Corps and the country's defence minister, as well as the secretary of the Iranian Security Council, a close adviser to Khamenei.

Khamenei "was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking Systems and, working closely with Israel, there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do," Trump said. "This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their country."

An Iranian diplomat told the United Nations Security Council that hundreds of civilians were killed and wounded in the strikes. Iran retaliated by firing missiles and drones toward Israel and at US military bases in the region, and exchanges of fire continued into the night.

Some of the first strikes on Iran appeared to hit near the offices of Khamenei, the second leader of the Islamic Republic who succeeded Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Israeli officials confirmed the death, followed by Trump.

Democrats decried that Trump had taken action without congressional authorisation. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said the administration had briefed several Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress in advance.

Tensions have soared in recent weeks as the Trump administration built up the largest force of American warships and aircraft in the Middle East in decades. The president insisted he wanted a deal to constrain Iran's nuclear program while the country struggled with growing dissent following nationwide protests.

Though Trump had pronounced the Iranian nuclear programme obliterated in strikes last year, the country was rebuilding infrastructure that it had lost, according to a senior US official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss Trump's decision-making process. The official said intelligence showed that Iran had developed the capability to produce its own high-quality centrifuges, an important step in developing the highly enriched uranium needed for weapons.

Iran responded to the latest strikes by launching missiles and drones towards Israel and targeting US military installations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar. The Israeli military said Iran fired dozens of missiles at Israel, with many intercepted. The Magen David Adom rescue service said Saturday night that a woman in the Tel Aviv area died after being wounded in an Iranian missile attack.

At least three explosions were heard Saturday evening near the Intelligence Ministry building in northern Tehran, witnesses said, adding that air defence systems had begun operating there. Israel's military said it had begun new strikes against missile launchers and aerial defence systems in central Iran.

In southern Iran, at least 115 people were reported killed when a girls' school was struck, and dozens more were wounded, the local governor told Iranian state TV. US Central Command spokesperson Capt. Tim Hawkins said he was "aware of reports" that a girls' school was struck and that officials were looking into them.

Iran's state news agency IRNA said at least 15 people were killed in the southwest, quoting the governor of the Lamerd region, Ali Alizadeh, as saying a sports hall, two residential areas and a hall near a school were hit.

Flights across the Middle East were disrupted, and air defence fire thudded over Dubai, the United Arab Emirates' commercial capital. Shrapnel from an Iranian missile attack on the UAE capital killed one person, state media said.

Israel said the operation had been planned for months with the United States. Air Force pilots struck "hundreds of targets across Iran," Israeli military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said in a statement.

Targets in the Israeli campaign included Iran's military, symbols of government and intelligence targets, according to an official briefed on the operation, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss nonpublic information on the attack.

Trump acknowledged Saturday that there could be American casualties, saying "that often happens in war." He said he was aiming to "annihilate" the Iranian navy and destroy regional proxies supported by Tehran. He called on the paramilitary Iranian Revolutionary Guard to lay down arms, saying members would be given immunity or face "certain death" if they did not.

Iran had said it hoped to avert a war, but it maintained its right to enrich uranium.

Iran has said it has not enriched since June, but it has blocked international inspectors from visiting the sites the U.S. bombed. Satellite photos analyzed by AP have shown new activity at two of those sites, suggesting Iran is trying to assess and potentially recover material.

Trump had threatened military action but held off following Iran's recent crackdown on protests spurred by economic grievances that evolved into a nationwide push against the ruling clerics.

The Human Rights Activists News Agency says it confirmed more than 7,000 deaths in the crackdown and is in-

vestigating thousands more. The government has acknowledged more than 3,000 killed.

The strikes could rattle global markets, particularly if Iran makes the Strait of Hormuz unsafe for commercial traffic. A third of worldwide oil exports transported by sea passed through the strait in 2025.

Saudi Arabia said Iran targeted its capital and eastern region in an attack that was repelled. Bahrain said a missile attack targeted the US Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in the island kingdom, and three buildings were damaged in the capital, Manama, and Muharraq city by drone strikes and debris from an intercepted missile.

Kuwait's civil aviation authority said a drone targeted the main international airport, injuring several employees. Kuwait's state-run news agency said three troops were injured by shrapnel from strikes that hit Ali Al-Salem air base. Explosions could also be heard in Qatar. Jordan said it "dealt with" 49 drones and ballistic missiles.

Iran-US talks likely to resume

which had been the only Gulf state spared from attack during the first day of the Iranian campaign, the port of Duqm was targeted by two Iranian drones, injuring one foreign worker, official state media reported.

"They want to talk, and I have agreed to talk, so I will be talking to them. They should have done it sooner. They should have given what was very practical and easy to do sooner. They waited too long," Trump said in the interview from his Florida residence.

