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India rejects OIC's J&K resolution, says bloc being misused by Pak

istan's "appalling record" on the persecution of minorities and sectarian violence, as well as governance failures and political instability.

"Other fabricated and hostile references against India in the OIC resolutions, including insinuations related to Islamophobia, are nothing but a desperate attempt by Pakistan to divert international attention from its own appalling record of minority persecution and sectarian violence, apart from governance failure and political instability," the MEA said.

"The OIC's repeated endorsement of patently malicious propaganda and narratives peddled by Pakistan raises serious questions about its credibility and integrity. We hope its members would do better and reform this organisation," it added.

Netanyahu warns of potentially hostile future US President

ter Narendra Modi to argue that Israel is not isolated globally and to demonstrate his government's diplomatic successes.

Countering issues of delegitimation and alliances amid a prolonged war, Netanyahu, in May this year, in a much-publicised statement, said that his country enjoys a "unique relationship" with "huge power" India where there is "crazy love" for Israel.

Many analysts in Israel feel that the growing apathy among Democrats in the US results from poor choices Netanyahu made over the years.

His relations with Democratic Party-led Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden were often tense, which he presented to his supporters as the courage of a strong leader willing to stand up against American Presidents to safeguard Israel's interests, the analysts believe.

This has been a cornerstone of Netanyahu's election campaigns and a recipe for electoral success, they said. He is Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.

Gadi Eisenkot, the main challenger to the Israeli Prime Minister in the upcoming polls, sharply criticised the presentation, describing it as an empty political exercise rather than a serious national security strategy.

"Nine days before the election and three years after the gravest failure and disaster in Israel's history, with every war front still open, Netanyahu decided to present his 'security doctrine' to the public," Eisenkot said.

"Two hollow pages, full of slogans that have nothing whatsoever to do with a security doctrine, reveal more than anything the strategic vacuum Netanyahu has left the State of Israel in and his disregard for the security of Israeli citizens," he asserted.

Eisenkot, a former Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Forces, accused Netanyahu of attempting to manipulate public opinion and spread fear ahead of the election.

"This is Netanyahu's method: manipulating perceptions, frightening people and trying to divert attention from the parade of lies and racism surrounding his campaign tonight," he said.

Sinha, Omar greet people on Vijayadashmi

country as Dussehra and Durga Puja, symbolises the triumph of Good over Evil, Truth over Untruth and Dharma over Adharma. The life of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram exemplifies these timeless virtues and inspires us to lead a virtuous life," he said.

"May this Vijayadashmi, Dussehra and Durga Puja bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all," he added.

In his message, the chief minister said these festivals embody the timeless values of truth, righteousness and the triumph of good over evil.

He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the people and further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar called upon people to draw inspiration from the spirit of these festivals and reaffirm their commitment to mutual respect, unity and peaceful coexistence.

ACB files chargesheet against postal assistant

office, Bandipora, for demanding illegal gratification- for the release of subsidy component in favour of complainant who had availed financial assistance from KVIC, Pampore, for the activities of his business unit situated at Bandipora, and in this connection, a pending amount of Rs 1,75,000as subsidy was due to him, subject to physical verification with geo tagging to be conducted by the accused public servant, upon which a discreet verification was conducted, which resulted in the registration of a formal case at ACB police station, Baramulla,under section 7 of PC Act 1988.

During investigation, the accused was caught red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe money of Rs 6,500from the complainant. He was arrested and taken into custody.

Finally, the investigation of the case was closed as proved and the necessary sanction for launching prosecution against the accused was accorded by competent authority after due consideration of material placed on file against him.

Accordingly, the chargesheet of the case was presented before the court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, against the accused for trial and judicial determination, officials added.

Rlys offers discounted round-trip parcel fare

JPP-RCS routes across the country for one year on a pilot basis, officials said.

"In a historic decision to make parcel and cargo transportation more affordable, accessible and industry-friendly across the Jammu division and the entire region, the Railway Board has taken a landmark initiative," officials said, adding that the facility had been introduced through a freight marketing circular issued by the board.

The initiative is expected to benefit Kashmir's fruit growers and traders during the ongoing apple season by reducing logistics costs and facilitating economical transportation to major markets, including Jammu, Delhi and Mumbai.

The Jammu division of Northern Railway has urged traders, industry associations and logistics operators to avail themselves of the facility.

