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India facing West Asia war impact with full strength: Modi

responsible statements during such times. "Those who make remarks that harm the country may gain some points in political debates, but such actions will never be forgiven by the people," he said, recalling how voters rejected misinformation campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the journey towards a Viksit Uttar Pradesh and a Viksit Bharat," he said after inaugurating the airport.

Modi said the Noida International Airport would boost economic activity in the region. "Noida International Airport will create new opportunities for farmers, small traders and youngsters of Western Uttar Pradesh," he said.

The prime minister was accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and other dignitaries.

Hitting out at the main opposition party in the state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Samajwadi Party had turned Noida into an "ATM for loot", but under the Bharatiya Janata Party, it is now emerging as a powerful engine of development.

He added that Noida, once neglected by earlier governments, is now ready to welcome the world, reflecting the spirit of a self-reliant India.

Highlighting the government's aviation policy, Modi said the BJP-led government has focused on expanding airport infrastructure while ensuring affordability for common citizens.

"We launched the UDAN scheme to ensure that air travel remains within the reach of ordinary families. In the past few years, more than 1.6 crore people have travelled at affordable fares under this scheme," he said.

He added that the scheme has recently been expanded with an approved outlay of around Rs 29,000 crore, with plans to develop new airports in smaller cities and build around 200 helipads in the coming years.

"States like Uttar Pradesh will benefit significantly from this expansion," he said.

Modi said India's aviation sector is growing rapidly, leading to increased demand for aircraft, with airlines placing orders for hundreds of planes.

"These new aircraft and services will require a large workforce for operations, servicing and maintenance. This presents a huge opportunity for the youth," he said, adding that the government is expanding training facilities in the aviation sector.

The Prime Minister highlighted the lack of adequate Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in India in the past, noting that nearly 85 per cent of aircraft had to go abroad for servicing.

"Our government has resolved to make India self-reliant in the MRO sector. Large-scale facilities are now being developed in the country, and an MRO facility has also been launched at Jewar," he said.

He said such facilities would not only generate revenue but also create employment opportunities for local people.

Modi said the government's priority is to ensure convenience for citizens, save time and reduce costs.

"Modern transport systems like Metro and Vande Bharat trains are being expanded with this vision. The Delhi-Meerut Namoo Bharat train has already benefited more than 2.5 crore passengers, reducing travel time from hours to minutes," he said.

Emphasising infrastructure development, the Prime Minister said the government has made unprecedented investments in the sector over the past 11 years.

"The infrastructure budget has increased more than sixfold. About Rs 17 lakh crore has been spent on highways and expressways, and over 1 lakh kilometres of highways have been constructed," he said.

Elaborate security arrangements were put in place for the visit.

The first phase of the airport, being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 11,200 crore, is envisioned as a multi-modal transport hub with seamless connectivity through road, rail, metro and regional transport systems.

According to an official statement, the project includes a cargo hub with an initial handling capacity of over 2.5 lakh metric tonnes annually, expandable to around 18 lakh metric tonnes. The airport's initial passenger handling capacity will be 12 million passengers per annum, scalable up to 70 million.

The prime minister also inspected the terminal.

LG directs massive crackdown on smuggling networks targeting youth

all the districts on Nasha Mukta J&K portal, engagement of nodal officers, ongoing community outreach programmes, training and capacity building, strengthening and expansion of de-addiction infrastructure and human resource, operationalisation of Addiction Treatment Facilities, drug de-addiction registry portal, implementation of SoPs and activities undertaken by the line departments.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the LG asked the senior officials to prioritise vibrant villages programme, with a dedicated focus on inclusive development of border villages.

Among others, the meeting was attended by chief secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhakar, additional chief secretary (finance department) Shaileendra Kumar, principal secretary (home) Chandraker Bharti, LG's principal secretary Mandeep K Bhandari, health & medical education department secretary M Raju, divisional commissioner Ramesh Kumar, IGP Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP security, J&K, Sujit Kumar, administrative secretaries and other senior officials.

Avalanche warning issued

into avalanche-prone areas, including slopes, hilly terrains and higher reaches, until further orders are issued by the authorities," officials read.

