

Cont. From Page 1

PoJK was given by you, BJP govt will bring it back: Shah to Cong against many "patriotic religious institutions".

"The Congress never took any concrete steps for the preparation of the Indian Army. During the war with China, we didn't even have proper clothes to wear in the cold... there was neither salt nor matchsticks, and we had a severe shortage of guns and cartridges." Shah said today, under the leadership of Modi ji, the army is equipped with modern weapons like the BrahMos missile.

"The 'Akash Teer' missile destroys enemy missiles in the air itself, and our Army can turn Pakistan's entire air defence system into rubble in just half an hour," Shah said.

Families of Pahalgam attack victims and many other people wanted the three terrorists to be shot in their heads and they met the same fate in Operation Mahadev, he said while replying to a debate on Operation Sindoor in the Upper House.

During investigations, the identity of the three terrorists killed in Operation Mahadev clearly established Lashkar-e-Taiba's hand in Pahalgam attack as all three belonged to this outfit.

He stated that such barbaric crime never happened where religion was asked before killing people in front of women and children.

Earlier, when Shah began to speak, Opposition parties protested and demanded that the Prime Minister speak, but when the Chair refused to entertain their demand, they staged a walkout.

Continuing his speech, Shah said Congress leader P Chidambaram had demanded his resignation and proof that the terrorists were from Pakistan.

Shah stated that Chidambaram even challenged the justification of Operation Sindoor.

"Priority of Congress is not national security, but politics; it indulges in politics of vote bank, appeasement," the Home Minister said.

He said that Chidambaram exposed the mentality of Congress to the whole world that for vote bank they would support Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Taiba and terrorists.

He taunted Congress leader Prithviraj Chauhan who questioned the naming of the terrorist encounter as Operation Mahadev and said that when Shivaji Maharaj fought against the Mughals, his war slogan was "Har Har Mahadev".

While citing instances, he said that various war slogans of many Indian army men are based on religions and it has nothing to do with Hindu and Muslim.

He cleared the doubts about the timing of their killings and said that the CRPF, Army and J&K police, while staying in difficult terrain and having food sent from drones followed and killed them.

On April 22, tourists were enjoying with their families at Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow when terrorists arrived there and singled out Hindus. Later, they sprayed bullets, killing 25 of them and injuring several others. A local was also killed.

No yatra on July 31 due to bad weather

sional commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said.

"Pilgrims shall be kept informed about the situation in due course of time," he added.

So far, over 3.935 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine during the ongoing Amarnathji yatra.

No trace of 'suspects' sighted at Rajbagh

day night.

Soon thereafter, a joint team of Army, police and Special Operations Group (SoG) fanned out in the area and launched a massive operation in search for the suspects, officials said.

While the operation was in progress when reports last came in, forces were yet to find any trace of the suspects.

Locals had been asked to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police, officials said.

New rights for prisoners with disabilities

to handle the needs of differently-abled inmates.

The move aims to promote dignity, equality, and appropriate care for all prisoners with disabilities across jails in the Union Territory.

India bats for 2-state solution to Israel-Palestine conflict

Conference on 'The Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution' confirm that the international community continues to believe there is no substitute for a two-state solution.

He said the conference offers an opportunity to reflect on the path traversed so far in the journey towards achieving peace through a two-state solution.

"Our efforts must now focus on how to bring about a two-state solution through purposeful dialogue and diplomacy, and bringing the parties to the conflict to engage directly with each other," Harish said.

"Reaffirmation of support must take the form of actionable steps that pave the way for the two-state solution. Identification of such steps and their implementation modalities demand our collective attention and effort," he said in the UN General Assembly.

The high-level conference on July 28-30 is co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France.

A 25-page outcome document titled 'New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution' asserted that the war in Gaza must end now and Hamas must free all hostages.

"In the context of ending the war in Gaza, Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority," the outcome document said.

It added that following a ceasefire, a transitional administrative committee must be immediately established to operate in Gaza under the umbrella of the Palestinian Authority.

Harish noted that certain action points are emerging from the UN conference, and following up on them is the key.

"Let us not be content with paper solutions but strive to achieve practical solutions that actually make a tangible difference in the daily lives of our Palestinian brothers and sisters," he said, expressing India's complete readiness to contribute to this "noble endeavour."

Harish said India has been clear on the measures that must be undertaken in the short term.

These include an immediate ceasefire, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian assistance, release of all hostages, and the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

"There are no alternatives to these measures," he said.

Noting that in 1988 India became one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine with firm support and commitment to the two-state solution, Harish underlined that the overall sentiment in this forum is clear.

