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Terrorism stemming from 'Pakistan' remains India's primary concern: EAM

appreciated by my partner, then clearly there is an impact of that on the relationship," he said, referring to the ties between India and the US.

Just months into the second Trump administration in the White House, the India-US relationship faced turbulence over issues, including tariffs, trade, Russian energy purchases by Delhi as well as challenges posed by Washington's renewed engagement with Pakistan.

In May last year, India had launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir in retaliation for the dastardly April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir perpetrated by 'The Resistance Front', a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, in which 26 civilians, mostly tourists were killed.

Throughout last year and as recently as in his address to the UN General Assembly last week, Trump claimed that he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan. India has consistently denied any third-party intervention.

In June last year, after returning from the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also attended, Trump hosted Pakistan Field Marshal Asim Munir for lunch at the White House.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Munir had met Trump again in the White House during the UN General Assembly session in September last year. Trump has publicly praised Munir on various occasions calling him a "Great General. Great Field Marshal, a great guy."

Jaishankar said "we would certainly hope for and expect the (India-US) relationship to move on an upward trajectory. But I have to be real about the issues that we confront, and to the extent we are able to move ahead on some of these issues, I think we'll have a better relationship."

He also said that the ties between India and China were "better" today as compared to a couple of years ago, underlining that 'as the border issues are resolved, the relationship returns to normalcy'.

"If you asked me, compared to where you were in 2025, is the relationship better today? I would say yes. Compared to 2024, even more so," he said while responding to a question on India-China relations, which have seen an upswing in recent times, including with President Xi Jinping's recent visit to India for the BRICS Leaders' Summit hosted by New Delhi.

He said it's not so much a "structural change", but part of the reason why things have improved is "they had gone so much off-track that the moment you stabilised it, it was going to improve, because after what happened in 2020 and the long standoff that we had on the border, the relationship had really been impacted."

Following the 2020 border standoff between India and China, all "normal contacts" between the two nations had come to a halt, he said during a conversation hosted at Asia Society.

While "trade was continuing", official exchanges, visa issuance, and flights had been impacted, he said.

"So, once the border standoff was resolved, it was natural that this would start to improve," he said.

There was also this logic, which Delhi had long been conveying to Beijing, that a "standoff between us, a dip in our relationship, actually doesn't help either of us. In fact, it is third parties who will take advantage of that.

"We also maintained consistently a very elementary principle of statecraft - don't get locked into a problem which benefits others," Jaishankar said.

"It took a little while for the Chinese side to agree with that, for whatever reason, but I don't think that long standoff served our interests. It certainly didn't serve theirs. And to the extent there is an improvement in our relations, I think it certainly helps our position," not only vis-a-vis China but vis-a-vis the rest of the world, he said.

"Because I don't want to get totally focused to my disadvantage on one particular relationship and issue. If I can find a solution which works for me, I would rather do that," he said.

Mother tongue foundation of cultural identity, says LG Sinha

confidence 'I can fulfill my dreams'. I know that the children and youth of border areas are brimming with courage, talent and they are an inspiration for the entire nation," he said.

The LG outlined five key themes for youth empowerment in border areas- education & technology, employment & entrepreneurship, sports & culture, connecting to opportunities, and guidance & mentorship.

"Talent achieves true success when it paves the way for others," he asserted.

"We must ensure that smart classrooms, digital libraries, and skill-development opportunities reach remote villages. We must create opportunities for youth in handicrafts, horticulture, agriculture, tourism, and local industries so that they become not just job-seekers but also job-creators. Let our youth hold books, pens, sports equipment and give strong expression to art, so that their energy finds a creative direction," he said.

"Our youth should not lag behind those living in any metro city of the country. All scholarships, digital platforms, training programmes, and competition opportunities at national and international levels must also be accessible to the youth of border areas," he added.

All officials should ensure that well-known professionals from Jammu & Kashmir visit these children twice a year, or share their experiences and provide hand-holding through programmes in Jammu or Srinagar," the LG said.

He urged students to take pride in their language and culture while embracing science, technology, and modern knowledge.

