

Must move from endless war to end of war: Modi to Putin

humanity back, whereas every step taken towards peace fills the humanity with new hope and enthusiasm. We must move away from endless war towards an end to the war," he said.

"This is crucial for the well-being of humanity. A peaceful resolution to all issues at the earliest is the call of humanity, and this is India's message. The land of Gandhi and Buddha shares a single message: the path of peace," Modi said.

The talks came over a week before Putin travels to India to attend the annual BRICS summit. The prime minister also made a mention of the Russian President's visit to New Delhi last year.

"Your visit to India last year was highly successful and truly memorable. It is a matter of deep satisfaction for us that our cooperation continues to scale new heights and that we are working together for the welfare of the people of both nations," Modi said.

"Focusing on national interest as the paramount priority has been our shared approach, and this will remain our guiding principle in the future as well."

Putin, on his part, said Russia-India relations have witnessed an upswing on the basis of the special and privileged partnership.

Threat perception evolving, posing new challenges: Navy Chief

INS Nipun is equipped to support diving operations at depths of up to 300 metres and has the capability to undertake rapid submarine rescue missions. The vessel can also be deployed for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance operations.

The Navy chief said the constantly changing threat landscape was presenting newer challenges that required enhanced preparedness and capabilities.

Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), the ship is 119.4 metres long with a capacity of 10,500 tonnes. The ship has the capacity to support diving operations up to 300 metres. It also has the capability of providing rapid submarine rescue. It can also be deployed for disaster relief and humanitarian operations.

The name 'Nipun' is derived from Sanskrit and signifies "one who is adept, capable, and well-versed in a particular discipline". The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art diving equipment and has the capability to undertake deep-sea saturation diving. A side diving stage has also been provided to facilitate diving operations.

Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) further enhance the vessel's operational capabilities by enabling diver monitoring and salvage operations. In addition, 'Nipun' can serve as the mother ship for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), facilitating the evacuation of personnel from submarines during emergencies.

With nearly 75 per cent indigenous content, the vessel's delivery marks another milestone in the Indian Navy's efforts towards indigenous shipbuilding and aligns with the Government's vision of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

'Nipun' is a purpose-built platform designed to support a wide spectrum of diving and underwater operations. Equipped with modern diving systems and underwater intervention capabilities, the vessel can provide sustained support to divers operating in demanding conditions at sea and augment the Navy's submarine rescue capabilities.

The ship incorporates modern systems for navigation, platform management and precise station keeping, along with specialised facilities for diving, underwater intervention and medical support. These capabilities enable 'Nipun' to function as an integrated platform for complex underwater operations.

Fiscal deficit touches 26.8 pc of year target

fiscal year.

The Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of the GDP or Rs 16.96 lakh crore for the current fiscal.

According to the CGA, the Centre's net tax revenue was about Rs 8.45 lakh crore, or 29.5 per cent of the corresponding BE of 2026-27 of total receipts, up to July 2026.

In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, the net tax revenue was at 23.3 per cent of that year's BE.

The data on monthly accounts showed that the total expenditure during the first four months was at about Rs 17.62 lakh crore, or 32.9 per cent of BE. In the year-ago period, it was at 30.9 per cent of BE.

The Centre transferred Rs 3,72,354 crore to state governments as devolution of share of taxes during the period, which is Rs 56,190 crore lower than the previous year.

LG chairs meeting of Red Cross Society

directed the deputy commissioners to intensify resource mobilisation and explore innovative avenues for fund generation to further strengthen humanitarian and welfare activities of the Red Cross Society.

He directed them to prepare comprehensive district-wise annual activity plans, identifying priority areas and interventions, and submit the same for effective implementation.

Emphasising the need to take Red Cross services closer to the people, the LG called for greater outreach in far-flung and border areas.

He advised the deputy commissioners to explore opening Diagnostic Centres in remote areas, particularly at places where people have to travel long distances to reach hospitals and access essential healthcare services.

