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SFs alone can't defeat terrorism, society support needed: LG

great spiritual revival. This cultural wave is felt across Jammu&Kashmir, bringing people together and strengthening our community bonds," he said.

Responding to the demands raised by people, Sinha assured them that sincere efforts would be made by the administration to address public grievances and meet local infrastructure needs.

He commended the local community and Shri Amriteshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti for their collective efforts in establishing and developing the sacred site.

Randhir Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kalakote-Sunderbani; Satyapal Sharma, president of Shri Amriteshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti and Chelda Biradari; Rajesh Gupta, president of Vishva Hindu Parishad, J&K; IGP Bhim Sen Tuti, divisional commissioner Ramesh Kumar, Rajouri-Poonch range DIG Sandeep Wazir, Udhampur-Reasi range DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma, deputy commissioner, Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma; Bharat Bhushan, general secretary and other members of Shri Amriteshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti, senior officials, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were among those present on the occasion.

MEA dismisses Pak frustration over US envoy's remarks

ture and killing several terrorists, including commanders.

Addressing mediapersons after the meeting, Gor had commended the security efforts made by the administration of the Union Territory and the Centre to make Jammu and Kashmir safer, and signalled a potential shift in the Washington's stance by indicating that the US may re-evaluate and "downgrade" its highest-level travel warning for J&K.

"This is an important part of India and so I'm here visiting for the first time. It's an incredibly beautiful place, and so I'm thrilled to be here, thrilled to see this place. We had a very good meeting, and we have some follow-ups that we'll take back to Washington, back to Delhi. But, a very warm, very cordial, and we look forward to building this relationship forward," Gor had said.

The US envoy said some "incredible steps" had been taken to keep the Jammu and Kashmir "safer" and the US would review travel advisory. Notably, the US at present has a Level 4 "do not travel" advisory for its citizens.

"The United States puts out travel warnings and every so often we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something that we are going to look at. New Delhi, the Chief Minister here, the Government here--we believe have made some incredible steps to keeping this area safer and making it safer," Gor said.

"So, we will be looking at if the travel warning that is imposed... is something that should be downgraded. This is a beautiful area, I think a lot of Americans would enjoy coming here and seeing the beauty and opportunity that exists here," he added.

World sees it as bright spot of growth, hope: Modi

previous regimes to keep people in scarcity, so that they beg before the government for even basic needs.

He said the licence raj of the previous governments used to add to the burden of unemployment, whereas his government's production-linked incentive model is creating opportunities.

"We are not just changing regulations, we are also changing the entire policy of regulations. Our government believes that there should be no regulation for doing something that has not been explicitly prohibited under law," he said.

The prime minister said his government is bringing next-generation reforms at the policy level and implementing reforms at the governance level and for ease of living.

"We are moving from the 'prohibited-unless-permitted' approach to the 'permitted-unless-prohibited' model," he said.

Modi said India has moved away from the PLP (Production Linked Punishment) model of the previous governments to PLIs (Production Linked Incentives) now.

He said even small reforms in the Indian Railways, the Delhi Metro and the Namu Rapid Rail show that the country is changing with times.

The prime minister said earlier, no one could make India's map without permission even though foreign satellites could map India, but his government has changed this system.

He also said the government has decided that border infrastructure is India's strength and not weakness. "We have changed the picture of our border infrastructure," he said.

Modi said the world's cheapest data is available in India and the country is making the cheapest and best mobile phones.

Kousarnag Yatra begins amid tight security

"The holy bath and religious ceremonies at the Kousarnag Shiv Dham are scheduled for August 23, while the pilgrims will begin their return journey towards Reasi on August 24," officials said.

The district administration has also deployed SDRF, NDRF and other rescue teams, in addition to Army and CRPF personnel, to respond to any emergency, particularly given possible weather-related challenges.

The yatra is being held during the holy month of Shravan, coinciding with other major pilgrimages, including Amarnath yatra, Budha Amarnath yatra and Kailashkund yatra, with security agencies maintaining heightened vigilance across the region. Kousarnag is a high-altitude alpine lake situated in the Pir Panjal range.

The sacred lake holds religious significance and has traditionally been associated with the ancient pilgrimage route. In ancient texts, Kousarnag is referred to as Karamasar or Veshnopad, and the Vishav (Veshaw) river is traditionally believed to originate from the lake and flow towards the valley.

