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India voices deep...

contact with the Embassy of India in Caracas," it said.

There are around 50 NRIs (non-resident Indians) and 30 PIOs (persons of Indian origin) in Venezuela, according to the embassy in Caracas.

After Maduro and his wife were flown out of Caracas, US President Donald Trump told a news conference that his country will run Venezuela until a transition of power can take place.

"We are going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," Trump said.

The US president also said the "extremely successful" operation should serve as a warning to anyone who would threaten American sovereignty or endanger American lives.

The US captured Maduro after carrying out a months-long military campaign targeting Venezuela's oil tankers and attacks on boats that Washington alleged were part of a drug cartel.

In his reaction, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the US attacks on Venezuela and the capture of Maduro amounted to a "flagrant violation of international law".

"Attacking countries, in flagrant violation of international law, is the first step toward a world of violence, chaos, and instability, where the law of the strongest prevails over multilateralism," he said.

China asked the US to release Maduro and his wife, and underlined the need to resolve issues through dialogue.

"Such hegemonic acts of the US seriously violate international law and Venezuela's sovereignty, and threaten peace and security in Latin America and the Caribbean region," the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Russia "strongly" urged the US to release the Venezuelan president.

Venezuela's Supreme Court has asked Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez to take charge of the country as the interim president.

Rodriguez visited New Delhi in February last year to participate in the India Energy Week.

India and Venezuela share a history of warm relations. A major thrust to the bilateral relationship was imparted by former president Hugo Chavez's State Visit to India in March 2005.

The two countries have robust cooperation in the energy sector.

India's ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has a joint venture with Corporacion Venezolana del Petroleo (CVP). The joint venture is known as "PetrobrasIndovenecolana SA" for the production and exploration of oil in the San Cristobal field, in which the OVL has a 40-per cent stake.

The OVL's investment in the project is approximately USD 200 million, according to the Indian embassy.

Omar, ministers greet...

harmony among all sections of society.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Science & Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, in his message, paid glowing tributes to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, remembering him as a great spiritual luminary, visionary reformer and an embodiment of courage, sacrifice and compassion. He described the Guru as the eternal "Saint-Soldier" whose life and teachings continue to inspire humanity to uphold truth, justice, equality and selfless service.

"On this sacred occasion, I convey my heartfelt greetings to all Sikh brothers and sisters. The life and legacy of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji guide us to stand firmly against injustice, protect the weak and work tirelessly for the welfare of society with courage and conviction," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma exhorted the people, especially the youth, to draw inspiration from the noble teachings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and imbibe the values of discipline, unity, bravery and service to humanity. He emphasized that the Guru's ideals of righteousness and equality are highly relevant in today's times and provide a strong foundation for building a progressive and harmonious society.

The Minister also prayed for peace, prosperity and overall development of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation. He expressed hope that the sacred occasion of Prakash Purb would further strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and communal harmony.

Maduro arrives in US after stunning capture

■ AGENCY
C A R A C A S (VENEZUELA): Deposed Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro arrived in the United States to face criminal charges after being captured in an audacious nighttime military operation that President Donald Trump said would set the US up to "run" the South American country and tap its vast oil reserves to sell to other nations.

Maduro landed late Saturday afternoon at a small airport in New York following the middle-of-the-night operation that extracted him and his wife, Cilia Flores, from their home in a military base in the capital, Caracas - an act that Maduro's government called "imperialist."

The couple faces US charges of participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy.

The dramatic action capped an intensive Trump administration pressure campaign on Venezuela's autocratic leader and months of secret planning, resulting in the most assertive American action to achieve regime change since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Legal experts raised questions about the lawfulness of the operation, which was done without congressional approval.

Venezuela's vice president, Delcy Rodriguez, meanwhile, demanded that the United States free Maduro and called him the country's rightful leader as her interim president.

Some Venezuelan civilians and members of the military were killed, said

and motivate people to work together for an inclusive, just and prosperous society.

AGMUT cadre reshuffle...

from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir; R P Meena (2013) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi; Rahool Alwal (2014) from Mizoram to Delhi; S M Prabhudessai (2014) from Arunachal Pradesh to Goa; Rajinder Kumar Gupta (2014) from Jammu & Kashmir to Puducherry; Shobhit D Saksena (2015) from Jammu & Kashmir to Delhi; Niharika Bhatt (2015) from Andaman & Nicobar to Delhi; Sudhanshu Dhama (2016) from Arunachal Pradesh to Jammu & Kashmir; Sandhya Swamy (2016) from Delhi to Arunachal Pradesh; Sachin Kumar Singh (2017) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi; Akshat Kaushal (2018) from Goa to Arunachal Pradesh; Shruti Arora (2018) from Ladakh to Goa; Achin Garg (2019) from Delhi to Arunachal Pradesh; Sunny Gupta (2020) from Andaman & Nicobar to Jammu & Kashmir; Isha Singh (2021) from Puducherry to Delhi.

