

FROM PAGE ONE

Looking to push India's vision for terror-free region: Modi

civilisational connect with the region. During his two-day visit to Uzbekistan, Modi will discuss cooperation in trade, investment, digital connectivity, defence, and energy sectors with President Mirziyoyev. "I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Yangi Uzbekistan'," Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi said he will also visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties that bind the two countries.

From Tashkent, at the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Zhaparov, the Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek to participate in the 26th SCO Summit, marking 25 years of this important organisation.

Officials said Modi will address the SCO summit, where he will highlight India's priorities of security, connectivity and opportunity.

The prime minister will also hold bilateral meetings with the SCO leaders on the sidelines of the summit, officials said.

Sporting India foundation of invincible nation: LG Sinha

that they represent the bright future of India.

He envisioned a future where every Gram Panchayat harnesses the power of sports, where academies in small towns nurture talent, and where farmers' daughters receive the same scientific training as athletes in Centres of Excellence in big cities.

He also underlined the importance of sports science, management, and technical expertise in universities and institutions, which would produce trainers, physiotherapists, and managers for the future.

He expressed hope that Jammu & Kashmir would not only participate in international sporting events but also host them, showcasing its talent to the world.

"It is a resolve filled with infinite possibilities. Our achievements in sports over the past six years prove that if young people are prepared for sports with dedication, the region will create an entire era of champions," he said.

Calling upon youth to contribute to building Viksit Bharat of 2047, the LG stressed that champions are forged through discipline and effort, not shortcuts.

He urged corporate houses to support athletes at the stage of talent recognition, rather than only after they win medals. He emphasized the collective responsibility of society, coaches, support staff, and parents in shaping champions.

He outlined three duties for youth, calling them to lead by example, compete with dignity, accept defeat gracefully, and inspire future generations.

He asked youth to use the unity of sports to transcend differences of language and faith while calling upon them to give back to society by guiding and mentoring the next generation, repaying the community that supports every athlete.

He commended the youth for their participation in the Drug-Free Campaign, setting an example for the nation. He reiterated that development is not measured by GDP alone but by the health, energy, and confidence of citizens.

"A healthy India is a fearless India. A sporting India is a confident India. And a confident India is an invincible India. Major Dhyan Chand, the wizard of hockey, gave the entire world one message to find your goal. That must be our message today as well. Whatever field we stand in, whether it is the field of sports, science, or public service we must identify our goal, move towards it, and achieve it together," the LG said.

On the occasion, he administered the National Sports Day pledge and felicitated the top-performing sportspersons of the 69th National School Games.

MoUs were also exchanged between the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation and Common Services Centres, for promotion of sports in J&K.

Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Prof.Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST, Kashmir; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; senior officials, representatives of Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation, Common Services Centre, sportspersons and youth in large number were among those who were present on the occasion.

Vaishno Devi yatra diverted after landslide

cials said, "The Himkotli route will be restored after the debris is cleared and the track is declared safe for pilgrims."

Till 4 pm, around 17,000 pilgrims had paid obeisance at the cave shrine today, officials said.

Pak drone spotted near LoC

Officials said Army troops guarding the LoC intensified surveillance and launched a search operation at first light to determine whether it had dropped any suspicious material.

Officials said that the search operation was still under-

way and added that security forces remained on heightened alert along the border.

Kishtwar girl's rape, death case transferred to CB

alleged rapist teacher and a nurse. The case transfer to CB comes amid demands for a prompt and comprehensive investigation and strict action against the guilty.

Jitendra lays foundation of Rs 1,503 cr PMGSY roads

ing the highest priority to the Udhampur-Kathua parliamentary constituency over the last 12 years, resulting in sustained expansion of road connectivity across some of the most remote and difficult hilly areas of the region.

"Udhampur has consistently figured among the country's top three districts in terms of PMGSY road projects," Dr Singh said in his address after laying the foundation stone of 110 road projects under PMGSY-IV, Batch-I of 2026-27, covering different parts of the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda-Kishtwar region.

As per the project statement, the 110 roads together cover 598.455 km and carry a sanctioned cost of Rs 1,503.53 cr. The projects are spread across Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts and are expected to benefit 46,972 people.

The Union Minister said that the scale of the latest PMGSY intervention demonstrates the continued commitment of the government to taking all-weather road connectivity to the last mile and to villages and habitations located in difficult and remote hilly terrain.