He lauded the efforts of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti and its office-bearers for promoting Hindi language and wished a bright future for all meritorious students honoured at the event.

"Each student possesses special ability. They should transform that ability into responsibility. Take pride in your language, understand your culture, and at the same time move forward to touch new horizons in science, technology, entrepreneurship and modern knowledge," he said.

Culture department's principal secretary Brij Mohan Sharma, school education department secretary Ram Niwas Sharma, divisional commissioner (Kashmir) Anshul Garg, Srinagar SSP GV Sundeep Chakravathy, Srinagar DC Akshay Labroo, JKAACL secretary Harvinder Kour, Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti national president Nasreen Ali Nidhi, senior officials, office bearers of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Vaishvik Hindi Parivar & Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, prominent citizens, heads of educational institutions, teachers & students of Army Goodwill Schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas attended the felicitation ceremony.

Search operations underway in 3 distts

of Kathua and Upper Kasbalari, Theratopa, Nagal Gali, Kalaban and Patnateer area of Poonch," officials said.

The security personnel were carrying out extensive searches of forested stretches, natural hideouts and other vulnerable areas, the officials added.

While the searches were in progress when reports last came in, forces were yet to establish contact with any suspicious persons in these areas, officials said.

DGP reviews anti-terror operations

police to assess the ongoing anti-terror operations and

the overall security situation in the border district.

During the meeting, the senior police officers took a detailed review of the prevailing security scenario, operational preparedness, intelligence network and measures being undertaken to counter emerging security challenges in Rajouri district.

According to officials, officers briefed the DGP about the recent operations conducted in the district, the prevailing ground situation and the security measures put in place to maintain peace and prevent any attempt by anti-national elements to disrupt normalcy.

The meeting also focused on strengthening the intelligence-gathering mechanism, surveillance and coordination among security forces operating in the sensitive border areas.

The DGP stressed the need for continued vigilance, close coordination and effective intelligence sharing among all security agencies to ensure a robust security apparatus across the district.

He also called for proactive measures and enhanced preparedness to effectively deal with any emerging threat and ensure foolproof security and sustained peace in the region.

The senior officers reviewed the operational requirements and emphasised maintaining a high level of alertness, particularly in vulnerable and strategically sensitive areas of the district.

The meeting concluded with directions to the concerned officers to further strengthen coordination, intelligence inputs and field-level preparedness to safeguard the security and interests of the people of Rajouri.

Saxena flags off Ladakh Lilium for national markets

conomic opportunities and entrepreneurship in the UT. On the occasion, he also presented the bouquets of Ladakh-grown Liliums to each of the crew members, as a symbolic gesture of this initiative.

A-grade Liliums refer to the flower stems with 4-5 buds, that fetch a premium price. The first consignment comprises red, pink, white, yellow and orange colours - all cultivated at an altitude of 10,600 ft, at the world's highest-altitude flower field in Leh. These flowers, with a shelf life of 5-7 days, would be sold in various domestic markets, primarily Delhi, Mumbai and Chandigarh.

Saxena termed the initiative "historic" and said floriculture had emerged as a powerful economic tool for creating alternate sustainable livelihood opportunity in Ladakh, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of financial sustainability of farmers and youth, through diversification of agriculture.

To begin with, 15 local women have been engaged in cutting, sorting and packaging of Liliums in these flower fields, at a daily wage of Rs 900 per person. A local young qualified Botanist has been given the task of marketing of these flowers to the national markets. It may be noted that Liliums are premium cut flowers highly sought after in the floral and hospitality industries, fetching Rs 150 to Rs 200 per stem in domestic retail markets.

"This first-of-its-kind high-altitude commercial floriculture project in Ladakh represents a major agricultural and visual shift for the region, that is since ages, identified by its rugged mountains and barren landscapes. The introduction of millions of blooming Liliums has added a spectacular, vibrant contrast into this dull and dry environment. Here, every blooming flower is a testament to resilience, proving that life and beauty can thrive in the harshest terrains. The success of this experiment not just marks an agricultural success; it is a colourful revolution towards improving the socio-economic status of the people, enhancing eco-tourism and changing the visible identity of Ladakh," the LG Saxena said, while flagging off the first consignment of Liliums.