J&K BJP MLAs...

question the government and ensure that issues affecting common citizens are forcefully and effectively presented on the floor of the house.

He hailed the Centre's Rs 1430 crore relief package for the Union Territory to mitigate damage to public property and other infrastructure during last year's floods, saying the assistance reflects the Narendra Modi government's deep commitment to heal the wounds of the affected families.

Senior BJP leader and MLA Surjit Singh Salathia said the party legislators are fully prepared to raise both constituency-specific issues and broader matters concerning the entire Union Territory during the assembly session.

Sidharth re-elected as...

the minutes of the last meeting, report of the General Secretary, audited statement of accounts were confirmed. The office bearers of the existing VAJK were dissolved to pave the way for the election of new office bearers for the term 2026-2030.

Raj Daluja, Patron-in-Chief of VAJK, reaffirmed the vision and mission of the Association for upholding the image of Volleyball in J&K. Sidharth Daluja, newly elected President, was greeted with enthusiasm by all office bearers of VAJK, who reassured the members to continue his wholehearted support of Volleyball within and outside the J&K Union Territory.

Sidharth Daluja, thanked all outgoing office bearers for their continuous support to keep the flag high of volleyball in J&K and expected the new team to discharge their assigned duties gracefully in the near future.

The President also disclosed various comities for the smooth conduct of the day to day work of the Association shall be constituted to seek the advice of stalwarts and professional experts of Volleyball game in near future.

Rajnath to commission...

Paramesh Sivamani and other dignitaries will be present on the occasion.

As per the ICG, the ship built by the Goa Shipyard Limited has over 60 per cent indigenous content.

The 114.5 metres long and 4,200-ton vessel boasts a speed of more than 22 knots and an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles, significantly enhancing the ICG's pollution

and response, fire-fighting and maritime safety and security capabilities.

The vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including a 30mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7mm stabilised remote-controlled guns with integrated fire control systems, an indigenously developed integrated bridge system, integrated platform management system, automated power management system, and a high-capacity external firefighting system, as per the ICG. The ship will be based at ICG's Kochi base.

LG flags off...

provide the youth with firsthand exposure to India's diverse heritage and rapid developmental progress. The programme is coordinated by Prosperous, Accountable and Transparent J&K, an NGO in collaboration with Haryana Media association and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Jammu.

Making strong efforts...

the Khelo Bharat Policy 2025 will provide opportunities to the right talent and increase transparency in sports organisations.

He emphasized that these provisions will allow the youth to advance simultaneously in both sports and education.

The PM expressed happiness that Varanasi had come up as a major sporting destination, saying that securing a place on the country's sporting map through the National Volleyball Competition was highly significant for the city.

The tournament, being held from January 4 to 11, will witness the participation of more than 1,000 players, representing 58 teams, from across the country.

"Hosting the National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi underscores the growing emphasis on strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting athletic development in the city."

Drawing parallels between volleyball and the country's growth, the PM said "I see so many parallels between India's development story and volleyball."

"Volleyball teaches us that no victory is achieved alone. Our success depends on our co-ordination, our trust, and our team's readiness. Everyone has a role to play, a responsibility to fulfill. And we only succeed when everyone performs their role diligently and seriously. Our country is also progressing in the same way."

Northern Rly Jammu...

country. The dedication of the iconic Chenab and Anji bridges, considered as engineering marvels, the operation of Vande Bharat trains, promotion of religious tourism, increased freight movement of goods like apples and cement, and acceleration of economic development ushered a new era for the Union Territory, the railways said, terming the achievements as a "historic step" in connecting Kashmir and transforming the lives of the people of the region.

The USBRL was inaugurated by Modi on June 6, 2025, connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country throughout the year, while the Chenab bridge which is 35 meters higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris and the country's first Cable-Stayed Anji Rail Bridge were dedicated to the nation, showcasing the technical excellence of this project.

The Vande Bharat trains to the Valley have facilitated over 3.75 lakh passengers since its launch on June 6, making travel easier and faster, the railways said.

It said the Katra-Amritsar route strengthened spiritual connectivity, facilitating the journey of devotees.

The new rail link to Kashmir also boosted the economy with over 20,000 tons of apples and 1.5 lakh tons of cement transported, benefiting farmers and industries.

The Anantnag goods shed is capable of handling 1.5 lakh tons of cement, improving logistics, while for the first time, automobile and food grain rakes arrived in the valley, and cherries (mulberries) were transported from Kashmir to Bandra - a major achievement in logistics, the release said.

Over Rs 94 crore were secured through new non-fare revenue contracts and Rs 3.72 crore recovered from over 63,000 cases through ticket checking drives.

On the completion of one year of the Jammu Division, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singh, said the year 2025 was challenging for the newly set up Jammu Division, but the railways made every possible effort to ensure the convenience, safety, and comfortable travel of passengers.

