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Heritage, development must walk together, says LG Sinha

the sacred Devika River, has for centuries been a site visited by saints, sages and spiritual seekers, and that its ancient temples, stone carvings, sacred ponds and historical structures reflect outstanding architectural and artistic achievement, much of which has diminished by time and neglect," he added.

The LG said that the ancient temples of Lakshmi Narayan, Shiva Temple and Ram at Purmandal, and the historic temple complexes at Uttervehini would be restored using a blend of modern conservation techniques and traditional architectural aesthetics.

He also said that the restoration work would help establish Jammu &Kashmir as a leading destination for spiritual and cultural tourism, with improved infrastructure, pathways and lighting creating convenient linkages for pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi, Shiv Khori, Raghunath Temple and Baba Amarnath, while also enabling easier access to the spiritual tranquility of 'Chhoti Kashi.'

Highlighting the economic dimension of heritage tourism in the region, the LG said it would act as a powerful multiplier for local handicrafts, hospitality, homestays, transport and food establishments, generating livelihood opportunities for youth and new markets for artisans and small entrepreneurs.

The restoration and renovation of sacred sites would directly benefit the people of surrounding areas, he said.

"By improving the access to these sacred places and enhancing their grandeur and dignity, we are opening doors to the divine spiritual experience of Purmandal and Uttervehini for spiritual seekers arriving from different parts of the country and the world. I firmly believe that this will boost the local economy and empower communities, because every restored brick, every pathway constructed and every tourist who visits this place will contribute directly to the economic prosperity of the people of the region," he added.

He also emphasised the inter-generational significance of the project, stating that when youth walk through the restored corridors of Purmandal and Uttervehini and witness the preservation of centuries-old art and culture, it would instil pride and a stronger connection to their roots.

He commended the district administration and all stakeholders involved in the initiative and expressed hope that citizens involved in preserving and protecting these sacred sites for future generations.

"Our active efforts today to preserve our heritage will bear the fruits of cultural self-confidence, moral strength and social harmony for generations to come. They will protect our young generation from becoming disconnected from its roots and foster a natural reverence for our composite culture and ancient values of life. In the journey towards a developed India, preserving our cultural identity is as important as building highways, digital networks and industrial corridors. Physical development gives momentum to the region and cultural heritage gives society direction and soul," he said.

He reiterated his commitment to strengthen and improve road connectivity to Purmandal and Uttervehini.

He also appreciated the efforts of the district administration, Samba, in providing land for the establishment of Mata Devika Ved PathshalaatPurmandal. "Funds for the construction of Ved Pathshala will soon be sanctioned through Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board," he informed.

On the occasion, the LG also launched GCC GurhaSlathia magazine.

MLA Chander Prakash Ganga, culture department's principal secretary Brij Mohan Sharma, religious heads, prominent citizens, youth and devotees were among those who attended the foundation stone laying ceremony.

NC, Cong, Independents unite ahead of assembly session

Hameed Karra, after chairing a meeting of Congress legislators, said the party would continue to raise "genuine public concerns" inside the House.

He emphasised that alliance politics would not dilute the Congress's responsibility to speak for the people.

He described the Congress-NC alliance as a "principled stand" taken with a larger political picture in mind, but insisted that the partnership does not prevent the Congress from flagging issues such as Vande Mataram or UPI where the two parties recently differed.

The Congress, which fought the 2024 Assembly elections jointly with the National Conference (NC), signalled that its legislative conduct will remain independent and people-centric despite being part of the ruling coalition.

Fire damages Katra helipad terminal

vices personnel.

The terminal, which is an important transit point for pilgrims visiting the shrine, was closed at the time of the incident, officials said.

Some computers at the ticket counter and a coffee shop were reduced to ashes in the fire, the officials added. The extent of the damage was being assessed, officials said.

4 drug peddlers held with heroin

recovery of the narcotic substance, officials said.

Rohit Sharma was nabbed by police along with three grams of heroin during patrolling in Kathua city Saturday night, officials said.

Police also arrested Bittu Singhof Katraduring checking at Chungi in Reasi district after a whitepolythene packet containing heroin was allegedly seized from him, the officials added.

All the four drug peddlers were booked under NDPSAct at the concerned police stations.

