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Terrorism has no justification: India tells UN Security Council

said. "The safety and security of seafarers remains a priority for the Government of India, and these recurring attacks risk further aggravation of a very volatile situation," he added.

The ambassador told the council that recent attacks on commercial shipping, such as the India-flagged MV DP World Cauvery this week, MT Petro Dolphin and MT Valthera last week, and MT On Peace and MT Kazimah III the week before, are deeply concerning.

"All attacks on commercial shipping and merchant mariners are legally and morally indefensible. Several of these ships have Indian seafarers, and their safety and security is our direct responsibility," the Indian envoy said, as he thanked the Omani and UAE authorities for valuable support in ensuring the safety of Indian seafarers in these attacks.

Amid rising attacks on commercial ships and seafarers, India and Liberia last month launched a 'Group of Friends on Safety and Security of Shipping and Seafarers' on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's high-level week.

Parvathaneni noted that 23 member states joined India and Liberia in the launch and stand ready to support further coordination to prevent recurring attacks and safeguard the rights of seafarers.

With nearly two million seafarers operating the world's merchant fleet and maritime shipping accounting for four-fifths of global trade, Parvathaneni said the 'Group of Friends' is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented platform, aimed at deepening cooperation and fostering practical cooperation.

Talking about the BRICS Leaders' Summit hosted in New Delhi last month, the ambassador recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed establishing a 'Seafarers Emergency Support Network' which could connect maritime authorities and Embassies of the countries concerned, and facilitate distress alerts, medical assistance, communication with families, and support for evacuation, when needed.

On Yemen, India reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country and rejected any interference in its internal affairs.

"We strongly condemn attacks on maritime navigation and on the seafarers, many of whom are Indian citizens. The protection of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Southern Red Sea is a shared international responsibility and is a global interest," Parvathaneni said.

India also underlined that the global focus on the crisis impacting merchant shipping and the Strait of Hormuz must not divert the world's attention away from the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

"India will continue to stand for humanitarian relief, dialogue and diplomacy and a negotiated Two-State Solution. The international community must act in unison to prevent any further loss of civilian lives and destruction of civilian infrastructure," he said, emphasising that India strongly believes that a durable, lasting and sustained peace requires a two-state solution, support for which is growing internationally.

"India is also a top emerging donor of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with a cumulative contribution of more than 52 million dollars, and with operational flexibility for the UN Agency to utilise Delhi's contributions," he said.

On the situation in Lebanon, India said UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers serve the cause of international peace and security and pursue UN Security Council mandates and therefore must never become targets. India has strongly condemned all attacks on UNIFIL peacekeepers, asserting that their safety and security remain a high priority.

"The sanctity and inviolability of UN premises must be fully respected. We reiterate the importance of preparing for a post-UNIFIL scenario and supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces in this regard," he said.

Omar calls CEP decisive step towards green growth

port long-term infrastructure development while reducing dependence on recurring government subsidies.

A key objective of the policy is to achieve over 90 per cent urban material recovery through improved source segregation, greater diversion of waste from landfills and the development of sustainable green livelihoods. It also seeks to create opportunities for self-help groups, youth and waste workers by integrating resource recovery into local economic activity.

With its focus on decentralised solutions, regional specialisation and resource efficiency, the Jammu & Kashmir Circular Economy Policy, 2026, provides a long-term framework for strengthening environmental sustainability while supporting more resilient urban and rural development across J&K.

Ladakh gets 8th distt, 5 new tehsils

districts-Changthang, Drass, Nubra, Sham and Zaskar. With this, the number of districts in Ladakh has gone up to 8.

Carved out of the existing Kargil district, the newly created Sankoo district is one of the most populous regions in Ladakh and will comprise the tehsils of GM Pore, TSG and Taisuru. The decision fulfills a long-standing aspiration of the people of the region and will facilitate better administrative coordination, improve access to government services and strengthen public participation in governance.

Saxena, who was in Sankoo today, later attended a massive gathering to celebrate the creation of the new Sankoo district. A large number of people gathered amid

joyful celebrations at Sankoo and expressed gratitude to the Central Government and the Lieutenant Governor for fulfilling their long-standing demand for a separate district.

He said the decision was in line with the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

"The creation of Sankoo district fulfills a long-standing aspiration of the people of the area and marks another important step towards bringing administration closer to citizens. Our objective is to ensure that people in every part of Ladakh can access government services more easily and that the benefits of development reach every village and household. I express my sincere gratitude to Modi and Shah for their continued support towards the development of Ladakh," he said.