He called for intensifying coordinated efforts towards the complete elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) and ensuring effective identification, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of TB patients at the grassroots level.

He stressed that the Red Cross Society must further strengthen its humanitarian role and expand its activities to ensure timely assistance and essential services reach vulnerable and needy sections of society across Jammu Kashmir.

He also entrusted upon the officials of IRCS J&K to further intensify the anti-drug campaign and make their valuable contribution to building a Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by LG's principal secretary Mandeep K Bhandari, IRCS (J&K) general secretary Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, deputy commissioners and officials of IRCS, J&K.

Pathak presented various agenda items for review and ratification.

The meeting also deliberated on various important matters including budget estimates, audit, appointment of Medical Officers at Blood Banks and Diagnostic Centres, and activities undertaken by the Red Cross Society and its District-level units.

The deputy commissioners apprised the LG of the activities being undertaken in their respective districts and shared suggestions for further strengthening the functioning and outreach of the Red Cross Society.

India records hottest August since 1901

temperature at 28.01 degrees Celsius.

The weather department said that the rainfall is

expected to be below 91 per cent of the long period average (LPA) in September.

LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

For September, the LPA is about 167.9 mm based on data between 1971 and 2020.

The IMD also said that during September, the monthly average maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at the IMD, said in a statement that currently, strong El Nino conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, with sea surface temperature (SST) remaining above normal across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

"These conditions are expected to strengthen further in the coming months," he said.

According to Mohapatra, India experienced the hottest August in 2026 since 1901, as the mean temperature stood at 28.01 degrees Celsius.

The normal mean temperature for the month is 27.34 degrees Celsius.

He said the average minimum temperature for August 2026 was also the highest since 1901, touching 24.36 degrees Celsius against a normal of 23.68 degrees Celsius.

The month also witnessed deficient rainfall at 213.3 mm - the seventh lowest since 2001, the IMD said.

A key reason behind the below-normal rainfall was moderate to strong El Nino conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific.

Moreover, although four low-pressure systems formed during August and collectively persisted for 26 days, their rainfall activity remained largely confined to the Indo-Gangetic plains, leaving other parts in rainfall deficit, the IMD said.

Saxena lays foundation for 30 bus shelters

citizens, women, working people and daily commuters who often have to wait for buses in the open during the harsh winter months.

The smart bus shelters will incorporate modern passenger information and safety facilities. GPS-enabled Passenger Information Display Systems, LED displays, GPS-based bus tracking and real-time Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) will enable passengers to access information about bus routes and expected arrival times. CCTV surveillance, SOS/emergency buttons, first-aid kits, emergency oxygen cylinders and fire extinguishers will further enhance passenger safety. Tactile tiles and accessible movement have also been provided for visually impaired and other passengers, making the facilities more inclusive.

A key feature of the project is its solar-powered design. Each bus shelter will have a 2 KW solar PV system, battery storage and a hybrid inverter. Solar energy will be used to power Wi-Fi, passenger information displays and other essential facilities, thereby reducing dependence on grid electricity and helping lower operational costs, thereby, contributing to the vision of Carbon-Neutral Ladakh.

The shelters will also reflect Ladakhi architectural character, combining modern technology with local identity and heritage. This approach seeks to ensure that infrastructure developed for the future remains rooted in Ladakh's distinctive cultural character.

Saxena said that the project is not merely about constructing bus shelters, but about creating safe, comfortable, technology-enabled and sustainable public transport infrastructure suited to Ladakh's unique environment. The shelters will provide covered seating and weather-protected waiting areas, offering much-needed protection from extreme cold, strong winds and snowfall.

He expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah for their continued support and guidance, which has enabled the development of modern infrastructure and improved public facilities in Ladakh in line with the aspirations of its people.

"These smart bus shelters will become symbols of better mobility, safety, technology, sustainability and citizen-centric services in Ladakh. Our aim is to create infrastructure that responds to our difficult climate, is environment-friendly and, most importantly, meets the daily needs of our people," he said.