Building on the success of the pilot project at Leh, Saxena has further directed the deputy commissioners of the other six districts to replicate the model of high-value floriculture in their respective areas.

The deputy commissioners of Kargil, Drass, Sham, Changthang and Zaskar have been directed to identify at least 20 acres of land in each district for developing flower fields. The initiative envisages eventually bringing at least 200 acres of land under high-value flower cultivation by next year, creating colourful stretches of Lilium and other high-value flowers across Ladakh's otherwise rugged landscape.

The Lilium flower field in Leh, with more than 25 lakh flowers, was developed and made ready within just two months, with continuous guidance and intervention of the LG. Following its opening to public on September 17, 2026, the flower field has received an overwhelming response, with hundreds of visitors witnessing the flowering every day.

10 military-grade drones seized at Delhi airport

officers.

A detailed examination of the baggage led to the recovery of 10 drones along with complete accessories, including controllers, gimbals with cameras, cables, propellers and joysticks, the statement said.

A Chartered Engineer's assessment confirmed that the drones were professional-grade and equipped with thermal imaging and laser range finders. They were assessed as military- or defence-grade UAVs requiring mandatory registration with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the statement said.

The passengers were apprehended and the goods seized under the Customs Act, 1962. Further investigation is underway, officials said.

Jitendra holds public darbar

tened to their issues, grievances and demands.

Dr Singh appreciated the efforts of the district administration and said that the administration's efforts would contribute to taking Udhampur to new heights.

Several issues were said to have been resolved on the spot and instructions issued for speedy redressal of some of the issues raised by the public.

"To address cleanliness and sewage-related issues in Udhampur city, Rs 9 crore being exclusively allocated for sewage maintenance in Udhampur, and Rs 4 crore for rejuvenation," he said.

Further funds would be sanctioned after assessment of the damages and the requirements on the ground, with the objective of finding a long-term solution to the sewage problem, he added.

LA erupts again over resolution on statehood restoration

"I leave it to the conscience of the Speaker to step down from the chair," he said.

Amid ruckus, the treasury benches also took to their feet and shouted slogans, such as "vote chor", against the opposition party.

The Speaker then intervened, asking the members to take their seats.

"I know what my powers and functions are as a Speaker. There is a procedure for it, which I informed you yesterday. Do not teach me how to function," he said.

This infuriated BJP MLAs, who started shouting slogans in the House.

On Monday, the Speaker had said the motion for his removal would come in the list of the business after 14 days.

Pointing to BJP MLA R S Pathania, Rather said, "You are a good lawyer; you can bring the motion. If you read Rule No 215, the procedure to be followed is laid down in it. A motion should be entered in the list of business any day after 14 days of submission of the motion."

As the BJP members continued their sloganeering, the deputy chief minister said the House was for discussions and not for sloganeering.

"The BJP should have spoken on the resolution yesterday and told the House that they don't want statehood and special status for Jammu and Kashmir. They are sabotaging

everything," he said, adding, "They should peacefully put their point of view here."

As the Speaker called for Question Hour proceedings, the BJP MLAs staged a walkout. However, they returned to their seats later.

National Conference president and three-time chief minister Farooq Abdullah arrived in the Assembly during the Zero Hour and witnessed the proceedings from the Speaker's gallery.

The Speaker announced Abdullah's presence in the House and said, "Please join me in welcoming him."

During the Zero Hour, BJP MLA P K Gupta referred to Minister Sakina Itoo's remarks that the BJP had supported the autonomy resolution in 2000, and said that his father and former MLA Shiv Charan Gupta had not supported it.

Minister Sakina Itoo said the BJP should first apologise to the chair for the kind of words they used in the House on Monday.

The BJP MLAs then shouted at the treasury benches, with National Conference MLA Altaf Kaloo also charging towards the Well of the House. After a brief verbal duel with National Conference MLAs, the BJP MLAs returned to their seats.

The chief minister then said he had been directed by the party high command to set the record straight.

