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Committee may consider need for law to tackle issue: Shah

hectares of land in the Chicken's Neck corridor has been transferred to the Government of India," he said. The Chicken's Neck, also known as the Siliguri Corridor, is a narrow stretch of land connecting the northeastern states with the rest of India.

Citing media reports, Shah said infiltrators themselves have begun to return to Bangladesh on their own.

"Whereas under Mamata's regime, infiltrations used to occur daily," he claimed. Though detention centres have been established in West Bengal, the government wants illegal immigrants to voluntarily return to their places of origin, the Union minister said.

"If they leave of their own will, the Bengal government will not only refrain from filing any legal cases against them, but will also extend assistance to facilitate their departure," Shah said, expressing hope that a large number of people would leave voluntarily before the launch of an identification drive.

There can't be double standards in fight against terrorism: NSA

Major terror outposts linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen and eliminated over 100 terrorists during the operation.

What followed were drone attacks and shelling in border towns by Pakistan, which led to a four-day conflict between the two neighbouring countries.

India showed formidable defence and conducted retaliatory strikes, destroying radar installations and military infrastructure, inflicting heavy damage on the Pakistani side.

Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), later called the Indian DGMO, and a ceasefire was agreed on May 10.

Speaking on the global order, Doval said the world is currently witnessing structural geopolitical and economic instability driven by continuing conflicts, economic uncertainty, and challenges in trade and technology. He said these factors are shaping the global landscape in significant ways.

He noted that a multipolar world is emerging where emerging countries are strengthening their economic capabilities, military strength, and demographic advantage.

"Today, power is no longer concentrated in a few hands, though some may think otherwise. Emerging countries are rising and thriving with resolve and determination. They are strengthening their economic capabilities, military strength, and demographic advantage, and a multipolar world is emerging, wherein these emerging states require and seek equal participation of all powers and countries of the Global South. That is the only way to ensure a secure and stable world," he said.

Doval added that the meeting will help promote mutual understanding and exchange ideas to deal with evolving challenges in these difficult times.

The 1st International Security Forum, along with the XIV International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters, is taking place from May 26 to May 29 in Moscow.

According to an official release, over 140 delegations from foreign states and international organisations participated in the forum.

The event brought together Secretaries of Security Councils, National Security Advisors to heads of state, directors of law enforcement agencies and special services, as well as secretaries of international organisations.

Operation Sheruwali enters day 6

Pratik Sharma visited the area and reviewed the ongoing anti-terror operation in the dense forests.

Officials said that the fresh fire assault was launched on suspected hideouts in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla belt of Manjakote in Rajouri district amid narrowing down of the cordon to eliminate terrorists believed to be hiding in the region.

The firing and MGL assaults resulted in plumes of smoke rising from the forested areas, indicating that the targeted locations were struck during the operation, officials said.

On Monday, security forces busted a hideout after a brief exchange of fire amid strengthening of the cordon around the area where blood stains were detected.

Backed by helicopters, drones and sniffer dogs, joint teams of Army, police and paramilitary forces were conducting extensive searches in the adjoining areas. Additional troops too had joined the search teams to hunt down the escaped terrorists, officials said.

Rising Star Corps GOC visits Kathua, Pathankot

played in the region.

"GOC Rising Star Corps reviewed the operational preparedness of troops deployed in Pathankot and Kathua areas, appreciating their high standards of readiness, seamless integration and exemplary professionalism," the corps said in a post on X.

The Rising Star Corps oversees operational areas of Kathua, Samba and parts of Jammu districts, including the International Border belts in Jammu & Kashmir.

Tyagi joins PFI as Director General

velopment, telecom, load dispatch, safety, and grid operations.

Prior to assuming the new role, he superannuated as Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid. He also served as Director (Operations) and Executive Director for the North-Eastern Region.

An Electrical Engineer from Punjab Engineering College, Tyagi completed his M. Tech in Energy Studies from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and is also a Fulbright Scholar from Carnegie Mellon University.

Widely regarded as a thought leader in the global power ecosystem, he has represented India on several international technical committees and authored more than 50 technical papers. He has also made significant contributions towards the development of global technical standards in transmission systems.

His achievements include the prestigious 1906 Award for exceptional contribution to IEC standards development and recognition by CIGRE as a Distinguished Member.

His leadership and vast experience are expected to strengthen initiatives aimed at innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth in India's power sector.

The Power Foundation of India functions as a think tank and policy advocacy body under the aegis of the Ministry of Power.

NTA announces revised schedule for CUET-UG exams

they can be downloaded from the official website - cuet.nta.nic.in.

The admit cards for June 6 and 7 will be released soon, the agency said.

"Stay updated by checking the official website regularly," the NTA said.

The Common University Entrance Test-UG (CUET-UG) was introduced in 2022 to standardise admissions across Central, state, and select private universities in the country.

