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There exists no dichotomy between development, infra: LG

that when we destroy these natural systems, we are playing with the future. But when we conserve and restore these natural systems, we are investing in a bright future," he said.

He urged the scientists and domain experts to bring nature-based solutions out of the margins of development planning and place them at its centre. He also placed six major recommendations before policymakers, scientists, and engineers.

"Use modern technologies like remote sensing, geospatial mapping, and AI to track glacier retreat, spring flow, soil health, and forest cover. This data should inform every development project in the region. Nature-based solutions must be embedded into project budgeting, appraisal, and monitoring," he said.

"Farmers, shepherds, orchard owners, and tribal communities must be equal stakeholders. Their generational knowledge of rivers, mountains, and forests is invaluable. Annual budget reviews should include whether forests and ecosystems have grown richer or weaker, ensuring accountability for environmental wealth. Establish platforms for long-term cooperation among scientists, policymakers, and communities. Move beyond concrete embankments to restore floodplains and wetlands, combining built structures with natural systems," he added.

He urged universities to elevate nature-based solutions into a multidisciplinary subject, spanning ecology, hydrology, engineering, economics, disaster management, and traditional knowledge. He stressed that future professionals must understand the interconnectedness of ecosystems, economies, technologies, and societies.

Recalling the Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive launched in 2020, which raised forest cover to nearly 55 percent, the LG reiterated the importance of sustainable living.

He envisioned Himalayas where watersheds are healthier, wetlands thrive, and rivers flow naturally, sustaining biodiversity and culture.

"By placing nature at the centre of development, integrating modern technology with traditional wisdom, and involving communities as equal partners, the Himalayan region can build resilience against climate change. We must remember that Himalayas are not merely a geographical entity but a living heritage that demands foresight, patience, and responsibility," he said.

The LG also released the special edition of IUST's monthly magazine 'Times Echo' on 100-Day Anti-Drug campaign and Policy Brief on Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, prepared by various experts of J&K. Certificates were also handed over to the PMKVY trainees.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, acting Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh; IUST VC (Prof) Shakil A Romshoo, Registrar (Prof) Shamim Ahmad Shah, conference convenor (Prof) Javed Hussain Mir, eminent scientists, experts, senior officials, faculty and students attended the conference.

Heavy rains trigger flash floods at Kargil

infrastructure suffered damages.

Local authorities and emergency teams rushed to affected areas to assess the damage and launch relief operations, officials said.

Army said troops of Forever in Operations Division launched immediate rescue and relief operations after a cloudburst struck Gund in Hardass, with flash floods snapping road connectivity and leaving residents stranded.

Troops evacuated affected villagers, provided first aid, and distributed drinking water, essential supplies and meals, amid adverse weather conditions, Army said.

In another area, Army, in coordination with civil administration, assisted in clearing debris and restoring roads, water supply and electricity to facilitate relief operations in affected villages.

On Saturday, a cloudburst near Mina-2 in Minamarg had triggered flash floods and landslides.

Police advised commuters, tourists and residents to avoid crossing overflowing streams, water channels and other flood-prone areas until weather conditions improve.

21 Bangladeshis held at Ramban

documents to establish their legal stay in the country.

After preliminary questioning, all the 21 persons were taken into custody and shifted to a police facility for further questioning, officials said.

Officials said they illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who had entered India via Assam and reached Jammu by train.

Police were probing whether the group was being assisted by any local or interstate network involved in facilitating the movement of illegal immigrants, the officials added.

Officials said appropriate legal action would be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.

HC orders fortnightly sittings of judge at R S Pura

2nd Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, at R S Pura reaches all stakeholders, particularly advocates and litigants, well in advance. The Munsiff, R S Pura, shall also undertake and ensure similar dissemination/publicity measures at the local level for effective communication of the schedule of such sittings," says an order issued by high court registrar general M K Sharma.

Delhi court seeks NIA stand on appeal by Aasiya Andrabi

court on January 14, which said the trio had orchestrated a systematic campaign to destabilise J&K.

On March 24, the trial court awarded life imprisonment to Andrabi, while Fehmeeda and Nasreen received a 30-year prison sentence.

On Monday, a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Vikas Mahajan condoned the delay in filing the appeals against the trial court decision and said it would issue notice to the investigating agency in the matter.

The bench also gave time till September 15 to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to reply to their pleas seeking suspension of sentence and listed the matter for hearing on October 6.