"With these efforts, the Jammu Division is rapidly moving towards excellence, and this new chapter is bringing better connectivity and prosperity to the people of Kashmir," he said, adding the Jammu Division will write its second chapter with new projects in 2026.

Army Chief embarks on visit to UAE, Sri Lanka**said.**

It said Gen Dwivedi's January 5-6 visit to the Gulf nation underscores a shared commitment to deepen mutual understanding and enhance cooperation in areas of common interest.

Gen Dwivedi's trip to the UAE is taking place weeks after the Gulf nation's Commander of the Presidential Guard, Major General Ali Saif Humaid Alkaabi, visited India.

The Army Chief's visit comes in the midst of fast-paced developments in the Gulf region including escalating tensions between the UAE and Saudi Arabia over the situation in Yemen.

The military cooperation between India and the UAE witnessed a significant momentum after the visit to that country by then Army

War College in Buttala.

General Dwivedi will also pay homage at the memorial for the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) in Colombo. India had lost around 1,200 soldiers during the Indian Peacekeeping Force's stay in Sri Lanka between July 1987 and March 1990.

In April last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to the fallen warriors of the IPKF at the memorial during his visit to the island nation.

"The visit of the Chief of the Army Staff to the UAE and Sri Lanka reaffirms India's commitment to strengthening defence cooperation, fostering mutual trust and enhancing interoperability with friendly nations in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia," the Army said in a statement.

IAF chief urges ADA to stick to timelines for operational readiness**■ STATE TIMES NEWS****BENGALURU:** Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Sunday said the Aeronautical Development Organisation (ADA) must strictly adhere to delivery timelines to keep the Indian Air Force operationally ready in a rapidly evolving security environment.

During routine patrolling, a police party stopped pony operator Gulam Mustafa, a resident of village Chumbian, for checking at Ban Ganga and was asked to produce a valid registered service card, a police spokesman said. However, he admitted that he did not possess any authorised or registered pony card, violating the notification issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra, he said, adding an FIR under relevant sections of law has been registered against him at Police Station Katra.

SSP Reasi Parvam Singh reiterated commitment of ensuring strict compliance with rules and regulations on the SMVD Track for the safety, security and convenience of pilgrims and warned that strict action will continue against violators.

Emphasising the urgency of timely inductions, Singh said there was a need to adhere to delivery schedules to ensure the IAF remains operationally prepared in constantly evolving times.

Secretary, Department of Defence Research and

Development, and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Samir V Kamat, underscored the importance of developing indigenous cutting-edge technologies to reduce import dependence and realise the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day national seminar 'Aeronautics 2047', organised by ADA at the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) here.

The seminar marked 25 years of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas flight programme, and the Chief of the Air Staff congratulated ADA on achieving the milestone, according to a statement.

Discussions are focused on next-generation aircraft manufacturing and assembly, digital manufacturing, aerodynamics for future combat aircraft, propulsion technologies, flight testing techniques, digital twin technology, certification challenges, flight control systems and avionics, maintainability issues, artificial intelligence in

aircraft design, and precision manufacturing of actuators.

According to the statement, the event will also trace the journey of the LCA Tejas from concept to squadron.

Designed and developed by ADA, the aircraft has completed over 5,600 successful flight trials, with more than 100 government laboratories, academic institutions and industries contributing to the programme.

Several niche technologies, including carbon composites, lightweight materials, fly-by-wire flight control systems, digital utility management systems and a glass cockpit, were developed to make the LCA a fourth-generation fighter, it said.

The LCA Mk-1A, an advanced variant of the LCA Tejas, having acquired both the capability and capacity to build fighter aircraft indigenously, is expected to meet the operational requirements of the IAF, while the LCA Mk-II and LCA Navy variants are currently in development.

**Ch Zulfkar Ali hails Centre Govt for allocating Rs 1,430 cr under SDRF**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Former Cabinet Minister and senior BJP leader, UT Vice President Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of India for allocating ₹1,430 crore under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to provide relief to individuals affected by devastating floods and heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir during August-September 2025.

Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali stated that unprecedented floods caused massive damage to residential houses, agricultural land, livestock, and public infrastructure, leaving thousands of families in distress across several districts. He described the financial assistance sanctioned by the Centre as a timely and crucial step towards relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of flood-affected areas.

He urged the UT Government's policy decision to simplify the scheme, relax impractical conditions, and remove unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles so that benefits reach the affected population in a smooth, transparent, and time-bound manner.

Welcoming the UT Government's policy decision to allot 5 marlas of land to families whose houses were completely damaged in floods, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali termed the move as a positive and humane step.

He expressed hope that the UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir would ensure

towards permanent rehabilitation. However, he expressed serious concern over stringent conditions, rigid eligibility criteria, and official bottlenecks attached to the scheme, which may result in many genuinely affected families being declared ineligible.

He urged the Jammu and

Kashmir Government to simplify the scheme, relax impractical conditions, and remove unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles so that benefits reach the affected population in a smooth, transparent, and time-bound manner.

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