Replacing multiple entrance tests, CUET-UG aims to provide a uniform assessment platform to evaluate candidates on language skills, domain-specific subjects and general aptitude, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities.

Air India extends suspension of flights to Israel

"schedule amendment (has been) notified yesterday evening."

In the wake of the West Asia conflict, which started in late February, airlines have been facing multiple headwinds, including costlier fuel and airspace curbs, which pushed up their operational costs.

Earlier in April, the Indian carrier announced to put on hold its operations till the end of May, which now is further extended.

Despite the ceasefire between the US and Iran holding on for some time, the uncertainties surrounding the situation in West Asia have pushed the majority of airlines to stop operating on the Tel Aviv route.

Besides Israeli carriers like El Al, IsraAir, Arkia and Air Haifa, only a few other international airlines have resumed operations, posing great challenges for those looking to travel abroad for work, vacation or family visits.

The suspension of Air India flights has caused major worries among more than 40,000 Indians living in Israel who wish to travel to India for personal/professional reasons, or even to escape the uncertainties in the region.

The limited options also mean heightened costs, which is a major concern among Indian workers.

Jaishankar holds 'productive' talks with EU foreign affairs ministers

Invited by EU High Representative Kaja Kallas and Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos, the visit served as a strategic platform to strengthen India's deepening partnership with the European Union and the broader Mediterranean region.

Jaishankar engaged with EU counterparts to discuss practical collaborations and shared interests in the context of an emerging multipolar global order.

He also called on Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides and discussed the evolving situation in West Asia.

"Delighted to call on President Nikos Christodoulides of the Republic of Cyprus today. Conveyed warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The recent State Visit saw significant outcomes, taking our partnership to its next phase. Assured the President of strong follow up. Discussed the evolving situation in West Asia/Middle East, as also India's interests in the Mediterranean," the EAM said in another post on X.

He joined European Foreign Ministers at the informal Gymnich meeting and held discussions on opportunities and collaborations with the European Union.

In a post on X, he noted that the leaders also discussed common interests in an emerging multipolar world.

He said, "Great to be in Limassol to join the informal Gymnich meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers. Our partnership with EU and the region continues to deepen across a wide range of domains. Discussed opportunities, practical collaborations and our shared interests in the emerging multipolar order."

During his visit, he met the Foreign Ministers of France, Poland, Romania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Estonia and the European Commissioner for the Mediterranean.

Jaishankar arrived in Cyprus to participate in the Informal Meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers- Gymnich at the invitation of EU HRVP Kaja Kallas and Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos.

The Gymnich meeting of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union by Cyprus is co-chaired by Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, and Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

PM asks states to resolve water disputes

Chairing the 51st PRAGATI meeting, where seven critical infrastructure projects across railways, power and road sectors covering nine states worth around Rs 30,000 crore were reviewed on Wednesday evening, he underlined that delay in implementation of public projects leads not only to cost escalation but also deprives citizens of timely access to essential facilities.

While reviewing the Ken-Betwa river inter-linking project, the prime minister said it should serve as a model for other states to resolve inter-state water issues through cooperation, timely clearances, technology-based monitoring and mission-mode execution, an official statement said.

States were encouraged to identify similar opportunities where river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge and efficient irrigation can be taken up in an integrated manner to ensure long-term water security, the statement said.

PRAGATI is an ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform aimed at fostering pro-active governance and timely implementation, by seamlessly integrating efforts of the central and state governments.

The seven critical infrastructure projects are pivotal to economic growth and public welfare and these were reviewed with a focus on timelines, inter-agency coordination, and timely issue resolution. Besides the Ken Betwa river link project, Modi also reviewed the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

While reviewing power sector projects, he emphasised the need to accelerate rooftop solar adoption across urban areas, with a special focus on cities, residential clusters and public institutions.

Modi underlined that rooftop solar should be taken up in mission mode to reduce electricity costs, improve energy security and promote clean energy at the household and community level.

While reviewing road and port connectivity projects, it was emphasised that the Vadhavan Port should be developed as a model of port-led, multi-modal development, where every major mode of transport is seamlessly integrated to create a future-ready logistics ecosystem.

The project should not be seen merely as a port, but as a national gateway connected through coastal shipping, inland waterways, dedicated freight corridors, high-speed rail connectivity, highways and airport linkages.

The prime minister emphasised the need for effective implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, underlining that it should move beyond infrastructure creation and ensure measurable outcomes through regular monitoring, citizen participation and convergence between various stake-

holders.

He asked the states to expedite the completion of solid waste management-related infrastructure, including waste processing plants and GOBARdhan plants.

Modi observed that every delay has a direct impact on people's lives, regional growth and public resources and stressed that central ministries, departments and states must adopt a more proactive and time-bound approach to resolve pending issues, remove bottlenecks and ensure faster execution.

