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Zero tolerance on terrorism: EAM's strong message at UNHRC

sees the world as one family," he added. The minister underscored how in recent years, the devastating impact of pandemic, climate change, geopolitical tensions and economic stress have exacerbated existing inequities, and how, for many communities, these translate into lost years of schooling, pressures on food and fuel security, and mounting debt burdens. "All these erode the promise of human rights and backsliding on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals," Jaishankar added.

The minister also spoke about how India has been investing in developing human capacities at an unprecedented scale and how the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has enabled hundreds of millions to access welfare benefits, financial services and public schemes, with transparency and minimal leakage.

"Our DPI experience has also been shared as a global public good with our partners, reaffirming that technology can and must be a force multiplier for human rights, not a new fault line," he added.

India must shed colonial mindset to become global leader: VP

affecting the ecosystem of our great state," he said. The Chenab rail bridge across the river is a marvel, being the highest railway bridge, he added.

"There are many other infrastructure projects which send out a bigger message. These projects are more than engineering achievements. They are the instruments of social harmony. When places are connected, people are connected. And when people are connected, hearts are closely connected," he said.

The vice president said these initiatives also create new opportunities for the youth, like the ones graduating today.

"PM special scholarship schemes for students of Jammu and Kashmir act as a great opportunity, aspiration, and national integration by enabling students to study in institutions across the country," he said.

Urging students to stay away from drugs, Radhakrishnan said, "Your parents are depending on you that you will take care of them in their old age... They want you to be successful in your life." Every religion treats narcotics as the most sinful product, so keep away from drugs, he added.

"Advise your friends, family members, and whoever you are meeting, to stay away from drug use," he said.

The vice president also advised the youth to be mindful of social media usage. "This has to be controlled. Social media will not help you to come out more successful in your life. Everything should have its own limits," he said.

Radhakrishnan said he wanted to tell the students three lines: "Three lines I want to tell you. Mera Kashmir nahi, tumhara Kashmir nahi, Hamara Kashmir. That is what I want from all of you."

India thrash Zimbabwe by 72 runs

Cup 2026 in Chennai on Thursday. Abhishek smashed a brisk 30-ball 55 to provide early momentum, adding 48 runs for the opening wicket with Sanju Samson (24) after Zimbabwe opted to bowl.

Ishan Kishan (38) and Suryakumar Yadav (33) chipped in with quickfire contributions before Pandya hammered an unbeaten 23-ball 50 at the death to power India to 256 for four, the highest total of this edition.

Tilak Varma contributed 44 not out off 14 balls as he and Pandya put on an unbroken 84-run stand off just 31 deliveries. In reply, Brian Bennett top-scored with an unbeaten 97, but Zimbabwe were restricted to 184 for six in their 20 overs.

India pacer Arshdeep Singh was the most successful bowler with figures of three for 24. India will now face West Indies in a virtual quarter-final on Sunday. The winner of the contest will enter the semi-final, while the loser will be knocked out.

Order on BOSE/SSSA as TET nodal agency put on hold

February 23, 2026 has been put on hold until further orders.

The government had yesterday put on hold the conduct of Teacher Eligibility Test. Education Minister Sakina Itoo had said that J&K would be the last to enforce the Supreme Court order, which mandates TET for all in-service teachers of primary and upper primary classes, requiring them to qualify within two years to continue in service.

Rlys to run 1,244 Holi special trains

Convenient travel for passengers during the upcoming Holi festival. To manage the anticipated surge in passenger traffic, 1,244 Holi Special train trips are to be operated across various railway zones for the Holi period from February 25 to March 18. The number may increase up to 1,500 if more demand is observed," it said.

Officials said long-distance routes will connect Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur with Danapur, Gorakhpur, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Samastipur and Barauni. Services will also link Visakhapatnam, Puri and Bhubaneswar with Shalimar, Patna, Yesvantpur and Dhanbad.

In addition, major stations in Bihar and Jharkhand, such as Patna, Darbhanga, Saharsa and Dhanbad, will be connected to New Delhi, Anand Vihar Terminal, Chandigarh and SMVT Bengaluru.

The ministry said eastern and northern corridors will see stronger connectivity between Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata and Malda Town and destinations including Raaxaul, Madhubani, Gorakhpur and Anand Vihar Terminal. Stations in the Delhi region will have expanded links to Varanasi, Lucknow, Ayodhya Cantonment, Haridwar, Amritsar and Katihar.