However, the Republican leader did not specify who he would be speaking with or say whether it would occur on Sunday or Monday.

J&K has emerged as top performer in national integration progs: LG

are securing the future of a family, and giving birth to employment, skill and opportunity," the LG said.

He emphasised that every stakeholder must understand that trade was not merely the act of buying and selling. Trade must be viewed as the flow of opportunity, he said.

"Small-scale and micro-enterprises now anchor J&K's economy," he said, highlighting the efforts that have revolutionised work in villages and towns, instituting ease of living and ease of doing business, vowing to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a genuine market powerhouse.

"We have crafted fresh opportunities for youth and women, starting thousands of small and micro manufacturing ventures that sustain families, stabilise society, and now shaping Jammu & Kashmir business landscape," he said.

"The winds of change stir palpably in Jammu & Kashmir too. Post-2019's historic shift, revolutionary strides reshaped industrial growth and MSMEs. The new industrial policy earned the Union Territory its place among the most preferred investment destinations in the country," he added.

The LG emphasised the necessity of rapid economic growth and the implementation of technological solutions to ensure a transparent, corruption-free system.

He urged every section of society to remain vigilant against elements trying to radicalise the youth and making efforts to sustain the terror ecosystem.

The LG also spoke on meritocracy and called for collective action to achieve a terror-free Jammu & Kashmir.

He stated that the number of stakeholders in peace had grown significantly over the last few years, with a vast majority of the population now prioritizing stability and prosperity.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, Chairman, National Traders Welfare Board (NTWB), Sunil Singh, Commissioner, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, Member, NTWB and National President, Federation of Trade & Industry of India (FTII), Sanjay Bansal, business & industry leaders, entrepreneurs, members of FTII, representatives of various trade organisations and senior officials were among those present on the occasion.

Army fires at Pak drone near LoC

safely, the officials added. A search operation was launched to ensure that there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics by the drone, officials said.

On February 27, troops had also fired on a Pakistani drone in the same area.

Universities, colleges, schools closed for 2 days in valley

sities, colleges and schools for two days in the valley," she said.

"The situation is being closely monitored and a decision on reopening of educational institutions will be taken after reviewing the ground scenario," she added.

Good Governance Conference in Jammu

dra Singh and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would jointly inaugurate it.

The theme of the conference is "Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat", said the statement issued by the personnel ministry on Sunday.

The event will commence with a session showcasing Prime Minister's Award-winning initiatives for 2023 and 2024, featuring presentations from districts and institutions including Eluru (Andhra Pradesh), Gomati (Tripura), Koraput (Odisha) and Kargil (UT of Ladakh).

The conference will showcase governance models that have received recognition under the various categories of the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, it said. The second technical session will present additional award-winning initiatives covering aspirational blocks, innovative projects, and holistic district development models from Nalbari (Assam), Kupwara (J-K), the statement said.

A dedicated session on Jammu and Kashmir's best practices will highlight governance innovations from the Kulgam district, RFID-enabled Yatra management by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and the e-Suvidha initiative of the Ramban district.

The conference is expected to be attended by more than 200 delegates from across India, including senior administrators, domain experts, and practitioners in the field of public administration.

The conference seeks to provide a platform for district collectors, senior officials, policymakers and experts to share experiences, exchange ideas, and deliberate on strategies for achieving saturation of flagship schemes, integrated development across sectors, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms.

India beat West Indies, qualify for semis

stitched a 50-run partnership with India captain Suryakumar Yadav, right after they lost Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan early in a chase of 196.

Samson set the highest score by an Indian batter in a chase in the T20 World Cup, going past Virat Kohli's twin scores of 82 runs (against Australia and Pakistan).

Earlier, cameos from Roston Chase, Rovman Powell and Jason Holder took West Indies to 195/5 in 20 overs after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav won the toss and opted to bowl first against Shai Hope's West Indies in the final game of the Super 8 in the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

India had thrashed Zimbabwe in their previous game and come back into some sort of form after losing to South Africa last Sunday in Ahmedabad. The batting stuck in form again as the power-hitters showed their prowess at Chepauk.

Maj Gen Ajai Dabas takes over as Delta Force GOC

is headquartered in Batote area of Ramban district. The force has been instrumental in eliminating terrorism to a large extent in the districts of Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda.

After assuming charge as the General Officer Commanding of Delta, Maj Gen Dabas paid homage to the bravehearts by laying a wreath at the War Memorial and extended his best wishes to all ranks, Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Maj Gen Dabas exhorted all personnel to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence, maintain unwavering vigilance and continue fostering peace and stability in the region.

