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Panelist blames Pak-sponsored terrorism for suffering in J&K

preted as opposition to religious education or as an assertion that all madrassas promote extremism. However, he called for greater transparency regarding where European funding goes, who administers it, what is taught and what safeguards exist against extremist recruitment.

A significant part of his intervention focused on Pakistan's continued access to the European Union's preferential GSP+ trade arrangement. Cartwright questioned whether the arrangement should continue unchanged without a serious assessment of Pakistan's compliance with relevant international commitments and counter-terrorism obligations.

He called for the suspension of GSP+ preferences pending such an assessment, while stressing that his objective was not to punish the Pakistani people but to encourage stronger safeguards against terrorism and extremism.

A statement by Prof K Warikoo, which was read at the event, focused on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The statement said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had been affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and referred to significant transformation in Jammu and Kashmir over the past 15 years.

He called on the United Nations to come out against terrorism and said bank accounts of terrorists and terrorist organisations, as well as those assisting or financing terrorism, should be seized. He stressed the need for a well-coordinated international response against terrorism.

Georgios Manous spoke about terrorism, religious freedom and the situation of minorities in Pakistan. He argued that Pakistan should be viewed not only as a country affected by terrorism but also as a country from which certain militant organisations have operated.

Manous referred to United Nations and other international designations of terrorist organisations and discussed alleged links between militant groups based in Pakistan and attacks in India. Referring to the April 2025 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir, he said India had linked the attack to organisations operating from Pakistan.

He also referred to previous attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and said militant activity in South Asia has broader regional and international consequences.

Manous also raised concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan, particularly Christians. He referred to the use of Pakistan's blasphemy laws and alleged cases of violence, forced conversion and abduction involving minority women and girls.

He also referred to the August 2023 attacks in Jaranwala, where churches and Christian homes were reportedly attacked, and highlighted concerns about accountability for such incidents.

Manous further expressed concern over what he described as the spread of extremist ideology beyond Pakistan and referred to cases in several European countries involving Pakistani nationals.

He called for stronger action against terrorism, religious persecution and forced conversions, and said European countries should protect freedom of religion and ensure that extremist violence and intolerance do not undermine democratic and human-rights principles.

The discussions at the event centred on the links between terrorism, extremist networks, human rights, minority protection, terrorism financing and Pakistan's engagement with Europe, with speakers calling for greater accountability and coordinated international action against terrorism.

'Satyameva Jayate' must remain guiding principle for democracy: LG

gave us a new method, new principles, a new approach to life and a new system that remains alive in the hands of every generation," he said.

"While technology has connected people globally, it also raises questions of inclusivity and truth," he said and cautioned against misinformation and urged youth to adopt Gandhi's discipline of verifying facts and engaging in dialogue before reacting.

"Gandhi understood the relationship between truth and power very deeply. He called his life an experiment with the search for truth. I believe Truth is a spiritual discipline (sadhana). Truth is the habit of looking within oneself. Truth is the habit of verifying before believing any fact or information and truth is the habit of listening and understanding before responding immediately to anything," he said.

The LG stressed that technology should remain under human control and serve as an instrument for progress, not a substitute for conscience. He called upon children and youth to use modern tools responsibly while staying rooted in human values.

"I want all children and youth to remember that technology is only an instrument and the decision must remain ours. For however powerful the instrument may be, its direction is ultimately determined by the hand that wields it," he said.

Underscoring India's strength in diversity, the LG said unity must be strengthened through everyday actions of justice, respect, and compassion. He recalled Gandhi's concern for the weakest person in society and urged citizens to measure progress by inclusivity and welfare.

"Since ancient times, India has been a land of diversities. Our languages are different, our modes of worship are different, our attire and our customs are different. However, our great tradition has taught us that walking together with diversity is India's strength. I believe this philosophy is needed today more than ever," he said.

The LG expressed confidence that Gandhi's philosophy will guide India towards the goal of becoming a Developed Nation by 2047.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed before us the blueprint of a Developed India which will be a powerful economy, expand prosperity among the people, expand opportunities, expand dignity and a developed India which will ensure access to justice for every citizen," he said.

"Bapu stressed on self-reliance, in which small enterprises of villages play a major role. Hon'ble Prime Minister is working to fulfil those very dreams of Pujya Bapu and the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign is giving new strength to local products, artisans, small enterprises and our farmer so that they can move forward shoulder to shoulder with the global market," the LG said.