"They want me to correct the record in the assembly. He (NC president Farooq Abdullah) was the Leader of the House. Lalaji (Shiv Charan Gupta) did not vote in favour of the autonomy and staged a walkout. (But) he did not vote against the resolution," he said.

The House proceedings later resumed.

LA passes 5 key Bills

tion and passage.

The Jammu & Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill seeks to consolidate and amend the law to replace permission-based control with rule-based governance and enable citizens and enterprises to plan, invest and work with confidence. It also seeks to foster Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in the Union Territory in a manner that generates employment, attracts investment and sustains long-term economic growth.

The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill sought amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

The CM had also moved the Jammu & Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984, along with matters connected or incidental thereto.

Another legislation moved by the Chief Minister was the Jammu and Kashmir Decriminalisation and Rationalisation of Offences Bill, seeking to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to promote Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, besides repealing certain enactments and addressing matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2 officers among 4 killed as CISF cop opens fire

Kathua district, according to officials.

Senior CISF officers were said to have reached the spot following the incident.

Officials said the exact reason behind the argument and the circumstances leading to the firing were being investigated.

Omar calls for global partnerships to take J&K products to world markets

India at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir.

Referring to the passage of important legislation in the legislative assembly earlier in the day, the chief minister said the government had taken a significant step towards improving the business environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have brought a law in the form of Ease of Doing Business, in which we have tried to put a stop to all these things," he said, referring to unnecessary permissions, delays and excessive inspections faced by businesses.

"The legislation provides for applications to be dealt with within prescribed timeframes and, where applicable, provides for deemed approval if action is not taken within the stipulated period," he said.

"We have reduced the number of inspections," he said, adding that the government wants to ensure that those seeking to establish industries, educational institutions and other enterprises are not discouraged by cumbersome procedures.

He said the government was also taking steps towards decriminalising certain minor violations and mistakes, observing that not every lapse should result in a criminal case and a lifelong criminal record.

"Today, we have also tried to decriminalise some ordinary mistakes, so that people don't have to go to the courts for no reason. This will reduce the pressure in the courts," he said.

He said these measures were part of the government's larger effort to create conditions in which trade, commerce, manufacturing and investment can grow in Jammu and Kashmir.

"On one hand, we organise buyer-seller meetings. It is a good thing. But on the other hand, if we don't make your work easier, then there is no point in these buyer-seller meetings if we tie one hand behind your back," he said.

Emphasising the need to protect the distinct identity and authenticity of J&K products, the chief minister said the government was working to strengthen Geographical Indication (GI) protection and ensure that products marketed in the name of Kashmir genuinely reflected the skills and craftsmanship of its people.

"Our Pashmina, our embroidery, the magic in the hands of our people, we are trying to sell it to the world in the name of Kashmiri Shawl," he said, adding that products such as shawls, carpets, Namda, walnut, wool and papier-mâché needed sustained promotion and protection.

"If something is sold in the name of Kashmir, it should be made in the hands of the people of Kashmir. And I'm it should benefit the people of Kashmir," the Chief Minister said.

He stressed that the buyer-seller meet should not remain a one-off exercise but should lead to enduring commercial relationships.

"We don't want this buyer-seller meet to be a one-off. We want to see relationships built from here," he said, urging buyers and sellers to approach the event as an opportunity to establish continued business partnerships.

He also invited visitors from outside Jammu and Kashmir to explore the Valley beyond the business event and experience its natural beauty.

"Every season in Kashmir is beautiful. Autumn has its own charm," he said, inviting the visiting buyers and delegates to travel around the Valley and return with memorable experiences.

He called upon participants to share suggestions on how such buyer-seller meets could be further improved and expressed hope that both buyers and sellers would conclude the event satisfied with the opportunities created.

He later inspected various stalls set up by entrepreneurs, showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts, handloom and agro-food products and interacted with the exhibitors.

The deputy chief minister, CM's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, additional chief secretary (to CM) Dheeraj Gupta, I&C secretary Vikramjit Singh, SKUAST-K VC Nazir Ahmed Ganai, JKTPO managing director Sudharshan Kumar, heads of various departments, university faculty

& staff, students, delegates, buyers & sellers were among those present on the occasion.

