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Uranium deal sealed; USD 50 bn trade target set

but for all humanity. "Our close cooperation against these is crucial for global peace and stability," he said. Modi and Carney also deliberated on the precarious security situation in West Asia with PM Modi asserting that India supports the resolution of all conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

"The current situation in West Asia is a matter of deep concern for us. India supports the resolution of all disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. We will continue to work with all countries to ensure the safety of all Indian citizens in the region," the prime minister said in his media statement.

The major outcomes of the Modi-Carney talks were their decision to expand trade relations, a move that comes amid Canada's increasingly frosty economic ties with the Trump administration.

The fresh move to bolster ties came as part of ongoing efforts by the two sides to reset the relations that came under severe strain following a diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani separatist in 2023.

"Our goal is to reach USD 50 billion in trade by 2030. Unlocking the full potential of economic cooperation is our priority. Therefore, we have decided to finalise the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement soon."

"This will create new investment and employment opportunities in both countries," Modi said. "Canada's pension funds have invested USD 100 billion in India. This symbolises their deep belief in India's growth story," he said.

The volume of two-way annual trade at present is around USD 13 billion. The prime minister said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on critical minerals will strengthen resilient supply chains.

Canada is known for its significant reservoir of critical minerals and rare earth materials.

"In the energy sector, we are building a next-generation partnership, which will focus on hydrocarbons as well as renewable energy, green hydrogen and energy storage," Modi said.

"In civil nuclear energy, we have signed a landmark deal for long-term uranium supply. We will also work together on small modular reactors and advanced reactors," he said.

Modi said the growing cooperation between the two countries in the field of defence and security symbolises the deep mutual trust and the maturity of the relationship.

"We will work to enhance defence industries, maritime domain awareness and military exchanges. To this end, today we have decided to establish the India-Canada defence dialogue," he said.

The prime minister also highlighted the expansion of two-way ties in the education sector.

"New partnerships between several universities in AI, healthcare, agriculture and innovation are being announced. We also agreed on Canadian universities opening campuses in India," he said.

The prime minister also made a mention of how India and Canada share an "unwavering belief" in democratic values.

"We celebrate diversity. The well-being of humanity is our shared vision. This vision inspires us to move forward in every field. Today, we discussed transforming this vision into a next level partnership," he said.

In his remarks, Carney mentioned the future of India-Canada energy ties.

"Today, we are launching a strategic energy partnership with significant potential to expand bilateral energy trade. We've signed a new critical minerals partnership spanning development, processing and secure supply chains for clean energy, electric vehicles and advanced manufacturing," he said.

"We're deepening our cooperation in clean energy, expanding collaboration across wind, solar and hydrogen, because Canada has big plans as well," he said.

Carney described the uranium supply agreement as a reflection of shared commitment to clean, reliable energy.

"All of these agreements under one planet are the beginning of a new, prosperous relationship that will offer generational opportunities for workers and businesses in both their countries and which will protect the planet for future generations," he said.

Carney landed in New Delhi on Sunday after spending two days in Mumbai, where he met several industry leaders.

In the face of its tense trade ties with the Trump administration, Canada is looking at building a stronger, independent and more resilient economy.

However, Liberal Party leader Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April last year helped in beginning the process to reset relations.

Subsequently, both sides have already posted their high commissioners in each other's capitals.

Last June, Modi travelled to Kananaskis, Canada, to attend the G7 summit.

Modi and Carney held extensive talks on the margins of the summit with a focus on rebuilding the ties.

War widens as Israeli, US planes pound Iran

whether to go to war or peace, and called on the Lebanese military to prevent the firing of projectiles and detain anyone involved.

In Kuwait, fire and smoke rose from inside the U.S. Embassy compound.

On Monday afternoon, multiple airstrikes hit Tehran, Iran's capital, while top Iranian security official Ali Larjani vowed on X that "we will not negotiate with the United States."

In Iraq, a pro-Iranian militia claimed responsibility for a drone attack targeting U.S. troops at the Baghdad airport, the day after it said it fired at a U.S. base in the city of Irbil in the north, and Cyprus said a drone attack targeted a British base on the Mediterranean island nation.

Israel and the U.S. bombed Iranian missile sites and targeted its navy, claiming to have destroyed its headquarters and multiple warships.

Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura oil refinery came under a drone attack on Monday, with defenses downing the incoming aircraft, a military spokesman told the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

Ras Tanura, near the city of Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, is one of the world's largest with a capacity over half a million barrels of crude oil a day. It was temporarily shut down as a precaution after the attack, Saudi state television reported.

Oman said a bomb-carrying drone boat exploded against Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Monday, off the coast of the sultanate's capital of Muskat, killing one mariner. The state-run Oman News Agency said the dead crew member was from India.

Earlier in the day, debris fell on Kuwait's Ahmadi oil refinery, injuring two workers, after drones were shot down, the state-run KUNA news agency reported.

Iran's decision to expand its attacks to major regional oil infrastructure adds a new element to the war gripping the Middle East, directly targeting the lifeblood of the area's economy.

"The attack on Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura refinery marks a significant escalation, with Gulf energy infrastructure now squarely in Iran's sights," said Torbjorn Soltvedt, an analyst at the risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.

"An extended period of uncertainty lies ahead as Iran seeks to impose a heavy economic cost by putting tankers, regional energy infrastructure, trade routes and U.S. security partners in the crosshairs," he added.

Iran has also threatened ships in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all oil traded passes. Several ships have been attacked as well there.

Iran's Ambassador to the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Reza Najafi, told reporters that the U.S.-Israeli airstrikes had targeted Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment site on Sunday.

"Again, they attacked Iran's peaceful safeguarded nuclear facilities yesterday," he said. "Their justification that Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons is simply a big lie."

Israel and the U.S. have not acknowledged strikes at the site, which the U.S. bombed back in the 12-day war between Iran and Israel in June. The Israeli military also did not immediately comment on Najafi's allegation.

Israel has not publicised specific targets in Iran but has said that it is targeting "leadership and nuclear infrastructure."

As the attacks on Iran continued, Hezbollah said it fired missiles from Lebanon into Israel early Monday in response to the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and "repeated Israeli aggressions." There were no reports of injuries or damage, and Israel said that it had intercepted one projectile while several fell in open areas.

Israel retaliated with strikes on Lebanon, killing at least 31 people and wounding 149 others, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. About two thirds of the dead were in the country's south.

Lebanon's government said it was holding an emergency meeting after Hezbollah's attack on Israel triggered the Israeli airstrikes.

Iran has been firing missiles at Israel and Arab states in a counteroffensive since the joint America-Israeli attack Saturday that killed Khamenei and many top Iranian officials.

Gulf Arab states have warned that they could retaliate against Iran after strikes that hit key sites and killed at least five civilians, and U.S. President Donald Trump promised Washington would "avenge" the deaths of three American troops who were killed in Kuwait, while predicting more casualties.

"Sadly, there will likely be more before it ends," Trump said. "That's the way it is."

Trump has urged Iranians to "take over" their government and, while he has also signaled he would be open to dialogue with new leadership there following the death of Khamenei, suggested Sunday there was no end in sight to the military operations.

"Combat operations continue at this time in full-force, and they will continue until all of our objectives are achieved," he said in a video message. "We have very strong objectives," he added, without elaborating.

The U.S. military said B-2 stealth bombers struck Iran's ballistic missile facilities with 2,000-pound bombs. Trump said on social media that nine Iranian warships had been sunk and that the Iranian navy's headquarters had been "largely destroyed."

Others have mostly stayed out of the war and pressed for diplomacy. But in an indication that the conflict could draw in other nations, Britain, France and Germany said Sunday they were ready to work with the U.S. to help stop Iran's attacks.

Early Monday, Cyprus said an uncrewed drone "caused limited damage" when it hit a British air base on the southern coast. Further details were not immediately available, but it came after British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the U.K. would help the U.S. in the war against Iran.

The weekend attacks were the second time in eight months that the U.S. and Israel had combined against Iran, in a startling show of military might for an American president elected on an "America First" platform and pledged to keep out of "forever wars."

In the 12-day war last June, Israeli and American strikes greatly weakened Iran's air defenses, military leadership and nuclear program. But the killing of Khamenei, who ruled Iran for more than three decades, creates a leadership vacuum, increasing the risk of regional instability.

In Israel, rescue services have confirmed several locations have been hit by Iranian missiles, including Jerusalem and a synagogue in Beit Shemesh, where nine people were killed and 28 wounded, bringing the overall death toll in the country to 11.