He emphasised the importance of trusteeship, people's participation and character-building in children, noting that a nation's character is its most permanent infrastructure.

"To build a Developed India, we must prepare our fields, schools, villages, cities, and industries, and above all, we must place special emphasis on character-building in children. Gandhi firmly believed that a nation's character is its most permanent infrastructure," he said.

"We often ask what others are doing? Today, on revered Bapu's birth anniversary, let us also ask- what am I doing to build a developed India? Am I advancing truth or rumour? Am I engaging in dialogue or merely reacting? Am I uniting my country, or unknowingly dividing it? This alone will be a true tribute to the life-philosophy of Pujya Bapu," he added.

He called upon the youth to use the unprecedented power of technology with discipline and responsibility. He urged them to build an India that is modern yet compassionate, prosperous yet just, powerful yet sensitive and above all, united.

"In 2047, when we celebrate the centenary of independent India, we should not measure India's success only by infrastructure, but also by how many deprived people we have lifted up with others and how many people we have been able to reach out with opportunities," he said.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, School &

Higher Education and Social Welfare Departments, Sakeena Masood Itoo, chief secretary Atal Dulloo, Rajeev Sethi, Gandhi Global Family, J&K, president S P Verma, school education department secretary Ram Niwas Sharma, senior officials, prominent citizens, heads of educational institutions, teachers, and students in large number attended the event.

3 missing after car falls into river

Army, Ladakh Police and local volunteers. While a search was in progress when reports last came in, the rescue teams were yet to find any trace of the missing persons. Identities of the car occupants were being ascertained, officials said.

Saffron cultivation begins in Ladakh

Iranian saffron have been planted over nearly 4,000 square meters of 'barren' land was recently restored and rejuvenated, as part of Project Him Sarovar, under the guidance of LG Saxena. Agriculture experts said these saffron corms were expected to produce a good quantity of saffron.

The initiative is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of diversifying traditional agricultural practices for financial sustainability and economic empowerment of the farmers and the youth. Saffron plantation in Ladakh builds on the administration's successful experiment with high-value floriculture, particularly the massive cultivation of Lilium and Gladiolus in Leh, that has opened new employment and livelihood opportunities for farmers, Self-Help Groups and other local entrepreneurs.

The pilot saffron cultivation is being undertaken at Command Area Gate No27 at Spituk Pharka in Leh. For this purpose, high-quality Iranian saffron corms with a circumference of 8 to 10 cm, a diameter of 2.5 to 3 cm or larger, and a weight of 10 grams or more, which are considered the best corms, have been planted. These specifications are considered suitable for high-quality saffron production.

Saxena said the saffron plantation has immense potential to strengthen our local economy by introducing another high-value crop under Ladakh's unique high-altitude agro-climatic conditions. This, he said, would also bust the myth that saffron cannot be grown in Ladakh and that the barren or degraded land could not be restored.

"Our endeavour is to transform degraded and barren land into productive assets and create new opportunities for our farmers. The introduction of saffron is another important experiment in crop diversification, which can open a new avenue for enhancing farmers' incomes through a premium-value crop," he said.

Saffron is a high-value crop with strong market demand and commands a premium price, offering the potential to provide farmers with an additional and remunerative source of income. Jammu and Kashmir is the primary region for saffron cultivation in India, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of the country's total production. Its introduction in Ladakh is, therefore, being undertaken as a pilot to assess its suitability to the region's climatic conditions and explore its economic potential.

It may be noted that the saffron plantation site is part of the 800 acres of land being restored in Leh by bringing fresh water from the adjoining Igoo-Phey irrigation canal, which was recently restored and operationalised.

On the directions of LG Saxena, unutilised or excess water from the canal is being channelled towards the barren land to increase its moisture content and make it suitable for cultivation.

The Command Area also has four water ponds as part of Project Him Sarovar, which are located adjacent to the site, with a combined storage capacity of around 24 million litres.

Netanyahu warns 'heavy price' if any power behind Flydubai incident

experiencing mental problems.

Israeli officials and witnesses say the co-pilot of the Tel Aviv-bound flight on Wednesday stabbed the Indian pilot, who let passengers come into the cockpit to overpower the attacker. The plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia with no deaths.

Vande Bharat crosses Chenab, Anji bridges at 100 kmph

the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Sangaldan section and 75 kmph on the Sangaldan-Banihal section.

The increase in the permissible speed is expected to make train operations on the USBRL project smoother, reduce travel time and provide faster, safer and more comfortable journeys to passengers.

