

From Page 1

PM Modi

Modi will also address the newly selected candidates virtually.

The Rozgar Mela reflects the government's continued focus on creating employment opportunities for youngsters and ensuring their greater participation in the country's development journey, the statement said.

With the 20th Rozgar Mela, 12.75 lakh youngsters will have received appointment letters in various departments and government organisations, it added.

India rebuts

identified the Indian warship as INS Kolkata, a stealth guided missile destroyer.

"We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we had lodged. It is the usual prevarication that we expected. We reject the allegations and insinuations contained therein," he said.

"Let me reiterate the facts of the matter. INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment in the western Arabian sea when Pakistani Naval ship Hunain conducted itself in an unacceptable and unprofessional manner at sea that resulted in a collision," he said.

Jaiswal said the "dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by PNS Hunain was in gross violation of Article 10 of the agreement between India and Pakistan on advance notice on military exercises, manoeuvres and troops movements of April 1991, which specifies that naval units at sea are not to be within three nautical miles of each other.

The spokesperson said the Pakistani ship also "infringed the international regulations for preventing collisions at sea". "The Pakistan side has once again been advised about the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents," he said.

Jaiswal said the incident did not cause "any major damage" to INS Kolkata and she remains at sea.

The Pakistani foreign ministry had alleged that the incident happened following a "highly provocative and unacceptable action" by the Indian vessel in the Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

India at

Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni said.

"It has implications across regions of the globe, particularly in terms of energy and food security," Parvathaneni said.

Addressing the UNSC Arria-Formula meeting on 'Safe Seas, Shared Security: Protecting Freedom of Navigation in an Evolving Security Environment' organised here Thursday, Parvathaneni said navigational rights must not be subject to coercion, threats, unlawful restrictions or arbitrary interference.

"Equally vital are coordinated evacuation frameworks for seafarers in conflict zones, with clear responsibilities among States and international organisations," he said.

Amid the ongoing US-Israel conflict against Iran that has caused disruptions in the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, India said recent experience also demonstrates that maritime insecurity has consequences well beyond the immediate threat.

"Disruptions at one chokepoint can increase pressure on alternative routes, raise freight and insurance costs, disrupt energy and food supplies and adversely affect developing countries," he said.

"The international community must therefore move beyond responding to individual incidents by crafting practical arrangements to facilitate the continued movement of essential commercial and humanitarian supplies during crises," the Indian envoy said.

"The objective should not merely be to restore navigation after a crisis, but to build a maritime system capable of withstanding shocks before they cascade into wider economic and humanitarian crises," he said.

India voiced its strong support for a free, open, secure and rules-based maritime domain.

"Rights and freedoms of navigation and overflight should be consistent with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and must be fully respected. Commercial vessels must not become targets of geopolitical tensions," he said.

With seafarers coming under direct attack in the current conflict and India losing several of the maritime crew, Parvathaneni called for seafarers to remain at the centre of the international community's collective efforts.

"Their safety, timely evacuation, medical assistance, crew changes and repatriation require effective contingency planning and international cooperation. Their Safety and Security require much greater attention in the present circumstances," he said.

He called on countries with considerable interest in terms of safety and security of shipping and seafarers to come together.

Parvathaneni said India also recognises the growing importance of addressing emerging threats, including attacks involving unmanned systems, cyber risks and interference with navigation and communications.

International cooperation, capacity-building and responsible use of technology will be critical in addressing these challenges, he said.

Uniform's respect

commended the Commission for upholding fairness, impartiality, and credibility and establishing a new legacy of employment through merit since 2019. He recalled how, for the first time, even children of ordinary families such as vegetable vendors, labourers, were able to secure government jobs purely on the basis of talent and hard work.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the newly appointed officers that their journey had only begun. Their mission, he said, was not personal success but service to the people, protection of citizens, and upholding the rule of law. He underlined the evolving nature of challenges, including terrorism, radicalisation, and new methods of terror financing through cryptocurrency and money laundering. He urged the officers to act as sentinels of both Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

"After your training, when you wear the khaki uniform, you will stand as a protective shield between the terrorist forces and organisations across the border and the ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir. You will be the guardians of the dreams of every citizen, and this is no small responsibility. I believe that protecting every citizen is one of the greatest responsibilities that any democracy can entrust to its officers. My expectation of you is that you will ensure a fear-free environment for every citizen," he said.

Highlighting the ethos of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor praised the devotion, sacrifice, and

courage of senior officers who have safeguarded peace and harmony over decades. He urged the newly appointed officers to combine authority with compassion, uphold communal harmony, and protect the rights of the most vulnerable. Reiterating the guiding principle- "Do not harass the innocent; do not spare the guilty"- he called upon them to wear the khaki uniform with pride, but keep their conscience closer to their hearts.

