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India secures 9 FTAs amid growing diplomatic influence: Shah

growth of 7.8 per cent," Shah said. The union minister said India had shared its achievements in different fields with the rest of the world and as-sisted several countries in disaster relief and capacity build-ing.

"India has shared its achievements in Digital Public Infra-structure with the world and provided assistance to several countries in the areas of disaster relief and capacity building," he said.

The BJP leader emphasised that it was because of PM Modi's consistent efforts and global outreach that India's diplomacy had been able to establish its place firmly in the world today.

"Whatever the issue facing the world, the entire world looks at what the Prime Minister of India has to say and what his perspective is on that issue. After a long time, it is our leader Narendra Modi who has earned this respect for India in the world," Shah commented.

He said Modi envisaged India as a fully developed country by the 100th year of its independence.

"PM Modi has placed before all of us the vision of a de-veloped India by 2047. He has envisioned a developed India that, when the country completes 100 years of indepen-dence, will be number one in the world in every field," Shah stated.

The union minister recalled that when this vision was put forward, there were many debates and arguments, but gradually, this vision has transformed into a resolve of 140 crore Indians.

"Today, every Indian believes that, yes, on August 15, 2047, our nation will be the best in the world and we will be number one in every field," he said.

Speaking about the Goa police, Shah asserted it was a matter of great pride for him that the force has been hon-oured with the President's Colour.

"Today, after eight decades of glorious service, the Goa Police stand alongside police forces across the country with the insignia bestowed by the President. This is a matter of great pride for all of us," he told the gathering.

"The states whose police forces have received this hon-our have earned it because of their glorious history, profes-sional excellence, courage, discipline and dedication. It is for these qualities that the Hon'ble President has honoured the Goa Police with the President's Colour," Shah added.

"Goa is a small but very important state. The Goa police re-ceived three responsibilities at the time of the creation of the state (in 1987): safe cities, safe communities and secure maritime borders. I have no hesitation in saying that after the formation of the state, the Goa police have successfully ful-filled all three responsibilities and made an important con-tribution to national security," he affirmed.

He emphasised that the first condition for a developed nation is that its internal security and security of its bor-ders must be ensured.

"Goa has earned the distinction of safeguarding internal security and its borders. We all know that Goa has coast-line, and its protection is also the responsibility of the Goa police. While carrying out this responsibility very effec-tively, Goa has done very good work in strengthening its economy and ensuring the safety of tourists," Shah main-tained.

Shah highlighted the threat posed by cyber frauds with the expansion of the digital economy.

"Today, when the Goa police are being honoured with the President's Colour, I want to tell the people of the state that as the digital economy continues to grow, the threat of cyber frauds is being felt across the world, and India is also expe-riencing this threat," he said.

PM Modi has started direct dialogue with states to tackle the growing threat of cyber frauds, stressed the Union min-ister.

"The 1930 (national cybercrime helpline number) ser-vice is going to become a major protective shield against all forms of cyber fraud in the days to come," Shah noted.

Int'l Film Festival takes off, offering platform to global, local filmmakers

response. There was a response from 80 countries, and more than 1,100 entries were received," chief secretary Atal Dulloo said.

He said 135 entries were shortlisted for screening during the festival, including more than 60 foreign films.

"After a careful screening process and considering the time available, 135 entries were shortlisted for display over these four days. These include more than 60 foreign films," he said.

"The festival aims to reconnect Jammu and Kashmir with the global world of cinema and invite filmmakers to explore the region," he said.

"This festival is a chance to reconnect Jammu & Kashmir with the global world of cinema. We invite the film industry, both from India and abroad, to explore our culture, cuisine, and heritage, and to once again establish Jammu & Kashmir as a premier filming destination," he said.

He added that the festival would also create opportunities for local youth in different fields of cinema.

"It also provides numerous opportunities for our talented

and ambitious youth in various fields of cinema, including photography, direction, technical roles, acting, music, and songwriting. This is a win-win situation for both the film industry and Jammu & Kashmir. We aim to strengthen this connection year after year," he said.

According to officials, the festival is set to witness the coming together of an exceptional panel of filmmakers, cin-ematographers, sound designers, curators, producers and educators from India and abroad, reflecting the festival's commitment to showcasing cinema of the highest artistic and creative standards.

