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Trump ready to end Iran war without nuclear deal

striking ships it accuses of attempting to circumvent its preferred route.

Continued attacks in the waterway, which was free to transit before the war, led to the collapse of an April cease-fire. Mediators have urged both sides to return to the terms of a subsequent June memorandum that set out a path for peace talks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said discussions with Oman over transit and management of the strait were "approaching the final stages", but added that the reopening of Hormuz "is subject to other conditions and compensation for the violation" of the June agreement.

He denied on Sunday that Iran was negotiating with the United States, saying they were merely "exchanging messages" via intermediaries.

Iran's security chief Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr on Saturday laid out a list of demands for reopening the strait, including an end to the "war and aggression against Iran and its allies in Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Iraq".

He also demanded the lifting of a US counterblockade of Iranian ports, the end of sanctions, the release of frozen assets and compensation for wartime damage, according to reports.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said their strategy was to maintain the closure "until the enemy accepts all our conditions... the strait is now actually a theatre of war for us and not just a waterway".

The comments came as transit through Hormuz has dropped significantly, with Iran targeting ships it accuses of skirting its preferred route through Iranian waters.

The United Arab Emirates' foreign ministry on Saturday condemned what it called a "hostile Iranian attack that targeted a tanker belonging to ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) with a missile while it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz, without causing casualties".

Later on Saturday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said a ship was hit by a projectile off Oman in the Strait of Hormuz, causing a fire that was extinguished but no casualties. It was unclear whether they were referring to the same ship.

Oman's foreign ministry on Saturday condemned "repeated attacks on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz", without naming Iran.

It also said that "ongoing negotiations regarding navigation arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz are proceeding in a positive and constructive atmosphere", and urged against any actions that might jeopardise progress.

The previous Iran-US deal -- meant to serve as a jumping-off point for negotiations on a permanent settlement - had said Tehran and Muscat would hash out future arrangements for the strait in discussion with other Gulf countries and "in line with the applicable international law".

International law generally forbids tolling in such waterways.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels announced on Sunday that they had struck a Saudi oil facility on the country's Red Sea coast, after the Gulf kingdom said it had extinguished a fire at the site, as the Iranian-allied movement attempts to cut off a second vital waterway.

India will go to any extent to ensure citizens' safety: Def Min

and recipient is, in their own way, serving the nation, and urged the people, particularly the youth, to make blood donation a culture.

"When we celebrate 100 years of our independence in 2047, our aim should not be limited to a developed economy; we must also envision a compassionate society where people are healthy and safe, and precious resources like blood are readily available in times of need," Singh said.

The event was attended by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) Pratap Rao Jadhav, Maharashtra Minister of Industries Uday Ravindra Samant, MP Srikant Eknath Shinde, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth, DG Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin and other senior military and civil dignitaries, the statement said.

For AFMS, maintaining adequate blood reserves assumes particular significance as military hospitals cater to routine healthcare requirements as well as operational, trauma and emergency contingencies.

The participation of nearly 500 voluntary donors reaffirmed the ethos of 'service before self' and underscored the role that every eligible citizen can play in saving lives through regular voluntary blood donation, the ministry said.

2 feared drowned in Chenab river

strong river currents, officials said.

Their belongings, including a motorcycle, mobile phones and clothes, were later found lying on the river bank, raising fears that the duo had drowned, the officials added.

Officials said police, SDRF, NDRF and local volunteers had launched a joint rescue operation to locate the missing youth.

'Criminal' detained under PSA

and had been indulging in criminal activities for the past several years, creating a sense of fear and insecurity among the public. Three cases, including two related to attempt to murder, were registered against him at Kathua police station in the recent past, officials said.

Police prepared the dossier and submitted it to the Kathua district magistrate, who ordered his detention under PSA, officials said.

Two narco-smugglers - Sharat Singh and Mohammad Makhan - were arrested during checking at Ghatti and Lakhanpur in Kathua district after recovery of six grams and seven grams of heroin from their possession, respectively, officials said.

Naresh Kumar of Chhattisgarh was arrested along with 381 grams of Ganja during frisking at Hiranagar in Kathua district while he was moving towards his rented accommodation at Kootah Morh, officials said.

Police arrested two drug peddlers - Anshu Bhagat and Randhir Singh - during checking at Badhyal Brahmana in R S Pura area of Jammu district and Baggar in Assar area of Doda district, officials said, adding that the police recovered 10 grams of heroin from Bhagat and 150 grams of charas from Singh.

All the five arrested peddlers were booked under the NDPS Act at the concerned police stations for further investigations, officials said.

