

US trying to reclaim Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan: Trump

LONDON, Sept 19 (ANI)

US President Donald Trump said that the US is trying to regain control of Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, which is currently under the control of the Taliban Government after the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021.

"We were going to leave Afghanistan, but we were going to leave it with strength and dignity, and we were going to keep Bagram, the big air base - one of the biggest air bases in the world," Trump said during a joint news conference with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"We gave it to them for nothing. We're trying to get it back, by the way," he added.

Trump has repeatedly indicated that he would have kept control of the air base, given its strategic importance near the border between Afghanistan and China.

Trump has already called the decision to withdraw the troops from the air base "the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country."



Earlier, Trump had said, "They left all that equipment behind and every year they have a parade down from street with the equipment. With all that equipment that they left, they should have taken every ounce of it. Every screw, every bolt, every nail you take out of there. And Millie said, I remember one time, so we're better off leaving the equipment. Why? It's cheaper to leave USD 150 million airplane rather than flying it into Pakistan or India or some place. Yes, sir. That's when I knew he was not an idiot. Didn't take long to figure that one out. They left their dignity behind. It

was the most embarrassing moment in my opinion in the history of my country."

"We had Afghanistan, which I think was the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country, and we would have gotten out. I was the one that got him down. I would have kept Bagram, the big air base, which right now is controlled by China. Among the most powerful runways in the world. Thick, thick with concrete and seal. Anything could land. And right now they were one hour away from where China makes its nuclear weapons," he added.

China, Taliban reject Trump's plan to reclaim key Afghan air base

BEIJING/KABUL, Sept 19 (PTI)

CHINA and the Taliban on Friday rejected US President Donald Trump's proposal to reclaim Afghanistan's strategic Bagram air base near the Chinese border, with Beijing cautioning against efforts to stir regional confrontation and Kabul reiterating that Afghans never accepted foreign military presence. The sprawling Bagram air base was abandoned by American troops four years ago in 2021 during their chaotic withdrawal ordered by then President Joe Biden, as Taliban militants took control of Kabul. Reacting to Trump's remarks, Taliban official Zakir Jalal said the interim Afghanistan Government "completely rejects" the idea.

Afghanistan and America need to engage with each other

and can have economic and political relations based on mutual respect and common benefits, without America having military presence in any part of Afghanistan, he said in a post on X. China too conveyed its opposition to Trump's remarks, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian telling a media briefing in Beijing that "stirring up tension and confrontation in the region will not be supported". "China respects Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity... Afghanistan's future should rest in the hands of the Afghan people," he said.

"Let me stress that stirring up tension and confrontation in the region will not be supported... We hope all parties will play a constructive role for regional peace and stability," Lin said.

Oli denies giving shootout order on 'Gen Z' protests in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 19 (PTI)

NEPAL'S deposed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has denied that his Government gave the shootout order during the 'Gen Z' protests on the first day of the agitation on September 8 that killed at least 19 people.

The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) chairman instead blamed the infiltrators for the tragedy.

"The Government didn't order to shoot at the demonstrators," Oli claimed in a message issued on the country's Constitution Day. "The bullets were fired at the protesters from automatic guns, which were not possessed by the police personnel, and this must be investigated upon," Oli claimed.

Oli, who had been in hiding since September 9 under the

shelter of the Nepal Army, has now shifted to a temporary residence and will appear in public after the party secretariat meeting, sources said.

Claiming that there was "infiltration" in the "peaceful protests", the CPN-UML chairman said, "The infiltrating conspirators turned the agitation violent, and this way our youths were killed."

Expressing grief over the loss of lives, Oli demanded an inquiry into the incident.

"The Singhdurbar Secretariat and Supreme Court were set on fire, Nepal's map was burnt and many important Government buildings were set on fire after I resigned from the post," he said in a post on Facebook.

"I don't want to elaborate on

the conspiracies behind these incidents, time will speak for itself," he added.

He also recalled the challenges the country had faced while promulgating the Constitution.

"The Constitution was promulgated in the midst of a border blockade and challenges against national sovereignty," he said.

"All generations of Nepalis must unite — to confront the assault on our sovereignty and to defend our Constitution," he added.



India reiterates full support to Nepal towards restoring peace and stability

EC delists 474 more parties

Action initiated against 359 others

NEW DELHI, Sept 19 (PTI)

THE Election Commission (EC) on Friday said it has de-listed 474 more registered unrecognised political parties for flouting norms, including not contesting elections in the last six years.

In the first phase of the exercise, the EC de-listed 334 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) on August 9.

"In continuation, in the second phase, ECI delisted 474 RUPPs on September 18, based on non-contestation in elections conducted by ECI continuously for 6 years. Thus, 808 RUPPs have been delisted in the last 2 months," EC said in a statement.

The guidelines for the registration of political parties note that if a party does not contest elections continuously for six years, it will be taken off the list of registered parties. Till recently, there were 2,520 RUPPs. After the de-listing exercise, 2,046 RUPPs remain. Besides, there are six recognised national parties and 67 State parties. Of the 808 RUPPs de-listed in the last two months, 14 are from Bihar, where Assembly polls are due in November.