Residents, tourists, and nomadic communities had been asked to adhere to the official advisories and cooperate with the administration for their safety, the officials added.

On Friday, multiple avalanches struck Zojila Pass, trapping several vehicles and resulting in the death of seven persons.

Rain, snow likely till Mar 30

gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph were likely from the night of March 28 to the night of March 30, the officials added.

"March 31 is likely to witness generally cloudy conditions with brief spells of light rain or snow at scattered places. From April 1 to 2, weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with brief light rain at isolated locations. Between April 3 and 4, there are chances of light rain or snowfall at scattered places, while from April 5 to 7, partly cloudy conditions with isolated light rain or snow are expected," officials said.

Farmers were advised to suspend farm operations during March 29 and 30, while travellers had been urged to follow traffic advisories and plan their movement accordingly.

Former Nepal PM Oli arrested

12 km east of Kathmandu, early Saturday morning, according to police.

Former Home Minister and Nepali Congress leader Ramesh Lekhak had also been arrested from his residence at Katunje of Suryabinayak Municipality in Bhaktapur dis-

trict, police added.

Both Oli and Lekhak had been arrested on charges of their involvement in suppressing the Gen Z movement of September 8 and 9 last year, in which 76 people, including around two dozen youth, were killed.

The probe commission formed to investigate the incident surrounding the Gen Z movement has recommended legal action against Oli and Lekhak, among others, under criminal offence.

Nepal's newly formed government, led by Balendra Shah, in its first cabinet meeting on Friday, decided to immediately implement the recommendations made by the probe commission.

"Nobody is above the law," wrote Home Minister Sudhan Gurung in a social post after the arrest. "We have taken under control former Prime Minister K.P. Oli and former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak. This is not a revenge against anybody, just the beginning of justice," he said.

"I believe that now the country will take a new direction," he added.

Both Oli and Lekhak have been taken into detention at the Kathmandu District Police Circle in Bhadrakali, said the police. The probe commission has recommended a jail sentence of up to three to ten years for the offence.

A senior police officer at the Kathmandu District Police Circle told PTI that they will be presented before the Kathmandu District Court on Sunday, as it is a holiday on Saturday. Then the process of investigation in the case will start, he added.

K P Oli was taken to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital for medical examination soon after the detention.

This is part of a legal process of investigation, said a police officer.

Meanwhile, CPN-UML has called an emergency meeting of the party's secretariat at its central office in Lalitpur to discuss the situation.

Pak-based terror groups look to target India, annex J&K: US report

J&K to Pakistan.

The CRS report also lists Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI), which was formed during the Afghan conflict in the 1980s and later redirected its activities towards India, and Harakat-ul-Mujahidin (HuM), which has operated from Pakistan and PoJK and was involved in the 1999 Indian Airlines Flight 814 hijacking that led to the release of Masood Azhar.

Another key terror group mentioned is Hizbul Mujahideen, formed in 1989 and described as one of the oldest terrorist outfits operating in J&K, with cadres seeking either independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan.

The CRS brief also points to the presence of globally oriented jihadist groups in Pakistan. Among them is Al-Qaeda, founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden. Although weakened after years of US counter-terror operations - including the 2011 killing of bin Laden - the network historically operated from Pakistan's former Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

The report also notes the activities of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), formed in 2014 and implicated in attacks in Pakistan, including a failed attempt to hijack a Pakistani naval frigate.

Another group operating in the region is Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISKP), a regional affiliate of the Islamic State that emerged in Afghanistan in 2015 and has fighters drawn from former members of Pakistani Taliban factions and other militant groups.

According to data cited in the report, terrorism-related deaths rose sharply to around 4,001 in 2025 - the highest toll in more than a decade. A majority of the fatalities occurred in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, particularly along the Afghanistan border.

Despite Pakistan launching multiple military offensives and intelligence-based operations, the report concludes that numerous US- and UN-designated terrorist groups continue to operate on Pakistani soil, underscoring persistent regional security concerns for neighbouring countries, including India.

Shabir Shah gets bail in money laundering case

to Shah in the case and issued a notice to the NIA, seeking its response on his plea challenging a Delhi High Court order dated June 12, 2025, that denied him relief.

