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Rubio dismisses racist remarks targeting Indians in US

national interest, and that includes your immigration policy," Rubio said.

"It is not a system that is targeted at India," Rubio said. "We think ultimately our destination is going to be a better system."

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor reiterated Washington's commitment to strengthening ties with New Delhi in a post on X.

"Secretary Rubio's message is clear. Our relationship with India matters. Our strategic partnership with India is real. We have incredible potential ahead," Gor said.

Rubio also said that India and the US were poised to soon firm up the much-awaited trade agreement that will be both "beneficial" and "sustainable" and will advance the mutual interests of both nations.

Rubio, currently on a four-day visit to India, made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that focused on boosting two-way cooperation in areas of trade, critical minerals, energy and defence.

The US Secretary of State's maiden trip to India is largely seen as an attempt to repair bilateral relations that came under severe strain in the last one year over Washington's trade and tariff policies.

"We've made tremendous progress, and I think we're going to wind up with a trade agreement between the US and India that is going to be enduring and is going to be beneficial to both sides and sustainable in a way that addresses national interests that we have," Rubio said at a joint media briefing with Jaishankar.

Rubio forcefully argued that the Trump administration's policy on trade is driven by a greater aim to recalibrate Washington's overall approach on global trade and is not directed against any specific country.

"This is about the United States in terms of trade. The President did not say: 'Let's figure out a way to create friction with India over trade'. The President came in and said: 'We have a trade situation involving the US economy that doesn't work moving forward'," he said.

"There's a huge imbalance that's built up, and it needs to be addressed. He pursued it from a global perspective," Rubio said.

The Secretary of State said there is virtually no country in the world that he has travelled to where the trade issue was not flagged. "The President said we have to rebalance US trade. This is not about India," Rubio said a US trade delegation will visit India "very soon" to take forward the talks on the proposed trade deal.

The US Secretary of State also cited how the US had problems on trade with its allies, including the European Union. "The difference is that India is a massive economy. This is a big economy where you're the leading trade partner. We do a lot of trade with India, and so obviously, there's a big difference between rebalancing trade with a country of this size and magnitude," he said.

"The good news is that through this rebalancing, we are ultimately seeking and believe we will arrive at trade arrangements around the world that are good for the United States, but also good for our trade partners," he said.

India's strength lies in turning diversity into unity: LG

Guided by this ideal, you should work to foster unity in your states and regions, resolve social problems through dialogue & respect, and build a path for Viksit Bharat," he added.

The event featured captivating performances by NCC cadets, vividly showcasing India's rich cultural diversity. The camp brings together 340 cadets and NCC officers from all over the country.

NCC Director General - Lt Gen Virendra Vats, Chinar Corps GOC - Lt Gen Balbir Singh, NCC's Additional Director General for J&K and Ladakh Directorate - Maj Gen Anupinder Bevlvi, 31 Sub-Area GOC - Maj Gen Abhijit Mitra, divisional commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Srinaragar SSP G V Sundeeep Chakravathy, Srinaragar deputy commissioner Akshay Labroo, director school education, Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, director colleges - Prof Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, senior officials of NCC directorates, Army, police & civil administration and NCC cadets from across the country were among those present on the occasion.

Girl kidnapped, murdered

medico-legal formalities, the officials added. "Right now, it is a kidnapping and murder case. As soon as the doctor's detailed examination report comes, we will also explore the sexual assault angle," officials said, quoting a police officer.

14 grenades recovered from terrorist hideout

the presence of a hideout in the orchards, officials said. Search of the hideout led security forces to the recovery of 14 rocket-propelled grenades and nine boosters, the officials added, saying that the hideout was later destroyed by the forces.

Reserved seats mandatory for women in public transport

were not being implemented properly by permit holders and vehicle operators, causing inconvenience and hardship to the intended beneficiaries.

To ensure uniform implementation and safeguard the interests of women and specially-abled passengers, the transport department has reiterated detailed instructions for immediate compliance.

As per the circular, seats numbered 1 to 12 in big buses and seats numbered 1 to 9 in medium and mini buses shall remain exclusively reserved for women and specially-abled persons.

The reservation has been declared mandatory and part of the official permit conditions governing operation of public transport vehicles.