Maj Gen Bal had taken over the command of the Delta force in November 2024 and led the troops in a successful operation that led to the killing of three Pakistani terrorists including their commander Saifullah of proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit in Chatroo area of Kishtwar on February 22.

A total of seven Pakistani terrorists were neutralized in the upper reaches of Kishtwar in the past one year during the relentless year-long operation.

Modi chairs key CCS meet as chaos unfolds in Middle East

prime minister. The meeting was also said to have focused on measures for the safe return of Indians stranded in the conflict-hit region.

The CCS review comes as the conflict in the Middle East intensifies, with the United States and Israel carrying out strikes inside Iran and Tehran vowing retaliation, raising fears of a wider regional escalation that could disrupt global oil supplies and regional stability.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has already spoken with counterparts in Iran, Israel and Gulf nations, urging restraint and emphasising India's concerns. India has repeatedly urged dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the issue.

Indian missions in the region have issued advisories asking citizens to avoid non-essential travel, remain vigilant and stay in touch with embassies. The Indian diaspora in West Asia is substantial, including about 3.9 million in the UAE, 2.75 million in Saudi Arabia, over 1 million in Kuwait, 830,000 in Qatar, 662,000 in Oman and around 347,000 in Bahrain.

The CCS is the highest decision-making body on security and strategic matters of the country.

The prime minister heads the CCS while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are its members.

Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei was killed in a major attack on Iran launched by Israel and the United States. Iranian state television and the state-run IRNA news agency announced the 86-year-old's death early Sunday.

The announcements came after a joint US and Israeli aerial bombardment on Saturday that targeted Iranian military and governmental sites.

US President Donald Trump said it gave the Iranians their greatest chance to take back their country.

Trump said the heavy and pinpoint bombing was to continue through the week or as long as necessary.

Sinha holds meeting on security situation in J&K

civil administration in safeguarding law and order. "I urge all communities to remain calm and united in this hour. I salute the unwavering, synchronised resolve of our police, security forces and civil administration upholding law and order," he said.

"The government is closely tracking the West Asia situation, with senior UT officials coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs for safety and welfare of J&K residents and students," Sinha added.

Cong slams govt response over West Asia crisis

In his post on X, Ramesh lashed out at the Modi government's foreign policy.

"The US President continues his romance with Pakistan, applauding again and again the very man whose inflammatory remarks provided the backdrop to the terror attacks in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. The US has also categorically come out in support of Pakistan's war on Afghanistan," he said.

The US President has, at last count, claimed a hundred times that he had intervened to halt Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025 using the threat of increased tariffs on India's exports to the US, Ramesh said.

"But the PM is completely silent on these assertions of President Trump. The first announcement of the halt to Operation Sindoor was made by the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at 5:37 PM on May 10, 2025," he said.

Ramesh pointed out that on February 2nd, 2026 President Trump declared that - at Prime Mijistr Modi's request - the India-US trade deal had been finalised and is coming into effect immediately.

"That this was a desperate move by Modi who was attempting to divert the headlines from the issues raised by Rahul Gandhi in Parliament is clearly obvious," he claimed.

"Eighteen days later, the US Supreme Court announced that President Trump's tariff strategy that formed the foundations of the India-US trade deal was illegal and unconstitutional. This decision was widely expected but Mr. Modi pressured President Trump to sign the trade deal for his own political calculations," Ramesh said.

The Congress on Saturday condemned the attacks launched on Iran by the US and Israel, and called upon the Indian government to help bring the hostilities to an end and ensure the safety of all Indians in the West Asia.

The opposition party expressed concern over the escalating hostilities in the region and urged the government to ensure that all Indians living there are safe.

The United States and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday, with Trump calling on the Iranian public to seize control of their destiny and rise up against the Islamic leadership that has ruled their country since 1979.

Bar, Bench can't be separated in justice delivery system: CJI

tal. When a patient goes, the first thing is to provide him with the first medical aid so that he feels that he is in safe hands, his life is not in danger.

"The same thing should happen with a consumer of justice who comes to you. Once he enters this complex, he should have a feeling that he will leave this complex only after securing justice. And that, my dear friends in the Bar, it is an equal responsibility on the Bar and the bench both," he said. He also said whichever part of the country he visits, he would appeal to all the state governments to provide judicial infrastructure that takes care of the next 50 or 100 years.

Justice Kant said that after some time, good places may not be available for the judicial infrastructure as the lands

are shrinking, the country is developing, population is also growing, industrialisation is developing, and urbanisation is swelling.

Supreme Court Judges PS Narasimha, Prasanth Kumar Mishra, SV N Bhatti and Joymalya Bagchi and Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court Justice Dheeraj Singh Thakur, also attended the event.

17 killed in blast at gunpowder factory

tions. Representatives of SBL Energy Limited said the incident occurred at the company's detonator packing unit between 7 am and 7.15 am.