The LG also assured the gathering that the administrative requirements arising from the creation of the new district would be addressed at the earliest and that necessary appointments would be made soon to facilitate its effective functioning.

In another significant decision aimed at further decentralising administration, he announced the creation of five new tehsils across Ladakh. These include:Aryan Valley (Sham district): Comprising Dha-Beema, Hanu, Garkone and Darchiks.

Sodh (Kargil district): Comprising Yourbaltak, Akchamal, Apatee, Tumail, Barchey, Silmoo, Lalung and Chulichan.

Phey (Zaskar district): Comprising Rangdum, Phey, Emala-Shagan, Hamiling, Abran, Akshow, Atting, Rantaksha and Tungri.

Thasgam (Drass district): Comprising Thasgam, Jasgund, Kharboo and Shimsha.

Hemya (Changthang district): Comprising Tukla, Liktsé, Tarchit, Kungyam, Teri and Hemya.

Earlier, on July 12, the LG had announced the creation of 17 new tehsils as part of the broader administrative reorganisation of Ladakh. With the addition of the five new tehsils announced today, the total number of tehsils in the Union Territory has increased to 37.

Sinha said the ongoing reorganisation aims to operationalise the newly created districts, improve administrative efficiency, and ensure citizens can access government services closer to home.

By reducing the distance between people and administrative institutions, the initiative, he said, seeks to make governance more responsive, inclusive, and citizen-centric.

Employees warned against inappropriate language

leagues, seniors, subordinates, and the public. The administration explicitly directed staff to avoid derogatory, threatening, or inappropriate language, while instructing all administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners, and heads of departments to ensure these conduct guidelines were strictly followed at every level.

ACB books mining officials

Sangra, District Mining Officer, Reasi; Swaran Singh Rathore; and other private persons.

The case was registered under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended, and other applicable laws against the accused persons.

During investigation, it became known that certain private mining operators, including stone crusher operators, were involved in extraction of minor minerals in excess of permissible limits and continued mining operations beyond the validity of their leases.

Allegations also surfaced regarding charging of rates in excess of the government-notified rates, manipulation and misuse of e-challans, and operation of stone crusher units beyond the validity of requisite Consent to Operate (CTO), officials said.

The enquiry further revealed the alleged involvement of concerned public servants in facilitating such activities in connivance with private operators, the officials added.

The precise role of each accused person, the extent of alleged illegal extraction, transportation and overcharging, and the resultant loss, caused to the government exchequer were being investigated, officials said.

The ACB also initiated searches at the residential and commercial premises of the accused persons in connection with the case.

Strike over woman officer's 'humiliation'; probe ordered

members to stand united in solidarity, asserting that an alleged attack on the dignity of one officer was a matter of concern for the entire fraternity.

The protest follows an alleged incident during an official meeting on October 14, in which a woman JKAS officer was allegedly humiliated by a senior IAS officer.

Meanwhile, the government ordered an in-depth inquiry into alleged misconduct by IAS officer Kumar Rajeev Ranjan with a female JKAS officer earlier this week.

A GAD order said 2004-batch IAS officer and housing & urban development department secretary Mandeep Kaur was appointed as the inquiry officer.

She was asked to submit her report within 15 days from the issuance of the order, the order said.

GAD additional secretaryAmit Vermani was appointed as the presenting officer in the matter, according to the order.

Ranjan, secretary, labour& employment department, courted controversy after he allegedly used abusive language against assistant director (employment), Ganderbal, Beenish Wani, over the role of National Rural Livelihood Mission during a review meeting earlier this week.

Videos of the heated argument between the two officers surfaced on social media, drawing strong condemnation

from the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) fraternity.

Jitendra pitches for 'Viksit Punjab'

ble-engine government" to become a full participant in India's development journey, emphasising the need for development-oriented governance, accountability and effective action against the drug menace, corruption and other challenges confronting the state.

The meeting, held under the leadership of Punjab BJP President Kewal Singh Dhillon, was part of the party's preparations for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, with a roadmap envisaged for all 117 assembly constituencies.

Senior BJP leaders present included Punjab BJP in-charge Satish Poonia, co-in-charges Varinder Sachdeva and Alka Gurjar, and senior party functionary Tarun Chugh, among other leaders.