The circular states that all reserved seats must be clearly marked with the words "Reserved for Women and Specially-abled Persons" painted in bold and legible white letters either on the back of the seats or on the adjacent body of the vehicle to ensure visibility for passengers at all times.

Authorities said responsibility for proper display and compliance shall lie directly with the vehicle owner and operator.

The government clarified that in the absence of eligible passengers, reserved seats may be temporarily occupied by others, but such passengers must vacate the seats immediately once a woman or a specially-abled person boards the vehicle during the journey.

The circular makes drivers and conductors personally responsible for enforcing the reservation policy inside vehicles without exception.

The transport department has also directed all enforcement agencies, including motor vehicles department and traffic police, to conduct regular inspections and special enforcement drives to ensure strict adherence to the instructions at bus stands, transit points and during routine vehicle checking.

The circular warned that non-compliance would attract legal action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, particularly Section 192A relating to violation of permit conditions. Penalties may include imposition of fines, suspension of permits and even cancellation of permits in

case of repeated violations.

Punjab police ASI shot dead in Amritsar

Joga Singh was a resident of Ganike Bangarh village, police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar (Rural), Suhail Mir Qasim said police received information about the body of ASI Joga Singh early Sunday.

A police team, led by the Station House Officer of Majithia police station, reached the spot soon after the information was received. A forensic team also examined the scene, the SSP said.

Police were examining the CCTV camera footage of the nearby areas to trace the assailants.

The body was later shifted to the civil hospital. "We are exploring all angles, including personal enmity, road rage, or any other possible angle," said the SSP.

Art 370 abrogation led to change of mindset: Jitendra

"The abrogation of Article 370 has brought not only developmental transformation in Jammu & Kashmir but also a profound change in mindset, giving people the feeling of belonging as equal citizens of India. This has resulted in renewed self-confidence, self-esteem and aspirational resurgence among the people," he said while addressing a training camp under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026 at Lakhampur in Kathua district of Jammu.

Dr Singh highlighted the transformative changes witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In recent years, young boys and girls from Jammu & Kashmir have overcome their fears and excelled in various fields across the country," he said.

Recalling the passage of the legislation on Article 370, he said they had considered themselves fortunate to witness a historic moment that ushered in complete transformation in the region.

He described Article 370 as contradictory to democratic values and a tool that enabled exploitation by vested interests.

UCC won't apply to tribals, says Amit Shah

communities or Vanvasi society," he said. Wherever BJP governments (in states) have implemented the UCC, the Narendra Modi dispensation has ensured that all tribal communities remain outside its purview, Shah said.

The home minister urged tribal communities not to fear the proposed law and appealed to people to spread awareness in villages and forest regions.

"I want to tell everyone spreading confusion that the UCC will not interfere with the traditions and customs of any tribal or Vanvasi brother or sister," he said.

"Take this message to every village, every region, the hills and forests, and make every tribal community aware that there is no need to fear the UCC," Shah added.

Referring to Naxalism, Shah said the country is moving towards becoming free from the problem and claimed tribal development has suffered for decades due to violence.

"Today, in this Kumbh of tribal communities, I can proudly say that our country is moving towards becoming fully free from the Naxal problem," he said.

"Those who stilled the development of tribal society through violence caused the deaths of thousands of tribal people. We are now moving completely out of that crisis. Now the time has come for rapid development in tribal regions, hills and forests," Shah added.

The home minister also spoke against religious conversions in tribal areas and said no one has the right to forcibly convert another person's faith.

"Our Constitution makers gave every individual the right to live with dignity according to their original faith and traditions. No greed, temptation or inducement should be used to change anyone's religion," Shah said.

"Those who are trying to create divisions should understand that today's gathering of tribal communities sends a very strong message to them," he said, adding that tribal communities have remained deeply connected to nature worship and traditional beliefs.

Shah also attacked previous Congress governments over tribal welfare spending and claimed that the Modi government has significantly increased the budget for the community.

"Earlier, the total budget for tribal welfare was only Rs 28,000 crore. Narendra Modi ji increased it to Rs 1.54 lakh crore," he said.

Terrorists remain untraced after encounter

The operation led to a brief exchange of fire between two sides after a contact was established with the terrorists. The terrorists later fled the spot, prompting security forces to continue extensive searches in the forested terrain, officials said.

According to preliminary reports, the movement of two to three terrorists was suspected in the area.