Saxena launches 'Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva'

emergencies in every situation - whether a road accident, a tourist's medical need, any high-altitude emergency, or any expecting mother requiring transportation to the hospital.

Under the service, every village has been mapped to a designated ambulance and driver, with each ambulance linked to its nearest health centre. The ambulances are located, on average, approximately 13 km from the villages they serve.

The objective is to ensure that anyone facing a medical emergency in any remote part of Ladakh receives immediate assistance at their doorstep and is able to reach a healthcare facility in time.

Taking a step further towards maternal healthcare, the health workers have gone from village to village to collect information about expecting mothers. Their expected delivery date has been recorded, and each woman has been linked to the ambulance and driver assigned to the

village nearest to her.

More than 1,100 pregnant women across Ladakh have already been included in the centralised database. This advance planning will help health workers know when a woman's expected delivery date is approaching, where she lives, and which ambulance is available to transport her to the hospital. The system is intended to facilitate timely arrangements and reduce the risk of delays, particularly in remote settlements and during harsh winter conditions, when arranging transport at short notice can be especially difficult.

Describing the launch of "Sanjeevni Sewa" as a significant milestone and a new lifeline for the people of Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor said it is the Administration's commitment that no citizen will be left alone in a difficult situation or during a medical emergency.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG said, "A health system is judged not merely by its buildings, but by how quickly it reaches a mother in labour, an accident victim or a critically ill patient in a remote village. Through Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva, we are ensuring that medical assistance reaches people when they need it most. Special attention is being given to pregnant women and critically ill patients. Our aim is simple - no person in Ladakh should be denied timely medical care because of distance or the inability to find transport."

The district-wise deployment of the 73 ambulances is as follows: Leh - 18; Kargil - 17; Changthang - 12; Sham - 9; Nubra - 9; Zaskar - 4; and Drass - 4.

The ambulance service will also support patients suffering from cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, stroke and serious lung diseases. Many of these patients require repeated hospital visits for treatment, and arranging transport can place considerable physical, emotional and financial pressure on them and their families.

Rajnath meets Tajik counterpart, discusses ways to strengthen ties

Singh wrote, "Had a productive discussion with the Defence Minister of Tajikistan in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of Government Meeting. We exchanged views on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation in areas of mutual interest with emphasis on capacity building and training."

According to the Ministry of Defence, the gathering will focus on strengthening collaboration in culture, connectivity, economy, innovation, investment and people-to-people ties, alongside reviewing progress in the bloc's financial and institutional functioning.

Highlighting New Delhi's active engagement across various mechanisms, the ministry noted India's ongoing contributions through initiatives in start-ups, digital public infrastructure and cultural exchanges, offering an avenue to advance practical, mutually beneficial cooperation among member states.

Cabinet expansion after LG's return: Farooq

government," he told reporters in Budgam district. The remarks came amid speculation over a long-awaited expansion of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Council of Ministers, with the NC-led government completing two years in office on October 16.

The government, which took office in October 2024, is yet to undertake a cabinet reshuffle, and the proposed expansion has remained a subject of political discussion.

Earlier, on October 7, Omar Abdullah had said that a decision on expanding his Council of Ministers was likely be taken after consultations with NC presidentFarooq Abdullah.

Seeking development in all domains, air, sea to AI: VCNS Kochhar

ent stages of procurement process."

On a query related to Landing Platform Docks, he said, "I'm glad to share with you that the RFP has just been issued for four LPDs, last week to the shortlisted shipyards. And similarly for the next-generation frigate, the RFP has been issued a couple of weeks before, and responses are awaited," he said.

The Navy will host the fifth edition of its flagship seminar at the Manekshaw Centre here on October 26 and 27.

"Our collective objective remains consistent, that is to bring India's technological talent and capability closer to the operational needs of the Navy, and translating indigenous innovation into practical capability at sea," Vice Admiral Kochhar said.

Asked about the ongoing West Asia situation and the role of the Navy in protecting maritime interests amid this evolving conflict, he said, "Ongoing crises have kept us engaged, in terms of both thinking and deployment."

He also referred to the Navy's Operation Urja Suraksha, which has helped in safely escorting a large number of ships to Indian shores, amid attacks on critical sea lanes.

