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## US will press on with Iran military campaign, says Trump

United States is prioritising military objectives over immediate diplomatic recalibration.

The reference to the newspaper opinion piece highlights how domestic political narratives intersect with foreign policy messaging. Public statements made through social media platforms allow leaders to frame events in real time, often amplifying the sense of urgency or triumph. In this instance, Trump's post appears designed both to reinforce perceptions of operational success and to rebut suggestions that negotiations could offer a pathway out of the conflict.

For global markets and regional stakeholders, the continuation of US military operations against Iran raises concerns about wider instability in West Asia. Energy markets remain particularly sensitive, given the region's central role in global oil supply. Any escalation could heighten volatility in crude prices, disrupt shipping lanes and increase geopolitical risk premiums.

The broader geopolitical implications are equally significant. A prolonged confrontation risks drawing in regional actors and complicating alliances, while also affecting global diplomatic alignments. Whether the United States can sustain its current strategy without triggering unintended escalation will depend on developments on the ground, Iran's response, and the appetite within Washington for either prolonged engagement or eventual recalibration.

For now, Trump's message is unequivocal: despite signals from Tehran suggesting openness to dialogue, the administration considers the moment for talks to have passed and is pressing forward with its military campaign.

Across Tehran, the sound of explosions rang out through the night and into the early morning hours on Tuesday, as the US and Israel continued to pound Iran since the killing of its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on February 28.

Tehran and its allies have hit back against Israel, neighbouring Gulf states, and targets critical to the world's production of oil and natural gas.

The intensity of the attacks and the lack of any apparent exit plan set the stage for a prolonged conflict with far-reaching consequences. Israel and the US have given conflicting answers about what exactly the war's objectives are or what the endgame might be.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late Monday defended the decision to go to war, contending in an interview that Iran was rebuilding "new sites, new places" that would make "their ballistic missile programme and their atomic bomb programme immune within months," without providing evidence.

Satellite photos showed limited activity at two nuclear sites in Iran before the war, with analysts saying it was likely Tehran was trying to assess damage from American strikes in June and possibly salvage what remained there.

Iran is continuing to threaten shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all oil traded passes.

Brig Gen Ebrahim Jabbari, an adviser to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, issued the threat on Iranian state television on Monday.

"The Strait of Hormuz is closed. Anyone who wants to pass, our devotee heroes in the IRGC navy and the army will set those ships on fire," he said. "Don't come to this region."

The Israeli military said Tuesday it was conducting "simultaneous targeted strikes against military targets in Tehran and Beirut," without elaborating.

The US State Department said it added Iraq to the evacuation list from its Mideast diplomatic outposts.

Israeli airstrikes hit the Lebanese capital on Tuesday morning.

The Israeli military said it was targeting "Hezbollah command centres and weapons storage facilities in Beirut."

Hezbollah also said it launched drones targeting an Israeli air base.

The Israeli military said it downed two drones.

Tokyo has told Japanese shipowners to have their ships stay away from the Persian Gulf to ensure the safety of their crew members.

## CRPF cop suffers gunshot injury

Currently undergoing treatment, officials said. Police had taken cognisance of the incident and initiated necessary legal proceedings to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident, the officials added.

## Schools, colleges to remain closed in Kashmir till Mar 7

Officials said further updates regarding the reopening of educational institutions would be communicated in due course of time.

Students, parents, and faculty members have been advised to stay in touch with official channels for timely information.

## NIA seeks China's help to trace GoPro camera used in terror attack

An application presented by the agency in Jammu court seeking approval for issuance of an LR to the competent judicial authority of the People's Republic of China, through the Ministry of External Affairs.

The NIA stated in its application in the Jammu court that "during the course of investigation of the aforesaid case, various material objects and electronic devices connected with the conspiracy and execution of said terrorist attack have been examined. One such crucial electronic device is a GoPro Hero 12 black camera, bearing serial No. C3501325471706, which is relevant for establishing pre-attack reconnaissance, movement and operational preparation of the terrorist module involved in the Pahalgam attack."