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

In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising funds to disrupt peace by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the Central government.

Shah allegedly played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of J&K's secession, paying tributes to the family of slain terrorists 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.

Jai Shakti Xen held in graft case

that executive engineer Manzoor Ahmad Dar was demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 from him for clearing of bills on account of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) works carried out by him at the said PHE mechanical division, out of which the complainant had earlier paid an amount of Rs 8,000 to the officer and the remaining amount of Rs 12,000 was to be paid after the clearance of the bills.

Officials said the complainant chose not to pay the bribe and instead approached ACB for taking legal action against the executive engineer as envisaged under law.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted which confirmed the demand by the government employee and accordingly a case under section 7 of PC Act 1988 read with amendment Act-2018 was registered in ACB police station, Anantnag, and investigation was taken up, officials said.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught Manzoor Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar of Daf Pora, Budgam, red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe, officials said.

He was arrested on spot and the bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team, the officials added.

Subsequently, search of residential houses of the accused was carried out in the presence of executive magistrates and independent witnesses. Further investigation of the instant case was going on, officials said.

Govt yet to find suitable party to take over Mantalai Yoga Centre: Omar

outsource the facility," he said while replying to a supplementary question raised by NC MLA Javaid Ahmad Mirchal on plans to construct a cable car project in his constituency.

Omar cautioned against the assumption that such an initiative alone would attract a large number of tourists.

He said comparisons were often drawn with Gulmarg, where the gondola has become a major attraction.

"There is a tendency to believe that if a similar facility is installed elsewhere, tourist inflow will automatically follow. This is a misconception," the chief minister, who

also holds tourism portfolio, said.

Citing examples, he pointed out that cable car projects in Srinagar, Jammu and Patnitop had not witnessed footfall comparable to Gulmarg. "There is a clear and significant difference in tourist numbers," he said and emphasised that tourism development required a comprehensive and area-specific strategy.

Admitting that more could have been done in the past to harness the tourism potential of Karnah, he said the border region represented by the MLA was exceptionally beautiful, but remained backward and largely unexplored.

"There is no denying the need to significantly promote tourism in remote and underdeveloped areas," he said, highlighting the region's strong potential for adventure tourism, including hiking and trekking, in addition to its natural scenic appeal.

Advocating sustainable and inclusive development, he suggested that instead of focusing solely on large hotel infrastructure, efforts should be directed towards promoting homestays at the grassroots level, ensuring direct economic benefits to local communities.

The chief minister said tourism department was making continuous efforts to bring more areas with tourism potential on the tourism map, subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

In reply to another question by BJP's Shakti Raj Parihar, he said 'tourism department remains committed to strengthening tourism infrastructure and improving visitor facilities at major tourist destinations in Doda including Lal Draman, Dedni, Dal Draman, Ramrachna, Galadhar and Dessa'.

He said the government was presently examining a proposal for the notification of new tourism-worthy areas in the Union Territory, which also included certain locations in Doda district including Udhvana and Sarna in Bhaderwah, Nalthi, Chinta, Guldanda, Padri, Khaleni Top, Lal Draman, Doda (municipal limits) and Shibnoto Premna.

In response to a point raised by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia about the failure of the government to outsource the international yoga and well centre at Mantalai, Omar said this infrastructure was not created recently by the government but rather, it dates back to the time when Dharendra Brahmachari had established his ashram there which was later taken over by the government.

"This is not a new issue where we have only now started trying to outsource it. Even under previous governments, including the one I was part of about six years ago, we made sincere efforts to find a suitable party that could take over and manage the facility, and organise yoga and spiritual tourism activities there," he said.

However, the chief minister said so far, the government had not been able to find a suitable party.

"Our efforts are ongoing, and we remain hopeful that we will soon be able to float a fresh Expression of Interest (EOI). We also intend to relax certain terms and conditions slightly, so that it becomes more viable and attractive for potential operators," he said.

He said his government was optimistic that once a credible and capable party comes forward, the facility would be promptly handed over to them so that the facility becomes functional, and at the same time, the asset is preserved and put to proper use.

Iran war enters 2nd month, leaving Trump chasing deal

Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia wounded at least 12 American soldiers, two of them seriously.