Andrabi and her two associates were formally charged with multiple offences under the stringent UAPA and the IPC in February 2021.

It was alleged that they plotted to wage war against the country, besides conspiring to carry out terror-related ac-

tivities.

The trial court found them guilty of offences under UAPA sections 18 (punishment for conspiracy) and 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation).

It also convicted the three under IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Government of India), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

While sentencing the convicts, the trial judge said "no remorse has been shown by any of the convicts in respect of their acts; rather it is submitted that they are proud of what they were doing and also that they will continue to do the same work".

Showing any leniency will amount to infusing a fresh lease of life and vigour in the spirit of convicts which aims at secession of an integral part of India, the trial judge had stated.

In April 2018, on directions of the Union Home Ministry, the NIA registered a case against them as well as the DeM.

According to the FIR, the "central government has received information that Aasiya Andrabi and her associates namely Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen are actively running a terrorist organisation named as 'Dukhtaran-E-Millat' (DeM) which is proscribed under the First Schedule to the UAPA".

"They are using various media platforms to spread insurrectionary imputations and hateful speeches that endanger the integrity, security and sovereignty of India. The DeM through Andrabi openly advocates secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and has also called for Jihad and use of violence against India," the FIR said.

The agency also said that Andrabi and her associates had spoken, written and also published "visible representations that bring into hatred and contempt apart from exciting disaffection towards the Government of India".

The organisation, it added, is promoting enmity, hatred and ill-will between different communities on the grounds of religion and is doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Andrabi has solicited help from proscribed terrorist organisations and along with her associates, has entered into a criminal conspiracy to wage war against the Government of India, the FIR alleged.

Andrabi was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police in Anantnag in April 2018 for allegedly planning to organise a large-scale demonstration and stone-pelting in the area. She was subsequently sent to jail.

Central vigilance cases pendency reduced: Jitendra

disciplinary cases from more than 4,000 to nearly 700 in about three to four years.

He made these remarks when the outgoing Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava called on him on the completion of his tenure and briefed him on the major initiatives undertaken by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in recent years to modernise vigilance administration through technology, process reforms and capacity building.

The minister said that transparent and time-bound vigilance mechanisms were essential for good governance and inspire greater public confidence in institutions.

He said the significant reduction in pending disciplinary cases demonstrates the impact of sustained administrative reforms and closer coordination among ministries, departments and vigilance authorities.

During the meeting, Srivastava apprised him of the commission's efforts to simplify and modernise vigilance administration by reviewing more than 600 vigilance-related circulars and instructions, resulting in the issuance of nine Master Circulars, two Public Notices and an updated Vigilance Manual to provide a consolidated and user-friendly framework for vigilance officials and organisations.

Military-Civil integration key to tackle emerging challenges: Rajnath

istrative continuity, policy experience, an understanding of government processes, and institutional memory. When these strengths combine, decision-making becomes more informed, balanced, and effective," Singh said.

The Union Minister highlighted the importance of further enhancing structured "cross-exposure" between civilian and military officers, suggesting joint training programmes and developmental assignments for both sides to learn from each other's experiences, according to a defence ministry statement.

He also suggested that a forum could be developed for the study of Indian military history, examining it from a civilian perspective, thereby fostering fresh ideas and new perspectives.

Singh expressed confidence that by leveraging expertise in such areas, the AFHQ Civilian Services will be able to make more meaningful contributions to the defence sector.

While he acknowledged the AFHQ Civilian Services for moving ahead in sync with changing times, he asserted that, at a time when modern warfare is driven by technological dynamism, "the cadre must move beyond its specific mandate" of proper implementation of service rules, regulations and orders.

"It must focus on strengthening the security architecture through research, geo-strategic thinking and innovative ideas. Its active participation in core defence matters is essential as, being a permanent cadre of the Ministry of Defence, it possesses deep domain knowledge," Singh said.

AFHQ Day is celebrated in August every year to recognise the role of the civilian officers who work with service personnel, primarily in the three Integrated Service Headquarters, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and 24 Inter-Service Organisations of the Ministry of Defence.

As part of the celebrations, the defence minister launched several digital initiatives of the office of Joint Secretary & Chief Administrative Officer (JS & CAO) and its Revised Vision & Mission Statement, the statement said.