Reflecting on the PM's 25 years of public leadership, DrSingh described the milestone as a significant moment in India's political and governance journey.

Referring to the PM's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and his subsequent years at the helm of the Union Government, he said stable leadership had contributed to a change in India's global standing, national confidence and development priorities.

Cong, allies seeking B'desh-like regime change: Rajnath

toral reforms or issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

His remarks come amid massive protests in the national capital by opposition parties and civil society groups demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR process.

Opposition leaders have alleged that the exercise lacks transparency and could exclude eligible voters.

Referring to the Supreme Court's observations on Thursday, Singh said Gandhi and his allies need to understand that democracy does not permit attempts to create anarchy, undermine constitutional institutions or obstruct India's development.

"Respecting the law is also essential to maintaining law and order. India's democratic institutions cannot be sacrificed at the altar of political self-interest," he said.

Singh added that falsehoods, anger, attempts to malign institutions and political opportunism could not obstruct India's development.

He advised Gandhi to respect the people's mandate and introspect on his political role instead of pursuing what he called "politics of destruction" in the name of protecting democracy.

Terrorist hideout busted, IED recovered

The hideout was also busted by the forces.Search operations in the area were underway when reports last came in, the officials added.

Missing SPO found dead in Ktwr woods

While police had registered a case in this connection, the cause of his death and the circumstances under which he lost his life were yet to be ascertained, officials said.

Battle lines drawn between 'Dimagi Naxals', patriotic Indians: Rijiju

one in India, the BJP hit back saying "their sole intention is to stage a coup in the country".

In a video message, Bora, who has emerged as one of the faces of the ongoing protests against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) said, "...we know that the Gen Z movement we are seeing in this country first started in Bangladesh and congratulations to you for showing us the way."

Bora said the "fight for democratic and voter rights" in Bangladesh, which led to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, was India's cause now.

The BJP has also warned of an attempt to replicate Bangladesh's 2024 protests, which forced PM Sheikh Hasina out of power.

The BJP's concerns have been triggered by Bora's praise for Bangladesh's anti-Sheikh Hasina protests and senior advocate Prashant Bhusan's public endorsement of "regime change".

The ruling party has linked these statements to Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition-backed protests demanding the removal of Gyanesh Kumar. It all began as an agitation over SIR and Gyanesh Kumar. Now, there's a raging political battle. Are the protesters defending India's democracy as they claim, or are they seeking to destabilise an elected government, as the BJP is claiming?

MEA condemns US lawmaker's comments on revision of electoral rolls

X, she alleged that the exercise resembled the Trump administration's attempts to undermine voting rights in the US.

She said protecting democracies worldwide was essential and that people in India, like those in the US, deserved free and fair elections.

India's response followed a statement by its ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who on Thursday termed Jayapal's remarks on India's electoral and political processes "unacceptable interference in India's internal affairs".

Her comments came amid protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and alleged poll irregularities.

According to Election Commission data, around 7.2

crore names were deleted from draft electoral rolls during the first two phases of the SIR, conducted across 13 states and Union Territories. In the ongoing third phase, draft rolls published in 18 states and Union Territories recorded 6.16 crore deletions.

The Commission has said voters whose names were inadvertently omitted could seek inclusion through the claims and objections process and subsequently by submitting Form 6.

2.53 lakh pay obeisance at Mata Vaishnodevi shrine in 6 days

age. The shrine board has made special provisions for differently abled devotees, including free pony and battery-car services, priority darshan and dedicated help desks.

Arrangements for accommodation, drinking water, sanitation, medical assistance, registration, transportation and crowd management have also been put in place. Medical teams and emergency response personnel have been deployed at key locations along the pilgrimage route.

The Bhawan, Atka and adjoining areas have been adorned with flowers, decorative gates and pandals. Devotional bhajans and bhaints are being performed during the morning and evening Atka Aarti.

Upgradation of ITIs in J&K, Maharashtra, Odisha

Development and Entrepreneurship.

With the latest approvals, cumulative investment cleared under the scheme has reached Rs 3,687 crore.

The five approved plans cover ITI clusters in Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra, Kataka in Odisha, and Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. Each cluster comprises one hub ITI and four associated institutes.

"The approvals given by the National Steering Committee are an important step in implementing PM-SETU. They will help strengthen ITIs, improve training and increase industry participation," said Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Among the approved projects, Pune received Rs 241 crore in partnership with BVG India, while Odisha's Kataka cluster received Rs 240.50 crore in partnership with Tata Steel Foundation.

The Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar cluster was approved for Rs 238.01 crore with Belrise Industries, while the Jammu and Srinagar clusters received Rs 240 crore and Rs 235.41 crore, respectively, in partnership with Eagle Infra India and Inderdeep Infra India.

The projects will focus on upgrading infrastructure, introducing industry-aligned courses, improving trainer capacity and strengthening industry participation to bridge gaps between vocational training and employers' skill requirements.

Mukherjee also urged clusters to pursue ISO certification and include at least one WorldSkills-aligned trade or competency area in their implementation plans.

The committee also reviewed the Training of Trainers programme, under which 3,744 trainers had been trained through National Skill Training Institutes as of October 2026.

Kavinder calls for truthful, responsible, people-centric journalism

velopments had created new opportunities for public communication, they had also brought serious challenges, including misinformation, unverified reports, manipulated videos and AI-generated fake content that could undermine public trust and social harmony, he added.

He said in the race to breaking news, reaching people with accurate information was far more important than being the first to report an event. The media, he added, should prioritise truth over sensationalism, solutions over negativity, and dialogue over divisive narratives.

He said that responsible journalism did not mean concealing problems or avoiding criticism. Rather, it required reporting issues with factual accuracy, balance and an unwavering commitment to public interest, he added.

Referring to contemporary concerns, he said that rising substance abuse among youth, the safety of women & children, environmental protection, cybercrime, misleading content on digital platforms and the preservation of social harmony were the issues in which media could play a particularly significant role.

He said that journalism had a responsibility to highlight public grievances, promote accountability in administration and give a voice to people whose concerns often remained unheard on larger platforms.

"While free journalism is the strength of democracy, responsible journalism provides wisdom to that strength," he said, emphasising that both were essential for a vibrant democratic system.

"The vision of Viksit Bharat will be meaningful only when the benefits of development reachthe last person in society and citizens become more aware of their duties &responsibilities," he said.

"Media can make a valuable contribution by disseminating accurate information about government schemes and public welfare initiatives while also responsibly highlighting questions concerning their implementation. Such an approach will strengthen public awareness, accountability and participatory governance," he added.

On the occasion, the governor honoured individuals who had made outstanding contributions in various fields, recognising their achievements and service to society.

Earlier, News 09 Managing Director Ajay Thakur welcomed the governor and highlighted the significance of the programme.

DC Srinagar inspects fencing, upgradation work on Budshah Bridge aimed at enhancing public safety

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday conducted a site inspection of the fencing and allied upgradation works along both sides of Budshah Bridge, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety, strengthening preventive measures to address negligent falls, suicide incidents and improving the overall aesthetic appearance of the bridge over River Jhelum.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the major components of the upgradation works, which include installation of

new fencing on both sides of the bridge, strengthened protection railing system, lighting provisions.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that public safety remains a top priority of the District Administration and said that fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety measure in view of concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, besides addressing public demand for enhanced safety measures. He added that the initiative is expected to enhance the appearance of Budshah Bridge, an important urban landmark in Srinagar,

while ensuring a safer and more durable facility for the public.

The DC said that the upgradation works were executed to strike a balance between improved public safety, structural durability and aesthetic enhancement, ensuring that the fencing complements the bridge's surroundings without compromising the scenic charm of the river.

The DC further stated that the District Administration Srinagar has already undertaken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the River Jhelum, in-

cluding New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safakadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District. These measures are aimed at creating a safer environment for pedestrians and commuters through the installation of appropriate safety safeguards and strengthening preventive infrastructure. He also stated that fencing work along Noor Jehan bridge at Qamarwari is also being taken up and will be completed soon.

During the visit, the DC was informed that the major components of the work include installation of

structural steel posts finished with stainless steel sheets to provide a durable and aesthetically pleasing fencing system, along with stainless steel railings at different levels to ensure proper edge protection and improved safety for pedestrians.

The project also includes provision and installation of high-tensile, low-relaxation, seven-wire prestressing steel strands as per the approved structural arrangement, to support the railing and fencing system. A lighting system/illumination along the railings and fencing on both sides of the bridge is also part of the

project aimed at improving visibility during night hours while enhancing the overall visual appeal of the bridge.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer KPDCI, Tasaduq Nabi, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah and other concerned.