On the ongoing situation in West Asia and if the matter will come up for discussion during Swavlamban, the VCNS said every time a situation emerges, "we do discuss, and I can share with you that it is not only this Naval Commanders' Conference), in many other forums, these challenges, and our responses for such situations are discussed."

On Indian Navy's direct role amid the West Asia situation, he said, "Our maritime interests lie far beyond our boundaries. And, therefore, it is the job of the Indian Navy to secure and protect our maritime interests".

And, these crises have kept the "Navy engaged" in terms of both thinking as well as deployment.

The VCNS said conflicts alone do not shape the future of the navy and underscored the importance of technology for the force.

"Any force requires well-balanced, all-rounded development. Going just in one direction, I feel, will not be appropriate. So, as far as the Indian Navy is concerned, we are looking for development in all domains, whether it is air, sea, underwater, cyber, space, asymmetric and the new technologies. In keeping with this, we will further augment our platform-centric and capability-centric Navy, and for that, we have made a maritime capability perspective plan," he asserted.

New technologies such as AI, cognitive and deception systems, niche technologies, advanced propulsion systems, ISR technologies, drone and counter-drone systems, and also quantum technology, need to be inducted into the Navy, "so that our naval force become an all-rounded in multi-dimensional manner network force which endows us with multi-domain capabilities," he said.

The very first edition in 2022 saw around 800 participants, and Swavlamban has grown over the last four years, attracting nearly 3,000 participants last year.

"Since its inception, Acceptance of Necessity has been accorded for projects worth more than ₹3,500 cr, and contracts for nearly, or rather more than ₹1,900 cr have been concluded. These figures reflect the growing interest and the participation of the Indian industry in addressing the defence requirements. They also indicate the scale of opportunity available to the innovators," he said.

The VCNS said scale, sophistication, speed, and spiral development are the Navy's "guiding mantras" and capture the direction in which it wants to move in terms of technology absorption with the help of initiatives such as Swavlamban.

For the Indian Navy, keeping pace with these changes is not simply about adopting new technologies, it is "also ensuring how we can develop, integrate and employ the capabil-

ities needed to meet our operational requirements. And, all this has to be done with considerable speed and swiftness".

On propulsion system development, he said, the Navy has already started programmes under the 'Make' scheme for developing an indigenous diesel engine.

To Navy's partners in the industry and academia, he said, "Our message is clear bring forward disruptive solutions grounded in operational understanding, supported by sound engineering, and a commitment to reliable delivery."

US 'very close' to finalising trade deal with India: Rubio

alternative sources.

"That's not an excuse, but all of that has to be balanced when you make foreign policy. The foreign policy of the US, of course, takes into account what's happening with the war between Russia and Ukraine, but it is not solely dominated by that," Rubio said.

"It has to take into account a variety of other factors, including our bilateral relationships with other countries and what they realistically are capable of being able to do in terms of their own energy supplies," he said.

Jaishankar is understood to have conveyed to Rubio that oil refineries in India were configured largely for handling medium sour crude, which is supplied by Middle East countries and Russia.

He also told Rubio that Venezuela supplies heavier-grade crude and the US has light-grade crude, which would require blending before being used by refineries in India.

With oil supplies from Middle East countries hit due to the Iran war, India has to depend on Russian crude to keep its economy running.

Labourer killed, 4 injured in landslide

The dead was identified as Mohammad Bashirof Danna Gagrjan village. The injured labourers were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, officials said.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

Kavinder calls for evidence-based study of J&K history

tober 26, 1947, during a grave crisis marked a defining moment in the region's history. The Maharaja's role & decisions must be understood in their proper historical context, free from selective interpretations," he said while speaking at the book release function of 'The Betrayal of Kashmir: Key Issues', authored by Brig (ret'd) Dhiman here.

Referring to the frequent controversies surrounding the J&K history, the governor said the region's past had often been subjected to conflicting narratives, selective accounts and, at times, distorted presentation of facts.

He expressed concern that historical truths, including the role of Maharaja Hari Singh, had sometimes been misrepresented or taken out of context.

He emphasised that researchers, historians and scholars had a vital responsibility to bring authenticated facts before the public, dispel misconceptions and build trust through credible scholarship.

He said that historical research must be guided by intellectual honesty and evidence rather than preconceived positions, so that the younger generation can develop an informed understanding of the region's past.