It said that the special trains from the southern region will connect MGR Chennai Central, Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram North, Coimbatore, Secunderabad, Tirupati and SMVT Bengaluru with Patna, Barauni, Mizaffarpur, Santragachi, Ajmer, Jaipur and other northern and eastern centres," the statement said.

"Western India, including Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Surat and Bandra Terminus, will have additional links to Kanpur, Katihar, Banaras, Gorakhpur, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur," the ministry added.

DGCA revises air ticket refund norms

regarding the booking, when the ticket is booked directly through the airline's website.

"In case of purchase of ticket through travel agent/portal, onus of refund shall lie with the airlines as agents are their appointed representatives. The airlines shall ensure that the refund process is completed within 14 working days," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

Besides, there are changes with respect to norms for ticket cancellations due to a medical emergency faced by the passenger.

The amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for 'Refund of Airline Tickets to Passengers of Public Transport Undertakings' comes against the backdrop of the rising passenger complaints about not receiving refunds on time.

The ticket refund issue also got highlighted during the IndiGo flight disruptions in December 2025 and at that time, the civil aviation ministry had directed the airline to complete the refunds within a specified timeline.

The revised CAR was issued on February 24.

Now, the airlines have been asked to provide 'Look-in option' for a period of 48 hours to passengers after booking tickets.

"During this period a passenger can cancel or amend the ticket without any additional charges, except for the normal prevailing fare for the revised flight for which the ticket is sought to be amended.

"This facility shall not be available for a flight whose departure is less than 7 days for domestic flight and 15 days for international flight from booking date when ticket is booked directly through airline website," the regulator said.

Beyond 48 hours of initial booking time, this option would not be available and the passenger would have to pay the relevant cancellation fees for amendment.

In a significant move, the watchdog said that airlines should not levy any additional charge for correction in name of the same person when the error is pointed out by the passenger within 24 hours of making the booking, when ticket is booked directly through airline website.

According to DGCA, in the event of ticket cancellations due to a medical emergency, where the passenger or a family member listed on the same PNR gets admitted/hospitalised during the travel period, airlines may provide either a refund or a credit shell.

"For all other situations, refunds will be issued once an opinion on the passenger's fitness to travel certificate is received from an airline's Aerospace Medicine specialist/DGCA empanelled Aerospace Medicine specialist," it said.

In December 2025, scheduled airlines received a total of 29,212 passenger-related complaints and 7.5 per cent of them were related to refunds. During that month, domestic carriers carried over 1.43 crore passengers, as per DGCA data.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and domestic airlines carried over 16.69 crore passengers in 2025.

Birla reconstitutes panel to probe Justice Varma's removal

was allegedly discovered at his residence, triggering widespread concern and calls for an inquiry.

As per the notification, the reconstituted committee comprises Justice Arvind Kumar, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice, Bombay High Court, B V Acharya, Senior Advocate, Karnataka High Court.

Justice Arvind Kumar and B V Acharya were members of the previous panel, while Justice Chandrashekhar has been inducted as a new member. He replaces Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

The panel will continue examining the allegations and circumstances that led to demands for Justice Varma's removal. The committee is expected to review evidence and submit its findings as part of the prescribed parliamentary process.

On August 12, 2025, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha formed a three-member Inquiry Committee to investigate the charges against Justice Varma. The Lok Sabha Speaker's decision came after he received a notice of the motion, signed by 146 Members of Parliament, seeking Justice Yashwanth Varma's removal.

India, Israel elevate ties to special strategic partnership

In his remarks, the prime minister said India and Israel have a united view that there is no place for terrorism in the world and both sides stand shoulder-to-shoulder in countering terrorism and its supporters.

"Our relationship is founded on the strong bedrock of deep trust, shared democratic values, and human sensitivities. Our bond has stood the test of every trial of time," he said.

"Today, we have taken the historic decision to elevate our time-tested partnership to the status of a 'Special Strategic Partnership'," he said.

The prime minister also announced the establishment of an India-Israel critical and emerging technologies partnership to impart a new momentum for cooperation in areas of artificial intelligence, quantum, and critical minerals. "I am pleased that an agreement has been reached for the use of UPI in Israel," he said.

The prime minister, referring to the threat of terrorism, said India and Israel will continue to confront the menace unitedly.