The LG also appealed to the people of Ladakh to take ownership of the facilities and cooperate with the Administration in keeping the Smart Bus Shelters clean, well-maintained and functional.

India rejects Hague Court's Indus Waters Treaty ruling

sued what it termed as an award concerning Interim Measures and Status of the Indus Waters Treaty," the MEA said.

"This so-called court was constituted by the World Bank in patent breach of the terms of the Treaty and India categorically rejects its so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements by this illegally constituted body," it added.

India has never recognised the "existence in law of this illegally-constituted and so-called Court of Arbitration", and has always said the "very establishment of this alleged arbitral body constitutes a grave violation of the Indus Waters Treaty", the MEA said in a statement.

"Accordingly, India has never appeared before this body and has refused to take any cognisance of its earlier pronouncements," it said.

The MEA said the Court of Arbitration has "no jurisdiction whatsoever to pronounce on India's sovereign decisions." "Its pronouncements, now or in the future, will have no effect on India's actions in connection with the projects being undertaken by India," it said.

In the last few months, India has stepped up work on several hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir that Pakistan had opposed under the provisions of the pact signed in 1960.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration said the court considered the meaning of India's decision to suspend the treaty, "finding that it could only be a claim that the Indus Waters Treaty is either suspended or terminated".

The court examined the potential grounds on which India can suspend or terminate the Treaty, including grounds cited by New Delhi in its public statements.

"In a unanimous decision, the Court found that none of these grounds could justify suspension or termination of the Treaty. Accordingly, the Indus Waters Treaty remains fully in force, and India must observe its obligations under the Treaty, including those relating to the design and operation of its hydro-electric projects on the Western Rivers," the Permanent Court of Arbitration said in a media statement.

New Delhi has been maintaining that IWT will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism". The court said that while India did not participate by making written or oral submissions during proceedings, it took into account India's positions on the issues to the extent "they could be discerned from India's statements and conduct outside of these proceedings (including Indian government communications to Pakistan and to the neutral expert, and public statements made by Indian officials)".

The court noted that it looked "extremely seriously" into

India's allegation that "Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism had impeded its utilisation of rights" under the Indus Waters Treaty.

"However, the court found that even if India's allegation was assumed to be true, they would not establish a material breach of the Treaty by Pakistan," the court said.

It said the treaty "does not address terrorism or the use of force and expressly indicates that it governs only the rights and obligations of the Parties with respect to the use of the waters of the Indus Rivers System".

Death toll rises to 903 in Nepal flash floods

owns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said the death toll from the flash floods has surged to 903.

So far, 272 bodies have been recovered from Chitwan, 207 from Nawalparasi East, 151 from Nawalparasi West and 62 from Gorkha districts, the NDRRMA said.

Similarly, 95 bodies have been recovered from Nuwakot, 55 from Dhading, 37 from Tanahu and 24 from Rasuwa.

It said 4,247 people are also missing, including 85 security personnel and 320 foreigners.

Over 100-year-old temple demolished in Pak's Punjab province

years and the premises were not used for the stated purpose.

He said that several people subsequently occupied portions of the property illegally.

Hindu community leader Rattan Lal condemned demolition of the ancient temple and requested the government to order its restoration.

"The district administration and the ETPB failed to take adequate measures to protect the site or remove the alleged occupants, ultimately allowing the temple to be demolished," Lal said and asked the government to take action against those found involved in the demolition of the temple. ETPB senior official Rana Iftikhar said that the temple was approximately 100 to 125 years old and collapsed because of torrential rains.

"The temple carries no name in our record books. However, it is a very old one... more than 100 to 125 years old," he said.

Sahotra referred to a revenue department report identifying several individuals as illegal occupants of the temple's quarters and other parts of the property and said that an order by the ETPB's deputy administrator in Sialkot on January 29, 2026 cancelled the seminary's lease rights and directed the eviction of illegal occupants and sealing of the property.