The World Health Organization called Monday for sparing civilians and healthcare facilities in the Middle East amid the escalating conflict.

India set to witness total lunar eclipse

Earth, and a partial lunar eclipse occurs only when a part of the Moon comes under the shadow of the Earth.

In a post on X, IMD mentioned that a total lunar eclipse is set to occur on Tuesday, marking a significant astronomical event with a deep magnitude of 1.155. This phenomenon takes place when the entire Moon enters the Earth's umbral shadow, whereas a partial eclipse is limited to only a portion of the Moon being obscured. This particular total eclipse will be visible to observers across India, as well as in Eastern Asia, Australia, and the Americas".

In the Indian context, the experience will vary by region. Most of the places in India will observe the ending of the lunar eclipse at the time of moonrise, except some places of North-East India and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where the end of the totality phase of the eclipse will also be visible.

According to Indian Standard Time (IST), the celestial event will follow a specific schedule throughout the afternoon and evening. The eclipse is slated to begin at 15:20 (3:20 PM), with the totality phase starting at 16:34 (4:34 PM). The Moon will remain completely within the Earth's shadow until totality ends at 17:33 (5:33 PM), and the entire eclipse cycle will officially conclude at 18:48 (6:48 PM).

A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon are precisely aligned, and the Moon passes into the shadow of the Earth. During a total lunar eclipse, the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon and blocks any direct sunlight from reaching the Moon.

New J&K houses proposed in Mumbai, Amritsar

pected to be completed in phases, subject to statutory clearances, finalisation of Detailed Project Reports and approval of executing agencies, the officials of Housing and Protocol department said.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of erstwhile state of J&K into two Union Territories, assets were divided between J&K and Ladakh under the Reorganisation Act, 2019. Major allocations include the division of corporations, staff, and properties in Delhi, Chandigarh, and other locations.

Officials said the government intends to augment accommodation infrastructure on its land assets belong to the UT of J&K at various locations including New Delhi, Mumbai, Amritsar and Chandigarh.

An amount of Rs 36.61 crore (revised estimates) have been allocated for FY 2025-26 for seven projects in Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and Amritsar in Punjab, the officials said, adding major allocations include Rs 20.90 crore for Dwarka, Rs 6.40 crore for Chandigarh, Rs 2.50 crore for Amritsar and Rs 1.25 crore for Mumbai, they said.

In Mumbai, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of J&K Bhawan at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, is under formulation, while construction of additional structures on available vacant land is under consideration in Amritsar.

In Chandigarh, conversion of the existing SCO building into a J&K House has commenced, the officials said.

At J&K House (5 Prithviraj Road New Delhi), a redevelopment and upgradation project of the existing structure is being taken up, they said, adding drafting of Expression of Interest (EoI) is at an advanced stage of preparation.

However, the officials said as the property falls under the Lutyens' Bungalow Zone (LBZ), construction of any new structure requires approval from the Prime Minister's Office.

The main building, being a heritage structure, cannot be altered, and any new structure cannot exceed its height as per norms. Other existing structures within nine metres of the boundary wall will have to be demolished once formal approvals are applied for, the officials said.

They said the matter is being taken up with the executing agencies to come up with the best possible execution models keeping in view the issues and the need for adequate accommodation within the complex.

At J&K House, Chanakyapuri (New Delhi), the officials said construction of new structures is not feasible due to space constraints, though redevelopment and upgradation have been carried out.

For Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg (New Delhi), redevelopment within prescribed height and zoning norms is permissible. Reconstruction of staff accommodation is being undertaken in a phased manner, and work has commenced.

In Dwarka (Delhi), construction of a new Jammu and Kashmir House on acquired land has been proposed. Various execution models are under examination and a comprehensive proposal is under preparation, the officials said.

MHA alerts states after US-Israel strikes on Iran

leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. The ministry noted that rapidly evolving international developments had the potential to impact India's internal security situation.

In its communication to state governments, the MHA has directed security agencies to remain on high alert and closely monitor the activities of both pro-Iran and anti-Iran groups.

States have also been instructed to strengthen security arrangements around Iranian, American and Israeli embassies and consulates, as well as other diplomatic establishments.

The advisory flags potential threats from Shia militias and terrorist organisations such as the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda.

Intelligence inputs suggest that extremist groups may seek to exploit the prevailing tensions to foment unrest or carry out disruptive activities, it said.