Singh also released the 34th issue of the 'Samvad' magazine that contains travelogues, essays, articles, and poems written by employees of various ranks posted in Service Headquarters and Inter-Service Organisations. He also presented awards at the event.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff Gen NS Raja Subramani, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth, and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh were among other senior officials present on the occasion.

OGW held with hand grenade

As the person was moving towards Pachar from Drabgam, he changed his direction and attempted to flee

on seeing security personnel. He was, however, chased and apprehended by the security personnel near Fruit Mandi on Pachar Road, the officials added.

As his search led forces to the recovery of a hand grenade and three anti-national posters, besides a mobile phone, he was immediately taken into custody.

He was booked at Rajpora Police Station under section 7/25 of Arms Act and sections 13, 18, 23 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Officials said police had initiated an investigation to ascertain the source of the recovered material and establish any further linkages.

1,056 pilgrims leave for holy cave shrine in Himalayas

safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Govt must ensure encroachment-free space for walking: SC

ment and construction, just ensure that proper demarcation is done of walkers' space. Wherever there is a road, there should be a walkers' space. Do it with a rope or anything and ensure it is not encroached," the bench told Nataraj.

The bench gave him two weeks to instruct the authorities while emphasising that pedestrians should have confidence that the space is meant for them and they can walk freely without any threat of moving vehicles.

The top court posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

On June 19, in a significant verdict, the top court had held that the right to walk on a demarcated footpath is a fundamental right.

It had held that this right shall have priority over motorised vehicles on demarcated paths and it forms part of the right to movement guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (d) and other fundamental rights including Article 21 (right to life and liberty).

EAM on India-Uzbekistan targeting critical minerals, expanding trade

Jaishankar pointed out that while bilateral cooperation already spans construction, digital technology, energy, healthcare, and education, both nations are ready to chart new territory.

"Our bilateral relations over the years have expanded. And today, they really span a very diverse range of domains from construction and digital to energy, health, education. We want to take it into mining."

Trade between the two nations currently hovers around \$1 billion, a figure both sides are eager to scale up. Jaishankar expressed strong optimism for commercial growth, noting simply: "We definitely think that that number should go up."

To foster closer institutional ties, both countries have established a parliamentary friendship group. Jaishankar voiced hope that regular exchanges between representatives would provide additional momentum to diplomatic and economic ties.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Saidov called on President Droupadi Murmu. Their meeting touched upon strategic cooperation, shared historical heritage, and burgeoning commercial synergy--a sentiment bolstered by an India-Uzbekistan Business Forum organised on the sidelines of the visit.

President Murmu underlined that there is "immense potential for cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in the mining sector, particularly in rare earth minerals, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and information technology."

She also lauded the robust educational and professional exchanges acting as the backbone of bilateral relations:

Both leaderships reaffirmed their commitment to expanding strategic cooperation in Central Asia, expressing confidence that the high-level exchanges will further strengthen the bonds of trust, friendship, and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Lok Sabha passes bill to increase Apex Court judges

judges were appointed to the apex court based on the upgraded sanctioned strength.

After the ordinance was issued, the sanctioned strength of the apex court went up to 38 from 34, including the Chief Justice of India.

According to the bill, the volume of litigation in the Supreme Court has constantly been on the rise due to a persistent gap between institution and final disposal of cases in the court.

As on January 1, this year, there were 92,101 cases pending in the Supreme Court.

Even while working at near-full sanctioned capacity of 34 judges since 2019, the Supreme Court recorded institution of 75,410 fresh matters in 2025 against a disposal of 65,615 cases.

It said there has been a persistent gap between institution and final disposal of cases, which highlights the ongoing challenge of managing the docket, particularly in relation to older pending cases and those necessitating the attention and adjudication by larger benches.

"The increase in judge strength of the court is one of the most exigent and viable solutions for tackling the pending backlog of cases in the Supreme Court.

"It will also make it possible for the Chief Justice of India to constitute Constitutional Benches for a required period of days on a regular basis to hear cases involving a substantial question of law," it said.

The ordinance is an executive power exercised by the government to frame laws in an emergency when Parliament is not in session.

An ordinance has a life of six months, but once a session commences, the ordinance has to be passed by Parliament into a law within six weeks or 42 days else it lapses.

India achieves near-universal banking coverage, Govt tells Par

cultural credit delivery process, and several digital initiatives have been introduced. These include the e-KYC application developed by NABARD, KRISHIKA by the Depart-

ment of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and similar digital applications developed by banks to support beneficiary identification, outreach, loan application processing, and monitoring.

