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## Modi urges shift from aid-based ties to equal partnerships

pressure against Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. G7 leaders agreed to intensify pressure on Russia to end more than four years of war against Ukraine, with U.S. President Donald Trump saying Moscow should "make a deal". The June 15 to 17 gathering in Evian-les-Bains, on the shores of Lake Geneva, brings together the leaders of France, Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, alongside the European Union.

With a message that trust was in short supply globally, PM Modi participated in a session with the Group of Seven (G7) countries and others on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity".

He wrote in a X post, "Shared my thoughts at the Outreach Session on 'Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity' at the G7 Summit in Evian. In a world that is getting more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, this subject becomes all the more vital."

The G7 leaders called on for a "strong and coordinated" response to the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo, with the Red Cross warning the epidemic has yet to peak.

At the summit, the leaders of the group of seven industrialised nations called for a "strong and coordinated response to address the health security risks posed by the re-emerging outbreak of Ebola" in DRC and Uganda, according to a statement.

## India slams UN reform draft on Security Council expansion

that the permanent category would be expanded through the Fixed Regional Seats proposal, which he said "incredibly has only been documented" in this 'Elements Paper'.

It adds that member states elected to such seats would serve in their national capacity and not formally represent their respective regions. "These present three inherent issues - one, the proposal does in no way expand the permanent category; two, the concept of regionality would not be served if the concerned member states act in their national capacities; and three, it weakens the case of SIDS (Small Island Developing States), a crossregional group which India has been consistently supportive of." India said this whole proposal is akin to granting a veto to the 10 elected members of the

Council, who sit at the horse-shoe table for two-year terms, "bereft of convoluted arguments of permanency. This proposal confuses veto power with permanency." Further, India said that the Elements Paper proposes further discussion and clarification on the concept of 'permanency', on which Parvathaneni said that the UN Charter is very clear and there is no room for ambiguity.

He noted that Article 23 clearly categorises the UNSC members into two - permanent and non-permanent.

"Therefore, the definition of a permanent seat needs no further elaboration of classification as a divergence. Groups and member states, including the African group, the G4 and L69, treat a permanent member, serving or future, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Charter," he said.

The Elements Paper reflecting expansion of the category of two-year term nonpermanent members as a convergence portrays only a part of the picture, he said adding that groups and member states add qualifiers and attach other interlinked parameters as they endorse expansion in the non-permanent category.

India also underscored the need for text-based negotiations on UNSC reform to ensure that discussions are more purposeful and outcome-oriented. "IGN cannot be fundamentally different from other UN processes, wherein negotiations are held on the basis of a text. Groups and member states express their views on the text under consideration," Parvathaneni said.

India called on the co-Chairs of the IGN to take the lead on formulating a text, "with clearly-defined milestones and timelines, so that groups and member states could engage in a purposeful and outcome-oriented manner, and thereafter consider, if necessary and as appropriate, any bridging proposal." With the UNSC reform process moving at a snail's pace through the decades, India asserted that a "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" approach must not become a tool to block progress.

"Status-quoists have tried to use this argument in their favour and thereby, entrench the existing inequities in the Security Council," Parvathaneni said.

## Pak drone sighted, ops launched

Security forces searched the area this morning to ensure that there was no airdropping of narcotics or weapons. However, nothing was recovered during the search operation, the officials added.

## 4 jawans injured in landmine blast

were wounded and hospitalised. The condition of all of them was stated to be stable.

"As part of the anti-infiltration drive, the forward areas are dotted with landmines, which sometimes get washed away by rains, resulting in such incidents," officials said.

## IAS officer shifted to Ladakh

Ladakh. Meanwhile, the J&K government transferred JKAS officer Aditya Krishna Dogra and placed his services at the disposal of principal resident commissioner, J&K government, in New Delhi.

## Saxena approves constitution of SHAN Conservation Society

Saxena has approved the constitution of first of its kind "Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature" (SHAN) Conservation Society.

The society will act as a dedicated institutional mechanism for wildlife conservation, scientific management of biodiversity and community-led environmental stewardship in UT Ladakh.

It will promote, assist and mobilise resources for the conservation of wildlife and their habitat, eco-development in the vicinity of areas inhabited by Snow Leopard, its co-existing species, and promote eco-tourism and sustainable livelihood.

Since assuming charge as Ladakh LG, Saxena has consistently placed environmental protection and ecological resilience at the centre of governance. The establishment of the SHAN Conservation Society is another significant milestone in this broader environmental agenda and is the result of the Lieutenant Governor's personal intervention and sustained efforts to create a robust institutional framework for biodiversity conservation in Ladakh.