It will also bring together Padma Shri awardee Director & Producer, Ramesh Sippy, known for blockbuster movie 'Sholay' as well as son of the soil, director, producer, screen-writer and editor, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, known for his films like 3 Idiots, PK and Mission Kashmir, as special guests.

The maiden edition of IFFJK has brought an eminent jury comprising Santosh Sivan, Dorothee Wenner, Keiko Bang and Himansu Sekhar Khatua together, professionals whose distinguished careers span Indian and international cinema, documentary filmmaking, film curation, produc-tion, cinematography, sound design and film education.

The composition of the jury brings together diverse cine-matic perspectives and considerable international experi-ence, adding prestige and credibility to the first edition of the festival.

New India stronger at home, confident abroad: LG

ing the new future of humanity.

"India is rapidly advancing towards technological leader-ship while building on unprecedented social welfare initia-tives, paving the way for a great resurgence," he said.

Amidst this revival, the LG saidthe story of Jammu & Kashmir's transformation would be a compelling one.

"The prime minister has transformed the destiny of Jammu & Kashmir with the abrogation of Article 370. On the development front, the last 6 years have been nothing short of historic," he said.

"This is not just progress but a renaissance. Jammu & Kashmir has moved from shadows of fear to the light of op-portunity, from isolation to integration, and from despair to destiny. This transformation has opened new avenues of development, investment and opportunity," the LG said.

He highlighted the visionary legacy of Mahamana and his monumental contributions to advancing engineering education and industrialising India.

He said that Mahamana's ideals and vision continue to inspire generations to advance technology, strengthen the economy and serve society.

Sinha discussed how Artificial Intelligence would drive economic growth by combining human potential with ma-chine intelligence, and called for Responsible AI.

He emphasised that AI must remain anchored in ethics, core values, and strict human oversight. Technology must be proactively guided by humanity to ensure it serves the collec-tive well-being of all people, he said.

Recalling Swami Vivekananda's historic September 11, 1893 address in Chicago, the LG lauded the significant con-tribution of IIT (BHU) Global Alumni and Indian Diaspora to the upliftment of global society.

He urged the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni to actively partic-ipate in India's ongoing civilisational and economic resurgence.

He also outlined a four-point roadmap calling on alumni to invest in India's next-generation institutions through mentorship and capital, build strategic partnerships be-tween American and Indian institutions, share an accurate narrative of India's transformation, and reconnect with their roots by bringing home their wealth of experience and knowledge.

Members of IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Association, and prominent citizens from diverse fields were present on the occasion.

Detained Pak national repatriated

Golpattan Border outpost, officials said.

He was nabbed in Kanachak area of Jammu on September 3 soon after he had entered the Indian terri-tory from across the border.

After his sustained questioning revealed that he had mistakenly crossed into the Indian territory, BSF per-sonnel established a contact with the Rangers and repa-triated him, the officials added.

SFs launch searches in Poonch villages

ly gunned down by security forces in the upper reach-es of Budgam that neighbours Poonch district.

6 'criminals' held with pistol, tokas

edged weapons were also recovered from their posses-sion, officials said.

A case against them was registered at the concerned police station.

Ladakh forms committees for works above Rs 10 cr

will approve or allot contracts for various PHE/I&FC

works costing above Rs 10 crand up to Rs 40 cr.

It will also approve contracts for works costing above Rs 40 crand up to Rs 100 cr, subject to prior approval of the LG as per the delegated financial powers in the UT of Ladakh.

Drug peddler who escaped NCB custody still untraced

was sounded, and police & other security agencies stepped up frisking and vehicle checks at key entry and exit points. While a search continued for him today also, he had not been tracedill late this evening, officials said.

His arrest was part of a successful month-long operation by NCB in Jammu division, which helped expose two distinct routes being used by narco-smugglers to push heroin into Jammu and Kashmir, directly from Pakistan via Uri sector and indirectly via Punjab.

Death toll climbs to 1,356; 5,000 still missing

Nuwakot.

Similarly, 169 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa, 75 from Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu, it said.

The joint command of security forces is actively conduct-ing search and rescue operations.

