

Leverage diplomatic power to end West Asia war, J&K CM urges PM Modi

JAMMU: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to use diplomacy to end the West Asia war.

Noting that the conflict is a humanitarian crisis impacting India directly, Abdullah urged Prime Minister Modi to leverage India's strong diplomatic relations with key global players to help end the ongoing conflict in West Asia and alleviate human suffering in the region.

His remarks came during the ongoing Budget Session of the Assembly, where he addressed the escalating war in the Middle East that has affected lakhs of lives across the region and beyond.

Highlighting the human cost of the conflict, the Chief Minister said that while global discourse often shifts between regime change, strategic concerns such as



the Strait of Hormuz, and rising oil prices, there remains a lack of clarity on the continued suffering of the people of Iran over the past several weeks.

He emphasised that the crisis directly impacts India as well, noting that many

Indian citizens, including those from Jammu and Kashmir, are stranded in Iran. He also pointed to the visible effects at home, such as long queues at petrol pumps, and the emotional distress felt by people.

"As representatives of the

people, we have every right to raise our concerns in this house," he said, adding that although the Assembly may not be in a position to stop the war, India's diplomatic standing places it in a unique position to contribute towards peace.

Referring to India's relations with countries such as the United States, Israel, Iran, and other regional powers, the Chief Minister expressed confidence in the Centre's ability to play a constructive role. He urged that an appeal be made to the Prime Minister to use these relationships and personal diplomatic channels to help bring the conflict to an early end.

The Chief Minister strongly

condemned what he described as an "unjust and illegal war imposed on Iran" and expressed condolences for all those who have lost their lives in the conflict, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates. Reiterating his appeal, he said that the Indian government should make all possible efforts to end the war at the earliest, stressing that "the sooner it ends, the greater the benefit for humanity".

Framing the issue as a humanitarian crisis rather than a religious one, he said, "It is not any one religion that is being killed - it is humanity that is being killed."

He concluded by expressing confidence that the entire Jammu and Kashmir Assembly would support any effort by India to play a meaningful role in bringing the conflict to an end.

Congress ups attack on Centre over fuel taxes, seeks relief

BENGALURU : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Union government, alleging large-scale "loot" through taxation on petrol and diesel over the past 11 years.

Addressing a joint press conference at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, Randeep Singh Surjewala charged that the Centre had collected Rs 43 lakh crore from taxes on petrol and diesel since 2014, which, he said, amounted to nearly Rs 1,000 crore per day.

He alleged that despite a recent announcement of a reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel, there would be no real relief for the common man, and claimed the move was aimed at benefiting private oil companies.

"The reduction in excise duty is a sleight of hand. While the government projects it as relief, the benefit will not reach the common people. Instead, it will result

in an annual duty concession of Rs 3.6 lakh crore, aiding private oil companies," he said.

CM Siddaramaiah further alleged that fuel prices remained high despite a decline in global crude oil prices. He pointed out that petrol was priced at Rs 71.41 per litre and diesel at Rs 56.71 per litre in May 2014, while current prices in Bengaluru stand at Rs 102.96 and Rs 90.99 per litre, respectively.

He argued that, based on international crude oil prices, petrol and diesel should be significantly cheaper, accusing the Centre of imposing high excise duties to generate revenue.

According to CM Siddaramaiah, the Union government imposed an average excise duty of Rs 19.70 per litre on petrol and Rs 15.50 per litre on diesel between 2014 and 2025, making fuel taxation a major source of revenue. Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar accused the Centre of frequently revising excise

duties, claiming that there had been 21 revisions, including 12 hikes, over the years.

He further alleged that the government had a pattern of increasing fuel prices after elections. Citing instances following the 2014, 2019, and 2022 elections, he claimed that petrol and diesel prices were raised soon after polling concluded.

He also highlighted a steep rise in LPG prices, noting that the cost of a domestic cylinder had increased from Rs 412 in 2014 to Rs 913 in March 2026. In contrast, he said international LPG prices had declined during the same period. Raising concerns over a potential increase in fuel prices, he alleged that oil companies had already begun hiking rates and warned of further increases after the conclusion of upcoming state elections.

He demanded that the Union government provide relief to the public instead of burdening them with high fuel costs.

Cheetah from Kuno National Park reaches Rajasthan village, triggers panic

JAIPUR : A cheetah that strayed from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park has entered Rajasthan, sparking panic in Pipalda Sammel village under Madanpura panchayat in the Sultanpur area of Kota district.

Cheetah KP-2 was spotted moving through fields and residential areas on Friday, prompting villagers to remain indoors.

Farmers who first noticed the animal in their fields alerted the Forest Department and local police. Videos of the sightings have also been recorded and shared with officials.

Forest teams from Rajasthan and Kuno National Park are jointly monitoring the cheetah's movement round-the-clock. Officials said the animal has been seen resting under trees and moving cautiously across farmland and habitation zones.

Authorities have urged residents to stay alert but not panic, stressing that cheetahs generally do not attack humans.

Officials noted that KP-2 and another cheetah, KP-3, have been repeatedly enter-



ing Rajasthan due to the proximity of Kuno National Park to the state border.