Additionally, the Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) was launched by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in September 2023. It enables Aadhaar-based beneficiary verification and faster digital claim settlements under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for loans availed through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme.

Furthermore, the government and the RBI have been undertaking various initiatives from time to time to strengthen the cybersecurity of digital payment transactions and protect citizens from cyber financial fraud.

Shah must explain pellet gun action on students: Kharge

mandated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer how the donations to the Ram temple were stolen.

"Modi government will have to answer INDIA. Home Minister should come to the Parliament and explain the lathicharge-pellet gun action on students," he demanded.

"Prime Minister should answer how the 'chhanda-chdhawa' donated to Shri Ram Mandir, was stolen, even as the Trust was under PM's oversight," Kharge said on X after a meeting of INDIA bloc party floor leaders at his chamber in Parliament House complex.

The Opposition has been seeking a statement from the Home Minister on the police action against protesting students on July 20, including use of pellet guns, and have also demanded his resignation over the issue.

Besides Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and KC Vebugopal, SP's Dharmendra Yadav, TMC's Mahua Moitra and Sagarika Ghose, NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawant, JMM's Mahua Maji, CPI(M)'s John Brittas and CPI's P Santhosh Kumar, RSP's NK Premchandran, among others, participated in the meeting.

The INDIA bloc has vowed to corner the government on issues of alleged donation theft and the use of "brutal force" against students during their protests over the NEET paper leak.

Kavinder calls for people's movement for environmental conservation

isers, he described trees as the foundation of life and ecological balance.

He said the plantation should not be viewed as a symbolic exercise but as a long-term commitment. "The true success of a plantation campaign lies not merely in planting saplings but in ensuring that they grow into healthy trees," he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide initiative 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', the governor said that the campaign beautifully connects environmental conservation with India's cultural values.

"Just as a mother nurtures life, trees sustain life on Earth. Every sapling planted in the name of one's mother reflects gratitude towards motherhood, nature and the nation while strengthening our resolve to secure a greener future for generations to come," he said.

Highlighting Himachal Pradesh's identity as one of the country's greenest states, Gupta said that preserving its forests, biodiversity and natural resources was a shared responsibility.

He said the challenges, such as climate change, deforestation, declining water resources and biodiversity loss, required collective action and sustained public participation.

He also referred to the prime minister's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative, stating that environmentally responsible lifestyle choices, including water conservation, reduced plastic use, energy efficiency and tree plantation, could collectively make a significant contribution towards sustainable development.

Gupta described India's youth as the nation's greatest strength and urged them to adopt at least one sapling during their academic journey and nurture it into a full-grown tree. "Years later, when you return to your alma mater, that tree should stand as a living symbol of your commitment towards society and the environment," he said.

He appreciated APG Shimla University for implementing the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasising multidisciplinary learning, value-based education and community engagement.

He said educational institutions should strive to produce not only skilled professionals but also responsible citizens with a deep sense of ethics, environmental awareness and national commitment.

He also welcomed the launch of the 'Nasha Mukht Yuva - Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' by the prime minister and appealed to young people to stay away from substance abuse and spread awareness about its harmful consequences. He said that a developed India could only be realised through healthy, empowered and socially responsible youth.

Calling upon students to become ambassadors of both environmental conservation and the drug-free movement, the governor said that these twin commitments would strengthen society and contribute meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Earlier, he planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and interacted with students, faculty members and volunteers participating in the plantation drive.

He also distributed prizes to the winners of the poster-making competition.

Earlier, Prof Rajinder Singh Chauhan, Vice Chancellor of the University, welcomed the governor and briefed him about the 'Har Ped, Himachal Ka Abhiman - Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. He also apprised the governor of the activities and achievements of the university.

Prof Ramesh Kumar Chaudhary, Chancellor of the University, honoured the governor on the occasion.

A colourful cultural programme was also presented by the students of the university.

Registrar R L Sharma presented vote of thanks.

Earlier, the governor inaugurated the Nav Grah Vatika established on the University campus and distributed saplings among NSS volunteers.

Pro-Chancellor (Prof) Ramesh Chauhan, governor's secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj, advisor Suman Vikrant, Registrar (Prof) Ram Lal Sharma, administrative staff, representatives of Nishkam Srijan Foundation, faculty members, students, staff and other prominent persons were also present on the occasion.