US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said Friday he believed Iran would hold talks with Washington "this week, we're certainly hopeful for it." Washington expected Tehran to respond to a 15-point US peace plan, he told a business forum in Miami. "It could solve it all."

One major issue has been the near-closure of the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, which has sent markets into turmoil and pushed oil prices to levels not seen since the start of the war in Ukraine.

Trump reiterated his disappointment with NATO allies over their refusal to help secure the Strait of Hormuz, after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he had won G7 support to oppose Iran's attempts to impose a toll on the key sea lane for Gulf oil and gas exports.

"It's unacceptable, it's dangerous to the world, and it's important that the world have a plan to confront it," said Rubio, who joined a meeting of G7 foreign ministers in France.

Thailand on Saturday joined a handful of nations that have announced they were able to secure safe passage for their oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz in an agreement with Iran.

The G7 ministers expressed the "absolute necessity to permanently restore safe and toll-free freedom of navigation" in the waterway and called for "an immediate cessation of attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure."

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi threatened retaliation "for Israeli crimes" in a post on X, saying the attacks contradicted Trump's "extended deadline for diplomacy." Israel's military reported at least five rounds of Iranian missile fire within just over five hours, and a statement early Saturday said Israeli forces were "striking Iranian terror regime targets across Tehran."

Trump, swinging between threats of obliteration and optimistic talk of dealmaking, has insisted the Islamic Republic wants to "make a deal."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned they would strike industrial sites across the region, having earlier issued similar warnings for US military bases and hotels hosting American troops.

Iranian strikes have shattered the Gulf's reputation for stability, hitting Dubai's airport, Bahrain's capital and energy facilities across the region during the course of the war. Yemen's Houthi rebels, which did not immediately comment on the missile fire reported by Israel, had warned on Friday they would join the war if US-Israeli attacks on ally Iran continued or if more countries joined the conflict.

The Houthis have in the past attacked shipping in the Red Sea in response to regional conflicts, but had so far not intervened in the latest war. "We affirm that our fingers are on the trigger for direct military intervention," the group said in a statement.

Tehran also called for an end to US and Israeli attacks on aligned regional groups -- a reference to Hezbollah, among others. Lebanon was drawn into the war after Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel on March 2.

Israel renewed strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs Friday, saying it was targeting Hezbollah infrastructure. The UN refugee agency warned Lebanon faced a deepening humanitarian crisis risking catastrophe, with over a million people displaced.

CJI inaugurates distt court complex, LLSA building in Leh

mony was attended by Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena, and Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, according to an official spokesperson.

Upon arrival, the CJI was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour, followed by a traditional welcome featuring a cultural performance that showcased Ladakh's rich heritage.

A commemorative plaque marking the inauguration of the district court complex was unveiled, and the inscription

was formally read by court officials.

A detailed 3D presentation highlighting the architectural design and facilities of the complex - including courtrooms, administrative offices and residential quarters - was also showcased, the spokesperson said.

On the occasion, the Chief Justice also inaugurated the newly constructed Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA) building at Melong Thang and participated in a plantation drive within the premises of the complex.

Interacting with the media, Justice Surya Kant expressed satisfaction over the creation of the new judicial infrastructure, stating that the facilities would serve the people of Leh for generations and improve access to justice.

He also announced that a similar district court complex at Kargil would be inaugurated during his ongoing visit.

The district court complex has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 54.85 crore, while the LLSA building has been built at a cost of Rs 5.70 crore, the spokesperson said.

The event was attended by several senior dignitaries, including the chief secretary of Ladakh, the director general of police, Ladakh, the general officer commanding, 14 Corps, registrar general, and other civil and judicial officers.

Later, the Chief Justice also inspected the state-of-the-art high court guest house at Melong Thang.

The newly inaugurated district court complex is expected to significantly boost judicial efficiency and accessibility in Ladakh, reinforcing the rule of law in the region.

Legislative Assembly passes

3 Bills through voice vote

Earlier, the amendments proposed with respect to these bills by MLAs - Saifulah Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat and Balwant Singh Mankotia - were withdrawn following assurances from the chief minister.

Meanwhile, Omar also laid on the Table of the House copies of key financial and audit documents pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir's finances.