Reinforcements later joined the forces and searches for the escaped terrorists continued throughout the day today but security personnel were yet to find any clue to their whereabouts, officials said.

US GoPro shipped to China traced to LeT terrorists

The officials familiar with the developments said that the probe had now shifted focus towards tracking how the camera from the Chinese distributor landed in the hands of LeT handlers, with a likely possibility that these cameras could have been purchased by the Pakistani army and later supplied to terror groups.

India does not have a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with China and such cases are taken up through diplomatic channels.

"The chargesheet establishes the immediate operational details of the Baisaran attack, but the wider investigation remains wide open," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

"We are actively investigating the procurement channels to ascertain how a commercial device tracking back to China was diverted to a banned terrorist organisation operating in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

On April 22, 2025, 25 Hindu tourists and a local were gunned down by terrorists in Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam, prompting the government to launch Operation Sindoer in which terror outfits based in Pakistan and PoJK were targeted, including the main camps of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack were killed during an encounter with the special forces of Army in Dachigam forests.

At least two AK-47 rifles recovered from the attack site in Baisaran, as well as one from Dachigam forests on the outskirts of Srinagar, had their origin in China.

The three terrorists were believed to have escaped from the Baisaran meadows through the Pahalgam jungles and possibly left using some vehicle as they had a window of nearly 40 minutes before the security forces could even understand the magnitude of the attack.

The officials, who did the preliminary investigation, said one vehicle bearing a Shopian registration number was seen on the road leading out of Pahalgam, but it could not be seen anywhere thereafter as some of the CCTVs on the roads were malfunctioning.

The investigators are still ascertaining whether some more people were involved in the massacre.

The NIA has filed a chargesheet against the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and six people, including the three slain terrorists identified as Faisal Jatt alias Suleman, Habeeb Tahir alias Chottu and Hamza Afghani.

The NIA has also filed a chargesheet against the self-styled "commander" of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sajid Jatt alias Sajid Jutt.

Bashir Ahmad Jothatd and Parvaiz Ahmad were the two locals named in the chargesheet as they had provided food and shelter for five hours a day before the attack.

Besides feeding them, the terrorists were provided 'Haldi' (turmeric), 'mirchi' (red chillies) and salt in a polythene bag, along with a cooking utensil, blankets and a tarpaulin.

Later, the blanket was recovered from the encounter site in Dachigam. A hair strand found in the blanket conclusively established through a DNA test that it was the same blanket taken from Bashir's home on April 21.

24 killed in 'fidayeen attack' near Quetta rly track

brani said that the number of casualties may rise further, adding that more than 100 people were believed to be either dead or injured, though figures were still being verified as rescue operations continue at the derailment site.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif described the attack as a "heinous bomb explosion."

"Such cowardly acts of terrorism cannot weaken the resolve of the people of Pakistan," he wrote on X.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Quetta in the wake of the attack on Sunday and chaired a meeting alongside the chief minister of Balochistan province, of which Quetta is the capital. During the meeting, Naqvi expressed solidarity with the people, saying that "beasts targeted innocent people with extreme brutality."

Pakistan's oil- and mineral-rich Balochistan province has long seen bouts of violence from separatist groups. The BLA have previously claimed responsibility for large-scale bombings and suicide operations in the region.

In February, the BLA claimed responsibility for the suicide and gun attacks in Balochistan, which Pakistan's military said killed at least 33 people.

12 MPs, 4 Par Panels to get Sansad Ratna awards

Mahato (Jharkhand), Lumbaram Chaudhary (Rajasthan), Hemant Vishnu Savara (Maharashtra), Smita Uday Wagh (Maharashtra), Naresh Ganpat Mhaske (Maharashtra), Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), and Narhari Amin (Gujarat) have been recognised for outstanding performance in Parliament up to the end of the Budget session this year under various categories.

India moving steadily towards 'Viksit Bharat 2047': Kavinder

appreciated the initiative for recognising individuals and institutions that had made remarkable contributions towards social development, innovation and public welfare.

"Such platforms inspire society by honouring people who move beyond conventional boundaries and work with dedication and commitment for a meaningful change," he said.

Referring to the growing influence of radio as a medium of communication, the governor said that the prime minister had successfully re-established the importance of radio through programmes like 'Mann Ki Baat', which connects directly with people across the country and has strengthened public participation in national initiatives.