The sacred site is also associated with the ancient Tirtha of Nawbhandan, adding to its religious and cultural significance.

Searches continue in Billawar woods

The next morning, the family found the leftover food in the kitchen missing, creating suspicion that the food had been taken away by the 'men' who had last night knocked at the door, reports said.

After the matter came to their notice, security forces had reached the village and launched a massive comb-

ing operation in the village woods. The operation continued today also but forces were yet to find any trace of the 'suspects', officials said.

Military strike kills 14 at Buddhist Monastery

city, according to Nway Oo, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence and Security Organization of Myaung Township, or CDSOM.

Nway Oo said 14 people, including three women, were killed and 20 others were wounded when a jet fighter dropped a bomb in the compound of the village's monastery.

A villager who spoke on condition of anonymity also confirmed the death toll to The Associated Press. The villager said the jet fighter dropped two bombs 15 minutes apart, with the second bomb damaging a house near the monastery where more than 100 people were on a week-long retreat during Buddhist Lent.

The villager, who lost a relative in the airstrike, said that people fled to a nearby community after burying bodies of the victims.

Woman killed as tanker hits scooty

as Shakeela, wife of Sameer Ahmad Tantray of Seri, Ramban, and the injured as Rafia Farooq, daughter of Farooq Ahmad Wani of Kundi Karol, Ramban. Rafia's condition was stated to be stable and out of danger.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

Teacher suspended

Bumalpora, in Inderwal zone - has been placed under suspension.

He was suspended under Rule 31 of the J&K Civil Services Rules pending an inquiry, following an FIR lodged against him at Chatroo police station, says the order.

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5th batch of Budha Amarnath yatra reaches Poonch

tality and respect for visiting devotees.

Different societies and organisations had set up various food stalls and refreshment arrangements to facilitate the pilgrims and provide them with refreshments during their stay.

The district administration and all stakeholders reiterated their commitment to ensuring smooth, safe and comfortable arrangements for the pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

The yatra will culminate with the Chhari Mubarak yatra from Poonch to Shri Budha Amarnathji shrine at Mandi, where pilgrims would pay obeisance.

Rajnath hits out at Cong over Vande Mataram row

mittee on Wednesday resolved that only the first two stanzas would be sung at party events, reaffirming a 1937 decision. Congress has maintained that the decision reflected the position adopted by its leadership during the freedom movement.

Singh also linked the Congress's present position to the political circumstances surrounding the 1937 resolution.

He alleged that the decision to limit the song at the time was taken under pressure from the Muslim League and warned against what he described as a recurrence of such "appeasement" politics.

"The resolution of 1937 that the Congress refers to was one that the Congress passed by bowing down to the radical demands of the Muslim League, and its consequence was witnessed by the country in the future in the form of partition," Singh said.

"Compromising with radical elements has always proven fatal for the country, and today, when the Congress is surrendering in the same manner to radical elements, it is a serious warning sign for the future of the country," he added.

Singh alleged that the Congress had exposed what he termed its "foolish and dangerous intentions" by opposing the complete rendition of the National Song.

"I believe that this decision of the Congress is entirely unconstitutional and reprehensible, and from a political perspective, it is one that will create a serious crisis in the future," he said. "By opposing Vande Mataram, the Congress has revealed its foolish and dangerous intentions to the country."

Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in Sanskritised Bengali in 1875, Vande Mataram was later incorporated into his novel Anandamath. The song became a powerful symbol of the freedom movement, particularly during the Swadeshi movement, and was subsequently accorded the status of India's National Song.

India not safe until its borders secured: Amit Shah

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari for attending an SSB programme, saying previous chief ministers had not participated in such events.

He said the SSB was not a political organisation and added that the absence of previous chief ministers from programmes of border guarding forces sent a wrong signal.

Shah also criticised successive governments for failing to give due recognition to the national song Vande Mataram after Independence.

He said he was saddened by previous dispensations in India not awarding due recognition to the national song Vande Mataram.

"The complete version of Vande Mataram was never sung in India until at the Red Fort during the Independence Day celebrations this year. It gives me solace that the nation has finally recognised the song on the 150th year of its creation by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay," he added.

Nadda reviews H1N1 influenza situation

Nadda reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, trends in influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of health-care facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases, the ministry said.

He emphasised the need for close monitoring of influenza trends and proactive preparedness to ensure early detection and timely clinical management of cases.