The documents placed before the House included Finance Accounts (Volume I) for 2023-24, Finance Accounts (Volume II) for 2023-24, appropriation accounts for 2023-24 and report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Union Territory Finances for 2022-23.

Lt Gen Pratik presents 93 gallantry, service awards to Army personnel

military officers, awardees and their families. Speaking on the occasion, Lt Gen Sharma commended the awardees for their professionalism, dedication and steadfast commitment to duty under demanding conditions.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational excellence and upholding the proud traditions and ethos of Indian Army.

Among those honoured, Maj Gen Rakesh Nair received Yudh Seva Medal for distinguished service. Several officers and soldiers were awarded Sena Medals (Gallantry) for their role in anti-terror operations and high-risk missions.

Sepoy (now Naik) Nadeem Iqbal Shah was recognised for eliminating a terrorist during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir while returning fire under heavy attack. Lt Col Nikhil Kumar was honoured for leading a successful anti-terror operation in dense forests, resulting in the neutralisation of multiple terrorists and recovery of arms.

Maj (now Lt Col) Sumit Goyal was awarded for leading a precise cordon-and-search operation in Sunderbani sector using drone surveillance, while Maj Ashutosh Kumar Yadav of Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) was decorated for destroying a terrorist hideout during an intense firefight.

Maj Hitesh Singh Verma of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry was honoured for foiling an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Poonch sector, neutralising three terrorists through a well-planned ambush.

Maj Anurag Savarni of Assam Rifles was recognised for establishing an effective surveillance grid along the India-Myanmar border.

Highlighting the role of northern command as the most operationally active formation of the Army, officials said it continues to deal resolutely with conventional and emerging threats across multiple domains. From the icy heights of the Siachen Glacier to dense forests and the Line of Control, its personnel continue to display unwavering courage in extreme terrain, hostile weather and evolving security challenges, they added.

2 'terrorists' held at Malerkotla

ists listed in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Though police had issued any official statement so far, multiple police sources and residents of Sherwani Kote village (under Sandaur police station) confirmed the police action.

Malerkotla residents said the accused had been residing at different places in India for over 15 years, and no one in the village suspected their anti-national activities or doubted their claim of being Indians.

A team from the CIA wing of Mahorana, Malerkotla, conducted a raid in Sherwani Kote village and detained the duo. They were later handed over to the Jammu & Kashmir police.

Sarpanch Simranjit Singh confirmed that a raid was conducted by law enforcement personnel, and two persons were detained from the village.

CIA in-charge Harjinder Singh, however, showed ignorance about the raid and the arrests.

Malerkotla police have intensified action against anti-national elements. In a recent case, the CIA and cybercrime wing arrested three local miscreants - Farhan Anjum of Lohara Maler, Adnan Khan of Sekhan Wala, Malerkotla, and Waris Ali of Mandiala - for radicalising Muslims in the name of religion. One .32 bore pistol, three cartridges, and four mobiles were seized from them.

Earlier, police had also arrested Gujala, a widow of Chor Mohalla (currently staying with her father at Mohalla Bhaurian Wala inside Delhi Gate), and Yameen Mohammad, of Malerkotla, in a cross-border espionage case. The widow allegedly served as a local handler while Yameen Mohammad, reportedly a Pakistan embassy official, transferred information to handlers in Pakistan.

Police were keeping details of the latest operation under wraps. Further investigation was underway.

Must adopt modern technologies to meet energy demands: Kavinder

moting renewable energy sources to meet the growing energy demands in a sustainable manner.

Sushil Thakur, principal accountant general (accounts & entitlement), along with Purushottam Tiwari, principal accountant general (audit), also called on the governor.

During the meeting, they apprised Gupta about the functioning and key responsibilities of their respective offices, particularly in the areas of financial management, audit, and ensuring transparency and accountability in government expenditure.

They also briefed him on various ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening financial governance and improving efficiency in public financial administration.

The governor stressed the need for maintaining the highest standards of transparency and accountability in financial systems, and emphasised the importance of effective auditing mechanisms to ensure prudent utilization of public resources.

He also underscored the role of such institutions in promoting good governance and fiscal discipline in the state.