With the enhancement, travel time between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Banihal is also expected to come down, providing faster and more comfortable rail connectivity in the region.

The Katra-Banihal section traverses some of the most difficult and rugged terrain of the Pir Panjal and the lower Himalayan ranges, involving deep valleys, steep mountain slopes, major rivers and highly complex geological formations.

The construction of the line had, therefore, required extensive use of advanced engineering techniques, including long tunnels, high-level bridges and sophisticated railway infrastructure, officials said.

The section has some of the country's most prestigious and challenging engineering structures, including the Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, constructed over the Chenab River near Reasi, and the Anji Khad Railway Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.

The section also has 33 tunnels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on June 6, 2025.

Baloch students face racial profiling in Pakistan, UNHRC told

ethnic profiling, disproportionate executions, biased sentencing and the use of national security charges against minority communities.

He said the Muhamasheen in Yemen, Iran's ethnic minorities and Baloch students in Pakistan continued to face forms of exclusion that required greater international scrutiny.

Mengal urged the UN Human Rights Council to ensure concrete implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and called on states to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

He also called for the dismantling of structures of racial exclusion, whether based on caste or ethnicity or justified on national security grounds, and for accountability for those responsible for discriminatory practices.

"The dignity of the Muhamasheen, of Iran's ethnic minorities, and of Baloch students is not negotiable," Mengal said.

Putin lauds Modi's peace push

state-run TASS news agency.

"As for Prime Minister Modi's position on ending wars, I can say that he is one of those world leaders who, despite our very good, even friendly relations, including at the personal level, constantly raises the issue and asks questions about ending the conflict in Ukraine," Putin said.

The Russian leader said Modi "brings up these matters at every meeting we have and takes a keen interest in them".

"He has very good ideas aimed at finding mutually acceptable solutions," Putin added.

Ahead of the BRICS summit in New Delhi last month, Putin and Modi held talks, during which the Russian leader had briefed Modi on the overall situation regarding the Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, and the on-

going peace initiatives.

A few days before that, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia would welcome any peace efforts by India to end the Ukraine conflict, noting that Moscow's strategy aligns closely with New Delhi's position for a resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

Putin, at the forum, also expressed appreciation for India's cultural diversity and unity.

"India cannot fail to amaze with its scale and diversity," he said.

"Few people know this, but Modi told me that of the 1.5 billion people, 600 million Indians speak their native language, Hindi, while most speak their own languages, and they all live together- amazing," he said.

Asserting that this cannot fail to inspire admiration, he said, "There is something unique about Indian culture that can certainly serve as an example of how diversity and unity can coexist. It is certainly something to learn from."

India standardises Ladakh features, reclaims

Aksai Chin names

sovereignty and serves as long-term preparation regarding contested frontier areas.

"Government of India, in consultation with the Union Territory of Ladakh, has identified a total of twenty-eight (28) places/features, located in the UT of Ladakh, by standard place and feature names on the official map of Survey of India (SoI)," a government statement said.

Gogra and Hot Spring are among the major strategic locations and were friction points during the 2020 standoff between Indian and Chinese forces, which is crucial to Indian Patrolling.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries had erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas.

Both sides started the disengagement process in 2022.

India races to Asiad top-5 with 'Golden Six'

gold count by four.

But India seems to be heading for a strong finish if the Friday show is any indication.

It was the end of a 44-year wait in women's hockey when India defeated defending champions China 1-0 in the final to secure the gold as well as a direct qualification to the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Lalmremsiami's 10th minute strike was enough to close the day as brilliantly as it started when the women's recurve archery team clinched its maiden Asiad gold by shocking 10-time Olympic champions South Korea in the final.

The recurve trio of Ankita Bhakat, Kirti Sharma and 17-year-old Kumkum Mohod produced a composed performance under challenging conditions to stun the Koreans 5-3.

In between, Indian boxers were quite literally the 'Lords of the Ring' as Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), celebrating her 29th birthday, Parveen Hooda (65kg) and Ankush Panghal (80kg) outwitted higher-rated opponents to ensure three gold medals.

It was the best gold haul in Asiad boxing by India and can easily be considered the among the best performances of all time by the country's boxing contingent.

Sujeet's detremination on the wrestling mat was exemplary as he took the men's 65kg category gold, defeating an Olympic champion en route to the title and erasing a massive 2-9 deficit in the final.

