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Terrorism will one day harm its sponsors too: Vice-Prez

tates terms to us," he said and emphasised that every sov- ereign nation was equal, irrespective of its size.

The address was delivered to 122 participants, including officers from the Indian Armed Forces, civil services, police and other government organisations, along with 41 offi- cers from friendly foreign countries.

The Vice-President highlighted the importance of strate- gic thinking, integrated policymaking and international cooperation in tackling contemporary security challenges.

Emphasising that national values form the bedrock of national identity and shape a country's engagement with the world, Radhakrishnan referred to India's civilisational phi- losophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family).

He cited initiatives such as Vaccine Maitri during the COVID-19 pandemic, India's role as a first responder dur- ing disasters, and its leadership in international efforts on climate action and disaster resilience as examples of these values in practice.

"India's national interests are rooted in the constitutional principles of sovereignty, democracy, secularism, justice, lib- erty, equality, fraternity, and the unity and integrity of the nation," he said.

The Vice-President outlined five broad national priorities: safeguarding India's sovereignty and territorial integrity; preserving its democratic, secular and federal character; advancing its strategic, political, economic and military objectives; ensuring a stable and secure environment for growth and human development; and contributing to inter- national peace and stability.

Highlighting the increasingly interconnected nature of national security, he called for enhanced international co- operation to address challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, pandemics, climate change and transnational crime.

Air Marshal Manish Kumar Gupta, Commandant of the National Defence College, along with faculty members and participants of the 66th NDC Course, was present on the occasion.

J&K's survival depends on protecting mountain ecosystems: Omar

The whole world will have to come together to address this challenge. But we can certainly take better care of our own environment," he added.

Referring to changing weather patterns, the chief min- ister said that snowfall had become increasingly erratic, with reduced snowfall and delayed winter precipitation contributing to water shortages during the spring months.

He said prolonged dry spells were often followed by in- tense rainfall, cloudbursts and flooding, creating fresh challenges for communities and infrastructure.

Describing these developments as the new reality, Omar said the challenge was to determine how Jammu and Kashmir could continue to develop while adapting to growing environmental risks.

"We have to ask ourselves: how do we sustain our liveli- hoods and how do we develop? Development is essential, but it must be sustainable," he said.

He cautioned against viewing tourism as the sole cause of environmental degradation, while acknowledging the pressure that growing tourist numbers placed on popular destinations.

He stressed that environmental responsibility had to be shared by the government, residents, businesses and visitors alike.

"Tourism does put pressure on our environment, but to assume that the situation is bad only because of tourism or tourists would also be wrong. We will have to take some responsibility," he said, urging people to avoid littering, reduce the use of single-use plastic and conserve water and energy.

He called for a change in everyday practices, observing that people often discarded plastic wrappers and bottles in public places while expecting the government to clean up after them. Acknowledging the government's primary re- sponsibility for environmental management, he under- lined that individual actions were equally important in protecting the natural surroundings.

On tourism development, he said the answer was not to abruptly restrict visitors to established destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, where liveli- hoods depended substantially on tourism.

Instead, he advocated developing new destinations through a planned and sustainable approach, with ade- quate arrangements for sewage treatment, wastewater management and solid waste disposal in place from the outset.

"Some of our destinations do not have enough carry- ing capacity. We have to widen tourism, not to stop people from going to Gulmarg, Pahalgam or Sonamarg, but to develop new and sustainable destinations where the sys- tems for waste disposal and sewage disposal are already ready," he said.

Highlighting the need for environmentally sound in- frastructure, Omar said unscientific hill cutting during road construction had contributed to landslides and re- peated damage to roads, particularly in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said road construction agencies often resorted to indiscriminate cutting of mountain slopes without ade- quate consideration for slope stabilisation and appropri- ate cutting angles. While such practices might reduce ini- tial construction costs, the resulting damage during rainfall frequently necessitated reconstruction, divert- ing resources that could otherwise be used to build new roads, he added.

He said he had asked the Forest and Environment De- partment and the Public Works Department to work to- gether to ensure that development projects incorporated sustainable engineering practices and reduced the risk of landslides.

"When you cut a mountain, cut it in a way in which the possibility of landslides may not be eradicated, but at least be reduced," he said, emphasising that long-term sustainability must take precedence over short-term sav- ings.

On urban development and housing, he called for greater emphasis on energy-efficient and earthquake-re- sistant buildings, along with more efficient land use. With land becoming increasingly scarce in the valley, he said, planners needed to explore vertical development wherever appropriate rather than continued horizontal expansion, while ensuring compliance with seismic safety require- ments.

Recalling the devastation caused by past natural dis- asters, including the 2014 floods and the earthquake that affected the region in 2005, he stressed the need to in- corporate disaster resilience into future construction and examine cost-effective ways to retrofit existing buildings.