The NIA informed the court that it had issued a lawful notice under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to the manufacturer GoPro B V, seeking details regarding the supply chain and activation of the device.

"In its official response, GoPro BV has informed that the camera was supplied to AE Group International Limited, a distributor based in the People's Republic of China. The camera was activated on January 30, 2024 at Dongguan, People's Republic of China. The manufacturer has further stated that it does not possess downstream transaction details or end-user records of the said device," NIA mentioned in its application.

NIA moved the application as the activation, initial use and commercial trail of the camera lie within the territorial jurisdiction of China, and the information necessary to trace the purchaser, end-user and associated technical records can only be obtained through judicial assistance of the Chinese authorities.

Since India and China are not signatories to any mutual treaty, such as the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Agreement (MLAT) on the subject, in such an eventuality, resort is taken to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) for seeking assistance as requested, as both nations have ratified the UNTOC.

The information linked to the seized GoPro Hero 12 black camera is important in establishing the chain of custody, user, attribution and evidentiary linkage as it was supplied to China's AE group International Limited.

The NIA formally registered a First Information Report in the case on April 26 night, following an order issued from Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalisation (CTCR) division of the MHA, considering the gravity of the case as Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba's proxy, the Resistance Front (TRF), had claimed responsibility for the attack.

The NIA took over the case from the Jammu and Kashmir police five days after the incident, which is considered the deadliest assault on civilians in the region in almost 20 years.

The incident occurred at around 2 pm on April 22, 2025, when terrorists had come down from the mountain in Baisaran valley and started firing at the tourists, killing

26 of them and injuring many others.

## BJP names 9 candidates for RS polls

party has named its former state president Rahul Sinha. BJP state president Manmohan Samal and Sujeet Kumar, whose Rajya Sabha terms are ending, are candidates from Odisha.

From Chhattisgarh, the party has nominated Laxmi Verma. "She has previously served as the vice-chairperson of the State Women's Commission and has been quite active politically. She has a strong hold among women and gives a strong message of women empowerment too," said a BJP functionary.

Sanjay Bhatia from Haryana is one of the two RS candidates from the state. The terms of Kiran Choudhry and Ram Chander Jangra are ending in April, necessitating the election for the two seats.

The BJP is yet to name the second candidate. According to BJP insiders, the party was considering the names of Kuldeep Bishnoi, a former two-term Lok Sabha MP and ex-four-term Haryana MLA; former MP Sanjay Bhatia; and Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli.

Bhatia has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Karnal Lok Sabha constituency from 2019 to 2024.

Rashtriya Lok Morcha national president Upendra Kushwaha is also the BJP's official candidate for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. The leader from Bihar will contest as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)-backed nominee.

The BJP has also named sitting MLA Terash Gowalla representing the Duliyan constituency in Assam's Dibrugarh district as one of its Rajya Sabha candidates. The other nominee is Jogen Mohan, a minister in the Assam government. He holds several portfolios including transport, hill areas development, co-operation, and indigenous and tribal faith and culture.

"One has to see the list not as a routine exercise but in terms of the party's long-term future and vision. Not only we have to strengthen our position and presence in the Rajya Sabha, we have key alliances in Bihar, too," said another BJP functionary.

"By nominating Nabin from Bihar, the party is also giving a sort of signal on the importance given to the state in the broader scheme of things."

## LG asks officers to remain on high alert to ensure public peace

ers, was attended by DGP Nalin Prabhat, special DG (coordination) S J M Gillani, ADGP (armed) Anand Jain, ADGP (CID) Nitish Kumar, IGP, Kashmir, V K Birdi, divisional commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, DIG (CKR) Rajiv Pandey and deputy commissioner, Srinagar, Akshay Labroo.