The prime minister also emphasised that innovative use of canal networks should be explored, including installation of solar panels along canals and over canals for clean electricity generation.

This would help optimise land use, reduce evaporation losses, generate renewable energy and create additional economic value from water infrastructure.

At the beginning of the meeting, Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan said that in pursuance of the directions of the prime minister, a system of monthly review of social sector schemes at the state level has also been operationalised.

This mechanism aims to ensure regular monitoring, faster resolution of implementation issues and greater accountability at the state and district levels. As part of this initiative, the Swachh Bharat Mission has been taken up for review at the state level in the first instance.

India, China hold 'constructive' talks on LAC in Eastern Ladakh

ment, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation," the MEA said on the WMCC meeting.

It said the Indian side stressed an early meeting of the next expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers.

"Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military levels through mechanisms including those that were agreed as part of outcomes of 24th Special Representative talks," the MEA said in a statement.

The Indian delegation was led by Sujit Ghosh, joint secretary (East Asia) in the MEA while the Chinese delegation was led by Hou Yanqi, director general of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese foreign ministry. Ghosh also met Liu Jinsong, director at the Chinese foreign ministry's Department of Asian Affairs.

The joint secretary also made a courtesy call on Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei.

The WMCC meeting took place as India and China sought to reset their strained ties.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

In October 2024, the two sides firming up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.

In August last year, PM Modi had travelled to the Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit. Modi and Xi held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

In the meeting, Modi said India was committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

US military conducts another strike against Iran

But as things stand, Trump also risks finding that closure to his war of choice comes with an unsatisfactory ending.

The emerging deal puts off many critical issues to be resolved later and has already exposed the Republican president to fierce criticism - even from some of his own supporters - that Iran's hardline leaders will emerge from the conflict battered but emboldened. It all comes to a head just as the midterm elections to determine control of Congress come into focus and as Republicans worry that rising costs and fuel prices are darkening the American electorate's mood.

But Trump on Wednesday dismissed the idea that the upcoming elections would shape his Iran strategy.

"They thought they were gonna outwait me. You know, 'We'll outwait him. He's got the midterms,'" Trump said. "I don't care about the midterms."

Trump acknowledged there was still work to do, but he spoke with a measure of certainty that the two sides would get there.

"They want very much to make a deal," Trump said. "So far, they haven't gotten there. We're not satisfied with it, but we will be - either that or we'll have to just finish the job."

Talks were further complicated after US forces carried out what the Pentagon called "defensive" strikes on missile launch sites and minelaying boats in southern Iran on Monday. The US said it acted with "restraint" in light of the weeklong ceasefire, while Iran decried the action as a sign of "bad faith and unreliability". Wednesday's strikes are likely to cause more complications.

While Trump insists a deal is within reach, there appears to be daylight between the US and Iran on several key issues. The president is also facing scrutiny from Republican allies, including Senators Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Ted Cruz of Texas, who have said the terms seem too favourable to Tehran.

Siddaramaiah resigns as Karnataka CM

ernor Thaaawarchand Gehlot was not in the town, he handed over his resignation letter to the Governor's special secretary Prabhu Shankar.

"I have tendered my resignation from the Chief Minister's post. I am confident the Governor would accept my resignation as per Constitutional provisions," he said.

Siddaramaiah said he had stated repeatedly that he would resign whenever the high command instructed him.

"The high command directed me two days ago to step down, and accordingly, I have submitted my resignation today. I got the opportunity to serve the people of Karnataka twice, for which I thank Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi & Mallikarjun Kharge," Siddaramaiah added.

Yoga, naturopathy vital for healthy, stress-free society: Kavinder

He appreciated the efforts of Dr Jain in promoting yoga and healthy living through literature.

Ashok Gupta, vice-president of Vichar Kranti Manch International, highlighted the significance of the book and said that it would prove highly beneficial for the general public as well as educational institutions and NGOs.

Dr Jain elaborated on the importance of yoga in daily life and shared valuable health advisories with the audience. Dallee Kumar, Regional Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, also spoke on the be occasion and presented his self-authored book Bhartiya Drishti se Tithi Vritant to the governor.

Gupta's wife Bindu Gupta was also felicitated on the occasion by Shikha Jain in recognition of her support for social and wellness-oriented initiatives.

Others who shared their views on the occasion included K S Samyal, Rakesh Verma, Narender Wadhwa, Sanjay Jandial and Shikha Jain.

Samyal presented vote of thanks.

Heatwave to ease as IMD forecasts temp dip

and May 30, offering relief to several northern and central states.