The society has been formed as a multi-stakeholder platform to promote conservation of Ladakh's unique alpine fauna, including Snow Leopards, a variety of flora, wetlands and fragile cold desert ecosystems. It will facilitate scientific monitoring and research, strengthen biodiversity management, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, promote community-led conservation initiatives and support sustainable eco-tourism and livelihood generation.

"Environmental protection has been one of our foremost priorities in Ladakh, where fragile mountain ecosystems demand a development model that places conservation at its very core. The Snow Leopard is not merely a wildlife species; it is an integral part of Ladakh's ecological identity and natural heritage. The SHAN Conservation Society represents an important institutional initiative to promote science-based and community-driven conservation while ensuring that ecological preservation and sustainable livelihoods progress hand in hand," said L-G Shri VK Saxena.

The initiative assumes greater significance for the conservation of the Snow Leopard, the State Animal of Ladakh and one of the world's most elusive and endangered big cats. Revered as the "Ghost of the Mountains", the Snow Leopard is a keystone species whose presence reflects the health of the entire Trans-Himalayan ecosystem. Its conservation is intrinsically linked with the protection of mountain habitats, prey species, watersheds and biodiversity that sustain life in the region. The species has also emerged as a global symbol of Ladakh's rich natural heritage and holds immense potential for promoting responsible eco-tourism and community-based conservation.

The LG will be the chairman of the society, while the chief secretary, Ladakh MP, the chief executive councillor of LAHDC, Leh, the chief executive councillor of LAHDC, Kargil, and the principal secretary of department of forest, ecology & environment, will be ex-officio members.

The society will also have Palga Rinpoche, head of Naloring Monastery, Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF India, Sandesh Kador, Explorer Trustee of the National Geographic Society Board of Trustees, President of Women's Alliance of Ladakh, Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Chairman of Ladakh Centre for Peace and Sustainable Development, as its members.

## Jitendra inaugurates pre-retirement counselling workshop

in Jammu & Kashmir following the transition of the erstwhile state into a Union Territory.

He said the reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir led to a significant increase in the number of central government employees in the region, bringing with it certain initial workload and service-delivery challenges.

These challenges, he said, were progressively resolved through coordinated efforts of the government and associated institutions, enabling employees and pensioners across the Union Territory to derive the benefits of the pension reforms introduced during the last 10 years.

Dr Singh made a special mention of the role played by the Jammu & Kashmir Central Pensioners' Associations, saying they had emerged as valuable partners in this transition.

He said the associations had not only extended full cooperation but had consistently brought into the notice of the government along with practical suggestions for their resolution.

Their constructive engagement, he said, had helped facilitate the transition of erstwhile state employees into the central government framework and contributed to the effective implementation of pension reforms across Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the 59th Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop and 13th Bankers' Awareness Programme organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, Dr Singh said the government had fundamentally changed the approach towards pensioners by placing their welfare, dignity and ease of living at the centre of policy making.

## Deal to end war requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanon: Iran

Lebanon "as long as necessary."

The ambiguity mirrored developments during past negotiations, including the temporary ceasefire brokered in April. That agreement did not pave the way to broader peace or the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz after the United States and Iran announced differing frameworks.

The discrepancy underscored how much of the agreement remains apparently unresolved ahead of a planned ceremonial signing on Friday in Geneva.

The agreement is meant to provide a meaningful truce in a month-long war that has killed thousands across the Middle East, including the top leaders of Iran's theocracy, and raised the prices of fuel, food and other basic goods far beyond the region.

The unpublished agreement provides for the "immediate" opening of the Strait of Hormuz and lifting of the blockade, according to a senior US official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement on Monday.

Brokered mainly by Pakistan, it starts with the simultaneous lifting of Iran's closure of the strait and the US blockade of Iran's ports, according to Pakistani officials. The United States and Iran will then begin 60 days of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and the potential lifting of sanctions, Pakistani officials who helped broker the interim deal said, speaking on condition of anonymity about the unpublished text.

It also includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds, sanctions relief and a USD 300 billion fund to help rebuild Iran if Tehran meets certain benchmarks, senior US officials told reporters Monday.

Araghchi's comments on Tuesday appear to match the understanding of two regional officials with direct knowledge of the interim deal. The officials, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations, said it would require Israel to leave nearly all the territory it occupies in Lebanon, minus a few hilltop points along the border seized earlier.

The officials say Iran insisted the accord include Lebanon in the last days of the negotiations. Regarding the timeline, the officials said the release of frozen Iranian assets is tied to Tehran implementing the deal. Gulf Arab states have also pledged to inject billions of dollars into Iran's economy, they added.