Adding to the joy were the silver medals claimed by mixed and men's recurve archery teams and bronze medals from sailor Nethra Kumanan in women's dinghy and the men's quadrant team in sepaktakraw.

The late surge in the Games has bolstered India's overall campaign that had looked patchy due to the under-performance in disciplines such as shooting and badminton. The latter was particularly disappointing for failing to deliver beyond a men's team bronze this time.

Lalmremsiami's superb reverse-stick strike in the 10th minute gave India the lead, but it was goalkeeper Bichu Devi's heroics and a defence that refused to yield that ultimately settled the women's hockey final against China.

With the defending champions throwing everything at them, India absorbed wave after wave of pressure, putting their bodies on the line to protect their slender advantage and complete a memorable triumph.

For India, the victory delivered two long-awaited prizes - their first Asian Games women's hockey gold since 1982 and direct qualification for the Los Angeles Olympics, which was a key target for coach Sjoerd Marijne's side.

The final began an hour behind schedule after the team buses of both finalists were caught in a traffic snarl caused by an accident unrelated to either side.

But once the contest got underway, India made their mark early and then showed the resilience to withstand everything China threw at them.

But using his tremendous speed and technical skills, Sujeet found a way to make a dramatic turnaround and prevail 10-9, scoring eight points in a row and holding off his rival.

Sujeet first reduced the deficit to 8-9 and with about 20 seconds left on the clock, he found a decisive take down and defended his one-point lead to emerge winner.

The women's recurve team's stunning win over 10-time Olympic champions South Korea for a historic gold headlined the highly productive day for Indian archery competition where the men's recurve and mixed recurve squads signed off with commendable silver medals.

The strong recurve performance comes after the compound archers completed a golden sweep in all the team competitions.

India have so far secured seven medals, including four gold, two silver and a bronze, in the archery event here.

The first medal of the day for the Indian contingent came via the trio of Ankitat, Kirti and Kumkum, who held their nerve in challenging windy conditions to outshoot the defending champions 5-3 (54-54, 56-56, 55-51, 54-54) and script a memorable triumph.

Kumkum then returned to the range with Dhiraj Bommadevara and combined for a silver medal in the mixed recurve team event, with the Indian duo going down 3-5 (34-38, 35-37, 37-36, 37-37) to China in the final.

After this, the men's recurve combination of Bommadevara, Sanjay Bhoge and Neeraj Chauhan settled for a silver following a 1-5 loss (56-56, 50-57, 54-56) to Korea.

J&K marks mining milestone with auction of 2 limestone blocks

serves of 4.75 million tonnes. Exploration in this tract reached the G-4 stage, establishing baseline feasibility for future detailed development and extraction work.

The second asset, the Wantrag limestone block, covers an area of 5.36 hectares. Geological assessments place its estimated limestone resources at 10.853 million tonnes. Prospecting work on this site advanced to the G-3 stage and incorporated 159 metres of drilling, providing technical documentation to support commercial extraction.

Officials indicated that these limestone auctions will draw capital into the Union Territory while expanding allied industrial value chains.

"The auction of the two limestone blocks is expected to catalyse new investment and economic activity in the Union Territory," the ministry stated.

"As mining and associated activities develop, they are expected to generate a large number of direct and indirect employment opportunities and create avenues for local businesses, entrepreneurs, service providers and allied industries," it added.

The ministry noted that the initiative will support broader regional participation in commerce as production commences.

"The development of the mineral sector will also contribute to greater value creation from Jammu and Kashmir's mineral resources and support new opportunities for local participation in the emerging mining ecosystem," it noted.

This progress marks another step toward strengthening the economic base of a Viksit Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of Mines will continue working alongside the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the transparent, sustainable, and responsible development of regional reserves.

Cong accuses EC of 'lying' over ECINet

such compliance needed to be certified after the portal was launched on January 22 with the stated objective of enhancing transparency, credibility and public trust.

He referred to the ECI's launch-day assurance that ECINet had been developed in "strict accordance with the law" and was fully compliant with the Constitution, the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

"All of this was a lie," Ramesh alleged in a post on X.

He alleged that by restricting Electoral Registration Officers' (EROs) access to the ECINet voter-roll system and overruling EROs in states including Goa and West Bengal, the poll panel had violated the statutory framework governing electoral rolls.

According to Ramesh, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules vest statutory authority over electoral rolls with EROs.

He also cited a September 24 letter by the Maharashtra chief electoral officer to the ECI, seeking correction of what he described as an "illegal state of affairs".