Highlighting the role of media in nation-building, Gupta said, "Media has the power to create awareness, encourage positive thinking and transform social campaigns into mass movements. Radio, in particular, connects directly with the hearts of people and reaches every section of society with ease."

He expressed happiness that BIG FM had emerged as one of the India's most influential radio networks with a strong national presence and millions of listeners across the country.

Appreciating its campaigns on women empowerment, health awareness, environmental protection, cyber security and social responsibility, the governor congratulated BIG FM on the successful continuation of Shimla edition of Big Impact Awards into its third season.

He also drew attention to the growing global oil crisis and emphasised the urgent need for energy conservation. He appealed to media to actively promote public awareness regarding fuel-saving measures such as greater use of public transport, car-pooling, avoiding unnecessary vehicle usage and adopting energy-efficient lifestyles.

Gupta said, "Fuel conservation is not merely an economic necessity but also a national responsibility. Small individual efforts can collectively bring about a major positive impact on the environment and the nation's energy security."

He also expressed concern over the increasing menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth.

He described substance abuse as a serious social and moral challenge, saying it weakens individuals, families and society as a whole. "Our youth are the greatest strength of the nation. We must collectively work to protect them from the menace of drugs through awareness, positive engagement and social responsibility," he said.

Emphasising the constructive role of media in combating drug abuse, he said that awareness campaigns, motivational programmes and positive messaging can significantly contribute towards building a drug-free society.

He urged young people to adopt discipline, hard work and positive thinking in life and encouraged greater participation in sports, culture, innovation and social service activities to channelise their energy in a constructive direction.

Congratulating all the award recipients, the governor said that their achievements serve as an inspiration for society and demonstrate that dedication, perseverance and social commitment can make even the impossible possible.

Earlier, Sulakshna Bramta, Regional Programming Head and Nation Lead - Purpose Initiatives, BIG FM, welcomed the governor.

"BIG FM has consistently been striving to provide a positive direction to society through meaningful initiatives and socially relevant campaigns," she said and added, "The platform aims to take inspiring success stories to every corner of the country so that people, especially youth, can draw motivation from them."

Cluster Business Head, BIG FM, Jai Bharti presented vote of thanks.

IAF chief bats for self-reliance in def capabilities

flight test engineers of the 48th Flight Test Course graduated from the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS) on completion of a rigorous 48-week multidisciplinary training curriculum.

According to an official statement issued on Sunday, this year the graduating course comprised a cohort of 17 officers, including 14 officers from the Indian Air Force, one officer from the Indian Army and two officers from the Indian Navy.

These graduates will join the Aviation Wing of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, which is one of the premier units of the Indian Air Force. "Emphasising 'Atmanirbharta' as a strategic necessity for developing resilient indigenous defence capabilities, Singh highlighted the onerous responsibility that the test crew needs to shoulder to proliferate the nation's indigenisation drive and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem," the statement said.

The IAF chief highlighted the need to optimise 'design to delivery' time cycles while upholding the highest standards of safety and quality of equipment. He further stressed the importance of professional competence to ensure that aircraft and systems meet the operational requirements of the

services, while urging the officers to uphold the virtues of honesty, integrity, precision and excellence.

He also exhorted the graduating officers to continue toiling hard with focus, and reminded them of the crucial role that they would go on to play towards capability building and modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Chief of Air Staff highlighted the onerous responsibility that the test crew needs to shoulder to proliferate the nation's indigenisation drive and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem.

Singh, who is a distinguished alumnus of the 17th Flight Test Course, presented certificates to all graduating officers and awarded trophies to the meritorious performers.

This year, the prestigious 'Suranjan Das Trophy' for the best all-round student test pilot was awarded to Squadron Leader K K Singh, while the 'Chief of the Air Staff Trophy' for the best student test pilot in flight evaluation was awarded to Sqn Ldr Aditya Jamdagni.

The 'Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword' for the best all-round student flight test engineer was awarded to Wing Commander Abhinav Kumar. Wg Cdr Pranav Sharma was awarded the 'Dunlop Trophy' for best student flight test engineer in flight evaluation, and the 'Kapil Bhargava Trophy' for the best student in ground subjects was awarded to Sqn Ldr Paras Sharma.