Meanwhile, the LG also held in-depth deliberations on the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir in a meeting which was attended by GOC-in-C, Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, DGP Nalin Prabhat, 15 Corps GOC Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava and MGGS, Northern Command, Maj Gen Balbir Singh at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar.

## Any major disruption in Gulf has serious consequences on economy: India

which currently is burning amid crossfire, constitute one of India's most vital trade corridors, serving as a gateway for energy imports, merchandise trade and maritime connectivity.

The statement noted that not only has intensification of the conflict been witnessed but also its spread to other nations. "The destruction and deaths have mounted, even as normal life and economic activities come to a halt. As a proximate neighbour with critical stakes in the security and stability of the region, these developments evoke great anxiety," it said.

Reiterating "strongly" the call for dialogue and diplomacy, India said, "We raise our voice clearly in favour of an

early end to the conflict. Already, many lives have been regrettably lost and we express our grief in that regard."

Indian Embassies and Consulates in the affected countries remain in close touch with Indian nationals and community organizations, issuing regular advisories as appropriate, the statement said, adding "they have also extended all possible help to those stranded by the conflict. The Embassies and Consulates will continue to be proactive in addressing various consular aspects of this conflict."

We are in touch with the Governments of this region as well as other key partners, it said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar have held discussions with their counterparts.

The government will continue to closely monitor the evolving situation and take relevant decisions in the national interest, the statement added.

## Indian students moved out of Tehran

dian students who were in Tehran to safer locations outside Tehran. The Embassy has made arrangements for their transportation, food, and accommodation," the statement said.

A small number of students who declined the Embassy's offer continue to remain in Tehran, officials said.

For other Indian students and nationals still in Iran, the advisory issued earlier remains unchanged. The Embassy has urged them to stay where they are, remain indoors as far as possible and stay away from windows. It has also advised Indian nationals to exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, and remain in regular contact with the Embassy.

The mission has activated emergency helplines for Indian nationals in Iran and reiterated that it is closely monitoring the security situation following the escalation of military action between the United States and Iran.

India has so far called for restraint and de-escalation in the region, while prioritising the safety of its citizens.

## Kavinder reaffirms UT admin's commitment to cultural preservation

the globe, underlining its importance as a treasure of universal cultural significance," he said.

He highlighted the unique tradition of the Nagrang - two monk oracles who, after a year of rigorous spiritual practice and solitary meditation, perform sacred masked dances and deliver divine prophecies during the festival.

He described this tradition as unparalleled in the world and a matter of immense pride for every Ladakhi.

Gupta reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the preservation and promotion of Ladakh's cultural heritage. "Monasteries, folk arts, indigenous languages, and age-old festivals are the living soul of Ladakh and must be safeguarded for future generations. The administration is actively working towards documentation of intangible cultural heritage, support to local artists, and integration of traditional festivals into sustainable tourism," he said.

In a special appeal to the youth of Ladakh, he urged them to become proud torchbearers of their cultural legacy and called upon them to embrace modernity while remaining firmly rooted in their traditions, language, and cultural identity.

The LG expressed heartfelt gratitude to the head lamas and management of Matho Monastery for keeping this sacred tradition alive with unwavering devotion and dedication year after year.

He also sought blessings from the oracles for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of Ladakh and the entire nation.

Among those present on the occasion included DGP Mukesh Singh, ex-MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, administrative secretaries - Bhupesh Chaudhary & Shashanka Ala, Leh deputy commissioner Romil Singh Donk, SSP Shree Ram, nambardar Matho and representatives from other religious and political organisations.

## North Korea's Kim gifts rifles to officials and his daughter takes aim after party congress

**SEOUL, MAR 03:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gifted new sniper rifles to top government and military officials following a week-long ruling party congress celebrating his leadership, with state media highlighting an image of his teenage daughter taking aim at a shooting range as her increasingly prominent appearances fuel speculation Kim is grooming her as a future leader.