He said that the new roads would further transform rural mobility and contribute significantly to ease of living and ease of travel for people living in far-flung areas.

Sitharaman pitches India as global hub to US business leaders

global technology and AI capabilities in Bengaluru. The discussions also explored opportunities for India to serve as a global hub for ADM's operations, including exports, technology and treasury functions. GIFT IFSC could offer opportunities to support the company's international financial and treasury operations.

The meeting with Lawande focused on Visteon's strong confidence in India's growth prospects and the country's expanding role as a key market and technology hub for the company.

Discussions with Hoplamazian covered Hyatt's continued commitment to India and opportunities to further expand its presence as the country's tourism and hospitality sector enters a new phase of growth.

Sitharaman highlighted India's improving connectivity and infrastructure, which are opening up new tourism and commercial destinations, with tier-II and tier-III cities emerging as important centres of economic activity and travel.

She also suggested exploring opportunities for talent development through the National Institute of Hospitality, as well as the potential of GIFT City as a financing and treasury hub for Hyatt's growing operations in India.

The meeting with Zaramella covered Mondelez International's strong and expanding presence in India, its continued investments in manufacturing and infrastructure, and opportunities to further expand its production, sourcing, services and export footprint.

The minister highlighted the government's continued efforts to improve the ease and cost of doing business through regulatory simplification, digitalisation and improved infrastructure. These measures, she said, are helping global companies deepen their long-term investments in India.

Sitharaman is on a six-day visit to the US and is scheduled to attend the G-20 Finance Ministers' meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, and visit New York.

Nepal flood death toll rises to 675

The flash floods swept through Rasuwa and other parts of central Nepal on Wednesday, causing loss of life and widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure, while leaving nearly 2,000 people missing.

Nearly 2,500 stranded people have been evacuated by rescue teams in Nepal as search and relief operations continued for a fourth day on Saturday.

On Friday, the NDRRMA said rising water levels at the flash flood site increased the risk of another flood in the area.

Pakistan warns IWT breach could hit regional peace

"The Indus Basin is the lifeline of more than 250 million Pakistanis," he told the seminar organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington.

Dar also linked the issue with climate change, saying Pakistan was already among the world's most water-stressed countries and faced changing precipitation patterns, glacial retreat, floods, droughts and increasing hydrological variability.

"Any attempt to deprive Pakistan of the waters rightfully allocated to it under the Indus Waters Treaty would have profound consequences for regional peace and security," he said.

A day after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, India took a series of punitive measures against Pakistan, including putting the IWT in "abeyance."

India has maintained that the Indus Waters Treaty is in abeyance in response to Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism.

Court takes cognizance of NIA chargesheet

NIA had filed the chargesheet against 10 accused. All 10 accused, including main accused Dr Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), the chargesheet had said.

The next month, the agency filed a supplementary chargesheet against three more persons, including an absconding paediatrician identified as the founding member of a terror module, for involvement in the blast, taking the number of those charge-sheeted in the case to 13.

USCIRF 'open for dialogue' with Bhagwat after RSS sanctions call

sider sanctions against RSS members and Indian officials "complicit in religious freedom violations."

"Religious freedom conditions in India continue to deteriorate as violence and incitement are frequently used to target religious minority communities. We urge the US government to consider targeted sanctions against RSS members and Indian officials complicit in religious freedom violations, including revoking the visa issued to Mohan Bhagwat and making him ineligible for future entry into the United States," USCIRF Chair Dr Asif Mahmood had said.

"Under the BJP-led government, Indian authorities have failed to prevent, investigate, or punish egregious mob violence against Muslims and Christians. Such vigilante violence is often predicated on enforcing the Indian government's strict anti-conversion laws, predominantly targeting Christians and other religious minorities. Authorities have also forcefully expelled Muslim citizens in Assam under the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Space for civil society has additionally diminished under the ruling BJP government, with pending amendments to the Financial Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) threatening the ability of faith-based organisations to continue their operations in the country," the statement from USCIRF added further.

The ministry of external affairs dismissed the panel's assertions, casting USCIRF as biased against India.

"We are all aware that the organisation-or entity-you are referring to is biased; for years, it has been making disparaging and inflammatory remarks about India. I would say we should steer clear of such organisations, as they operate with their own agendas and lack any credibility or trustworthiness," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal after he was asked about the panel's demand for a ban on RSS.