"This order was not implemented," Sahotra alleged.

According to a report attributed to the DSP Narowal, dated April 11, the local police were aware of the alleged security concerns surrounding the temple and the possibility of damage to it.

Sahotra called for the temple to be rebuilt in its original form and urged the government to ensure protection of Hindu temples, Sikh gurdwaras and Christian churches along with their adjoining properties across Punjab.

ETPB's Iftikhar said the land adjacent to the temple was given on lease for setting up a seminary. "However, the temple's land is not given to anyone for lease," he said and added the ETPB high-ups will decide about restoration of the temple.

Rattan Lal, who is also a Hindu member of the Narowal District Peace Committee and the Pak Dharam Astan Hindu Committee, said, "We are even afraid to visit the site because of the madrasa that continues to operate on its premises."

Arya said decades of conflict between Pakistan and India, the Islamisation policies of the 1980s and the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid in India had contributed to a sense of insecurity among local Hindus, and added, "Preserving Hindu heritage can improve the image of Pakistan and attract tourism."

Committed to support Nepal in rescue, rehabilitation: Def Min

against time to search for those missing and rescue those stranded on the sixth day since the disaster.

The disaster, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives in this disaster. We hope for speedy recovery of those who were injured. As a close friend and partner, and 'Sukh Dukh Ke Saathi', India has always stood by Nepal. In this trying time also, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Nepali brothers and sisters and are committed to support Nepal's efforts for search, rescue and rehabilitation," Singh said in his post.

On the day the disaster struck the Himalayan nation, Singh in a post had said that he was deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage caused by the devastating floods in Nepal, and asserted that India would provide all possible support and assistance to its "friendly neighbour".

India has sent multiple tranches of relief material, a 19-member specialised forensics team to help augment the analysis of DNA samples for the identification of victims' mortal remains, and a tunnel rescue team to offer assistance to flood-ravaged Nepal.

Malicious 'pornography'apps linked to financial fraud

only from the Google Play Store or other trusted app stores and avoid APK files shared through advertisements, websites or unfamiliar links.

Users have also been advised to reject Accessibility permission requests from unfamiliar apps, regularly review installed applications and remove suspicious ones. The advisory recommended keeping Google Play Protect enabled, updating device software and monitoring bank and UPI transactions for unauthorised activity.

If a suspicious application cannot be removed, the advisory recommends restarting the device in Safe Mode. Users can do this by pressing and holding the Power button, then long-pressing the "Power Off" option until the Safe Mode option appears and confirming the restart.

Once Safe Mode is activated, users should go to Settings, open Apps and uninstall the suspicious application and any other unfamiliar or related apps.

The phone can then be restarted normally to exit Safe Mode. The advisory recommends a factory reset as a last resort if the malicious application resists removal or reinstalls itself.

'India bloomed, Domsayers doomed'

feat", pointing to oil price shocks, supply chain disruptions and global uncertainties.

The prime minister highlighted oil price shocks and supply-chain issues as some of the challenges faced by the economy during the quarter, while also pointing to contin-

ued global uncertainty.

"The collective strength of our people ensured India delivered such growth despite oil price shocks and supply chain issues in the midst of global uncertainties," he said.

"Domsayers were doomed and India bloomed...yet again!" he said in a post on 'X'.

His remarks came shortly after data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed that India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY27, faster than the 7 per cent growth projected by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Q1 growth, however, was slower than the 8.6 per cent expansion recorded in the previous quarter. It was nevertheless higher than the 6.9 per cent growth recorded in the April-June quarter of 2025-26.

The latest figures also reaffirm India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, with growth holding up despite heightened geopolitical and economic uncertainty following the conflict in Iran and its impact on global energy markets.