Kim presented the rifles to senior party and military officials on Friday, calling them a sign of his "absolute trust" and gratitude for their commitment over the past five years since the last Workers' Party congress in 2021, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday.

The report also confirmed Kim's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, who in recent years has served as his fierce spokesperson toward Washington and Seoul, now serves as the general affairs director of the party's central committee following a promotion at the congress. Her new title signals a broader role overseeing the party's internal operations and administrative affairs.

State media photos showed Kim Yo Jong and other top officials aiming the rifles handed out by Kim Jong Un at a shooting range. Kim's young daughter, wearing a brown leather coat similar to her father's, also was seen handling the weapon as smoke rose from the barrel.

Since first appearing in public at a long-range missile test in November 2022, the girl - believed to be named Kim Ju Ae and about 13 years old - has accompanied her father to a growing number of events, including military demonstrations, factory openings and a trip to Beijing in September, where Kim Jong Un held his first summit with Chinese leader Xi



Jinping in six years.

The party congress, which concluded Wednesday in Pyongyang after seven days, is North Korea's most significant political event, held every five years since 2016, and a carefully choreographed spectacle glorifying Kim's leadership before thousands of delegates.

At this year's meetings, Kim doubled down on his plans to accelerate North Korea's nuclear arsenal, which already is equipped with various weapons systems threatening the United States and U.S. allies in Asia, and confirmed his hard-line view of rival South Korea.

But he also left the door open for dialogue with the U.S., reiterating Pyongyang's earlier stance calling for Washington to abandon demands for the North's denuclearization as a precondition for resuming long-stalled dialogue.

South Korean officials and experts closely monitored the congress for signs Kim was preparing to extend the family's dynastic rule to a fourth generation by cementing his daugh-

ter as successor. Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said it assessed Kim Jong Un was close to designating her as heir.

She was not seen at party meetings during the congress but shared center stage with her father at a military parade Wednesday night marking its conclusion.

Despite speculation she might receive a formal party post at the congress, state media reports indicated no such move and party rules require members to be at least 18.

Some experts say if Kim Jong Un sought to use the congress to solidify his daughter as successor, the signals would likely be subtle, such as self-congratulatory statements about North Korea's survival and crediting that endurance to the successful inheritance of the socialist cause.

In a report assessing the congress on Thursday, North Korean state media said the meetings "laid a solid foundation for the sacred effort to ensure and realize the glorious succession and development of our party." (AP)

## War widens to include Iranian-backed militias as Israeli, American planes pound Iran



**DUBAI, MAR 3:** Iran and Iranian-backed militias fired missiles at Israel and Arab states and Israel and the United States pounded targets in Iran as the war expanded on Monday with statements of defiance and warnings of more US casualties.

As the American and Israeli airstrikes continued, top Iranian security official Ali Larijani vowed defiantly on X that "we will not negotiate with the United States."

In Iraq, a pro-Iranian militia claimed a drone attack targeting US troops at the Baghdad airport, the day after it said it fired at a US base in Irbil in the north, and Cyprus said a drone attack targeted a British base on the

Mediterranean island nation.

Israel and the US bombed Iranian missile sites and targeted its navy, claiming to have destroyed its headquarters and multiple warships. More than 200 people have been killed since the start of the strikes, according to Iranian leaders.

As the bombardment 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," the first attack the militant group has claimed in more than a year. 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 Beirut and urged civilians in nearly 50 villages in eastern and southern Lebanon to evacuate ahead of more possible attacks, sending people fleeing. Iran has been firing missiles at Israel and Arab states in a counteroffensive since the joint American-Israeli attack Saturday that killed Khamenei and many top Iranian officials. Gulf states have warned that they could retaliate against Iran after strikes that hit key sites and killed at least five civilians, and US President Donald Trump promised Washington would "avenge" the deaths of three American

troops who were killed in Kuwait. "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 signalled 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.