Judiciary proactively responded to fraudulent schemes like digital arrest: CJI

tigating authorities, including claims of arrests made without articulated reasons, and of custody extended beyond what the existing facts appear to justify. In each such instance, the judiciary has intervened to rectify the situation," he said.

Justice Kant referred to the apex court's verdict holding that grounds for arrest must be provided to the accused in writing, rather than merely read aloud.

"Furthermore, in Arvind Kejriwal versus Central Bureau of Investigation, a decision I had the opportunity to author, the court upheld the legality of the arrest but nonetheless granted bail, based on the principle that prolonged pre-trial detention should not be transformed into punishment under a different guise," he said.

The CJI said what had remained consistent through the decades, despite legal and technological developments, was the apex court's insistence that due process, proportionality and the presumption of innocence remain the guiding principles of its jurisprudence.

Referring to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the CJI said it runs alongside criminal proceedings and the Indian justice delivery system has grown increasingly comfortable authorising parallel civil recovery even where a criminal trial remains protracted.

"And finally, like every nation represented in this hall, India has learned through hard experience that Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with other countries, however imperfect their machinery and modalities, bring a recovered asset home far more reliably than extradition ever does. Illicit wealth, after all, rarely stays where it was stolen," he said.

The CJI said if global estimates on money laundering were even roughly accurate, the world launders enough money in a single year to buy every one of the eight billion people alive on the planet a modest laptop, and still have some change left over.

"And of that immense tide of illicit wealth, by the most generous reckoning, less than one unit in a hundred is ever recovered," he said.

The CJI said Indian statesman and teacher Kautilya had, back in the second century BC, written in his treatise on statecraft, the 'Arthashastra', about distinct ways in which an official of the State might siphon away its treasury.

"He then offers a line that every compliance officer present will recognise across twenty-three centuries: it is as impossible for an official to handle the king's revenue and take nothing from it as it is akin to holding honey or poison upon the tip of the tongue and taste neither," he said.

The CJI said the very nature of illicit wealth and economic crime was that neither honoured the sovereignty that otherwise shields our legal structures from foreign interference.

"Let this Symposium's answer be that vigilance, cooperation and the rule of law thwart fraudulence in equal and, I hope, escalating measure," he said.

"In closing, I would say this: the measure of this Sympo-

sium's success will not be the eloquence with which we described the problem this week, but the diligence with which each of us, returning to our own jurisdictions, endeavours to put an end to it," he said.

Prepared for possible 'glacial lake outburst floods': Kavinder

manner, the world will have to think seriously about finding a solution," he said, adding that people must come forward and participate in relief efforts to help those affected rebuild their lives.

On the formation of a task force involving universities in Himachal Pradesh, Gupta said the initiative was aimed at preparing the state's youth to contribute to the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

"There are around two dozen universities in Himachal Pradesh, and I am the Chancellor of some of these universities. Naturally, in view of the discussions taking place in recent days about Viksit Bharat, we have been thinking about how we can prepare our youth for the future," he said.

Gupta said the Vice-Chancellors of all universities had been invited for discussions on employment, livelihood opportunities and the potential of local resources.

"One of the major issues we face today is employment. We discussed what livelihood opportunities can be created and how we can generate income from local products," he said.

Regarding the controversy surrounding RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit to the US and the opposition expressed by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Gupta defended the organisation and said there was nothing wrong with speaking about one's own country.

"The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is an organisation that works with a focus on nationalism. There is nothing wrong with speaking about one's own country," he said.

Def Min asks students to cultivate broad mind

Singh said achievements become meaningful only when they are rooted in values.

"When education only gives a degree but does not develop character, such education has no value, it is incomplete," the member of Parliament from Lucknow said.

He urged students to cultivate a broad mind and avoid jealousy, saying a person's happiness and fulfilment increase with the broadening of their outlook.

"A pure mind belongs to one whose mind is broad. A person with a narrow mind can never have a pure mind," he said.

Recalling former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's words, Singh said, "No one becomes great with a small mind, and no one can stand with a broken spirit."

He also referred to the struggles faced by B R Ambedkar and said the social reformer chose education rather than violence or blaming his fate, despite facing discrimination.

"Dr Ambedkar was not allowed to drink water from the tap from which all the children drank. Despite suffering so much injustice, instead of cursing his fate or choosing the path of violence, he chose the path of education and returned to India to inspire people to bring about change," Singh said.