2 agri officers among 3 held in graft case

Sharmaand Ashok Kumar, a private person who allegedly acted as a middleman.

According to officials, the case was registered, following a complaint alleging the demand of money for the release of subsidy. During verification, the alleged demand was corroborated through recorded conversations, officials said.

According to preliminary findings, Rs 15,000 was agreed to be paid as the first instalment to Ashok Kumar and Hith Abhilashi Sharma, allegedly on the directions of the SDAO, while the remaining Rs 20,000 was to be paid later.

The CBI team allegedly caught the private person and AEO red-handed while accepting the first instalment, and subsequently arrested the SDAO too, officials said.

Further investigation was in progress.

In a first, Japanese fighter planes operate from Indian soil

ployment of Japanese fighters to India had taken defence cooperation beyond simply conducting exercises and demonstrated the ability to deploy air assets across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Japanese air chief flew a Tejas jet with a pilot, while Air Chief Marshall Singh flew solo on a Tejas jet as part of their sorties under the Indo-Japan bilateral air exercise, Veer Guardian-2026.

In a gesture of mutual respect and partnership, the two

air force chiefs observed a badge exchange.

"This exercise, especially because the Japanese fighters are operating from Indian soil for the first time, is a great milestone in our history of our relationship and our partnership," Singh said, addressing a press conference after the sortie.

He said the exercise reflected the deepening strategic partnership between the two countries, built on mutual respect, professional trust and a shared commitment to peace and stability.

"When we do exercises together, we learn from each other. We fly together. We train together. So, both sides improve together," Singh said, adding that such exercises provide an opportunity to understand each other's operational practices and enhance capabilities.

Japanese air chief Morita said advanced training would develop mutual understanding, strengthen trust and enhance sustained practical cooperation between the two countries.

Morita said Tejas stands as a symbol of India's technological innovation and embodies the 'Make in India' initiative. While flying, he said he reflected on the efforts of many people, both in the military and industry, who contributed to its development.

"I will remember it not only as a truly invaluable experience, but also as a powerful symbol of the trust, confidence, and partnership that have been built between our two air services over many years," he said.

The two sides are undertaking advanced operational missions and professional exchanges during the 14-day exercise, which also includes discussions on mission planning, engineering and aerospace safety.

On India's indigenous fighter programme, Air Chief Marshal Singh said a large number of Tejas aircraft had been ordered, though some deliveries had been affected by global supply-chain issues.

He said the development of Tejas MK-2, an advanced medium combat aircraft, would take India's defence aviation industry and research and development to "much higher heights".

CAT Jammu bench's case disposal among highest in country: Jitendra

among the highest in the country.

"The high disposal of cases by the CAT benches in Jammu and Srinagar demonstrates the capacity built by the tribunal to provide speedy and accessible justice in service matters," he said in his address after inaugurating the new office-cum-court complex of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu bench, at Bahu Plaza here in the presence of CAT Chairman, Justice RKMores and other members of the tribunal.

DrSingh said the CAT was established in 1985 under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, with the broad objective of providing speedy and affordable justice in service matters concerning government employees, while also reducing the burden on constitutional courts.

He saidthe tribunal's purpose could broadly be understood in three dimensions - speedy justice in service matters, affordable justice for government employees, and reduction of burden on constitutional courts.

CAT provides for a nominal fee of Rs 50 for filing an original application, while no fee is charged for Miscellaneous Applications, Review Applications and Contempt Petitions, among others.

In Gen Z's view of India's key def partners, Israel beats US, France

"However, recent cultural narratives, pop culture touch-points and podcasts have begun bridging this knowledge gap by bringing to light Israel's critical role in delivering emergency laser-guided munitions and surveillance support to Indian armed forces during the war, rapidly altering youthful perceptions of who India's time-tested allies are," it added.

It further said defence and technological innovation were emerging as the main drivers of young Indians' perceptions of the bilateral relationship, with Israel recording a five percentage-point increase in its defence rating over the previous year.

"The encouraging survey results are a powerful reflection of the deep-rooted trust and affection between the people of India and Israel," India Israel Centre spokesperson Suresh Nakhua said.

He said the findings also reflected "growing public awareness and appreciation" of the bilateral relationship.