Beyond Lebanon, there's one more point of possible contention on Iran's nuclear program. The interim deal begins a 60-day clock for talks over Tehran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

Iran has agreed to discuss ways to possibly "dilute or remove" its stockpile, the officials said. However, it remains unclear whether Tehran would agree to that, particularly with hard-liners opposed to giving it up.

US officials have not yet explained how they see the agreement addressing Iran's nuclear program, including who will be in charge of verifying that Iran is in compliance and who will destroy or remove highly enriched uranium believed to be buried under nuclear sites that were badly damaged by US strikes last summer.

Meanwhile, world leaders gathered in France for the first full day of the Group of Seven summit of major industrialised nations, where Iran was high on the agenda. Scheduled discussions include a work session focused on "ending crises and ensuring stability in the Middle East." Leaders of Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are to join the talks.

Trump has clashed with European leaders over not consulting them before going to war in Iran. Even so, leaders are expected to strike a measured tone as they seek ways to ease the economic fallout from rising oil prices caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Ahead of their meeting, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement congratulating the United States, the Iranian government and the mediators on what they called a "diplomatic breakthrough." Canada also signed the statement. The leaders said it was vital for detailed negotiations to take place and for the deal to be quickly implemented so the Strait of Hormuz can be reopened to tanker traffic.

## Without me, there would be no Israel, says Trump

be no Israel because no other president was willing to do what I did," he said.

"I am not happy with the way Israel had handled themselves with Lebanon and Hezbollah. They should have been able to do the job faster," Trump added.

The Israeli military has continued its offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon even after Trump's insistence that Tel Aviv and other players in the region "must tone down" amid the truce deal being brokered to cease violence in the region.

US President Donald Trump's push for a peace agreement with Iran has exposed growing differences with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who insists Israel's campaign against Iran and its regional proxies is "not over" even as Washington pushes for a regional settlement.

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Speaking at a press briefing in Jerusalem on Tuesday, for the first time since Washington and Tehran announced the preliminary truce, Netanyahu said the campaign launched against Iran was one of the most consequential military operations in Israeli history.

"We neutralised their nuclear scientists, decapitated the leaders of the terror regime, crushed the nuclear facilities, destroyed missiles, and destroyed the overwhelming majority of factories producing missiles. We saved the State of Israel from annihilation," Netanyahu told reporters.

With the general election around the corner in Israel, which needs to be held before the end of October 2026, PM Netanyahu has been surrounded by limited political options, and the leader also faces a corruption trial in Tel Aviv.

## LS Speaker to seek views of both TMC factions before decision

that only a political party can merge with another political party, not MPs or MLAs.

He said if the leadership of a political party decides to merge with another political party, its MLAs and MPs have to agree on the merger "but MPs or the MLAs alone cannot merge with another political party... this is the Constitutional provision."

A former Election Commission officer, who dealt with political parties in the poll authority, described the current plan of the TMC rebels to merge with the NCPI as an "inno-

vation" that has no mention in either the anti-defection law or the Representation of the People Act.

The crisis in the TMC deepened on Sunday as the defected MPs announced their merger with the NCPI and met Birla seeking a separate seating arrangement in the Lower House.

After the meeting, defected MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said 20 party MPs had signed the representation submitted to the speaker.

"Two-thirds of TMC MPs have given a letter to the speaker for a separate seating arrangement. We will merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party and support the NDA," she said.

The NCPI registered itself as a political party in January 2023, with a building in Sankarail in West Bengal's Howrah district as its address in the ECI records and has little footprint in national politics.

## Omar meets legislators

(Pampore), Javed Reyaz Bedar (Pattan), Khurshheed Ahmad Sheikh (Langate), Arjun Singh Raju (Ramban) and Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Dooru).

They apprised him of various development needs, public welfare issues and constituency-specific matters.

The chief minister gave them a patient hearing and assured them that the issues and concerns raised by them would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

## Road projects in J&amp;K have witnessed major boost since 2014: Tamta

Rs 65,000 crore are being prepared," the minister said. "Today, the Jammu-Srinagar corridor alone has 25 tunnels with 20 completed and five under construction," he added, adding strategic projects such as the Zojila Tunnel, Digidol-Khooni Nallah, Sungal, Bhimber Gali, Sinthan Pass, Sudhmahadev, Sadhna Pass, Peer Ki Gali and the parallel Chenani-Nashri alignment are expected to ensure reliable, year-round connectivity.

The MoS appreciated the work of all agencies and directed the officials to complete the projects within stipulated timelines while maintaining quality, safety and public convenience.