According to the alert, major tourist destinations, Jewish institutions and establishments linked to Western countries could be potential targets, apart from diplomatic missions.

The Centre has advised states to step up the deployment of security personnel at critical and sensitive locations.

Local police units have been asked to intensify checks in crowded areas and vulnerable sites and to conduct regular inspection drives to detect explosives, including improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

DGPs have been instructed to ensure that quick response teams remain operational and ready to respond swiftly to any untoward incident.

The Home Ministry has also placed special emphasis on monitoring social media platforms to curb the spread of inflammatory messages, misinformation and rumours that could disturb communal harmony. Cyber cells have been directed to keep a close watch on online content and take prompt action wherever necessary.

The MHA said it is continuously reviewing the security situation and remains in close coordination with state authorities to ensure preparedness and prevent any escalation of law-and-order issues

Deletion of their names from rolls has made Mamata nervous: Shah

electoral push. "Right now, only names are being deleted from voter rolls, and Mamata is nervous. Once BJP forms the government, we will identify and remove every infiltrator from Bengal," he said, addressing a gathering in the coastal belt abutting the Sundarbans and close to the porous Indo-Bangladesh frontier.

His remarks came days after the Election Commission's post-SIR rolls recorded 63.66 lakh deletions, 8.3 per cent of the electorate, reducing the voter base to just over 7.04 crore ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

More than 60.06 lakh electors have also been placed in the "under adjudication" category, subject to scrutiny in the coming weeks, marking the most sweeping electoral reset in the state since 2002.

For the BJP, which has built its Bengal pitch around citizenship and border security since 2019, the revised rolls have provided both validation and velocity.

"TMC has made Bengal a swarg (heaven) for infiltrators," Shah alleged, asserting that the border state's security had been compromised by "appeasement politics".

"Bengal is a bordering state. The TMC cannot ensure security because they allow infiltration. Only the BJP can provide security to a bordering state like Bengal," he said.

Drawing a calibrated distinction between "infiltrators" and Hindu refugees, a politically sensitive divide in the Matua-dominated refugee belt, Shah sought to reassure Hindu migrants from Bangladesh.

"I want to assure Hindu refugees that not a single refugee will lose their citizenship," he said, reiterating the party's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) plank.

The SIR churn has been sharpest in the Matua belt across North 24 Parganas, Nadia and parts of north Bengal, where community leaders claim nearly 40 per cent of the community has been impacted either through deletions or by 'under adjudication', an assertion that, if validated, could reverberate across 40-50 Assembly seats where the Dalit Hindu refugee bloc anchors the BJP's core vote bank.

The 'Poriborton Yatra', Shah said, was not merely about a change of chief minister but about "freeing Bengal from infiltrators, corruption and syndicate raj".

"Change means securing our borders. Change means ending corruption in jobs. Change means safety for mothers and sisters. Change means rule of law," he said, repeatedly asking the crowd whether infiltrators should be removed and whether corruption in recruitment should end.

Shah also accused Banerjee of duplicity on religious issues.

"Mamata Banerjee is now busy inaugurating temples as she knows the Hindus are not happy with her. But she is allowing the building of Babri Masjid in Bengal. In a well-crafted conspiracy, she has ensured Humayun Kabir's exit from the party so that he can build the Babri Masjid. This is a nexus between Kabir and Mamata Didi," he alleged.

TMC MLA Kabir had in December last year laid the foundation stone for a mosque, modelled on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid, at Rejinagar in West Bengal's Murshidabad district.

He was later expelled from the party.

Besides infiltration, Shah widened the attack surface to corruption, fiscal stress and alleged dynastic ambitions within the ruling party.

Listing alleged scams - teacher recruitment, municipal appointments, cattle smuggling, PDS ration distribution, MGNREGA and PM Awas -- he accused the TMC of institutionalising graft and alleged that several of its leaders had landed in jail.

"And the DGP who provided protection to all these scams is being sent to the Rajya Sabha by Mamata Banerjee," he said, criticising the TMC's decision to nominate former DGP Rajeev Kumar to the Upper House.

Kumar, who retired as the acting Director General of Police of West Bengal in January this year and earlier headed the Kolkata Police, was at the centre of a high-profile confrontation between the state government and central agencies during the CBI probe into the Saradha chit fund case.