The India Israel Centre said the 22-25 age group was the most receptive to stronger India-Israel cooperation, and claimed there had been a fourfold increase in respondents advocating substantially stronger future bilateral ties.

Jaishankar to address UN General Assembly

High-Level Session of the 81st United Nations General Assembly is scheduled for September 26.

During the visit, he will also attend various plurilateral and bilateral meetings.

According to the website of the United Nations, the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly convenes world leaders to revitalise global cooperation, give a critical push to the Sustainable Development Goals and drive collective action for peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet.

Two key platforms will spotlight action and solutions: the flagship SDG Media Zone produced by the UN Department of Global Communications with dynamic interviews and panel discussions on SDG solutions held from 21-25 September; and the Goals Lounge, convened by the UN Deputy Secretary-General and hosted by the UN Office for Partnerships from 14-25 September, featuring unscripted dialogues, deep dives into vital issues and interactive experiences.

As per the UN website, the General Debate from 22 to 28 September will see world leaders make statements outlining their positions and priorities in the context of complex and interconnected global challenges.

Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh will preside over the UN General Assembly's 81st session, under the theme of "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all."

The world's biggest diplomatic gathering will see several days of presidents, prime ministers and senior representatives of all 193 UN Member States address the General Assembly from its iconic green marble podium.

Iran warns US, its allies against fresh attacks

Rezaei said another US attack was "very much on the cards" and that Iran had refocused its military planning on American naval assets from the Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

He also claimed Iran had recently tested a multi-warhead anti-ship missile near a US vessel or aircraft carrier.

Iran's warning came amid another round of regional escalation following drone and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia claimed by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The Houthis said they attacked targets in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and a major oil facility in the Red Sea port of Yanbu on Saturday. Explosions were heard in Riyadh, while a large plume of black smoke was seen near the city's main international airport.

Saudi Arabia did not comment on the Houthi claims. The Saudi-led coalition fighting the group, however, said it had foiled other attacks on the kingdom.

The attacks have increased pressure on Riyadh as it decides whether to intensify military action against the

Houthis or limit its response to avoid further strikes on airports, oil facilities and other critical infrastructure.

The Houthis have made gains along Yemen's Red Sea coast since fighting in the country intensified this month. Their growing presence near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait has increased concerns over shipping between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The US State Department issued a security alert on Saturday, warning of an unforeseen escalation and advising Americans to prepare for flight cancellations and airspace closures.

The latest developments have added to concerns over global energy supplies, with commercial shipping already facing severe disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has blocked most traffic along the waterway, while a US blockade of Iranian ports has restricted Tehran's oil exports and added to pressure on its economy.

An interim ceasefire reached in June collapsed the following month after the two sides disagreed over its terms. Despite the growing economic and military costs, there has been little indication of a breakthrough.

Iran said on Sunday that it would not reopen the Strait of Hormuz until the terms of the June agreement, as understood by Tehran, were implemented.

India's semicon push targets chips for cars, TVs: Vaishnaw

"There are many chips which go in automobiles, in cars, scooters and motorcycles, that are manufactured in our country. We should be able to have many of those chips designed and manufactured in India," he said.

The minister said a similar capability should be developed in the power sector, including chips used in transmission lines, transformers and converters.

"There are many chips which go into power sector, for example, the transmission lines, the transformers and the converters. We should be able to manufacture many of those chips, which are designed and made in India," he said.

In the consumer electronics space, Vaishnaw said, many of the chips used in televisions, refrigerators and other household appliances should also be designed and manufactured in India.

"We don't really see the chip; we see the finished product. When we buy a TV, we don't see the chip inside it, but it is the chip which is driving the entire thing," he said, describing the semiconductor as the "brain" and "heart" of a television.

"So, once we move in that direction, it will be very good," he added.

Vaishnaw cited a display-control module plant coming up in Uttar Pradesh as an example of the capabilities India is seeking to build. The module controls how a television displays the final picture and will be manufactured in the country, he said.

"The display control module is the one which controls how the TV displays the final picture; that is the heart and the brain of the television. So, that is going to be manufactured in India...so many such products are there," he said.

The minister also pointed to the planned LED display fabrication facility by Crystal Matrix, saying the company has gone down to a complex level of 40 microns, from 90 microns, and is setting up a research and development facility in India.