Rescue operations were underway, a company official said, adding that they will release a statement soon.

The injured were shifted to a hospital in Nagpur immediately after the blast, the police said.

District Collector Vipin Itankar and Superintendent of Police Harsh Podar were at the spot.

The incident comes a day after a blast at a cracker unit in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district claimed 21 lives.

Afghanistan fires at Pak jets as conflict intensifies

rastructure. Afghanistan described the strikes as a violation of sovereignty and announced retaliatory operations along their shared border.

Iran, which shares borders with both Afghanistan and Pakistan, had offered to help facilitate dialogue before itself coming under attack on Saturday from Israel and the US bent on diminishing Iran's military capability.

Pakistan has said Afghanistan harbours Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants, which it said are waging an insurgency inside Pakistan.

Afghanistan has denied the accusation, saying it does not allow Afghan territory to be used against other countries and that Pakistan's security challenges are an internal matter.

Pakistani security sources have said operation "Ghazab Lil Haq", meaning "Wrath for the Truth", was ongoing and that Pakistani forces had destroyed Afghan posts and camps.

Both sides have reported heavy losses, issuing differing casualty figures for each other.

Diplomatic efforts have intensified, with Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, the European Union and United Nations urging restraint and calling for talks.

The US said it supports Pakistan's right to defend itself.

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif described the fighting as "open war".

Afghanistan Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani said the conflict would be "very costly". He said only front-line forces were engaged in fighting that the country has yet to fully deploy its military.

Iran crisis: No immediate oil disruption for India

closed the week near seven-month highs at around USD 73 per barrel, after rising roughly 16 per cent since the start of the year. Traders are bracing for heightened volatility next week, with some models pointing to prices moving towards USD 80 a barrel if supply flows are disrupted or face credible threats.

India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil - the raw material for making fuels like petrol and diesel - and about half of its requirement of natural gas - the feedstock for generating electricity, producing fertiliser, fuel for household kitchens and CNG for automobiles - and cooking gas LPG.

Kpler vessel tracking data shows that 2.5-2.7 million barrels per day, roughly 50 per cent of India's crude oil import, transits through the Strait of Hormuz, largely sourced from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait.

Besides, as much as 60 per cent of India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports move through the Strait of Hormuz, primarily from Gulf suppliers, such as Qatar and the UAE, making India's gas supplies vulnerable to disruptions in the route.

More importantly, India imports almost all of its LPG through the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption or restriction at this chokepoint would immediately pressure LPG flows.

"Indian refineries put together hold anywhere between 10 to 15 days of crude inventories, both in tanks and in transit. Besides, all their fuel tanks are full, which can easily meet 7-10 days of the country's fuel requirement," an official said.

"For now, we think the closure of the Strait of Hormuz will not be very long."

Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), which controls the sea lane, has in messages in high frequency warned that no ships are allowed to pass through the Strait, but has so far not attacked any of them.

Another official said the world has enough crude oil supplies and India can tap sellers as far as Venezuela and Brazil besides Africa.

"India had cut purchases from Russia in response to US pressure, but we can go back to buying from Moscow in case there is disruption in the Middle East," he said.

Crude has climbed more than USD 12 per barrel year-to-date amid rising geopolitical tensions. Brent futures settled at USD 72.87 per barrel on February 27, after touching an intraday high of USD 73.54 - the highest level since July 30, 2025.

India assures visa relief to stranded foreign travellers

their stay.

The MEA said the FRROs concerned will extend assistance. It is not immediately clear how many foreign tourists are stranded in India due to the flight cancellations. Hundreds of flights have been disrupted across the Middle East and in other countries, including India, due to airspace restrictions after the US and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday.

Iranian state media confirmed early Sunday that Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the attack by Israel and the US.

Air India said it has cancelled 22 more international services for Sunday, bringing the total number of overseas flight cancellations announced so far to 50 due to the Middle East crisis.

Indian airlines are expected to cancel 444 international flights on March 1 due to airspace restrictions in the Middle East, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry.

Admin committed to addressing genuine concerns of people: Kavinder

tions, fostering entrepreneurship, and strengthening local skill ecosystems to meet emerging challenges and opportunities.

Meanwhile, Anmol, President of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Chandigarh, also called on the LG and apprised him of the initiatives being undertaken by the organisation to promote self-reliance, indigenous industries, and sustainable economic practices.

Gupta appreciated the efforts aimed at promoting "Vocal for Local" initiatives and emphasised the importance of strengthening grassroots economic models in the Union Territory.

He highlighted the administration's commitment to fostering a balanced approach to development that preserves Ladakh's unique cultural and ecological heritage while ensuring economic growth.