"Corruption has become Bengal's identity. Whenever Bengal's name comes up in the country, the first thing that comes to mind is the corrupt TMC government," Shah said.

In a pointed "bhaipo" (nephew) barb aimed at TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Shah alleged that the chief minister's real goal was to install her nephew in power.

"If the people here make the mistake of voting again for the TMC, Bengal will have a government run by nephew Abhishek Banerjee and not by Mamata Didi," he said.

"Bring a BJP government and within 45 days we will implement the Seventh Pay Commission for state government employees, fill vacant posts without bribery, ensure security for women, and jail those who killed BJP workers," he said.

Kavinder reviews arrangements for exposition of Buddha relics

Ladakh. The LG shared that the idea was inspired following his meeting with the prime minister and his visit to view the sacred Piprahwa Buddha relics in New Delhi.

Recognising Ladakh's deep-rooted Buddhist traditions and a large number of devotees in the region, he felt it was imperative that the people be given an opportunity to seek blessings locally.

Emphasising that only two months remained for preparations, the LG called for meticulous planning, seamless coordination and time-bound execution of responsibilities.

He stressed the importance of forming dedicated sub-committees to ensure accountability and efficiency in every aspect of the event, including logistics, security, medical facilities, sanitation, and volunteer management.

Highlighting the spiritual dimension, he underscored the need for mass prayers, mantra chanting and an interfaith seminar, particularly in today's volatile global environment, to send a powerful message of peace, unity and harmony from Ladakh to the world.

He emphasised that the teachings of Buddha must serve as a guiding light for the younger generation, fostering unity, compassion and mutual respect.

The LG also noted that a large number of tourists were expected to visit Ladakh in May and directed the concerned departments and local stakeholders to disseminate knowledge about the sacred relics and their historical and spiritual significance among visitors.

He assured that the UT administration would make all coordinated efforts, in collaboration with religious authorities and security agencies, to ensure smooth crowd management and a spiritually enriching, secure, and memorable experience for all devotees.

Gupta sought the continued guidance and cooperation of all revered Rinpoches and stakeholders to make the holy exposition a grand success and a defining spiritual milestone for Ladakh.

He also appealed to the people of Ladakh to extend their wholehearted support and active participation in making the exposition a truly historic and spiritually elevating occasion.

Urging citizens to uphold the values of discipline, hospitality and harmony, he called upon volunteers, civil society organisations, youth groups and religious institutions to work in close coordination with the administration.

Earlier, chief secretary Ashish Kundra briefed the meeting about the historic initiative undertaken by the LG to bring the sacred Buddha relics to Ladakh for the blessings of its people.

He informed that, following the LG's application to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, highlighting Ladakh as a land of profound Buddhist heritage, the proposal was accepted. "The sacred relics are expected to arrive in Leh on April 28-29, with a grand ceremonial reception planned on May 1. The relics will be placed at Jivestral for public display for approximately 15 days, enabling devotees from across Ladakh to seek blessings. A review meeting of the constituted committee for planning and coordination will be held shortly," he said and assured that arrangements, including transportation facilities, would be made to ensure maximum participation from all districts.

The Rinpoches expressed gratitude to the UT administration for the initiative and offered valuable suggestions which included robust security arrangements, effective crowd management systems, constitution of smaller task-oriented committees, adoption of best practices from international events such as the Global Peace Prayer in Bhutan, mass chanting by different Buddhist sects, a grand reception at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, multilingual information dissemination for devotees and tourists, screening of films on Buddha, and inviting ambassadors from Southeast Asian nations and representatives of Buddhist learning centres.

The meeting was also attended by spiritual leaders including Thiksay Rinpoche, Drukpa Thuksey, Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche, Drubwang Rinpoche, Khenchen Rangdol Rinpoche, Urgan Rinpoche, Palga Rinpoche, Khantul Rinpoche, Likte Khamtak Rinpoche, Thiksay Khamtak Rinpoche and Tsamtrul Rinpoche.

SEC to hold meet on panchayat electoral roll revision

ing regarding revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll-2026 and to review status of delimitation of ULBs/updation of control table on Tuesday through video conference. As such, all deputy commissioner, along with deputy DEOs, DIOs and ENTs of Union Territory of J&K are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting on the scheduled date and time slot through video conference. The meeting link shall be shared separately."