"All those large screens, LED screens, will be manufactured and designed in India," he said, adding that many such products would increasingly be designed and manufactured domestically.

Canada explores EU 'associate membership'

war with the United States has added urgency to its strategic pivot towards other trading partners.

Canada's relations with Washington have deteriorated sharply since President Donald Trump returned to the White House in early 2025, with disagreements on trade and other issues. The trade spat has led to tariffs on tens of billions of dollars in cross-border trade.

Canada and the EU are discussing ways to let Canada's goods, services and workers involved in strategic supply chains such as energy, AI, defence and critical minerals move freely, thus effectively shifting the EU border.

Canada and the EU are also talking about laying underwater cables, jointly constructing data centres, cloud storage and new satellite networks and infrastructure to ship Canadian energy to the EU, reports said.

Carney has spoken regularly with several EU leaders, most notably French President Emmanuel Macron, about the possibility of letting Canadians live and work visa-free in the EU, WSJ said, citing two unnamed officials familiar with the matter.

PoJK activists face wider crackdown under anti-terror law

sation and protests.

Placement on the Fourth Schedule carries significant restrictions. Those listed can be subjected to movement monitoring, mandatory reporting to police, scrutiny of financial activities and restrictions concerning travel and passports.

The use of the Anti-Terrorism Act against individuals associated with the JK-JAAC has raised serious questions over the treatment of political dissent in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The Fourth Schedule action comes after months of unrest across Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the past three months, the JK-JAAC-led mobilisation has included protests, strikes, rallies and calls for greater political and economic rights. The movement has raised issues concerning governance, economic hardship, public services and political representation.

The protests have been particularly visible in Poonch, Rawalakot, Sudhanoti and adjoining areas, with traders, civil society groups, lawyers and activists participating in various forms of agitation.

The confrontation between protesters and the authorities has also resulted in arrests and the registration of cases against activists, further deepening tensions between the administration and sections of civil society.

Instead of addressing the political grievances through sustained political dialogue, the authorities have increasingly relied on administrative and security measures.

The proscription of JK-JAAC under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the subsequent addition of dozens of its alleged supporters to the Fourth Schedule represent a significant escalation.

Despite the restrictions and legal action, the agitation has continued in different parts of the region.

The latest developments indicate that the protests have not disappeared with the government's security measures. Activists and supporters continue to raise their demands through rallies, strikes and local mobilisation.

The continuing agitation also points to a wider political problem in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where demands concerning representation, governance and economic rights have increasingly become intertwined with questions of political freedom and the right to peaceful dissent.

Kavinder calls for strengthening moral, spiritual foundations

ings of Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta to the masses in a simple and accessible manner.

He said that spirituality was not a means of withdrawing from life, but a way of making life more purposeful, disci-

plined and meaningful.

Referring to the Bhagavad Gita, he said the message of "KarmanyeVadhikaraste Ma PhaleshuKadachana" inspires everyone to perform their duties with dedication, commitment and a spirit of public welfare.

He said that Chinmaya Mission had translated this philosophy into action through its initiatives in education, healthcare, rural development, disaster relief and value-based education for children and youth.

The governor said that the youth of the country constitute its greatest force and immense potential. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on the youth as nation-builders, he said there was a pressing need to channelise the energy, talent, creativity and aspirations of young people towards constructive nation-building.

He said that the country's journey towards a developed and self-reliant India required responsible participation from every section of society. "It is our moral responsibility to contribute in whatever manner we can towards fulfilling the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of Viksit Bharat," he said.

Gupta stressed that technological and material progress must be accompanied by spiritual and moral advancement. Values such as compassion, truth, discipline, duty, humility and service, he said, must remain integral to the lives of individuals, particularly the younger generation.

He also highlighted India's timeless civilisational ideals of "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah", saying that these represented India's enduring commitment to the welfare of humanity.

The governor called upon those present to take a pledge to contribute towards nation-building through knowledge, service, social responsibility and promotion of Indian values.

He expressed hope that the Chinmaya Amrit Yatra would continue to inspire future generations, strengthen the spirit of service and social harmony, and carry India's spiritual wisdom to the world.

Congratulating the saints, acharyas, volunteers, workers and devotees associated with Chinmaya Mission on completing 75 glorious years, Shri Kavinder Gupta wished the Mission continued success in its endeavour to enlighten society through the ideals of knowledge, devotion and service.

