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Move forward shoulder on issue of terrorism: Modi

ancing networks and safe havens, and bring perpetrators to justice swiftly.

The Joint Statement welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Arrangement establishing a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, which will provide a framework for information and knowledge sharing between the two countries.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and stressed the urgent need for all countries to take "immediate, sustained, concerted, and concrete action" against UN-proscribed terrorist organisations, their affiliates, proxies, sponsors, financiers and backers.

Beyond security, the Joint Statement underscored cooperation through ASEAN-led regional mechanisms, support for ASEAN centrality, resilient global supply chains, universal nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in addressing conflicts, including those in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a two-day official visit to New Zealand from July 10-11 at the invitation of Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. The visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years, saw the two countries elevate ties to a Strategic Partnership and adopt a Roadmap to 2030 for enhanced cooperation across trade, defence, technology, security and regional affairs.

Future wars will still be won by military power, not just AI: Def Min

the recent West Asia conflict, Singh said under Operation Urja Suraksha, the Navy safely escorted 18 merchant vessels carrying essential cargo valued at more than Rs 9,000 crore, highlighting its role in protecting not only national security but also India's economic interests.

The defence minister said the successful induction of the warship demonstrates India's growing capability to design, build and deploy complex frontline combat platforms through indigenous expertise.

The warship is equipped with an indigenous rocket launcher, torpedo launchers, an Integrated Anti-Submarine Defence System, an Electronic Warfare suite and a Close-In Weapon System, making it a formidable and resilient combat platform capable of operating in challenging maritime environments.

Describing INS Mahendragiri as a "blue-water warship", Singh said it can effectively counter threats from the air, enemy vessels on the surface and submarines hidden beneath the sea, and can protect India's maritime interests not only near the coastline but also in distant and deep oceans during prolonged deployments.

The union minister said the commissioning of Mahendragiri comes at a time when the nature of warfare is rapidly evolving with the emergence of drones, artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, hypersonic weapons, space-based capabilities and unmanned systems.

However, he stressed that conventional military capabilities continue to remain the bedrock of effective national defence.

The Union Minister described INS Mahendragiri as a symbol of the nation's commitment to building a technologically advanced and combat-ready Navy capable of meeting future security challenges while protecting India's maritime interests.

He expressed confidence that INS Mahendragiri would further strengthen India's maritime strategy by enhancing the security of the eastern seaboard, extending the country's blue-water operational reach and reinforcing its presence across the Indian Ocean Region.

Singh said indigenous warship construction goes beyond building combat platforms as it strengthens design capability, technological expertise, skilled manpower and the broader maritime industrial ecosystem.

He noted that shipbuilding supports sectors including steel, electronics, sensors, propulsion systems, software, precision engineering and logistics while generating employment and fostering innovation.

Reiterating the government's vision to establish India as a global hub for shipbuilding and maritime defence innovation, the Union Minister said initiatives such as Maritime India Vision 2030, the Maritime Development Fund, the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme are aimed at modernising ports, expanding inland waterways, strengthening logistics networks, enhancing industrial capacity and boosting self-reliance.

He also called upon young entrepreneurs, engineers, innovators, researchers and investors to contribute to nation-building by developing advanced technologies and defence systems that would shape future warfare and strengthen India's self-reliance in the defence sector.

Singh said the induction of Mahendragiri marks another milestone in India's journey towards defence self-reliance and strengthens the Navy's operational capability in safeguarding the country's maritime interests across the Indian Ocean Region and beyond.

Weather alert issued for Kishtwar

forecast period.

The administration has advised people, especially those residing near rivers, streams, nullahs and landslide-prone locations, to stay away from water bodies, avoid unnecessary movement and strictly follow safety precautions until weather conditions improve.

The administration has asked all tehsildars to immediately report any incident involving loss of life, damage to property, road blockages or any other weather-related occurrence for timely relief and rescue operations.

Cop dismissed from service

stable in Jammu and Kashmir police in 2011.

"During his posting at DPL, Kathua, he was marked absent with effect from November 10, 2023. Despite repeated notices, wireless messages, and summons issued through Rajbagh police station, and opportunities provided through show cause notices and publication in leading newspapers, he did not report back for duty," officials said.

A departmental inquiry was also conducted which found him guilty of willful and prolonged unauthorised absence of more than two-and-a-half years and gross disregard for departmental discipline, the officials added.

Taking a serious view of the matter, he was dismissed from service with effect from November 10, 2023, the date from which he was marked absent, officials said.

"The dismissed cop has been directed to deposit all government items and obtain the required certificate from the department, failing which he is liable to be

booked under law," the officials added.

Saxena inaugurates Centre of Excellence

youth with advanced skills in renewable energy, industrial automation and emerging technologies suited to the unique requirements of the Himalayan region.

Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Skill India', 'Digital India' and 'Make in India', the centre has been equipped with advanced laboratories covering Industrial Automation using Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), Human Machine Interface (HMI) systems, SCADA and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), Smart Electrical Systems, Building Management Systems, Renewable Energy Technologies, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Fire & Safety Automation.

During the first phase, specialised training programmes will be offered in Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Industrial Automation, Building Management Systems, SCADA and IIoT, Solar PV Technologies, and Electric Vehicle Charging and Energy Management.

Schneider Electric, a global leader in energy management, industrial automation, electricity distribution, building automation and grid management technologies, is associated as the Energy Technology Partner for the Centre of Excellence. LAHDC Leh has provided the building for this Centre. Under this partnership, the Centre will focus on developing local capacity by training engineers, ITI graduates and technical professionals in specialised domains such as high-altitude microgrids, smart automation systems, renewable energy integration, SCADA, PLCs and Building Management Systems, addressing the unique operational requirements of mountainous regions like Ladakh.

In his address, Saxena said that Ladakh's unique geography presented challenges but also unparalleled opportunities in renewable energy, smart infrastructure and climate-resilient technologies.

"The future of Ladakh lies in building a skilled, innovative and self-reliant workforce capable of leading the transition towards clean energy and advanced technologies. This Centre of Excellence will prepare the youth for emerging sectors such as renewable energy, industrial automation, electric mobility and smart infrastructure. Our objective is not merely to create employment but to nurture innovators, entrepreneurs and technology leaders who will contribute to the sustainable development of Ladakh and the nation," he added.

On the occasion, Schneider Electric also expressed its interest in supporting the establishment of a Youth Impact Cluster in Ladakh, comprising one central Hub and three to five spoke centres, aligned with the skill requirements of local industries. It also proposed a similar Hub for Kargil to expand advanced technical education across the Union Territory.

Govt approves rehabilitation of Nai Basti shopkeepers

tance under the NHA I Act would be provided to JMC for the rehabilitation process.

A committee headed by the divisional commissioner, Jammu, would oversee the implementation of the project, and ensure that the new market was developed with all basic infrastructure.

'Street Food Hub' to be developed at Lakhanpur: Jitendra

for developing such hubs.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accorded high priority to the development of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Singh said Lakhanpur's inclusion among the first approved towns reflects the Centre's commitment to strengthening infrastructure, tourism and livelihoods in the Union Territory.

"The approval assumes added significance at a time when the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra is witnessing heavy pilgrim movement and the new facility will further enhance services for pilgrims, tourists and other travellers entering Jammu & Kashmir through Lakhanpur," he said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs for expediting the proposal and including Lakhanpur in the very first batch of approved Street Food Hubs in the country.

Gadkari calls for cooperation to shape future of global mobility

proach inspired by the timeless philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or the 'world is one family'," the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said while addressing the 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' meeting being held in Nagpur under India's BRICS Chairship.

"BRICS, representing nearly half of the world's population, is uniquely positioned to lead the development of transport systems that are cleaner, safer, smarter and more efficient while advancing sustainable economic growth and regional connectivity," Gadkari said while calling for stronger BRICS collaboration.

Common challenges relating to infrastructure financing, congestion, emissions, road safety and last-mile connectivity require collective solutions, he asserted.

The union minister emphasised India's readiness to deepen cooperation through knowledge sharing, capacity building, technological collaboration and joint research in green hydrogen, electric mobility, alternative fuels, digital transport systems and sustainable multimodal infrastructure.

Expressing confidence in the outcomes of the meeting, Gadkari said the deliberations would further strengthen BRICS transport cooperation and contribute to practical, innovative and people-centric mobility solutions.

He called upon BRICS nations to work together to build transport systems that promote inclusive growth, strengthen regional connectivity, protect the environment and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Emphasising that transport is the backbone of economic development, Gadkari highlighted India's rapid transformation across the road, rail, maritime and aviation sectors.

"India has developed the world's second-largest road network while significantly expanding access-controlled expressways and multimodal connectivity. The Hybrid Annuity Model as a successful framework for mobilising private investment in infrastructure," he pointed out.

Indian Railways have undergone unprecedented modernisation through near-complete electrification of the broad-gauge network, expansion of Vande Bharat services, progress on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor and landmark engineering achievements such as the new Pamban Bridge, he said.

Gadkari also highlighted the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, digital initiatives including e-Navik and e-Samudra, and the Green Shipping initiative as important steps towards strengthening maritime infrastructure and logistics efficiency.

The two-day meeting is being organised under India's BRICS Chairship theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

The delegates from member countries - Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - will participate in discussions on sustainable transport, infrastructure, clean mobility, logistics resilience and multimodal connectivity.