Major rescue operations are underway at hydropower projects in flood-affected districts, where hundreds of men are believed to be trapped in tunnels. Teams of experts from India and China are assisting their Nepali counterparts in these operations.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Hi-malayan border region, carried the floodwaters down-stream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The disaster also killed at least 21 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports.

CRPF to replace Army in Udhampur-Kathua region

The move is part of broader efforts to streamline the de-ployment of forces engaged in counter-insurgency opera-tions in Jammu and Kashmir. The sources said the region could witness significant structural changes in the security architecture in the coming months, including a phased re-duction in the deployment of Rashtriya Rifles troops in certain areas and an expanded CRPF presence.

A phase-wise drawdown plan for Rashtriya Rifles has already been discussed and is expected to be implemented gradually, the sources said. But the changes will not mean a complete withdrawal of the Army's counter-insurgency force from Jammu and Kashmir.

A significant number of Rashtriya Rifles personnel will continue to remain deployed in the region, with the re-structuring aimed at recalibrating responsibilities be-tween the Army and the CRPF rather than eliminating the Army's role, they said.

The proposed changes are expected to mark a major shift in the deployment pattern of security forces in the Jammu region, as authorities seek to align troop com-mitments with evolving operational requirements.

In touch with HM over pending issues between J&K, Centre: Omar

country.

"Their leaders make statements that Muslims are an inse-parable part of the society but on the ground, these things happen. They do not listen to their own leaders," he said.

On the international film festival that kicked off on Mon-day, the chief minister said it was a reminder to the country's filmmakers that Kashmir was the premier shooting destina-tion before they started going to Switzerland and other for-eign locations.

"It is a good initiative that the government is organising the first international film festival. There are several objectives behind it. First, it will provide exposure to international films to our mass-communication students and movie lovers. It will also be a learning experience for our local film-makers.

"It is also an effort to remind the producers that before they went to Switzerland and other countries to shoot movies, it was done in Kashmir and we would like the process to be resumed," he added.

On the hunger strike of medical interns, the chief min-ister said the issue should not have dragged on for so long.

"It is unfortunate that this has dragged on for so long. It is for the health department to take a decision and before that happens, no other department can act," he said.

Abdullah said Health Minister Sakina Ittoo is in touch with the protesting interns and has given them some as-surance.

"Beyond that, you will have to ask Sakina. We would like to see this issue resolved at the earliest. It is in no one's interest as work is suffering and so is the internship of these stu-dents," he added.

Flights diverted after drone movement near Amritsar airport

ple suspected drones were hovering around the airport's operational area on Sunday night, following which police

were informed.

For about 1 hour and 30 minutes, all flight operations re-mained suspended.

He said that suspicious activity of the drone-like objects was detected close to the runway area.

Malaysia Airlines, IndiGo, Air India and Air India Ex-press flights were among those diverted, officials said.

3-way talks with Ukraine, US can resume: Russia

European countries in the near future, saying he wanted to do "everything to ensure that trilateral meetings take place" with Ukraine, the US and Europe.

Witkoff said he was hopeful such meetings would be an-nounced "in short order". The British, French and German national security advisers briefly joined Sunday's talks.

Witkoff said the talks with Zelenskyy had been "very con-structive and substantive". Kushner said the conflict be-tween Russia and Ukraine was "a long, hard and emotional war".

There were otherwise few details from the highly anti-pated talks between Washington and Kyiv, which came a day after the US envoys met Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow.

Shah 'scrambling' for majority to get delimitation bill passed: Cong

women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assem-blies was defeated in the Lower House.

Of the 528 MPs who voted in Lok Sabha, 298 voted in support, while 230 opposed it. The Bill required 352 votes for a two-thirds majority.

SC seeks reports from states on old-age homes

trict, adequate pensions and geriatric care for senior citi-zens.

During the hearing, Kumar, appearing in person, urged the bench to list and consider the matter, submitting that the continuing mandamus in the case had remained unheard for years despite issues concerning the rights and welfare of crores of elderly persons.

The CJJ said that while the top court could lay down broad principles, the high courts could be asked to ensure their effective implementation.

The Centre suggested the matter be transferred to the re-spective high courts. The bench, however, decided to first seek updated information from all states regarding the ex-isting infrastructure and facilities for senior citizens.