IMD scientist Akhil Srivastava said northwest India has been witnessing persistently high temperatures. "If we look at northwest India, maximum temperatures have primarily been running high, hovering at 45 degrees Celsius or above. Our forecast indicates that over the coming three days, under the influence of a western disturbance and the simultaneous arrival of easterly winds over the plains of northwest India, thunderstorm activity is expected across the western Himalayan region as well as the adjacent plains," he said.

He added that temperatures are expected to drop significantly in the coming days. "Consequently, a fall in maximum temperatures of 5-8°C, and in some isolated pockets up to 10°C, is anticipated between May 28 and May 30. As a result, significant relief is expected from the prevailing heat-wave conditions across regions such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh," Srivastava said.

However, he also cautioned that the shift in weather could bring intense conditions, including strong winds and thunderstorms.

"Wind speeds in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and surrounding areas could be quite high, ranging from 60 to 70 kmph, and potentially reaching up to 80 kmph," he said.

In parts of Uttar Pradesh, wind speeds could be even stronger, he added. "In certain areas, wind speeds could range from 80 to 90 kmph, occasionally touching 100 kmph. Warnings for hailstorms have also been issued for parts of the western Himalayan region, including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh," he said, advising people to remain cautious.

Conflict over Taiwan risks nuclear escalation in region

rejected Beijing's sovereignty claims.

China has ramped up pressure on Taiwan by increasing its military presence around the island, keeping Taipei on high alert for further Chinese moves following the summit.

Trump's Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth will be speaking at the Singapore conference on Saturday, China has yet to confirm that its Defence Minister Dong Jun will be attending.

The 156-page IISS assessment examines evolving military doctrines across the region as well as how a conflict over Taiwan might play out.

While the US and Chinese forces had different aims in a Taiwan scenario - the Chinese to keep the US and its allies at bay while the US bolsters Taiwan's resilience - the two sides could be expected to launch vast operations across military domains.

"Conflict with China would risk escalation, potentially to a nuclear level, given the strategic importance of Taiwan to Beijing," the document says.

"There is currently little public evidence to suggest that both militaries understand the necessary guard rails to prevent, or rules of engagement that would restrict, both sides potentially targeting each other's key command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance nodes," the assessment says.

"The prospect of nuclear escalation will thus continue to loom large in a major US-China conflict." IISS senior fellow Daniel Salisbury noted that there were no nuclear-specific conversations at the latest Trump-Xi summit, and that the relationship between the two superpowers was "quite difficult" on the nuclear front.

He said at a press conference that during the Cold War, the US had a long history of conversations with the Soviet Union about arms control and risk reduction measures. However, he said any conversation with China would be more complicated given how a lot of China's nuclear arsenal is concealed.

"That culture of discussion is just not there at the moment so there's far less to build on in that relationship," he said.

While both the US and Russian nuclear arsenals still dwarf China's stockpiles, US officials and arms control analysts say China is expanding and improving its atomic weapons capabilities faster than any other nuclear power.

A Pentagon report released in December said China was on track to field 1,000 warheads by 2030.

The Federation of American Scientists estimates that Russia and the US field 4,400 and 3,700 active warheads respectively while China has 620.

Regional parties' income falls 52 pc in 2024-25: ADR

Janata Dal (BJD) at Rs 288.44 crore and AITC at Rs 227.59 crore. The ADR report highlighted that 21 of the 36 parties spent more than the income they collected during the year.

YSR Congress recorded the highest excess expenditure, spending Rs 199.82 crore more than its income, amounting to 142.33 per cent above its earnings. Parties such as AITC, BRS, BJD, JD(U) and Samajwadi Party also reported expenditure exceeding their income.

At the same time, 15 parties reported unspent income. The TDP had the largest surplus, retaining Rs 166.98 crore unspent, followed by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) with Rs 36.27 crore and AIADMK with Rs 35.86 crore.

Voluntary contributions remained the biggest source of funding for regional parties. Donations and contributions accounted for Rs 702.36 crore or 58.88 per cent of total income. The AITC reported the highest donations at Rs 184.08 crore, followed by YSR Congress at Rs 140.05 crore and TDP at Rs 85.20 crore. Interest income contributed another Rs 277.21 crore, or 23.24 per cent of the total income.

The report further observed that election expenditure and administrative expenses remained the most common spending heads.

Fifteen regional parties spent more than 55 per cent of their expenditure on elections. YSR Congress alone spent Rs 299.92 crore on election campaigns, followed by BJD at Rs 270.66 crore and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) at Rs 147.99 crore.

ADR also flagged delays in filing audit reports. While 15 parties submitted their reports on time, 21 delayed their submissions from two to 96 days.

The organisation noted that 31 regional parties, including major parties such as DMK, Shiv Sena, Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, had not uploaded their FY 2024-25 audit reports on the ECI website at the time of preparation of the report.

ADR recommended stricter enforcement of disclosure rules, greater transparency in donor details and stronger penalties against parties that fail to submit audit reports on time.