OGW detained at Nunwan base camp

personnel intercepted the suspect and carried out verification, during which he was confirmed to be an OGW, officials said.

He was immediately taken into custody for further legal proceedings and detailed investigation, the officials added.

"The successful interception demonstrates the effectiveness of the advanced surveillance technology deployed as part of the multi-layered security arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra. The Facial Recognition System has significantly enhanced real-time monitoring, strengthened access control, and enabled security agencies to respond swiftly to potential threats," officials said.

Fresh batch of 9,182 pilgrims leaves for Amarnathji cave shrine

transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra marks the beginning of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Heavy rains likely in J&K, neighbouring states

tem. The IMD has forecast isolated to scattered rainfall throughout July 11-16, while isolated heavy rainfall is likely during July 11-13. Heavy showers at a few places may temporarily disrupt road traffic and daily activities.

The hill state of Himachal Pradesh is likely to experience one of the most intense phases of the current monsoon. The IMD has predicted fairly widespread to widespread rainfall from July 11 to July 16, with isolated heavy rainfall expected from July 11 to July 15. The prolonged wet spell could increase the risk of landslides, flash floods, rockfalls and road closures in vulnerable districts.

Neighbouring Uttarakhand is expected to remain under an active monsoon spell throughout the forecast period. The IMD has forecast fairly widespread to widespread rainfall from July 11 to July 16, accompanied by isolated heavy rainfall on all six days, increasing the possibility of landslides, flash floods and swelling of rivers and streams.

Monsoon activity is also expected to intensify across central India. West Madhya Pradesh is likely to receive isolated to scattered rainfall from July 11 to July 16, while East Madhya Pradesh is expected to receive isolated to scattered rainfall between July 11 and 14 before rainfall becomes fairly widespread to widespread on July 15 and 16. Vidarbha is likely to witness isolated to scattered rainfall from July 11 to 13 and widespread rainfall on July 14-16, whereas Chhattisgarh is expected to receive isolated to scattered rainfall during July 11-12, followed by widespread rainfall between July 13 and 16.

The IMD has also warned that East Madhya Pradesh may experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds at 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60 kmph, during July 11-14. West Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha are likely to witness gusty winds of 30-40 kmph, gusting to 50 kmph, while thunderstorms with lightning are expected over Chhattisgarh during July 11-14. Heavy rainfall is likely over East Madhya Pradesh during July 14-16 and over Chhattisgarh during July 13-16.

Across eastern India, the southwest monsoon is expected to remain active. Bihar is likely to receive isolated to scattered rainfall from July 12 to 16, while fairly widespread to widespread rainfall is expected on July 11. The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall during July 12-14 and very heavy rainfall at isolated places on July 11.

Jharkhand is expected to receive isolated to scattered rainfall on July 11 before rainfall becomes fairly widespread from July 12 to 16, with heavy rainfall likely during July 13-14.

Odisha is likely to witness isolated to scattered rainfall during July 11-12, followed by widespread rainfall from July 13 to 16, while heavy rainfall is expected during July 13-16.

Gangetic West Bengal is expected to receive fairly widespread to widespread rainfall throughout July 11-16, with heavy rainfall likely during July 11-14. Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim are also likely to experience widespread rainfall during the entire period, with very heavy rainfall expected during July 11-12 and heavy rainfall continuing through July 13-16.

The IMD has further warned of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while Bihar, Odisha and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim may witness gusty winds of 30-40 kmph, gusting up to 50 kmph.

The weather office has forecast fairly widespread to widespread rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and Nagaland, indicating that the active southwest monsoon will continue across the northeastern region during the forecast period.

The IMD has advised people living in areas likely to receive heavy rainfall to stay updated on local weather advisories, avoid unnecessary travel during intense rain spells, and exercise caution in flood- and landslide-prone areas. Local administrations have also been asked to remain prepared for possible weather-related disruptions.

15 Indians killed in Vietnam boat capsized

an island trip.

The speedboat capsized about 400 metres off Hon May Rut Ngai, an island in the An Thoi archipelago off the coast of Phu Quoc, Vietnamese news portal VN Express International reported.

The report said nearby tourist boats rushed to pull passengers from the water before the border guards, the navy, the coast guard and other forces joined the search-and-rescue operation.

It also quoted eyewitnesses saying some of the passengers were trapped inside the overturned boat, which made rescue difficult.

The bodies of all the deceased tourists had been recovered, according to reports.

Of the 15 victims, 10 were from Tamil Nadu, three were from Andhra Pradesh and two were from Kerala. Two of the deceased were women, according to a list shared by the

Indian Embassy on X.

"A big wave hit us, 20 people came out of it, and the balance members got stuck," Nirmal Kumar, a survivor, said.