"India and Israel are completely clear that there is no place for terrorism in the world. In any form, in any expression, terrorism cannot be accepted," he said.

"We have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in opposing terrorism and its supporters, and we will continue to do so," he added.

India and Israel also discussed the implementation of the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and cooperation under the framework of I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA).

SC orders ban, seizure of NCERT book

why action should be not taken against those responsible. A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant said there seemed to be a calculated move to undermine institution and demean dignity of judiciary.

The bench said such misconduct, having everlasting impact on judiciary, would fall within definition of criminal contempt.

"We would like to have a deeper probe," the bench said. The court said that if allowed to go unchecked, this will erode people's faith in judiciary. "No one will be allowed to go scot-free."

The CJI said, "It is my duty as the head of the institution to find out who is responsible; heads must roll."

CJI Surya Kant said there appears to be a deep-rooted, well-planned conspiracy to defame the judiciary.

Taking exception to the NCERT's Wednesday communication, the SC said there was not a single word of apology in it, and instead, they have tried to justified it.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta tendered an unconditional and unqualified apology on behalf of Ministry of education.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on March 11.

Every single infiltrator will be driven out of West Bengal: Amit Shah

West Bengal are the states worst affected by demographic change. West Bengal goes to polls soon. We are confident that the BJP would win the elections. And, it is the top priority of every BJP government to drive out infiltrators," he asserted.

The BJP, which had been a marginal power in West Bengal until a decade ago, has over the years expanded its footprint and emerged as the principal challenger to the Trinamool Congress headed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who seeks a fourth consecutive term in office.

"The beginning of crackdown on infiltrators, though, will be made in this Seemanchal region of Bihar, where I had the chance to stay for four days during the assembly elections held a few months ago. I thank people of the state for their resounding mandate to the NDA. The BJP had contested the polls on the issue of infiltration, notwithstanding the criticism from our opponents.

"Flushing out of infiltrators is as much a part of our agenda in Bihar as the welfare of people. I promise to the people of the state and the entire country that every single infiltrator would be driven out before we next approach them for a fresh mandate," Shah said.

The SSB has an important role to play in checking infiltration, he noted.

Guarding the borders is easy where proper fencing is in

place and relations with the neighbouring country are friendly, but "a different approach is needed when we are dealing with porous borders", he said.

"I would, therefore, urge top officials of the SSB and other agencies concerned to sit together and prepare an SOP for such areas. It is essential that our jawans manning the borders maintain good relations with inhabitants of villages situated along the borders. Their feedback would come in handy to check smuggling and narcotics trade. Our jawans should also have cordial relations with security personnel deployed across the border," the senior BJP leader said.

Shah, who spoke in the presence of Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, began his speech by paying tributes to freedom fighter and Hindutva icon Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar on his death anniversary.

"Veer Savarkar was not just a fearless patriot, but also a brilliant writer, who was at ease both in poetry as well as prose. It was his work that made people view the Revolt of 1857 as not a mere mutiny but the country's first war of Independence. He attacked social evils like untouchability and worked towards fostering nationalism till his death. I offer him my tributes on behalf of the nation," he added.

Industry, intellect should grow together: LG Sinha

tions don't rise only from resources. They rise from educated people and when the nation rises, you also rise," he said.

"The convocation is a vivid proof of generational metamorphosis, fulfilled aspirations, and youth's unwavering faith embodied in modern education," he added.

"The knowledge earned in the university isn't merely skills but it is holistic personality growth. Education builds self-confidence, equips for meaningful lives and it molds responsible citizens, linking personal success to collective good," the LG said.

"Education is the most powerful instrument of change ever placed in human hands. It redirects the course of a life. It reshapes the destiny of families. And, when youth embrace it fully, it rewrites the future of a nation from the ground up," he added.

Sinha emphasised that the ideas in the classroom must impact the world. He called upon the universities to aspire to move beyond their traditional role as custodians of knowledge, evolving into vibrant centers of innovation, human development and social transformation.

"Technology evolves at breakneck speed," he said and added, "Digital revolution, artificial intelligence, global realignments, and demands for new skills are redefining higher education," he said.

"Possibilities for collaboration and innovation stretch endlessly. Careers being prepared for today may morph tomorrow. Industries are reshaping. The real question isn't whether change will come, but whether we can sync with it. I believe those youth will surge ahead who possess critical thinking, core knowledge, and a resolve to lifelong learning," he added.