"It is also India's earnest desire to see peace and calm prevail in the Middle East. Lasting solutions are required to achieve this," he said.

Asserting that humanitarian aid to Gaza needs to flow without impediments, India said Palestinians in Gaza must have access to food, fuel and other basic necessities without hindrance.

"Humanitarian assistance is vital in sustaining life and must remain outside the realm of politics or conflict," Harish said, underlining that the humanitarian assistance pillar demands "our immediate attention and action."

India voiced concern that the human suffering in Gaza continues unabated, tens of thousands have been killed, several medical facilities damaged or destroyed, and children deprived of schooling for more than 20 months.

India also stressed that the plight of the hostages should not be forgotten.

"There can be no justification whatsoever for terrorism, for addressing any root cause or political grievance."

Noting that civilians, including women and children, have the right to lead normal lives, India said that in the years ahead, "meticulous reconstruction and rehabilitation" efforts of a substantially large scale will be required.

Highlighting the vital aspect of security, India said a stable arrangement that suitably caters to the security needs of both sides is necessary.

"Neither party should feel insecure. A sovereign, viable and independent State of Palestine within recognised and mutually agreed borders, living side by side with Israel in peace and security, is a prerequisite for enduring peace and sustainable development."

India further said that while aid and support are essential for the Palestinian people in rebuilding their lives, it is equally important to create hope and economic structures conducive for investment and employment.

India has been making concerted efforts to bring about a tangible impact on the daily lives of the Palestinian people by implementing human-centric projects in diverse sectors. The total commitment by India on this front stands at around USD 160 million.

"Economic prospects and viability for a Palestinian state are crucial," Harish said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the conference that the central question for Middle East peace is the implementation of the two-state solution.

"My central question to those who stand in the way is this: What is the alternative?" Guterres said, questioning whether the alternative is a one-state reality where Palestinians are denied equal rights, and forced to live under perpetual occupation and inequality or a one-state reality where Palestinians are expelled from their land.

"That is not peace. That is not justice. That is not in accordance with international law. And that is not acceptable," the UN chief said.

Guterres stressed that statehood for the Palestinians is a right, not a reward. "And the denial of statehood would be a gift to extremists everywhere."

UN agencies warn that key food and nutrition indicators in Gaza have exceeded famine thresholds, reaching their worst levels so far.

Nadda slams Cong for UPA-era Pakistan 'appeasement'

must introspect on what they did after terror attacks when they were in government," Nadda said.

Asserting that the government condemns the Pahalgam terror attack "in one voice", Nadda said, "The Home Minister of our sensitive government was in Kashmir at 5 pm on the day of the attack while the Prime Minister cut short his Saudi Arabia visit".

He further said the political leadership is extremely important as it gives directions to the armed forces.

Nadda said there is a difference between a responsible, sensitive, proactive government and a government which responds according to the need of the hour, and a luke-warm, non-reactive government.

"We will do injustice with this narrative if we look at the Pahalgam terror attack in isolation," the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha said.

Detailing the response of the Congress-led UPA government during 2004-14 to terror attacks carried out at the time, Nadda said that "no action was taken" after Delhi, Varanasi, Mumbai bomb blasts where hundreds were killed and injured, which shows the insensitivity of then government.

Trade, tourism and talks with Pakistan continued despite the terrorist attacks, Nadda said.

"You kept appeasing and never pressured Pakistan despite terrorism," he said in an apparent reference to the Congress-led governments at the time.

Moreover, India and Pakistan agreed on Kashmir-specific confidence-building measures, Nadda said, asserting that "they (Pakistan) kept killing us while we served them Biryani".

Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7 to avenge the Pahalgam massacre of 25 Hindu holidayers and a local by Pak terrorists. The military had targeted nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied J&K, killing over 100 top Pak terrorists. Before targeting the tourists, the terrorists had singled out Hindus and then sprayed bullets on them, killing 25 of them and injuring several others.

The three terrorists, who had carried out the killings, were tracked down by security forces in woods on the Srinagar outskirts on July 28 and killed in an encounter. They were on the run after the macabre incident. All of them were Pak nationals.

A huge cache of arms & ammunition was recovered from the slain terrorists. The two locals, who had extended them logistic support and other help, were arrested by NIA a few days after the incident.

Proclamation proceedings initiated against murder accused

on January 21 this year.

Ten accused were earlier arrested by police and four pistols, among other items, were recovered.

"Police have completed proclamation proceedings under section 84 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita against the three absconders," officials said.