Continuous tracking is being carried out in shifts by Kuno teams in coordination with Rajasthan forest officials. KP-3 has been frequently sighted in the Mangrol range of Baran district and has been roaming the area for over three weeks.

Both KP-2 and KP-3 are around 2.5 years old and are

the Rajasthan border.

Earlier in mid-March, Cheetah KP-2, which strayed from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park and had been roaming in Rajasthan's Baran for the past 45 days, entered Kota and was reportedly wandering through wheat fields.

Upon receiving the information, a team from the forest department (Territorial) began monitoring the big cat, while another team from Kuno also maintained round-the-clock surveillance. A large number of villagers gathered after the big cat entered the villages of Lakshimpura and Luhavad under the Ayana police station jurisdiction in Kota.

Subsequently, Tehsildar Vishwanath Pratap Naruka and the Station House Officer (SHO) reached the spot to disperse the crowd.

Finding a clear path, the cheetah moved out of the area. Meanwhile, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has noted the recent movement of two cheetahs that have dispersed from Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh to areas in Rajasthan, describing it as natural behaviour.

Subsequently, Tehsildar Vishwanath Pratap Naruka and the Station House Officer (SHO) reached the spot to disperse the crowd. Finding a clear path, the cheetah moved out of the area. Meanwhile, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has noted the recent movement of two cheetahs that have dispersed from Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh to areas in Rajasthan, describing it as natural behaviour.

Adani Group receives 'Net Zero Leadership' honour at India Climate Week 2026

NEW DELHI : The Adani Group on Friday said it has been recognised with the Net Zero Leadership honour at the 'India Climate Samman' during the 'India Climate Week 2026' here.

The recognition was presented by Shripad Naik, Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy in the national capital, organised by the Carbon Markets Association of India.

Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, Group Head ESG, Adani Group, accepted the honour on behalf of the organisation.

"This recognition reflects the Group's continued focus on advancing a low-carbon future through a science-based and scalable approach," Dr Sharma said.

"The Group is accelerating investments in renewable energy, green hydrogen and integrated infrastructure while embedding decarbonisation across operations and value chains," he added.

The recognition highlights the Adani Group's efforts to expand clean energy capacity, develop green hydrogen capabilities and build sustainable infrastructure to support India's energy transition. Adani Group continues to pursue its Net Zero ambition by driving decarbonisation across its businesses and scaling clean energy solutions, supporting India's transition towards a low-carbon economy.



ED arrests Al-Falah University chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui in PMLA case

NEW DELHI : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui, Director and major shareholder of M/s Tarbia Education Foundation, in connection with a money laundering case, the agency said in an official statement on Friday. The arrest was carried out on March 24 by the ED's Delhi Zonal Office under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The action follows an ongoing investigation into the alleged generation and laundering of proceeds of crime (PoC) linked to Al-Falah Charitable Trust, Al-Falah University.

Transgender Persons Amendment Bill 2026 generates mixed response from trans community leaders

NEW DELHI : The newly-introduced Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill generated mixed reactions from leaders of the transgender community. While one hailed it as the government's effort to "save original TG", another accused the Centre of taking away their "rights of self-identification".

The Bill, which has already been passed by both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, and is now awaiting the President's assent.

The country's first transgender Shankaracharya, Hemangi Sakhi Ma, came out in support of the Bill.

She told reporters, "According to me, the Bill has been passed by the government to save the original TGs (transgenders). The transgender community should not be scared because this has been done for our safety." She said, "Many a times, many men call themselves transgender and create IDs. People like us are unable to make TG cards or certificate.

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF "PATILPUTRA ACADEMY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING PRIVATE LIMITED"

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office : ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091

SBFC Finance Limited Registered Office: Unit No.103, First Floor, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Village Chakala, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059. DEMAND NOTICE

ALCHEMIST ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED CIN No. U74999DL2002PLC117052 A-270, 1st & 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024, India. PUBLIC NOTICE

HM Shah to hold roadshow, step up BJP campaign ahead of Assam polls

GUWAHATI : Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to kick off a fresh round of campaigning in Assam, beginning with a high-profile roadshow in Guwahati on Saturday, as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) steps up efforts ahead of the Assembly elections. According to party sources, HM Shah will arrive in Guwahati on Saturday evening and take part in a roadshow in support of BJP's Guwahati Central candidate Vijay Gupta.

The roadshow is expected to commence from the Arya Vidyaapeeth Playground and pass through key stretches of the constituency, aiming to mobilise voter support in the crucial urban seat. During his visit, the Union Home Minister will also hold meetings with party leaders and office-bearers to review poll preparedness and strengthen booth-level management strategies. On the following day, HM Shah will travel to Sonitpur district, where he is scheduled to address a public rally at the Dhekiajuli Tea Estate football field in support of state minister Ashok Singhal. Later, he will head to Tihu in Nalbari district to campaign for senior minister Chandramohan Patowary at the Chamata Higher Secondary School playground, concluding his two-day visit. Party leaders.

NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as Nukul Kumar S Singh (old name) Son of - Satyendra Prasad Singh, Residing at - Mohanpur, Begusarai, Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nukul Kumar new name. It is certified that I have complied with name and legal requirements in this connection.