Saxena attends Changthang Nomadic Festival

bursed Rs 1.10 cr to over 1,200 pashmina herders as part of the production-based incentive, announced in the first meeting of Ladakh Pashmina Development Board on July 5, 2026.

He said 25 per cent production-based incentive, introduced for the first time, would enhance the income, profitability and sustainability of nomadic Pashmina growers.

He noted that the incentive had already resulted in a higher raw Pashmina collection of 19 MT as of July this year, compared to 16 MT for the entire year 2025.

Under the scheme, Rs 1.10 cr was transferred through DBT to over 1,200 Pashmina herders mostly belonging to Samad, Kharnak and Korzok villages in Changthang district, which are known to be the biggest producers of Pashmina wool. Among these villages, Samad received around Rs 44 lakh, Kharnak Rs 28 lakh and Korzok Rs 23 lakh, forming the largest shares of the subsidy.

The LG said 60 per cent of the incentive received by the beneficiaries would be reinvested in scientific breeding of Pashmina goats, the other 20 per cent in procuring modern combing equipment and basic infrastructure, while the remaining 20 per cent could be utilised by the beneficiaries for household and personal needs, thereby ensuring financial sustainability of the herders.

He also announced that a revolving fund of Rs 8 crore had been provided to the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Marketing Cooperative Society, which runs the Pashmina dehairing plant in Leh, to ensure timely payments to growers for their produce.

Using this fund, 50 per cent of the Pashmina cost will be paid immediately to the producers, with the balance to be paid within two months, eliminating the earlier payment delays of 8 -10 months.

Calling for greater adoption of scientific practices, Shri Saxena urged Pashmina growers to work towards increasing average fibre production from 200 grams per goat at present to at least 350 grams per goat and raising the Pashmina goat population from around 2 lakh at present to at least 4 lakh within three years, through scientific breeding. He also stressed upon improving the cleanliness and quality of raw Pashmina to reduce wastage and secure better prices.

The LG termed Ladakh Pashmina as a "Timeless Heritage" of Ladakh and its Changpa nomadic community, who have mastered the craft of pashmina rearing over the centuries. Shri Saxena said the Changpa community represents a living example of resilience, sustainability and harmonious coexistence with nature.

"Pashmina is not merely a product; it is a part of Ladakh's cultural identity and the livelihood of thousands of our pastoral families. Our objective is to ensure that those who have preserved this heritage for generations receive a greater share of its economic value. The UT Administration's decision of 25 pc production-based incentive and the Rs 8-cr Revolving Fund is strengthening the Pashmina value chain and improving returns to nomadic pastoral communities," he said.

Meanwhile, the Changthang Nomadic Festival saw a huge turnout of more than 10,000 people, including a large number of foreign tourists as well as the locals. The festival, which started as a local celebration a few years back, has now emerged as an international event, drawing visitors from across India and abroad. The LG added that the Changthang Nomadic Festival has emerged as an important platform for showcasing Changpa culture, traditional pastoral practices, handicrafts, music, dance, cuisine and way of life to audiences at the national and international level.

India to be key player in next industrial revolution: Jitendra

first few countries in the world to have a dedicated Biotechnology policy, that is BioE3. We also have a National Quantum Mission, India AI Mission and have made rapid advances in Space and other frontier areas," he said while speaking at a media conclave.

Singh said India's space economy, which was earlier almost negligible, has grown to around USD 9 billion and is projected to reach USD 40-45 billion within the next eight to nine years.

At the conclave, the discussion focused on India's emergence as a global manufacturing and technology hub, the rapid pace of technological change, innovation, private-sector participation and the opportunities emerging in frontier sectors.

The minister also congratulated the winners of the Digital Appliance Awards.

Oppn parties will take collective stand: Kharge

links the bill to women's reservation.

The party has said that the government should provide one-third reservation to women within the existing strength of the Lok Sabha.

Congress leader Manish Tewari on Sunday said that the delimitation is not in the interest of North India, South India, or the North-East.

"It will primarily benefit Central India. India's strategic and security-related challenges are concentrated in the North-East and North India. Therefore, we must ensure that these regions and states do not get the impression that their political weight within India's landscape is diminishing," he said.

"You want to implement women's reservation, go ahead and reserve one-third of the 543 seats for women. But the Lok Sabha doesn't function with 543 members alone. By raising the number to 850, do you intend to turn it into something like China's National People's Congress?" he asked.

Kharge also said that the Congress will oppose the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill and the issue will also be discussed at the meeting of floor leaders of opposition parties on Monday.