"Artificial Intelligence now permeates every field - healthcare, agriculture, finance, urban planning, governance. So, the question arises if technology serves human welfare or just profit. I see campuses crafting that answer, where knowledge fuses with life's values," he said.

He outlined three key priorities for the faculty members - First, adaptability as every curriculum's core skill; second, seamless integration of AI and emerging tech with human intelligence and third, global and interdisciplinary collaboration.

"Modern challenges interconnect, so universities must shatter subject silos and mandate cross-disciplinary teamwork," he said.

"Our goal is to become a fully developed nation by 2047. Viksit Bharat isn't a dream, but a resolve fuelled by hard work. It demands diligence, innovation, moral strength, and ceaseless invention-and this mission falls to our young generation," the LG said.

He also congratulated all the medal winners and lauded girl students for their dominant performance.

"Out of 239 gold medals, a staggering 186 have been won by our daughters and of the 164 PhDs awarded, 108 bear our daughters' names," he said.

"No statement can more powerfully define New India. This tells our people: Give daughters opportunity, encouragement, and equal ground, and they don't just join-they lead, excel, and set new standards. To today's medalists and graduates: You are not just forging your futures-you are rewriting possibilities for every young woman next at Kashmir University," he added.

The dignitaries also released the Kashmir University's profile on the occasion.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, higher education minister Sakina Itoo, Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor (Prof) Nilofer Khan, vice-chancellors of other universities, HoDs of different educational institutions, senior officials of civil & police administration, faculty members, students and their parents attended the convocation ceremony.

'No deadlines' to end Ukraine war: Russia

has ruled out as tantamount to capitulation.

Top officials in Russia on Thursday again pushed back on the idea a deal was close.

"Have you heard anything from us about deadlines? We have no deadlines, we have tasks. We are getting them done," state news agencies quoted Lavrov as saying.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said it was too early to make "forecasts" or say at what stage the peace process was at.

"It would be a big mistake to try right now to define some kind of stage or make some kind of forecasts. I don't want to make those mistakes," he told state media.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has repeatedly said a meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin is needed to agree on the key sticking points, like the fate of territory in eastern Ukraine that Russia is fighting to seize control of.

Peskov repeated on Thursday that Russia will not agree to a summit until the very end of talks, and only to sign off on a deal thrashed out between the negotiating teams.

J&K budget more than double bailout package Pak sought from IMF: India

Bridge, the world's highest bridge inaugurated in Jammu & Kashmir last year is fake, then Pakistan must be hallucinating or living in the la-la land."

"Or maybe, Pakistan finds it unbelievable that the developmental budget of Jammu & Kashmir is more than double the recent bailout package they sought from the IMF," she said.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had approved disbursement of about one billion USD to Pakistan under Extended Fund Facility (EFF), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to about USD 2.1 billion. "Despite Pakistan's efforts to destabilise the region through relentless state-sponsored terrorism, Jammu & Kashmir continues to surge ahead - politically, economically and socially," she said.

"Pakistan would do well if it focuses on fixing its deepening internal crises than to mask them with grandstanding at such a platform - the world can certainly see through its charade," she added.

She said the OIC, by "parroting" Pakistan's propaganda, only reveals how deeply it has allowed itself to be co-opted by one member.

"Pakistan's incessant propaganda now reeks of envy. We have no desire to dignify such propaganda, however, we will make a few points, to dismantle it with facts," Singh

said. India asserted that "Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

"No amount of wishful rhetoric or audacious propaganda by Pakistan can alter the immutable fact that the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to India was completely legal and irrevocable, and in accordance with Indian Independence Act (1947) and the international law.

"In fact, the only outstanding dispute regarding this region is the illegal occupation of Indian territories by Pakistan. We call upon Pakistan to vacate these areas, which remain under its forcible occupation," she said.

SERU initiative strengthens spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat': Kavinder

The itinerary includes visits to premier institutions and landmark sites such as the Maruti Suzuki India Limited plant at Gurugram and Rashtrapati Bhavan, among others. A unique feature of the programme is the students' stay with host families in different regions, enabling them to experience local culture, traditions, and lifestyles firsthand, thereby deepening their appreciation of India's rich diversity.

Addressing the students, the LG underscored the importance of such exposure tours in strengthening national integration and mutual understanding among youth.

He said SERU initiative was a meaningful step towards realising the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat by creating platforms for dialogue, cultural exchange, and experiential learning.