The defence minister said universities are centres of personality development and expectations are even greater when an institution bears Ambedkar's name.

"Skill and knowledge, along with values and sensitivity, are essential. Knowledge is incomplete without values and personality is incomplete without sensitivity," he said.

Quoting Ambedkar, Singh said, "Character is even more important than education. If there is no humility in one's nature and no morality in one's character, an educated person is more dangerous than a violent animal."

He advised students to remain humble.

Referring to Ramakrishna Paramahansa's words, Singh said a zero has no significance by itself, but gains value when placed after a number.

He urged young people to dream big not only for themselves but also for the country and become employment generators rather than merely employment seekers.

Singh said life should be treated as a long journey, requiring dedication and discipline.

"The journey of life is long and should be taken like a spiritual discipline. The bigger the mind, the greater the happiness and joy," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, vice-chancellor of the university Professor Raj Kumar Mittal and several other dignitaries attended the ceremony.

Cong pushing forward unnecessary issues: Dhami

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) over the incident, calling 'purification' another name for untouchability and alleging that it amounted to a crime under the Constitution.

The controversy stems from a Congress rally held at Ramliia Maidan in Haldwani on August 8, ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhnad Assembly elections. Members of a right-wing group later conducted a purification ritual at the venue, drawing criticism from Congress leaders.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had also raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha, linking the incident to his identity as a Dalit leader.

Kharge had said that he did not mention any community or religion during his speech at the venue but alleged that people associated with the BJP subsequently conducted a purification ritual of the stage.

"But after my speech, people associated with the BJP carried out a 'purification' ritual of that stage. You may have read about this in the newspapers. Is this the way things should happen in a democracy? How are you protecting the Constitution?" Kharge had said.

SKUAST-K Mobilises 200 Farmers at Kokernag to Strengthen FPOs and Farm-Based Livelihoods

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 29: A Mega Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Mobilisation-cum-Sensitisation Drive was organised at Kokernag, Anantnag, under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), bringing together around 200 farmers, rural youth, FPO promoters, agricultural experts, officials and other stakeholders to promote farmer collectivisation, entrepreneurship and sustainable farm-based livelihoods.

The programme focused on strengthening awareness about FPOs and their potential to improve farmers' access to markets, technology, finance and value addition through collective action. It also provided a platform for interaction with FPOs and startups and discussions on opportunities for strengthening farmer-led enterprises.

Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, stressed that FPOs must focus on collectivisation, value addition, branding and market linkages, citing the AMUL model as an example of successful farmer collectivisation. Highlighting the potential of Mushk Budji rice, he called for robust value chains, branding and quality standards to position the distinctive Kashmiri rice in wider markets, including international markets such as Japan.

Prof. Ganie also highlighted the role of the SKUAST-K Branding Centre in professional branding and packaging of agricultural products to enhance their market identity. Referring to the Junglenad, Pulwama model, he noted that around 60 farmers pooled nearly 100 kanals of land for consolidated farming and adoption of High-Density Plantation (HDP), with



the HDP apple plantation generating more than ₹1 crore in returns within one year. He described the initiative as a

replicable model of collective farming and technology adoption.

He further informed the gath-

ering that SKUAST-K has initiated a Centre of Excellence for Tulip at Sagam, Kokernag, aimed at promoting advanced

tulip cultivation, quality planting material, technology dissemination and value-chain development, with such centres having the potential to serve as models for technology transfer and commercialisation while creating new livelihood opportunities for farmers.

Dr. Ashaq H. Pandit, Project Coordinator, JKCIP, highlighted the role of FPOs in empowering farmers and creating opportunities for rural youth. Prof. H.R. Naik, Nodal Officer, JKCIP, SKUAST-Kashmir, spoke on institutional support and the importance of collectivisation in strengthening the agricultural sector.

hana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Chairperson, Up-scaling Collectivization, emphasized farmer aggregation, capacity building and collective marketing.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Danish Mushtaq, FPO Development Officer (FODO), JKCIP, set the context for the programme, while Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Coordinator, UC-JKCIP, delivered the welcome address and outlined the objectives of the mobilisation drive.

The programme also witnessed the release of literature related to FPO development and farmer-oriented initiatives. Cheques were presented to beneficiaries as part of the project's efforts to support sustainable livelihood opportunities among farmers and rural communities.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ishthiyaq A. Khan, Head, KVK Anantnag.