"It's a closed boat. Since we were on the front, we managed to survive. Others who were behind, got stuck. The boat authorities maintained proper safety measures," he said.

Television footage aired by Vietnamese media showed rough seas and strong winds as rescue teams threw life buoys to people in the water. Jet skis were used to ferry survivors to the shore, where bystanders administered first aid to some of the victims, it said.

The exact cause of the incident was yet to be ascertained.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung has ordered an investigation into the cause of the accident and directed authorities to hold those responsible accountable. He also asked officials to review waterway and maritime safety measures in the area of the accident and other similar locations, the news agency reported.

The Indian Embassy and Consulate in Vietnam are providing all possible assistance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

"Extremely saddened to learn about the tragic news of a boat accident involving Indian nationals near Phu Quoc, Vietnam," he said.

"My sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. My prayers for the early recovery of the injured survivors. Our Embassy and Consulate are providing all possible assistance. Our officials are also in close contact with the Vietnamese authorities," he added.

A defining moment in Kavinder Gupta's public life

He said the faith reposed in him by the Prime Minister continues to inspire him to serve the nation with dedication, uphold the values of the Constitution, and work tirelessly for the welfare of people.

SIA secures RCN against HM terrorist

"In a breakthrough in its sustained counter-terrorism efforts, the SIA has secured an Interpol Red Corner Notice against designated HM terrorist Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo alias Fayaz alias Sajad," officials said.

"A resident of Kraltang, Sopore, Kandoo has been an active member and commander of the proscribed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen since 2010. Owing to his sustained involvement in terrorist activities, the Indian government declared him as a Designated Individual Terrorist in October 2022," the officials added.

Ahead of Delhi protest, NC pushes for J&K statehood in show of strength

gum Jehan, several NC leaders addressed the gathering, with most speeches focusing on the restoration of J&K statehood.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the vice president of the party, asserted that the Centre should not mistake the people's patience as their weakness.

He appealed to all political parties in J&K to stand united and come together on the issue of statehood and join the party's protest at Jantar Mantar on July 20.

The NC has already invited leaders of various political parties in the UT, and its allies in the INDIA bloc to join their proposed statehood protest.

Referring to the all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24, 2021, to discuss the political future of Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370, NC president Farooq Abdullah said he pointed out at the meeting that there was a trust gap between Delhi and J&K.

"The PM then had said that the gap will be bridged. But has it happened? We are also humans. We are the crown of India, and not its shoes. We also have respect, and we appeal to you (PM) to peacefully restore that respect," Farooq said.

He said the central government had promised to restore J&K's statehood during a meeting with the chief minister, but "unfortunately, those promises were not kept".

"However, we have not lost courage, and will never," he asserted.

Farooq asked the leaders to leave their personal interests aside and work unitedly for the people of J&K.

J&K Bank, RBI hold mega financial inclusion campaign

students and members of the public.

Addressing the gathering, RBI Chief General Manager Nisha Nambiar urged people to become enlightened banking citizens by completing Re-KYC formalities and adopting safe digital banking practices. She said financial awareness enables people to make informed decisions regarding savings, insurance and digital transactions while protecting themselves from cyber fraud. She also encouraged participants to spread awareness so that no eligible beneficiary is left out of government-backed financial inclusion schemes.

Earlier, she visited various stalls set up by banks and interacted with Banking Correspondents, appreciating their efforts in extending banking services to remote areas and stressing the need for speedy completion of pending Re-KYC cases.

Welcoming the participants, J&K Bank Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmed Bhat said financial inclusion goes beyond opening bank accounts and aims to provide every citizen access to savings, insurance, pensions, digital payments and government welfare schemes. He highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir now has over 25 lakh Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts supported by more than 16 lakh RuPay debit cards. During the last financial year, banks opened 1.57 lakh new PMJDY accounts, while enrolments under PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY registered significant growth.

ADDC Srinagar Rifat Aftab Qureshi reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to supporting financial inclusion initiatives to ensure the benefits of government-backed schemes reach every eligible household.

Regional Director RBI (Jammu) Chandrashekhar Azad said nearly 60 per cent of bank accounts in Jammu and Kashmir have completed Re-KYC, urging customers to update the remaining accounts without delay. He also encouraged citizens to use the RBI's UDGAM Portal to locate and claim unclaimed deposits and appreciated J&K Bank for organising the campaign in its role as UTLBC Convener.

The campaign focused on enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), activation of inoperative PMJDY accounts, generation of pending CKYC IDs, nomination updates, completion of Re-KYC formalities, opening of PMJDY accounts for uncovered adults, and creating awareness on digital banking and cyber fraud prevention.

General Manager (UTLBC/FID) Khurshid Muzaffar proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the RBI, district administration, participating banks, government departments, Banking Correspondents and all stakeholders for making the campaign successful.