He also highlighted the visible retreat of glaciers in the region, recalling how the glacier near Sonamarg once ex- tended close to the meadows. Today, he said, younger generations have to trek considerably farther to reach the receded glacier.

He said the changes underscored the responsibility of the present generation to protect the region's natural her- itage and preserve it for those who would inherit it.

"That is what we owe the future generations. Protect what we have, retrieve what we can, and ensure that we do not do any further damage, while also ensuring that liveli- hoods are protected," he said.

Underlining the importance of agriculture and horti- culture to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Omar said the region's economic foundations were often misunder- stood by those who viewed tourism as its principal source of income. Agriculture and horticulture, he pointed out, contributed substantially more to the economy than tourism.

He said protecting the environment and promoting sustainable mountain development were therefore not merely conservation objectives but fundamental to the region's economic security, livelihoods and long-term prosperity.

He expressed hope that the three-day summit would move beyond academic discussions and produce concrete recommendations that could be translated into effective policies and practical action.

He said Jammu and Kashmir aspired to become the first Himalayan territory to have its own mountain policy and that his government was keen to take the initiative forward. However, he stressed that the policy must emerge from wider consultation and reflect the realities of the region rather than being based on idealistic assump- tions.

"Those recommendations need to be grounded in real- ity. We need to balance the need for sustainability with the need for existence and livelihoods," he said.

The chief minister expressed gratitude to delegates and participants who had travelled from different parts of the country to attend the summit and said he would look for- ward to its recommendations.

"I cannot emphasise this point strongly enough. Sus- tainable development through actionable inputs and practical steps is what I hope this summit will deliver," he said, wishing the participants success in their delib- erations.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also released several publications brought out for the summit.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Addi- tional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban De- velopment Department Mandeep Kaur, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof Nazir Ahmed Ganai, President, Integrated Mountain Initiative, STS Lepcha, former pres- ident IMI PD Rai, Councillor, Integrated Mountain Initia- tive, Rajan Kotru, delegates from 11 mountain states, rep- resentatives of NGOs, faculty members, scholars, students and other concerned persons were present.

Sakeena to attend ITB Asia in Singapore

Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, to Singapore to attend ITB Asia from October 21 to 23.

According to a GAD order, the delegation, besides Sakeena Itoo, comprises director tourism (Jammu) Vikas Gupta, tourism department's special secretary Suraj Parkash Rukwal and director finance (tourism department) Rashim Deepika Thusoo.

The government order states that the deputation is subject to the necessary clearances from the concerned ministries of the Government of India and the fulfilment of other prescribed formalities.

2 landmines defused near LoC

defused by the Army in the area during the past one week, officials said.

The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with land- mines as part of an anti-infiltration system. However, heavy rainfall can sometimes wash away the mines, causing them to surface in areas where they may pose a potential risk.

Ex-minister Harbans Singh dies

the bereaved family and later joined mourners at his cremation.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah also expressed grief over Singh's demise.

Singh, who was appointed as political advisor to the NC president in December last year, is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters.

Pak army's training aircraft crashes, 2 pilots killed

added.

In June, an Mi-17 helicopter of the Pakistan Army Avia- tion had crashed near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, killing all personnel on board.

Ladakh records growth in tourist arrivals

peal as a destination for cultural experiences, adven- ture tourism, sporting events, and its unique natural heritage, with three months still remaining in the current year.

LG Vinai Kumar Saxenaattributed this massive growth to improved connectivity and promoting events like Ladakh Bike Week, Ladakh Marathon, Ladakh Festi- vals, and recent pioneering initiatives like the world's highest-altitude Lilium flower fields and the introduction of India's first high-altitude wildlife safari, which have added to the people's growing charm for Ladakh.

The growth is equally evident in the comparison of the corresponding nine-month periods. Ladakh re- ceived 2,78,599 tourists between January and Septem- ber 2025, while the number rose to 4,60,667 during the same period in 2026, registering a substantial 65.38 pc increase.

Tourist arrivals have risen across both domestic and foreign segments. During the first nine months of 2026, Ladakh welcomed 4,20,927 domestic tourists and 39,740 foreign tourists, compared to 3,03,838 domestic

and 32,034 foreign tourists during the corresponding period in 2025. This represents growth of approxi- mately 38.54 pc in domestic tourist arrivals and 24.06 pc in foreign tourist arrivals.

In the month of September 2026, domestic tourist ar- rivals rose from 29,888 to 49,188, while foreign tourist arrivals increased from 4,722 to 6,394 during the month.