The preparedness of healthcare facilities in Delhi was also reviewed, including the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities and other essential supplies required to manage patients with seasonal influenza and severe respiratory illness.

The minister stressed the importance of public awareness and adherence to preventive health practices, including respiratory and hand hygiene.

People experiencing persistent or severe respiratory symptoms, breathing difficulty or other warning signs should seek medical advice promptly, he said.

The health ministry said the situation is being closely and continuously monitored and that it is coordinating with states and Union territories, hospitals, laboratories and other stakeholders to strengthen surveillance and preparedness.

The coordination is aimed at ensuring effective surveillance, early detection, timely clinical management and proactive preparedness for seasonal influenza, including H1N1.

Commonly referred to as swine flu, H1N1 is among the influenza viruses that can cause seasonal respiratory illness, with symptoms ranging from fever, cough and sore throat to more severe respiratory complications in vulnerable individuals.

The Ministry has advised continued adherence to respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene measures as part of efforts to limit the spread of respiratory infections.

SC reduces legal practice to 1 yr for entry level judicial exam

vision).

CJI Kant, while pronouncing the majority verdict, said the bench did not see any reason to interfere with the fundamental reasoning in the earlier judgment that a candidate must have exposure to the legal profession before joining the judiciary.

It, however, said the requirement of prior experience must have a reasonable nexus and no hardship should be caused to young advocates and clarified that the earlier decision does not require reconsideration on the aspect of requirement of prior experience.

The top court had on July 28 reserved its decision on a batch of review petitions and writ petitions filed in the matter.

On March 13, the top court asked all the high courts to extend the last date for submission of applications for civil judge (junior division) posts to April 30.

It had sought the opinion of all the high courts, National Law Universities and other law schools on the three-year criterion for appearing in the entry-level judicial services examination.

India calls for stronger global tech collaboration

tion Bureau (PIB) release.

The minister noted that BRICS STI cooperation has evolved into a robust platform encompassing research collaboration, innovation partnerships, young scientist exchanges, research infrastructure, and thematic working groups.

During India's Presidency, a comprehensive review of BRICS STI priorities is being undertaken to align cooperation with emerging scientific and technological frontiers and the developmental aspirations of societies.

He said India remained committed to advancing an open, inclusive and human-centric approach to science and innovation. He referred to India's initiatives, including the National Quantum Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, BioE3 Policy, National Geospatial Policy and the expanding Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem, which reflected an approach where innovation ultimately improves people's lives and supports sustainable economic transformation.

The minister invited BRICS partners to identify ambitious yet practical pathways for deeper collaboration in frontier research, innovation financing, talent mobility, research infrastructure sharing, startup partnerships and capacity building.

He said such cooperation could help create a future-ready BRICS STI architecture responsive to global challenges and supportive of the Global South's aspirations.

Omar inaugurates Waste to Wonder Garden

discarded materials could be given a new life through creativity, reuse and recycling.

He first inaugurated the floriculture mela and visited the exhibition showcasing a wide range of floral varieties and products associated with floriculture.

He inspected stalls put up by flower growers and farmers from across the districts of Kashmir, featuring ornamental nurseries, interior herbal plants, pots and terrariums, floral décor and gifts, event management services, cut flowers and machinery and products of J&K Agros, among other items.

Interacting with the stall owners, the chief minister appreciated their innovative business models and encouraged them to continue expanding their activities in the floriculture sector.

He also wished the growers and entrepreneurs success in their endeavours.

The mela provides flower growers, nursery owners and floriculture enthusiasts from various districts of Kashmir a platform to showcase their floral produce, exchange best practices and explore commercial opportunities in the sector.

Later, the chief minister inaugurated the Waste to Wonder-Flower Garden and took a tour of the thematic garden, which features a range of attractive installations created from discarded and scrapped materials. These

include a vintage Ambassador car, classic Kashmiri tonga, floral boat, floral scooter, heritage jeep, floral tractor, old tyres and other reclaimed items, which have been creatively transformed into garden features.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the garden was a wonderful initiative of the Department of Floriculture aimed at demonstrating that discarded objects could be reused with thought and imagination.

"This is an effort by the Department of Floriculture to show people that almost anything can be reused if you have the thought and imagination to do so," he said.

Pointing towards the installations, he said the garden contained several unusual objects that one would not normally imagine being used in a garden, including a tractor, scooter, old jeep, Ambassador car and even a refrigerator in which plants had been placed and decorated.