US close to Iran deal to end war, reopen Hormuz: Trump

would begin to ease a worldwide energy crisis sparked by the surprise US and Israeli bombardment of Iran on February 28, which led Tehran to effectively close the crucial waterway.

Prices have spiked for oil, gas and several downstream products, jolting the world economy. Experts say it would take several weeks or even months for shipping and prices to recover to pre-war levels.

The US has blockaded Iranian ports for over a month, and Trump on Sunday said the blockade "will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a visit to India, said that "significant progress, although not final progress, has been made" in negotiations, and the world would no longer need to fear Iran getting a nuclear weapon, without elaborating.

Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian told state TV they were ready "to assure the world that we are not after a nuclear weapon." Iran's embassy in India responded to Rubio on social media, saying Tehran has an "inalienable" right to nuclear technology.

Iran has always insisted its program is peaceful while enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels.

Under the potential deal, Tehran would agree to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, according to the two regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

One official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations, said how Iran would give up the uranium would be subject to further talks during a 60-day period. Some would likely be diluted, while the rest would be transferred to a third country, the official said. Russia has offered to take it.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Trump has sought greater concessions from Iran than those required under a 2015 Obama-era agreement that the U.S. later withdrew from under Trump.

On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Es-mail Baghaei told the state-run news agency that there are "narrowing differences" between the Iranian and US positions, but that Iran is cautious after being attacked twice in the past year during nuclear negotiations.

The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi asserted that Tehran considered "the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology to be the legitimate and inalienable right of its people."

"Iran will never relinquish this lawful and internationally recognised right," the embassy said in a statement.

As per the proposed agreement, after the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the US would allow Iran to sell its oil through sanctions waivers, said the second official, who has been briefed on the negotiations. Sanctions relief and the release of Iran's frozen funds would be negotiated during the 60-day time frame, the official said.

Both officials said the draft deal includes an end to the war between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon.

However, the Iranian state media disputed Trump's claim that the Strait of Hormuz would be fully reopened under the proposed arrangement, signalling Tehran's intention to retain strategic leverage over the key shipping corridor.

Twelve weeks have passed since the US and Israel attacked Iran, killing its supreme leader and other top officials. A ceasefire with Iran has held since April 7, though the sides have exchanged fire on occasion.

Several countries, including the European Union and the United Kingdom, welcomed progress on a possible deal with Iran. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a social media post Sunday, said "President Trump and I agreed that any final agreement with Iran must eliminate the nuclear danger," and that Trump had reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself "on every front, including Lebanon." Science Minister Gila Gamliel, a member of Netanyahu's Likud party and part of his national security cabinet, told Israel's Army Radio that Israel is taking a "wait-and-see" approach.

Israeli officials are concerned that Hezbollah remains a serious threat to Israel and that Lebanon is ill-equipped to disarm it.

A fragile, US-brokered ceasefire took effect in Lebanon on April 17, but fighting has continued, mainly in the south. Hezbollah has launched daily drone and rocket attacks on Israeli forces and northern Israel, and Israel has struck targets across Lebanon while its troops remain in large swaths of the south.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in the latest round of fighting, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. Additionally, 22 Israeli soldiers and a defense contractor have been killed in or near southern Lebanon, and two civilians have been killed in northern Israel, according to Netanyahu's office.

NIA chargesheet reveals abuse of AI platform for 'terror engineering'

chargesheet said. The University's role came under the scrutiny of law enforcement agencies after the probe revealed that three doctores employed there were involved in the blast.

Jaasir was introduced to Dr Umer Nabi, another key accused and the driver of the explosive-laden car, by Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather. The explosion had resulted in the death of 11 people and left several others injured, according to the chargesheet.

The NIA findings state that Adeel was instrumental in supplying IED ingredients, including powdered sugar and potassium nitrate in the form of NPK fertiliser, to Jaasir, while Dr Umer was said to have conducted research on improvised rocket IEDs and provided guidance.

The chargesheet brings on record that Jaasir had turned to YouTube and ChatGPT, searching for "how to make a rocket and in what proportion should the mixture be", highlighting the misuse of digital and AI platforms for terror engineering.

Jaasir prepared rocket IEDs and tested them in the Qazigund forest along with Dr Umer, Dr Muzammil Shakeel, and other co-accused, the chargesheet mentions.