The LG emphasised the importance of promoting festi- vials and events to extend tourism beyond the tradi- tional peak summer season. "Our aim is to encourage travel during shoulder and off-season periods, diversify- ing the tourism economy and creating more sustained livelihood opportunities for local residents. The admin- istration's focus is not limited to increasing visitor num- bers, but also on ensuring that tourism growth trans- lates into tangible benefits for local communities," he said.

The growth in tourist footfall has been supported by the Administration's efforts to expand Ladakh's tourism calendar through festivals, sporting events, and cultural programmes. Events such as the Ladakh Festival, Ladakh Marathon, Ladakh Bike Week, and Ladakh Zan- skar Festival have added to the region's appeal, attract- ing visitors interested in its distinctive culture, tradi- tions, landscapes, and adventure tourism experiences.

Apex Courtdoors open to everyone, says CJI Kant

ready sub judge.

A reasoned response explaining the grounds for the rejec- tion had been sent to the opposition leaders via email, peo- ple aware of the development said.

According to sources, the response emphasised that the is- sues raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and the delegation would be more appropriately addressed through judicial proceedings rather than by submitting a memorandum through the ad- ministrative route.

The Congress and other opposition are to march to the Supreme Court on Monday as part of their continuing protest against the Election Commission. The INDIA bloc has been demanding accountability from the poll body over alleged irregularities in the electoral process.

High Security is in place in Central Delhi; security has been tightened with barricades at multiple locations, and en- try and exit at certain metro stations will remain closed till 4:00 PM on October 12, 2026, for security reasons.

Security personnel have been deployed at Barakhamba Road, near Mandi House. RAF (Rapid Action Force) and CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) personnel are also deployed along with Delhi Police personnel.

Vessels with 22 Indians attacked in Hormuz

tanker, was struck by an unknown projectile, resulting in a fire onboard. All 11 Indian seafarers onboard MT VALTHERA are reported to be safe," it said.

The MEA said the Embassy of India in Muscat is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Omani authorities and respective ship management companies for the rescue of missing Indians and to provide all possible assistance to the Indian crew.

"The safety and security of Indian seafarers remain a pri- ority for the Government of India. The recurring attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply concerning and risk further aggravating an already volatile situation," the MEA said in a statement.

India reiterated the need for immediate de-escalation and a resolution to the ongoing conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

"Attacks on commercial vessels, seafarers and civilian infrastructure must cease. Freedom of navigation and the safe, unimpeded flow of maritime commerce through inter- national waterways, in accordance with international law, must be upheld," the MEA said.

Prez appoints Guvs in 6 states, Arlekar gets Tamil Nadu

was moved to West Bengal. During this period, he ad- ministered the oath of office to Chief Minister C Joseph Vi- jay.

A former Goa Assembly Speaker, Arlekar has also served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Bihar.

Mathur succeeds him in Kerala. A veteran BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan, Mathur took charge as Sikkim Governor in July 2024.

Ram, a former Lok Sabha MP from Palamu, replaces Hari Babu Kambhampati in Odisha. Kambhampati had taken charge in January 2025.

Yadav, a former BJP MP from Mahendragarh and for- mer member of the National Commission for Backward Classes, succeeds Thaaarchand Gehlot in Karnataka.

She will be the state's second woman Governor after VS Ramadevi, who held office from 1999 to 2002.

Oppn plea in SC seeks EC files, audit of voter deletions

the appointment of an independent committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to audit deletions and modifications in electoral-roll databases, including ECINET and ERONET.

The petitioners have also sought an interim stay on the ongoing SIR pending a final decision on the matter and asked the court to direct the ECI to ensure that every de- cision concerning the SIR is formally recorded in accor- dance with the 2023 Act.

Besides Rahul Gandhi, the petition has been filed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Trinamool Con- gress MP Saugata Roy, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, CPI leader D Raja, JMM MP Mahua Majhi, CPM general secretary M.A. Baby and Indian Union Muslim League leader E.T. Mohammed Basheer.

The raging protests over "vote chori" charge reached the Supreme Court's doorstep on Monday as Opposition MPs and leaders, joined by activists and civil society members, undertook a "March for Democracy" on a heavily barricaded route and filed a joint petition against SIR and alleged poll irregularities, in a show of strength in the national capital.

NIA attaches property used to harbour terrorists

tached under section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Pre- vention) Act, 1967, after obtaining prior approval from the director general of NIA.

The agency said investigationinto the 2026 case had es- tablished a direct link between the property and the ter- rorist conspiracy.

It said the case, originally registered on March 31, 2026 at Zakoora Police Station in Srinagar, was subsequently taken over and re-registered by NIA.

The agency said the investigation exposed a network of lo- cal OGWs working in coordination with Pakistan-based LeT handlers to facilitate infiltration, movement, shelter and logistical support of Pakistani terrorists for carrying out attacks against the government establishments, security forces and civilians.