They were identified as Khauff gang 'kingpin' Vikas Slathia alias Vicky alias Vicky Khauff, shooter Vikramjeet

Singh and Bodh Raj alias Guggi.

Notices were pasted at their respective residences as part of the legal process. Public proclamation was also carried out by way of drum beating and announcements in their native localities, directing them to appear before the court and join the investigation, officials said.

Police appealed to the general public to share any information regarding the whereabouts of these absconders with the nearest police station.

"Strict action as per law will be taken against anyone found harbouring or assisting them," the officials added.

Gataru was detained under PSA last year. He had survived an assassination attempt in 2017.

Govt asks all officials to attend I-Day functions

pation of staff under their control.

Elaborate security arrangements would be put in place to ensure the peaceful conduct of the I-Day celebrations.

No 3rd party intervention in Indo-Pak ceasefire: EAM in RS

Jaishankar said the Modi government has corrected the wrongs of Nehru's policies by suspending the Treaty. The Treaty signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not to buy peace, but for appeasement, he added.

The External Affairs Minister said terrorism is now on the global agenda only because of the efforts of the Modi government.

He said India exerted huge pressure on Pakistan through the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) process and also despite not being a member of the UN Security Council, India was able to get UN recognition that The Resistance Front (TRF) is a proxy of Pakistan-based LeT.

The TRF had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.

"When the Pahalgam attack happened on April 22, it was a shocking attack for a variety of reasons...The manner in which people were killed in front of their families, the fact that their faith was asked before killing them, the intent of destroying the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, which had returned to normalcy and prosperity after the end of Article 370. All of this angered the country," he said.

The Minister said there was grief and shock across the world. There was solidarity and sympathy.

"But the question was, what after that? And the answers were two. One, such an attack was absolutely unacceptable. It crossed our red line. There had to be severe consequences.

"And two, there had to be accountability and justice. There had to be accountability of the perpetrators, and they and their supporters had to be brought to justice. Now, the first clear message, of India's anger, of our resolve, of our determination, was the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security immediately the day after, from April 23," he said.

In his nearly hour-long speech, Jaishankar informed that on May 9, US Vice President J D Vance informed Prime Minister Modi that Pakistan was planning a huge attack on India.

To this, Prime Minister Modi told Vance that India's response would be appropriate, he said.

Pakistan attacked, and India gave a fitting and appropriate response, Jaishankar told the House.

The Minister also India sent a clear message that it is not open to any mediation and will not be deterred by nuclear blackmail.

Jaishankar said Operation Sindoor also did a global service as India reduced to dust terror infrastructure in Pakistan, including in Bahawalpur and Muridke.

He also chided certain opposition party leaders for mocking India's military action against Pakistan, if they have any doubts, they should watch videos of funerals of terrorists in Pakistan and destruction of airfields in the neighbouring country.

He said Opposition Sindoor was a well-considered and thoughtful response to the barbaric Pahalgam attack and it has now become the basis of a new policy.

He emphasised India will keep responding to each terror attack in the same way.

Certain opposition party members had raised the issue of Jaishankar's recent visit to China.

To this, the Minister said he visited China to discuss terrorism, de-escalation, and trade restrictions.

"I had no secret meeting," he said, in a veiled attack on senior Congress party leadership.

Relations with China will be developed on mutual interest, mutual sensitivity and mutual respect, he added.

The Minister also thanked the multi-party parliamentary delegation to various countries post Operation Sindoor, delegations to various countries, says they have done great national service.

Flashflood leaves 2 school teachers dead at Batote

water after their motorcycle got stuck in the middle of the road.

Officials said the dead were later identified as Jagdev Singh Thakur and Sanjay Sharma, both government school teachers. They were residents of Ghordi in Udhampur district.

According to officials, they were serving as government teachers in Udhampur district and had been attending a three-day training session at DIET Kud, which began on July 29.

They were last seen heading towards Sanasar by some locals on Tuesday evening, when the area experienced heavy rainfall.

Their bodies were shifted to the Batote Hospital for medico-legal formalities. Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

Another government school teacher, who was identified as Irshad Ahmad Lone, was killed after being hit by a bus in Behnipora area of Kupwara district of the valley.

He was walking by the roadside when he was hit by the bus. He was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries, officials said.

Yesterday, a government school teacher was killed in a road accident in Behnipora area of Rajwar in north Kashmir's Handwara area.

Terror associate held at Nagrota with pistols

tridges and two empty cartridges concealed in a handbag under the co-driver's seat, the officials added.