The Congress leader said that his visit to Uttarakhand was aimed at energising party workers ahead of next year's assembly polls. The FCRA Amendment Bill is expected to come in the Lok Sabha in the last week of the monsoon session of Parliament.

During his visit, he will also interact with newly-appointed state and district presidents in Rudrapur today.

"We will oppose the FCRA-related move. We will take a decision (about strategy) tomorrow after a meeting of floor leaders," he said. Kharge said that Congress workers were making efforts to oust the BJP government from power in the next assembly polls in Uttarakhand. I am the AICC President. I cannot come here every day, but our army is present here... Does PM Modi come here every day? Does Amit Shah come here? Does Nadda, even though he hails from this very

region, come here? Does the new BJP President come here? We visit when and where it is necessary to energise our party workers. That does not mean we simply arrive and leave like tourists," he said.

Several opposition parties have expressed their opposition to the FCRA Amendment Bill.

Congress leader KC Venugopal on Friday said that the party will vehemently oppose the Bill and the "government cannot bulldoze this type of bill".

The Bill seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, with the stated objective of enhancing transparency and accountability in the regulation of foreign contributions. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday to present recommendations and register regional concerns regarding the FCTA.

PM pays homage to participants of Quit India Movement

Gandhi on August 9, 1942 and gave a decisive impetus to India's quest for independence.

"Remembering all those who participated in the historic Quit India Movement. Their courage will always remain an inspiration for every Indian," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said the clarion call of Quit India infused new energy in the freedom struggle and reflected the unwavering determination of people to break free from colonial rule.

August 9, 2026, marks the 84th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, one of the defining milestones in the nation's freedom struggle.

Netanyahu vows no pullout until Hamas disarms

disarmament, an idea adamantly rejected by Israel which also wants Hamas to destroy its weapons.

After meeting Netanyahu last week, Trump's body implementing the deal, dubbed the Board of Peace, backtracked and said Israel would only need to withdraw after "complete" disarmament.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, who according to polls is in a tight race to stay in power, has faced calls from his far-right allies to hold a new cabinet vote and end the Gaza plan.

He said that Israel was speaking with the United States about its objections.

"They have ideas; some of them are acceptable to us and some are not, and we know how to stand our ground on these matters," he said.

Netanyahu said that Hamas must give up all of its weapons, a goal that Board of Peace members say is not realistically achievable.

"We are talking about real disarmament, not fictitious disarmament," Netanyahu said.

Top LeT terrorist dies after taking food at eatery

restaurant before he arrived at the Quba Mosque to offer prayers. He then suddenly collapsed at the gate of the mosque and died. The cause of his death was not immediately clear.

Qari Saeed was responsible for Lashkar's department that provided assistance to the families of terrorists killed in encounters in Jammu and Kashmir.

The news of his sudden death comes days after a top Lashkar operative claimed that "unknown men" had killed around 30 of its members within Pakistan.

A video shows Rizwan Hanif claiming that over the past three to four years, many members of their banned organisation, behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people, have been killed in various parts of Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

More than 30 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists have been killed by "unknown men" in Peshawar, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Rawalakot, and Muzaffarabad.

This was the first time a terrorist linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, sanctioned by the UN in 2005 over its links to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, had publicly admitted to such killings.

Govt proposes NTC; Bill to be introduced in LS

five-member NTC will oversee selections, tribunal performance and complaints. The Commission will have a chairperson and four members - two judicial members and two technical members.

The Chairperson must have been a Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court. The Centre will appoint the Chairperson and members, but must consult the Chief Justice of India before appointing the Chairperson and judicial members.

The NTC will conduct the selection process through Search-cum-Selection Committees, review the functioning of tribunals, oversee inquiries into complaints against their chairpersons and members, and maintain a National Tribunals Data Grid containing case-related information.

The Bill estimates expenditure of Rs 27.14 crore a year for the Commission and its Secretariat.

Chhari Mubarak to begin sacred journey to cave shrine on Aug 13

old traditions and ensure the movement of Chhari-Mubarak as per schedule and take all the preventive measures for the safety and security of the sadhus and pilgrims accompanying the Holy Mace.

The authorities on Saturday announced that both tracks leading to the cave shrine had been closed for pilgrimage for carrying out necessary repairs.

More than 4.8 lakh pilgrims had performed darshans at the holy shrine so far.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has also been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the 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 when the pilgrimage

would come to an end, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

US bill risks Russian crude disruption, India energy security

India's dependence on Russian crude has surged since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, when Western sanctions and an exodus of European buyers left Moscow offering deep discounts to Asian refiners.