"Starting today, the INDIA janbandhan, citizens and many civil society organisations will hit the streets across the country demanding accountability for these violations of the law and the Constitution," Ramesh said.

The Congress' allegations come amid a wider opposition campaign against the functioning of the ECI and the revision of electoral rolls.

The INDIA bloc on Wednesday announced joint 'Save Democracy' marches in all districts and five major rallies. The grouping also demanded that future elections be conducted using ballot papers and urged the Supreme Court to expedite cases concerning the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and alleged electoral irregularities.

At a meeting attended by leaders of 19 political parties, the opposition decided that its MPs would march to the ECI on October 6 and that its leaders would meet the President over alleged irregularities in voter-list revision. The grouping has also demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The developments followed a report by The Indian Express that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections at least 14 times over 10 months to decisions and orders related to the SIR process, saying they were issued without their knowledge or recommendation.

The ECI, facing criticism over the reported differences, has said differing views and observations are a normal part of institutional deliberations and maintained that all its orders have full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures.

Kavinder launches 'Sankalp Rath Yatra' against drug abuse

cial and health challenge, affecting an individual's physical and mental well-being, family and future.

Gupta said the response to drug abuse must combine firm action against traffickers and organised crime with treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of those affected by addiction.

He said drug trafficking could also have links with organised crime and, in some cases, cross-border networks, making it a matter of internal security and national interest.

Acknowledging the efforts of police, security forces, administration and investigative agencies, he said government action alone could not address the challenge and that effective results required active participation of society.

He called for regular counselling in schools, greater participation in sports, yoga and cultural activities, skill development and positive interaction with students, saying schools should become the first line of protection against drug abuse.

He also urged the cantonment board, Army personnel and institutions at Kasauli to contribute their experience, discipline and guidance to the campaign.

The governor appreciated Utishtha Bharat Sewa Trust, which had organised the event, for taking the message of drug prevention to people through Sankalp Rath Yatra and called upon religious and spiritual organisations, women-groups, youth organisations, educational institutions and civil society to join the campaign.

He said that protecting the younger generation from the "slavery of drugs" was a collective social challenge and that parents, teachers, doctors, armed forces, police, administration, social organisations and young people themselves had an important role to play.

He urged youth to say 'no' to drugs and channelise their energy into sports, yoga, knowledge, skills and nation-building.

On the occasion, the governor honoured individuals for their outstanding services to society.

MP Suresh Kashyap congratulated Utishtha Bharat Sewa Trust for organising the anti-drug campaign and said that the issue had assumed greater importance in the present context. He expressed concern over the loss of young lives and families being adversely affected by drug abuse and urged youth to devote more time to sports and constructive activities.

MLA Vinod Sultanpuri welcomed the governor to his constituency and said that educational institutions & society had an important role in addressing the drug menace, which had become a serious threat to society. He said collective efforts were needed to tackle the challenge and appreciated the governor's participation in the campaign.

Earlier, Navneet Gaurial, trustee of Utishtha Bharat Sewa Trust, welcomed the governor and gave details of the anti-drug awareness campaign and the Sankalp Rath Yatra.

Solan DC Manmohan Sharma, SP TSai Dattatrey, Utishtha Bharat Sewa Trust president Raj Kishore, patron Raj Kumar Singla, StMarySchool principal Tesvin and other prominent people were among those present on the occasion

States, UTs asked to enroll 'left-out' voters

tember 29 and a meeting held with all CEOs on October 1. The ECI said that during the enumeration phase of the SIR exercise, each Booth Level Officer (BLO) prepared a list of voters classified as Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD), along with the probable reasons for their non-inclusion.

The list was displayed on the notice boards of respective Panchayat Bhawans and Urban Local Body offices. It was also shared with Booth Level Agents (BLAs), political parties and uploaded to the websites of the respective Chief Electoral Officers.

Following this, the draft electoral roll was published and shared with political parties and uploaded to the CEO websites. The final electoral roll was subsequently published after the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) decided on claims and objections.

The commission said the final electoral roll contains electors added or deleted after publication of the draft roll. Therefore, compared to the pre-SIR electoral roll, the final roll reflects deletions made during the enumeration phase as well as additions and deletions following publication of the draft roll.

The ECI emphasised that voter enrolment is a continuous process and that individuals who have not yet been enrolled, or whose names have been deleted from the electoral roll, can apply for enrolment at any time.