"Let a communication be sent from Attorney General R Venkataramani to the Advocates General of all the States to submit a latest status report with respect to the estab-lishment of old-age homes and the requisite facilities be-ing provided therein," the bench said.

The status reports shall be filed by all the states within four weeks from the date of receipt of the communication by their Advocates General, it said.

The PIL has been pending before the apex court since 2016 and concerns the implementation of statutory and constitutional safeguards for elderly persons.

In an earlier order passed on April 8, 2016, the top court is-sued notice to the Centre and sought the assistance of the Na-tional Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and HelpAge India in evolving measures for the protection of the rights and welfare of elderly persons across the country.

The court permitted Kumar to appear and argue the mat-ter in person and agreed to associate HelpAge India with the proceedings, noting the organisation's role in the protec-tion and welfare of elderly and infirm persons.

HelpAge India was asked to assist the bench in evolving an acceptable scheme or solution to address the problems faced by elderly persons, as highlighted in the petition.

The bench had also issued notice to the member-secretary of NALSA and asked the authority to place on record whether any scheme had been formulated to protect the rights of elderly persons.

If such a scheme existed, NALSA was directed to place a copy before the court, it had said.

In the absence of one, the authority was asked to indicate whether it could formulate a scheme to provide legal assis-tance and ensure protection of the legal rights of senior citi-zens in accordance with existing laws.

The bench also sought details of other measures that could be taken by NALSA and State Legal Services Author-ities to assist elderly persons in protecting their fundamen-tal, statutory and legal rights.

AI can pose 'existential risk to humanity': UN

urity of AI, before it is too late."

The UN rights chief said he would be writing to AI compa-nies in coming days "to urge them to take the steps that are within their control to reduce risks now".

At a minimum, he said, "we need countries hosting AI and those involved in its supply chains to come together around agreed red lines".

"We need independent verification, and much stronger collaboration on security within the industry," he said.

"We also need to consider the human rights impacts of AI on employment practices, on fundamental principles of democracy, and on our environment."

Directorate of Colleges releases JK_SIGMA application for students of J&K colleges

SRINAGAR, SEP-TEMBER 07: Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, today released JK_SIGMA, the mobile appli-cation of the Students In-tegrated Grievance and Messaging Application (SIGMA), developed in-house.

The release extends to smartphones a platform that has, since June 2025, been serving students of Government Degree Col-leges across the Union Ter-ritory through the Direc-torate of Colleges website.

SIGMA was launched by the Higher Education De-partment in June 2025 as part of a set of ICT initia-tives centred on the Direc-torate's policy planning and development portal, www.directorcollegesjk.in. This initiative was necessi-

tated for Higher Education towards student empower-ment by giving them a con-fidential and dependable channel to raise concerns that remain unresolved at the college level, and en-suring that official infor-mation reaches .

Since its launch, a sub-stantial number of griev-ances have been received and resolved on the plat-form, where around 1.6 Lakh students across 142 colleges are presently reg-istered on the platform.

Speaking on the occa-sion, Director Colleges said that the move to a mobile application removes the last barrier between a stu-dent and the department. The application is avail-able free of charge on the Google Play Store and can be accessed by visiting

https://directorcollegesjk.i n/sigma/app.

The application allows a student to receive official bulletins from the Depart-ment as well as from his or her own college, to submit a grievance and follow its progress through to reso-lution, and to rate the qual-ity of the response re-ceived—a feedback loop that allows the Directorate to monitor institutional re-sponsiveness rather than merely count complaints.

Bulletins remain avail-able on the device even without an active internet connection.

On the adminstrative side, the application pro-vides role-based access to college and Directorate functionaries, with statis-tical dashboards and alerts flagging grievances that

have remained pending beyond the prescribed pe-riod. Access is restricted to students already enrolled on the SIGMA Portal, and the identity of a student raising a grievance is not disclosed to the college ex-cept with the student's consent.

These initiatives under-score the Higher Educa-tion Department's com-mitment to a responsive, transparent and student-centric system, in further-ance of its overarching goal of Academic Excellence.

Colleges have been di-rected to verify student records on the Directorate Portal, conduct awareness campaigns, and ensure that grievances received through the platform are addressed within two days.