Russia supplied less than 100,000 barrels per day to India in 2021, or about 2.5 per cent of its crude imports, according to the US Energy Information Administration. The volume rose to about 740,000 bpd in 2022 and nearly 1.8 million bpd in 2023, making Russia India's largest crude supplier with about 39 per cent of imports that year.

The dependence has since grown further. Kpler data show Indian refiners imported a record 2.8 million bpd of Russian crude in July 2026, accounting for about 55.5 per cent of total crude imports of just over 5 million bpd. That compares with roughly 1.8 million bpd on average in 2024, according to Kpler-based data.

Ritolia said Russian crude has become an important supply hedge for Indian refiners, reducing their exposure to disruptions along traditional Middle Eastern supply routes.

This reliance became particularly evident during the recent period of heightened Middle East supply risks, when the US provided temporary sanctions flexibility that allowed Russian barrels to continue flowing to India, he said.

Replacing Russian crude at current volumes would be difficult, if not impossible, in the short term, Ritolia said. A rapid curtailment of Russian supplies to India or other Asian buyers could therefore tighten global oil balances and put upward pressure on crude prices.

For India, the impact would extend beyond refinery procurement costs, potentially increasing the country's overall crude import bill, widening pressure on the current account and raising concerns over energy security.

The key question, Ritolia said, is not simply whether Russian barrels can be redirected to other buyers, but whether sufficient alternative supplies are available to replace them without further tightening the global market.

4 HC judges elevated as CJs

Allahabad High Court judge Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi has been named as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has been recommended as its Chief Justice.

In another decision, the collegium has recommended transfer of two judges of the high courts.

Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, presently posted at Orissa High Court, has been transferred to Gujarat.

Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra of Orissa High Court has been transferred to the Chhattisgarh High Court.

Kavinder calls for sustained efforts to protect Himalayan ecosystem

among people over the past more than a decade.

"Every sapling planted today has the potential to contribute to clean air, water conservation, biodiversity and ecological balance in the years ahead. The real success of plantation lies in protecting and nurturing the sapling until it develops into a healthy tree," he said.

Highlighting India's traditional ethos of respecting nature, the governor said that forests, rivers, mountains and other elements of nature have always held a special place in the country's civilisational heritage. Protecting nature, he added, is ultimately linked with protecting human life itself.

He said Himachal Pradesh, known for its forests, rivers, mountains and rich biodiversity, had a special responsibility towards conservation of the Himalayan ecology.

"These natural resources are not only central to the state's identity but also play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance and water security of northern India. Therefore, protection of the Himalayan ecosystem must be viewed as a collective national responsibility," he emphasised.

Referring to the growing impact of climate change and global warming, he said changing weather patterns, erratic rainfall, cloudbursts, landslides, rising temperatures and shrinking glaciers underline the need for greater environmental consciousness and responsible development.

He said there was a need to maintain a proper balance between development and environmental protection and ensure that economic progress does not compromise natural resources or the interests of future generations.

He referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, saying that it had provided a strong platform for connecting environmental conservation with people's participation.

He noted that more than 262 crore saplings have been planted across the country under the campaign, reflecting the growing commitment of citizens towards nature conservation.

Calling upon people to take the spirit of this national campaign to villages, panchayats, schools and communities, Gupta particularly urged the youth to make environmental protection a part of their everyday lives.

He said that if every young person plants at least one sapling every year and takes responsibility for nurturing it until it becomes a tree, it can make a significant contribution to increasing Himachal's green cover.

He called upon schools, colleges, panchayats, urban local bodies, industries and voluntary organisations to actively contribute to these efforts.

He appreciated Sabhya Re-Foresters for its sustained work in promoting environmental awareness and called upon all stakeholders to work together to preserve Himachal Pradesh's natural heritage for generations to come.

He also honoured students who secured positions in the painting and quiz competitions organised as part of the campaign.

Special Guest Shyam Jaju appreciated the organisation's efforts towards environmental conservation over the past 11 years, particularly its commitment to ensuring the survival and proper care of the saplings planted.

School students also presented a short play and cultural programme highlighting the importance of environmental protection.

Solan Deputy Commissioner Manmohan Sharma, SP S D Verma, Zila Parishad Chairperson Sheela Kumari, Solan MC Mayor Sushma Sharma, councillors, Sabhya Re-Foresters president Ajay, general secretary Ripu Daman and other prominent people were among those present on the occasion.