As he could not produce any valid documents or licences for the recovered arms and ammunition, he was taken into custody. The car was also seized and a case was registered

against him at Nagrota police station, officials said.

His sustained questioning was in progress, the officials added.

Major infiltration bid foiled; 2 terrorists killed near LoC

progress. Earlier in another post, the army said suspected movement of two individuals was observed by Indian troops along the fence in general area of Poonch sector, leading to a gunfight.

The encounter comes two days after security forces eliminated three hardcore Pakistani terrorists in Srinagar woods. They were involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

"A tight vigil is being maintained all along the LoC and the IB in view of the ongoing Amarnath yatra as there are intelligence inputs which suggest that Pakistan could push terrorists into J&K to target peace," officials said.

LG Kavinder vows to transform Ladakh into global destination

mental in the nation's progress and proudly noted that they have always exemplified the spirit of "Nation First, Self Last."

Gupta said that immediately after taking charge as the LG of Ladakh, he undertook a tour of the Kargil and Drass sectors where he personally met people and listened to their grievances.

He said that his administration will function at the grassroots level and every effort will be made to ensure balanced development of all blocks in the Union Territory.

"People have high expectations, and I will do my best to stand up to them," he said.

Highlighting the vast potential of Ladakh in the tourism sector, he said that the region could emerge as a global tourist destination. He added that with the completion of the Zojila Tunnel in the next one and a half years, new opportunities for tourism and connectivity will open up.

He also revealed that the administration is working on making it feasible to conduct the Shri Amarnath Yatra through the Ladakh route from next year, which would be a historic development.

He emphasised that areas like Siachen will also be promoted through tourism, creating new economic avenues for the people.

He assured the traders that he will make every possible effort to strengthen the economic and social connect between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, ensuring that both regions would grow in harmony and mutual cooperation.

The function was attended by Ashok Koul, MLAs - Arvind Gupta, Surinder Bhagat and Yudhvir Sethi - CCI president Arun Gupta, his team of office bearers and presidents of various bazaar and industrial associations.

489 road projects face delays: Gadkari

stakeholders to complete these projects.

Gadkari said cost overrun has been incurred in some of the delayed projects due to various factors like enhanced cost of compensation for land and structures, price escalation, Goods & Services Tax (GST) impact, additional VUPs/PUPs on public demand or otherwise, change in General Arrangement Drawing (GAD)/design for Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) to meet the Railway standards, etc.

If projects are inordinately delayed due to some reasons and further progress under the ongoing contract is not envisaged, the contract is terminated/foreclosed and re-awarded, with or without modification in the project configuration, he added.

Responding to a separate question, Gadkari said national highways are constructed in accordance with specifications of Indian Road Congress (IRC).

"The maximum design speed specified for construction of national highways in different terrains is 120 km/h for expressways and 100 km/h for national highways," he said.

SC grills Justice Varma, says 'CJI not post office'

so serious calling for an action, he would be affirming earlier decisions of this court that CJI has the power to do so," Justice Datta said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Justice Varma, submitted that the in-house inquiry panel's recommendation for his removal is unconstitutional.

Sibal told the court that recommendation of proceedings for removal in this manner would set a dangerous precedent.

He said Justice Varma did not approach earlier as tape was released and his reputation was already damaged.

The top court also pulled advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara seeking registration of an FIR against Justice Varma.

During the hearing, Justice Dipankar Datta questioned Nedumpara on whether he had even approached the police with a formal complaint before seeking the registration of an FIR.

The top court reserved its order on Justice Varma's petition challenging the in-house inquiry procedure and the Chief Justice of India's recommendation for his removal.

It also reserved its order on a separate petition filed by Nedumpara seeking registration of an FIR.

Justice Varma has also sought quashing of the May 8 recommendation by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, urging Parliament to initiate impeachment proceedings against him.

In his petition, Justice Varma submitted that the inquiry "reversed the burden of proof", requiring him to investigate and disprove the charges levelled against him.

Alleging that the panel's findings were based on a preconceived narrative, Justice Varma said the inquiry timelines were driven solely by the urge to conclude proceedings swiftly, even at the expense of "procedural fairness".

The petition contended that the inquiry panel drew adverse findings without affording him a full and fair hearing.

A report of the inquiry panel probing the incident had said that Justice Varma and his family members had covert or active control over the store room where a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found following a fire incident, proving his misconduct which is serious enough to seek his removal.

The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court conducted the inquiry for 10 days, examined 55 witnesses and visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35 pm on March 14 at the official residence of Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and now in the Allahabad High Court.

Acting on the report, then CJI Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the judge's impeachment.