A search conducted on April 6, 2026 in the house of Mir at Danihama, Hazratbal, had led to the detection of LeT's two Pakistani terrorists - Abu Huraira and Khubaib.

"An explosive-like substance, digital devices and other incriminating material were also recovered and seized from the premises. The investigation further revealed that the accused had knowingly provided his residential premises as a safe haven for the terrorists and had allowed the prop- erty to be used for facilitating their activities," NIA said.

The investigation is continuing to identify and expose the complete terror-support network, including other OGWs, facilitators and persons linked to the Pakistan- based handlers, the anti-terror agency added.

Kavinder unveils 100-day youth development roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat'

pare 100-day roadmaps focusing on youth empower- ment, innovation, adoption of best practices and sharing of successful initiatives.

In his address, the governor said that the roadmap re- flected the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat 2047, with youth empowerment, skill devel- opment and entrepreneurship serving as key drivers of na- tional progress.

He emphasised that the potential of Himachal Pradesh's youth must be harnessed by connecting academic learn- ing with practical skills and emerging economic opportuni- ties.

He said the state's strengths in horticulture, forestry and allied sectors offered immense opportunities for young people to become entrepreneurs, generate employment and strengthen the rural economy.

He expressed confidence that the initiative would en- courage innovation, promote self-reliance and enable youth to transform their knowledge into productive ven- tures.

Stressing that there was a dire need to transform the mindset of the youth from job seekers into job providers, he stated that the 100-day roadmap serves as an effective blueprint to bridge the gap between academic education and real-world market demands.

By equipping students with practical skills, fostering in- novation, and opening avenues for self-reliance in key sec- tors like horticulture and forestry, the roadmap will enable the state's youth to become active leaders in economic growth and key contributors to a developed India.

The roadmap envisages hands-on training in orchard management, grafting, nursery production, protected cul- tivation, mushroom farming, beekeeping, tissue culture, soil testing, agroforestry and value addition.

It also focuses on experiential learning, Rural Agricul- tural Work Experience (RAWEx), business planning, market linkages and industry internships to enhance employabil- ity and entrepreneurial capabilities. Special emphasis will be laid on rural youth, women, tribal communities, Self- Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

The governor appreciated Vice Chancellor (Prof) Har- minder Singh Baweja and the university team for preparing the roadmap. He expressed confidence that its effective implementation would create new opportunities for youth, strengthen rural livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development.

Thanking the governor for his guidance, ProfBaweja said that a dedicated coordinating team would oversee the im- plementation of the roadmap through time-bound execu- tion, regular monitoring and outcome-oriented interventions.

He said the university was committed to translating the initiative into tangible benefits for youth and farming com- munities across Himachal Pradesh.

Lady follower held with heroin

said.

Meanwhile, two persons were arrested by police in In- dustrial Estate area of Digiana. They were identified as Vansh Sharma of Palli, Bari Brahmana, and Yogeshwar Singh of Palli Tanda.

Officials said one pistol, a pocket digital weighing ma- chine and approximately 100 grams of heroin were recov- ered from Vansh, while one country-made pistoland ap- proximately 13 grams of heroin were recovered from Yogeshwar.

Cases in this connection were registered at the concerned police stations.

HC turns down ED plea to order status quo on attached properties

The law officer emphasised that in the present case, a magisterial court has already taken cognisance of the scheduled offence, which was initiated on a complaint by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

On December 22, 2025, the high court had issued notice to the Gandhis and others on the main petition as well as on the ED's application seeking a stay on the December 16 trial court order, which held that cognisance of the agency's complaint in the case was "impermissible in law" as it was not founded on an FIR.

Besides the Gandhis, the high court also issued notices to Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Young Indian, Dotex Mer- chandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari on the ED's plea.

The ED, in its plea in the high court, claimed that the trial court order has in effect given a hall pass to a category of moneylaunderers only on the ground that the scheduled offence is reported by a private individual by way of a complaint to a magistrate.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have called the ED's plea a "abuse of process of law" and said that the trial court's order is "perfectly legal and sound in law and does not suffer from any jurisdictional error, perversity, irreg- ularity or illegality".

The ED has accused Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, as well as late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fer- nandes, along with Dubey, Pitroda, and a private com- pany, Young Indian, of conspiracy and money launder- ing.

It has been alleged that they acquired properties worth approximately Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the Associ- ated Journals Limited (AJL), which published the Na- tional Herald newspaper.

It also alleged that the Gandhis held 76 per cent shares in Young Indian, which "fraudulently" usurped the as- sets of AJL in exchange for a Rs 90 crore loan.

The matter will be heard next in November.