Paying tribute to BrigRajinder Singh, the governor described his courage and supreme sacrifice during the 1947 invasion as an enduring symbol of patriotism and duty.

BrigRajinder Singh and his men fought valiantly against the invading forces despite severe constraints, buying crucial time for the defence of Jammu and Kashmir. Their sacrifice, he said, represents a proud chapter in the nation's military history and deserves wider recognition among younger generations.

He also referred to the sacrifice of thousands of soldiers and civilians who laid down their lives for the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He said while India made immense sacrifices on the battlefield, the subsequent diplomatic process also shaped the course of history.

Referring to the Simla Agreement of 1972, he stressed the importance of examining the relationship between military achievements, diplomatic decisions and their long-term implications through a balanced and informed historical perspective.

Highlighting the importance of national symbols, Gupta said the history of Vande Mataram also deserved due recognition. National symbols and patriotic traditions must be understood in their historical context and accorded the respect they merit, he added.

Referring to the installation of a commemorative display dedicated to Vande Mataram at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, he said such initiatives help preserve the nation's cultural and historical legacy.

He applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving renewed national prominence to Vande Mataram and strengthening public engagement with India's freedom struggle and patriotic heritage.

He also announced that a Maharaja Hari Singh Chair would be established in the universities of Himachal Pradesh to promote research, academic engagement and a deeper understanding of the Maharaja's life, contributions and historical legacy.

He said that academic institutions had an important role in encouraging objective research and ensuring that significant chapters of Indian history receive due scholarly attention.

Recalling his tenure as Mayor of Jammu, Gupta said he had taken initiatives to install statues of eminent national and historical personalities, including Maharaja Hari Singh, Swami Vivekananda, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He said that these initiatives were undertaken despite opposition from certain quarters, as he firmly believed that public spaces should reflect the contributions of personalities who had shaped the nation's history, culture and collective consciousness.

He emphasised that commemorating such figures was not merely symbolic but an important means of connecting future generations with their heritage.

He appreciated the efforts of the descendants of Maharaja Hari Singh in preserving and promoting his legacy. He also lauded MajGen (ret'd) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal for his sustained efforts to bring historical facts before the public, noting that his lifelong experience and engagement with the region's history had contributed to a more informed understanding of important historical events.

Congratulating BrigDhiman on the publication, the governor said that books based on research and historical analysis help stimulate informed debate and encourage readers to revisit significant events with an open mind.

He expressed confidence that The Betrayal of Kashmir: Key Issues would contribute to wider discussion on Jammu and Kashmir's history and its enduring relevance to contemporary India.

He reiterated that preserving historical truth was a collective responsibility and called upon scholars, educational institutions and society to ensure that the sacrifices of national heroes and the region's rich historical legacy were documented accurately and passed on to future generations.

Maj Gen Jamwalemphaised the importance of presenting the history of Jammu and Kashmir through authentic records, factual evidence and first-hand experiences. He highlighted the need to correct historical misconceptions and ensure that the contributions and sacrifices of Maharaja

Hari Singh, BrigRajinder Singh and other national heroes receive due recognition.

He said that objective research and scholarly documentation were essential to preserve historical truth and pass on an accurate account of the region's past to future generations.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ajatsahtru Singh, Prof K L Bhatia, Prof Shalini Rana, Dr Ritu Singh, Raghu Mehta, Prof Aekta Gupta and others.

From France to Albania, social unrest setting Europe's streets ablaze

Many of the protests have been fueled by frustrated young people. Other elements including black-clad, masked agitators have fomented violence, but French authorities and police have not blamed immigrants.

In France, which has a centuries-old tradition of popular protest, high schoolers have staged blockades and demonstrations for more than three weeks, demanding more resources for schools they call understaffed and dilapidated, especially in lower-income neighborhoods.

The protests then broadened as France's CGT labor union and other activists joined in while students paused for a fall break. The movement now includes demands over rising living costs and public services.

Despite hundreds of thousands of people marching peacefully, the weekend's unrest led to 2,400 arrests and serious disturbances in parts of France, including looting in Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux. In Limoges, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall and nearly destroyed the building. Some schools were set on fire. As students and rioters throw firebombs and law enforcement responded with tear gas, hundreds have been injured.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned Saturday's violence, accusing far-left activists of trying to foment chaos by attacking buildings and police.