Separately, 359 RUPPs have been identified for not having submitted their annual audited accounts in the last three financial years -- 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 -- within the stipulated time period and contesting polls but not filing election expenditure reports. These parties are from 23 States and Union Territories.

Since 2001, the EC has carried out the exercise of weeding out defunct RUPPs "three to four" times, officials said.



A total of 808 RUPPs have been removed since August 2025 for failing to contest polls continuously for six years

The Supreme Court had earlier barred the poll panel from "derecognising" political parties, noting that it was not prescribed under law.

However, the EC has found a way to "delist parties". The parties de-listed can be listed again by the poll authority without getting into the process of giving them fresh recognition, a former EC functionary pointed out. Some RUPPs were in the past found flouting the income-tax and money-laundering laws.

Political parties (national, State and RUPPs) in the country are registered with the EC under the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Under the provision, any association once registered as a political party gets certain privileges and advantages, such as tax exemptions.

This exercise has been conducted with the aim of cleaning up the political system and de-listing such parties that have not contested any election to the Lok Sabha or the legislative assemblies of the States and Union territories or bypolls since 2019 and those that could not be physically traced, the officials said.

Trump says TikTok deal with China approved

WASHINGTON, Sept 19 (AP)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said, he would meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at a regional summit to take place at the end of October in South Korea and that he would visit China in the “early part of next year,” following a phone call the leaders shared on Friday.

In a Truth Social post, Trump also said the Chinese leader would come to the United States “at an appropriate time,” noting the leaders also approved a TikTok deal.

“The call was a very good one, we will be speaking again by phone, appreciate the TikTok approval, and both look forward to meeting at APEC!,” Trump wrote, referring to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a grouping of 21 economies on the Pacific Rim.

China’s official news agency Xinhua said Xi, in the call, stressed the importance of the bilateral ties and urged the US side to avoid against any unilateral trade restrictions from the US.

This is the second call with Xi since Trump returned to the White House and launched sky-

high tariffs on China, triggering back-and-forth trade restrictions that strained ties between the two largest economies. But Trump, a Republican, has expressed willingness to negotiate trade deals with Beijing, notably for TikTok, which faces a US ban unless its Chinese parent company sells its controlling stake.

Federal judge tosses Trump’s defamation lawsuit against NYT

TAMPA, Sept 19 (AP)

A FEDERAL judge in Florida on Friday tossed President Donald Trump’s \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against ‘New York Times’.

US District Judge Steven Merryday ruled that Trump’s 85-page lawsuit was overly long and full of “tedious and burdensome” language that had no bearing on the legal case. The judge gave Trump has 28 days to file an amended complaint that should not exceed 40 pages.

Army organises 5-day free medical camp in Doda's Bhalesa under Op Sadbhavana

DODA, Sept 19 (ANI)

IN A humanitarian gesture following flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army's 26 Rashtriya Rifles unit has organised a five-day free medical camp under Operation Sadbhavana in the Bhalesa area of Doda district.

The medical outreach, launched to assist the flood-affected residents, has already attended to over 100 patients, with doctors and medical staff available on site to provide continuous healthcare services, including free medicines.

While speaking to ANI, Dr Salma, Sub District Hospital, Gandoh, said, "Such camps should be organised more frequently so that the people can benefit. People are receiving free medicines, and doctors and medical teams are available...More



Army personnel of '26 Rashtriya Rifles' organised a mega medical camp under 'Operation Sadbhavana', in the remote village of Ghill Kunan in Gandoh subdivision of Doda district on Thursday. (PTI)

than 100 patients have visited till now...People need to help each other..." Former Sarpanch of Dharveri, Mohd Iqbal, also

appreciated the Army's efforts, stating that the camp had served multiple purposes beyond healthcare.

ICG launches fast patrol vessel 'Adamyia' on Odisha coast

PARADIP/BHUBANESWAR, Sept 19 (PTI)

THE Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Friday commissioned fast patrol vessel 'Adamyia' on the Odisha coast, further strengthening security in the Bay of Bengal, officials said.

Joint Secretary (Defence Policy, Armed Forces Wing, CSD & Planning) Satyajit Mohanty formally commissioned the vessel at a function here.

This is among the eight fast patrol vessels being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG. This FPV will be deployed at Paradip. Noting that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is steadily advancing towards the

vision of a "Sashakt Bharat", Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Odisha is playing a pivotal role in strengthening India's maritime security architecture.

"...The commissioning of the fast patrol vessel 'Adamyia' at Paradip is both a moment of pride for Odisha and a reflection of the state's growing strategic importance. This vital capacity augmentation will enhance coastal vigilance, secure our Exclusive Economic Zone, and further reinforce national security in the Bay of Bengal. I convey my sincere congratulations to the Indian Coast Guard on this commendable achievement," Majhi said in a post on X.

The objective of deploying the FPV, which has a speed of 50



kmph or 27 knots, at Paradip is to ensure proper patrolling, check infiltration and piracy and rescue those stranded in deep

seas, an official said. The FPV will have five officers and 34 other staffs. It will help ICG in maritime law enforcement, coastal

surveillance, search and rescue operations, and the protection of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), he added.