He said the initiative carries an important message for society to think about reuse and recycling before throwing things away, particularly at a time when solid waste and plastic waste management has emerged as a major challenge in cities and villages.

"Before throwing anything away, we should stop and think whether it can be reused or recycled. Of course, we cannot use every piece of waste as a decorative item, but wherever there is a possibility of recycling or reuse, we should make the effort," the chief minister said.

Emphasising the importance of reducing plastic waste, he said people could adopt simple habits such as carrying reusable bags from home while going shopping instead of taking new plastic bags from shops and subsequently discarding them.

"That is the message behind this garden, and I hope people will come here, enjoy it and also take this message back with them," he said.

The garden has been conceived as a thematic model landscape based on the principles of Reduce, Recycle and Reuse (RRR). Nearly 90 per cent of the materials used in its construction have been sourced through recycling and refurbishment rather than fresh procurement, making the project an example of resource-efficient and sustainable landscaping.

Designed as an all-season garden, the Waste to Wonder-Flower Garden has been planned to offer continuous bloom from spring through late autumn. Plant selection and bloom-succession scheduling are aimed at keeping the site visually vibrant and florally active across changing seasons.

Omar also spoke about the scope for further developing the Chrysanthemum Garden, noting that its first season had provided valuable lessons that could be used to improve it during its second season.

Drawing a parallel with the evolution of the Tulip Garden, he said the iconic garden had also started on a much smaller scale and was developed progressively over the years through the addition of features such as fountains, water channels and new levels. "In the same way, we will continue to add to and improve the Chrysanthemum Garden," he said.

Regarding the Waste to Wonder Garden, the Chief Minister suggested that the Department of Floriculture should visit Chandigarh to study similar initiatives and explore possibilities of recreating and further developing the concept in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If we can recreate a similar Waste to Wonder concept here, it could become a great attraction for tourism," he said.

Among those present on the occasion included CM's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Bani MLA Rameshwar Singh, additional chief secretary to CM, Dheeraj Gupta, principal secretary (culture) Brij Mohan Sharma, floriculture, gardens & parks secretary Zubair Ahmad, Director of floriculture, gardens & parks (Kashmir) Mathora Masoom.

Women's promotion vital for inclusive growth, says Kavinder

"Women are not merely beneficiaries of development but also important drivers of economic growth and nation-building," he said and emphasised the need to create an ecosystem in which women are encouraged to move from self-employment to sustainable enterprises, generate employment and become active contributors to the local and national economy.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has undertaken a wide range of initiatives to promote women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship," he said.

He also spoke on the programmes, such as Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, Stand-Up India, PMEGP, DAY-NRLM, Lakhpati Didi, Namu Drone Didi and PM SVANidhi, among others. "These initiatives are helping women gain access to credit, skills, markets and institutional support," he said.

He said that the success of Lakhpati Didi and the growing participation of women in MUDRA and other entrepreneurship programmes demonstrate the enormous potential of women-led development. As of March 31, 2026, more than 3.46 crore SHG members had been enabled as Lakhpati Didis, while nearly two-thirds of PM MUDRA loans sanctioned cumulatively had gone to women entrepreneurs.

The governor stressed the dire need to change the mindset of the youth, saying that the aspiration of the younger generation should not be confined to seeking government or private jobs. "We must encourage our youth to become job creators rather than only job seekers. Entrepreneurship, innovation and self-reliance must become an integral part of the aspirations of our young generation," he said.

He also called for greater collaboration among government institutions, industry, financial institutions, mentors and entrepreneurship platforms to provide women entrepreneurs with handholding, technology, branding, skill development, finance and market linkages.

He said that exhibitions such as "Desi Cravings" not only celebrate women's entrepreneurial achievements but also demonstrate how traditional skills, local products and culinary heritage can be transformed into successful businesses with the right support and market opportunities.

The governor congratulated all the participating women entrepreneurs and organisers for creating a platform that promotes women-led growth, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, and expressed hope that many more women would be inspired to transform their ideas and skills into successful enterprises.

The governor was accompanied by his wife Bindu Gupta. The event was organised by Ruchita Bansal, Founder-President, COWE Haryana Chapter (Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India).

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Ashish Mittal, Anna Roy from Niti Aayog, Vijay Sharma and Shilpa Sapra.