"Those who looted will have to pay for the damage, and those who sought to bring down the Republic will be held accountable," Macron said Sunday in a rare televised address.

In Spain, elementary and secondary schoolteachers began an indefinite strike in Madrid last week to demand better pay and working conditions. Discontented teachers staged similar walkouts elsewhere in Spain this year.

In Madrid's central Puerta del Sol, tarpaulin tents have blanketed the square for weeks to protest rising housing costs, sparked by the eviction of Maricarmen, an 87-year-old woman who later died while hospitalized. Smaller protest camps followed in other Spanish cities.

"Most of my paycheck goes to the rent. My roommate struggles to make ends meet just like I do," said Diana Manzanares, a 20-year-old waitress at the Madrid encampment. "This is my reality and the reality of most of us living in this city."

Similar housing protests have sprung up in Portugal's largest cities, Lisbon and Porto.

"Italia in Piazza," or Italy in the Streets, has galvanized thousands of demonstrators, voicing demands for better employment, healthcare, education, and access to housing, as well as higher wages to deal with rising costs. Inflation in Italy rose to 4.2% in September, surpassing the eurozone's 3.8%, according to government data.

The peaceful marches turned violent in three northern cities: In Turin and Bologna, and in Milan - Italy's finance and fashion capital, where rioters clashed with police, looted stores and set property on fire.

In Milan, 271 people were arrested during two days of unrest - most of them minors, police said. Fourteen members of the security forces were reportedly injured.

And now a newly formed group calling itself the "Oct. 17 Movement" has announced what it describes as a "permanent mobilization," calling supporters to demonstrate every Saturday at 3 p.m. in cities across Italy, starting in Milan.

In Albania, anti-government protests continued Sunday for a sixth consecutive day in Tirana, featuring more clashes between demonstrators and police. The violence escalated after high school and university students joined the broad anti-government "Flamingo" movement calling for Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama to resign.

Rama has condemned the protests, saying participants had been "ideologized and radicalized" by antifa, an umbrella term for loosely organized far-left militants in the United States, where President Donald Trump has designated the movement a terrorist organization.

Ending corruption is a major demand of the Albanian civic movement - named for the natural habitat of flamingos in an area where Rama's government agreed to allow a major luxury tourism development linked to Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law. They also want protections for healthcare, education, and public pensions, according to its website.

In Serbia, university students who have led mass anti-corruption protests for nearly two years are now challenging a return by the Balkan country's powerful populist leader Aleksandar Vucic in early parliamentary elections this month.

The former authoritarian president is eyeing a return as prime minister after the Oct. 25 vote. The youth-backed Students' List party is believed to be running close to Vucic's party, making the outcome uncertain and fueling fears of possible violence.

Man, son held for SPO's murder

His weapon was also recovered from the forest area. A case in this connection was registered at Kishtwar police station under section 103(1) of BNS.

During probe into the incident, Bashir Ahmed Dar & his son Nazir Ahmed Dar, both residents of Seran Wani, were picked up by police, and their questioning revealed the conspiracy and motive behind the murder, officials said.

"The weapon of offence and the concealed belongings of the deceased have been recovered on the disclosure of the accused," the officials added.

Officials said the accused were distant relatives of the SPO and had been embroiled in a land dispute with him for some time.

3.81 lakh pay obeisance as pilgrims throng Vaishno Devi cave shrine

grims registered for the pilgrimage on October 18. Over 20,000 pilgrims had proceeded towards the shrine by Monday afternoon, officials said.

Pilgrims continued to avail themselves of facilities, including helicopter services, battery-operated cars, ponies and pithus, to undertake the journey, officials said.

The number of devotees is expected to rise further during Dussehra, when a large number of pilgrims traditionally visit the revered shrine.

The nine-day Shat Chandi Maha Yagya entered its ninth day, with prayers and vedic rituals being held at the Yagashala in the shrine complex.

The shrine, pilgrimage track and Katra town have been decorated with flowers, fruits and lights. Security arrangements have been strengthened to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage.

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

Amenities such as drinking water, sanitation facilities and medical assistance are in place, with emergency response personnel deployed at key locations along the pilgrimage route.

In Jammu City, over 2 lakh pilgrims visited the Mata Mahakali (Bawe Wali Mata) temple amid heavy rush today, officials said.