The stronger-than-expected expansion suggests that domestic economic activity has remained resilient despite concerns over higher energy prices, inflationary pressures and weaker global demand.

The RBI has projected India's economy to grow 6.7 per cent during the full 2026-27 fiscal year.

According to MoSPI, real GDP at constant prices was estimated at Rs 81.36 lakh crore in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs 75.46 lakh crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Nominal GDP at current prices was estimated at Rs 88.27 lakh crore, against Rs 80 lakh crore in Q1 FY26, representing a growth rate of 10.3 per cent.

India's economy grew at a faster-than-expected 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, showing resilience in the face of concerns that the war in Iran and resulting global economic uncertainty could weigh on growth.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the first quarter of the 2026-27 fiscal year slowed from a barnstorming 8.6 per cent in the previous quarter, but remained well above expectations when the conflict erupted and disrupted energy markets.

The prime minister is currently on a four-day visit to Central Asia.

He arrived in Uzbekistan on August 29 for a bilateral visit at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. He is also attending the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Kyrgyzstan.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and more than a dozen other leaders are attending the summit.

The SCO meeting comes as member countries seek to strengthen regional cooperation and increase the group's influence amid shifting global geopolitical and economic dynamics.

AK rifle, pistol recovered from terror hideout

of Army, police & CRPF came across a hideout of terrorists during a search operation which was launched by them in NaikporaMemenderarea on a tip-off.

The search of the hideout led forces to the recovery of one AKrifle along with two magazines, 60 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, one pistol, one grenade and six rounds of 9 mm ammunition,officials said.

The hideout was later destroyed by the forces.

Kavinder calls for collective action to build drug-free society

Expressing concern over the growing incidence of drug addiction among youth, the governor emphasised the need to educate young people about its harmful consequences and strengthen their value system.

He said elders must lead by example and themselves abstain from all forms of substance abuse.

The governor said that strong family systems in ancient times played an important role in nurturing values and character, but these foundations were gradually weakening. "We must begin by imparting strong values to our children within our families; only then can we realise the goal of a Nasha Mukta Bharat," he said.

He lauded the Kashiwana Foundation for its sustained contribution towards the cause of de-addiction and wished the organisation success in its future endeavours.

On the occasion, Gupta also conferred Rashtriya Nashamukti Samman 2026 upon NGOs and individuals for their distinguished contribution to social causes, particularly in the field of de-addiction.

Kashiwana Foundation patron and BJP leader Shyam Jaju also addressed the gathering. Kashiwana Foundation founder Sumit Ankur Singh highlighted the activities and initiatives undertaken by the organisation in the field of de-addiction.

BJP leaders, social activists, senior journalists and members associated with the Kashiwana Foundation were among those present on the occasion.

India, B'desh review cooperation to strengthen shared bonds

tion of India-Bangladesh relations, and the need to further deepen connections between the business communities, professionals and people of the two countries," it added.

Subsequently, on August 24, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav met his Bangladeshi counterpart, Abdul Awal Minto, alongside proceedings at the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), hosted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Following the meeting, Union Minister Yadav communicated via X, stating, "Our discussions focused on mangrove conservation, land erosion, and transboundary monitoring of Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans. We also discussed the existing MoUs between India and Bangladesh, particularly those related to greening initiatives, and explored ways for their effective implementation going forward."

In addition, on August 21, President Droupadi Murmu transmitted a congratulatory message to Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir upon his assumption of the presidency in Bangladesh, as affirmed by the Indian High Commission.

"I am confident that your long experience of public life and political leadership heralds a successful tenure in service of the people of Bangladesh," President Murmu noted in the message, shared on X by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

"India and Bangladesh share a unique relationship, rooted in a shared history of sacrifices, close cultural ties and warm bonds of friendship. In recent times, our bilateral ties have steadily expanded to several areas such as energy, technology, connectivity, youth affairs, health and education. I look forward to working with you further to strengthen the partnership between our two neighbouring countries," the President stated in the message.