"SERU promotes awareness and appreciation of specific regional cultures," he said, citing previous tours from Ladakh to Delhi as notable examples.

He emphasised that through activities such as cultural exchanges, visits to historical sites, and interactions with local communities, participants gain first-hand insight into the country's diverse traditions and ways of life. Such initiatives, he noted, foster lifelong friendships, lasting memories, and a deeper emotional bond among citizens from different regions.

The LG said the primary objective of the initiative was to provide Ladakh's youth with an opportunity to understand India's diverse cultural, geographical, and administrative landscape. "The programme familiarises students with governance systems, higher educational institutions, industrial establishments, and the historical backdrop of various states, thereby broadening their academic and professional horizons," he added.

"It is not merely an educational tour but a powerful medium for fostering collaboration, dialogue, and national unity. When young people from different regions engage with one another and exchange experiences, it strengthens harmony and mutual cooperation," he stated.

The initiative is organised by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in collaboration with Vidyarthi Sewa Trust.

Commending ABVP and Vidyarthi Sewa Trust for their sustained efforts, the LG appreciated their role in enabling the youth of Ladakh to connect with the nation's cultural heritage, democratic values, and governance framework.

He encouraged the students to act as ambassadors of Ladakh, uphold its rich traditions, and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

During the interaction, the organisers informed that the tour was designed to broaden students' perspectives, promote cultural understanding and national unity, and inspire them in their future academic and career pursuits.

The LG extended his felicitations and best wishes to all participating students for a safe, successful, and enriching journey, reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment and nation-building initiatives in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Digital platforms responsible for online content: Vaishnaw

personality is used. "Platforms must take responsibility for the content that is hosted by them. The online safety of children and all citizens is the responsibility of the platforms," Vaishnaw said, underlining that digital intermediaries have transformed into powerful media outlets.

He stressed that intellectual property must be respected and fairly compensated, noting that society's progress in science, technology, arts, and literature depends on it. Digital platforms, he said, should ensure fair revenue sharing not just with news organisations but also with independent creators in remote areas, influencers, professors, and researchers.

"I request all platforms to rethink their negotiation policies. If voluntary action is not taken, many countries have already shown that legal pathways exist," he said.

He said digital platforms need to "wake up" and understand the importance of reinforcing trust in the institutions that human society has built over thousands of years.

The minister for Information and Broadcasting, Railways and IT said the society is struggling with several issues that need to be addressed in the next decade - online safety, authenticity of news content, safety of the children, protection against obscenity, protection against synthetically generated fake content.

Vaishnaw said there must be user consent for synthetically generated content. "How can a video of a famous news anchor be generated without consent, how can an IT industry leader's video appear without his consent asking people to do something. This is not acceptable. Consent must be mandatory," he said.

He said the time has also come for platforms to take proactive action against cyber fraud and cybercrime, which everyone has seen in the recent past.

The minister said Parliament has passed a law recently that has saved crores of families from becoming bankrupt due to online gaming addiction.

He said algorithms are designed to make content addictive, and once engaged, users often cannot exit easily.

"These are real challenges. The courts are concerned. The judiciary has repeatedly expressed concern about the societal harm. Parliamentary committees have conducted extensive consultations and submitted comprehensive reports. I urge media and platform representatives here to go through those reports carefully," he said.

Steady decline in terrorism, situation normal in J&K: Lt Gen Katiyar

revival of terror launch pads and terror camps in Pakistan, he said. "We have kept them under watch. We are fully aware of what actions are taking place there. If they are trying to regenerate or reassemble their terrorist bases, we have that information. We will formulate our plans accordingly." On reports of terrorist infrastructure being rebuilt after Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan's military leadership thrives on confrontation. "Pakistan's military leadership wants to remain relevant and does not want politicians to take over power.

Their relevance comes through a state of confrontation with India. Despite repeated peace efforts from our side, they keep doing something to keep this confrontation alive," he said, calling it a matter of concern.

He said that India will respond with greater force to any future misadventure by Pakistan and will not be deterred by nuclear threats. Replying to a volley of questions on the prospect of Operation Sindoor 2, Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan has been taught "a very strong lesson" during Operation Sindoor and any renewed provocation would invite a stronger response. "Our preparations are ongoing, and we must remain prepared. If they do not understand this lesson and create conflict conditions again due to their internal reasons, we will respond in an even better and stronger manner," he said.