Bills to amend salaries of ministers, MLAs withdrawn

vote in favour of the withdrawal during the voice vote, and were chided by the National Conference members for it. Nevertheless, a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984, was introduced in the House and passed by voice vote.

While the chief minister had sought withdrawal of the bill, members from both the treasury and opposition benches said that since the bill concerned those legislators who had retired, it should not be withdrawn.

"It will now be easy for me to go home as I have a pensioner at home. We all will be pensioned some day," the chief minister said, introducing the bill.

First-time MLA schooled on QH procedure

sought to "advise" the government on how the Uttar Pradesh government was using women's services to distribute electricity bills.

As the Nagrota MLA went on with her suggestion, Abdullah intervened, saying she needed to learn the House proceedings.

"She is new here. May be her seniors need to teach her about the procedure of the House," he said.

The Speaker told Rana that she would have to confine her supplementary to the question she had listed for Question Hour.

As she did not relent, the Speaker called for the next question listed in the business for the day.

CWC meets to prepare roadmap for ramping up pressure on CEC, govt

this seriously. This issue concerns the entire country, the existence of our democracy and the survival of our country. That is why we are very serious about this issue," he had said.

The opposition INDIA bloc would also meet on Wednesday to chalk out a joint strategy on the issue and is likely to file another notice for removal of CEC Kumar in Parliament.

Under fire over the red flags raised by two of its commissioners over the SIR process, the EC has asserted that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations in any institution and all its orders carry full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures.

SC to hear plea seeking CEC's suspension

sion have to be unanimous or by majority.

"The way the Election Commission is functioning, there is serious doubt over whether the decisions are unanimous," he submitted.

"We will list this next week," the CJI said.

The PIL, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, has urged the top court to determine whether CEC Kumar has been individually exercising powers that legally belong to the Election Commission as a whole, and, if so, to declare those actions unauthorised and take appropriate legal action.

One of the issues raised concerns the alteration of Form-6, the statutory form used in connection with electoral roll registration.

The petition submitted that Joshi recorded an objection on May 16, 2026, stating that the form could not lawfully be altered to require additional SIR-related disclosures without an amendment to the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Sandhu is stated to have concurred with the objection on May 19, it added.

Kavinder attends Hanuman Katha by Bageshwar Dham

addressing contemporary challenges while preserving the foundational values of society," he said.

On the occasion, the governor honoured Dharendra Shastri and conveyed his best wishes for the continued success of Shree Hanuman Katha and his spiritual and social initiatives.

"India's strength lies in its unity, cultural diversity and enduring spiritual traditions," he said and called upon people, particularly youth, to draw inspiration from these values and contribute towards building a stronger, harmonious and developed India.

Budgam encounter

Terrorist killed, operation underway; says Army

BUDGAM, SEP 29:

One terrorist was killed in an encounter between security forces and terrorists

in central Kashmir's Budgam district late Tuesday evening, Army said.

Army's Chinar Corps in a post on X said: "Based on specific intelligence input, a joint search operation was launched by Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF Srinagar in general area of Korag, Yousmarg.

Vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which one terrorist neutralised".

They said the operation is in progress.

A top police officer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the operation was launched after security forces established contact with the terrorists in the area.

He said a joint operation is underway, with security forces engaged in the operation.

The area has been cordoned off and additional security measures have been put in place, while further details are awaited.

India Rejects Turkish president's Kashmir Remarks At UNGA

NEW DELHI, SEPT 29: India on Tuesday, September 29, rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), calling them "unwarranted" while asserting that no external party has any locus standi on the Kashmir issue.

During his biweekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked how India looked at Erdogan's recent UNGA address, in which he said that in South Asia, all disputes, including the Kashmir issue, should

be addressed through dialogue within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

"India rejects unwarranted references to India and the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir made by the president of Türkiye during his UNGA address," Jaiswal said.

"This is a matter, as you would understand, about India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and no external party has any locus standi on this issue," Jaiswal said.

In the past, New Delhi has said that Jammu and Kashmir is, was and will remain an integral part of India. (Agencies)