Kangra Lok Sabha MP Rajeev Bhardwaj was also present on the occasion.

A message from Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama was also read out during the programme.

Swami Mitrananda highlighted the glorious 75-year journey of Chinmaya Mission and elaborated on the inspiring life and contributions of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda.

Paramasheshwar Swami Madhavananda and Swami Anukulnanda, Kshama Maitrey, Trustee Rajan Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa, Superintendent of Police Kulbhushan Verma, office-bearers of Chinmaya Mission, sadhaks and devotees were also present on the occasion.

Russia repels 'largest drone attack' involving 1,600 UAVs

Unmanned Systems Forces, Special Operations Forces, Defence Intelligence of Ukraine and Foreign Intelligence Service for the operation.

He also said sanctions had been imposed on a facility in Russia's Voronezh region, while calling for Moscow to end what he described as its "brutal war" and choose peace.

"Steps toward de-escalation are on the table - in energy and food security. What is needed is political will," Zelenskyy said.

In another post, he said Russia had continued to launch strikes across Ukraine, claiming that Moscow had launched more than 2,000 attack drones, 1,700 aerial bombs and 19 missiles of various types against Ukraine in the past week.

"Every day and every night, we defend ourselves against Russian strikes," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

He said that a Russian FPV drone struck a monastery in Ukraine's Kherson region, killing one member of the clergy and wounding four others. He added that critical and civilian infrastructure had also been struck in the Kharkiv, Sumy and Odesa regions, while residential buildings were hit in the Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Zelenskyy said the Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Cherkasy regions also came under attack since Saturday evening.

Calling for stronger international measures against Russia, Zelenskyy said Ukraine was "constantly looking for and finding ways to defend itself and respond to these attacks on life".

"It is important that our partners also look for and find ways to make Russia feel its war," he said, calling for new sanctions steps from the United States, Europe and G7 countries.

As developments follow, reports said, citing the governor of the wider Moscow region, Andrey Vorobiev, that two people were killed and 20, including three children, were injured in the attacks overnight.

This comes as Sunday is the third and final day of Russia's first parliamentary elections.

The three-day voting process for the State Duma, Russia's lower house of Parliament, is being held from September 18 to 20.

Russian President Vladimir Putin cast his ballot online in the election on Friday.

In a televised address ahead of the elections, Putin urged Russian citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote and described participation in the elections as a responsibility and contribution to the country's future.

The 2026 parliamentary election is the first State Duma election since Russia launched its full-scale military operation in Ukraine in 2022. The election is being held alongside elections for legislative assemblies, governors in several regions and municipal bodies.

Congcalls SIR 'Shah-Instigated Removal'

out to over 17 per cent. An additional 5.43 crore voters have been issued notices demanding additional documentation to have their names retained on the electoral roll. The risk of deletion rate works to another 15 per cent," Ramesh said in a statement.

He said 6.18 crore voters out of 36.06 crore covered in 12 states and two UTs in the ongoing third phase had been deleted. Ramesh said the first two phases of SIR had resulted in the deletion of 7.8 crore names, with the deletion rate standing at 13 per cent of the pre-SIR electoral rolls.

He said the third phase commenced in 16 states and three Union Territories in mid-2026. "Thus, a staggering 32 per cent (or about one in three) of voters have had their names deleted or face risk of deletion," Ramesh said.

According to the figures cited by him, the combined proportion of deleted voters and those facing the risk of deletion was 53.73 per cent in Delhi, 52.58 per cent in Chandigarh, 48.90 per cent in Telangana, 39.57 per cent in Jharkhand, 37.5 per cent in Haryana, 35.71 per cent in Uttarakhand, 35.36 per cent in Meghalaya, 33.88 per cent in Maharashtra, 27.6 per cent in Karnataka, 23.67 per cent in Odisha, 21.17 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 15.23 per cent in Punjab.

Ramesh alleged that the deletions were disproportionately affecting economically and socially disadvantaged sections and claimed that, in most major states, more women than men had been removed from the rolls.

He also criticised the Election Commission for not making lists of voters facing possible deletion public in all states, saying Delhi published its list only on September 19 following public pressure.