He said the infrastructure push of the last 12 years has moved Jammu and Kashmir from "difficult and disrupted connectivity to modern, all-weather, high-speed and integrated transport." "The projects will boost tourism, pilgrimage, industry, defence logistics and overall socio-economic growth in the Union Territory," the minister said.

## SC notice on PIL alleging Aadhaar misuse as proof of citizenship

application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as a proof of date of birth and proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators and illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using Aadhaar," the plea said.

The petition contended that the existing verification mechanism under Form-6 is inadequate and might allow individuals without proper supporting documents to be included in the electoral database.

The plea sought a comprehensive overhaul of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a high-powered monitoring committee comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

## NIA attaches property of LeT operative

witnesses and with the assistance of local authorities, it said.

The said property was registered in the name of the father of accused Ankush Kapoor - a key operative in India of the narco-terror network spread across Italy, Australia, Iran, Thailand, UAE and Pakistan among other nations, the probe agency said in the statement.

NIA's investigations had revealed Ankush's links with a Dubai-based accused connected with the Pakistan-based proscribed terrorist organisation -- Lashkare - Taiba.

Ankush, who was arrested last year, was found to be a very important operative of the conspiracy relating to smuggling, transportation, storage and distribution of narcotic substances, besides laundering the proceeds of terrorism to the accused in various countries, the statement said.

Investigations had shown that the proceeds from the trafficking of narcotic substances were being used to finance and support terrorist activities in India through a complex and elaborate financial network, it said.

The anti-terror agency had earlier charged Ankush for his role in terror-funding activities, criminal conspiracy, and providing support to unlawful and terrorist networks, in addition to offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC), the statement said.

A total of 26 accused have so far been chargesheeted in the case, in which investigation is continuing. "Today's action was part of NIA's efforts to dismantle and destroy all financial and logistical infrastructure supporting terrorist activities on Indian soil," it added.

## Telegram blocked as govt cites paper leak risks

forms. NTA said several Telegram channels, groups and bots had been taken down after they openly advertised fraudulent and misleading claims.

According to the agency, channels operating under names such as "PAPER LEAKED NEET", "Re-NEET 2026", "Private Mafia", and "REE NEET MAFIAA" demanded sums ranging from a few thousand to several lakhs of rupees from candidates and their families for purported access to the re-examination paper.

NTA reiterated that there is no paper available outside the secured examination chain and that the promise of any such material is, in every instance, a fraud.

The agency said Telegram's message-editing feature allowed a channel administrator to edit an old message, including by substituting attached files such as PDFs, while retaining the original send-time stamp. This could be used after an exam to insert the actual question paper into an older message and circulate the chat as purported evidence that the paper was available before the exam.

## DC Pulwama chairs DLRC/DCC meeting, reviews banking performance

**PULWAMA, JUNE 16:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2025-26 at Circuit House, Pulwama, to review the performance of banks and the implementation of various credit-linked, employment generation and financial inclusion schemes in the district.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama, presented a detailed overview of the district's

banking performance. The Chair was informed that as on March 31, 2026, the district recorded deposits of Rs 5,902.15 crore and advances of Rs 6,218.79 crore, while the district's Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio stood at 105.36 percent.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed bank-wise and sector-wise performance under the District Credit Plan (DCP). A detailed review of employment generation schemes, including Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar, PMFME, NRLM, HADP, Artisan Credit Card and Weavers Credit Card,

was also conducted.

Reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the DC directed banks to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement of pending cases and ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial assistance. He stressed close coordination among banks, line departments and beneficiaries for effective implementation of the scheme and directed that penalty be reduced through regular follow-up at all levels.

He also directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to ensure timely processing of applica-

tions and improved credit flow to eligible beneficiaries under various government-sponsored schemes. He emphasised the need to strengthen credit linkage initiatives to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote entrepreneurship in the district.

The Chair also reviewed the status of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued under the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors. He directed the concerned departments and banks to intensify efforts for saturation of eligible beneficiaries under KCC and ensure timely disposal of

pending applications. He stressed the inclusion of all eligible PM-KISAN beneficiaries under the KCC scheme to enhance access to institutional credit and strengthen the agricultural economy of the district.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). He directed banks and line departments to intensify enrolment drives, undertake targeted in-

terventions and achieve saturation targets in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising financial inclusion and public outreach, the DC directed banks and concerned institutions to conduct more financial literacy and awareness programmes in rural and far-flung areas. He emphasized the importance of creating awareness regarding digital banking services, social security schemes and credit-linked livelihood opportunities.

The DC further reviewed the functioning of RSETI and highlighted its role in skill development and entrepreneurship promotion.