"You will possess authority, and you must combine that authority with the values of compassion so that human sensitivity remains an essential part of all your actions. You must resolve that, regardless of how difficult circumstances may become, you will choose integrity and duty. Always remember that the respect commanded by the uniform depends on the honesty, courage and conduct of the officers who wear it.

Move forward with honesty, courage and humility. Along with your appointment letters, I have today entrusted you with the hopes, dreams and faith of the people. I expect you to honour this responsibility with unwavering resolve and to use your authority in the cause of justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, and senior officials of Police and Civil administration attended the ceremony.

LG flags

This sacred Yatra embodies purity, devotion, and unity in diversity, a living expression of eternal faith, strengthens our soul, connects us with nature, and inspires harmony. May Lord Shiva's blessings guide us towards compassion, culture and collective consciousness," the LG said in a post on X.

Speaking to reporters after the flag-off ceremony, Sinha said many devotees from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country had arrived to undertake the annual pilgrimage.

"I extend my best wishes to all of them, and I have full faith that the blessings of this sacred pilgrimage always remain upon the people here, and Jammu and Kashmir will continue to move forward on the path of peace and progress," he said.

The district administration has made necessary arrangements, including security-related ones, for the pilgrimage. The annual yatra, a 15-km trek to Gangbal Lake, nestled at around 14,500 feet in the Harmukh mountain range in the district's upper reaches, is considered a sacred pilgrimage for Kashmiri Pandits.

India's idea

nurturing local sporting talent and strengthening the sports ecosystem in the district, while providing a platform for athletes to train and participate in various sporting activities, he added.

Birthday boy

Janipur registered a murder case and arrested Neeraj and his brother Rishu.

The spokesperson said police are recovering the weapon used in the offence and that further investigation is underway. Police said the deceased's body has been shifted to the GMC mortuary for a post-mortem examination.

Omar attends

financial pathways for Jammu & Kashmir, with a focus on macroeconomic growth, agricultural transformation and renewable energy, aimed at advancing sustainable and inclusive development.

India's idea

as being based on truth, compassion, purity and self-discipline.

"Dharma is not something to be discovered; it has to be recognised and practised," he said.

He described 'dharma' as a principle that sustains the universe, promotes the progress of all and determines duties, while taking into account the nature of every living being and object.

The RSS chief further noted that 'dharma' was reflected in human conduct and urged the young participants to shed prejudices if they wanted to understand it.

He also linked 'dharma' with environmental responsibility, saying human beings had a duty to protect nature. Destruction of forests and environmental degradation amounted to 'adharmā' (unrighteousness), Bhagwat asserted.

He urged young people to respect other forms of worship while remaining committed to their own traditions.

Bhagwat said India's tradition sought to unite people rather than divide them and maintained that the country had historically tried to help even those who differed from it or caused it difficulties.

Referring to his recent visits to New York, Toronto and London, Bhagwat said people there and Indian entrepreneurs had sought the "dharmic view" on business and wealth creation.

Bhagwat said they were concerned that their businesses were generating not only happiness but also suffering.

He questioned the pursuit of excessive wealth at the cost of family life, citing the example of people leaving home at 5 am and returning at midnight in order to earn more money, only to find that their children hardly know the people who come to their place on holidays.

He said such an imbalance in development was unhealthy, comparing it with the growth of only one part of the body while the rest remained unchanged.

Explaining the 'dharmic' approach to business, Bhagwat said it involved giving back to society.

He cited the tradition of business communities building 'dharamshalas' and charitable hospitals, where people were provided services without being charged, comparing them with corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives of today.

He said 'dharma' flourished through human sacrifice and giving, and quoted a Sanskrit saying to stress the importance of sacrifice for fulfilment in material and spiritual life.

Bhagwat said there was no restriction on earning wealth but people should retain only what was necessary for themselves and share the rest with others.

"Your life should move forward in such a way that the lives of others also move forward," he said, stressing that one's livelihood should not cause suffering to others.

Citing a Buddhist teaching, Bhagwat said 'dharma' meant refraining from causing pain to others, earning one's livelihood efficiently and ensuring that one's earnings did not come by depriving or harming others.

Bhagwat said India had remained economically prosperous for about 1,600 years without the kind of environmental damage seen today and referred to the country's long agricultural tradition.

He also urged the youth to become successful as well as purposeful and contribute to creating a world marked by hap-

piness and peace.

Around 300 scholars, teachers, researchers and religious leaders are participating in the Yuva Dharma Sansad, organisers said.

The RSS has stepped up its outreach to Gen Z following a massive students' protest over NEET exam paper leaks at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, which brought youth discontent to the fore and led to the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will attend the concluding session on September 19.

The three-day event, organised by Sevagya Sansthanam, is the sixth edition of the Yuva Dharma Sansad, following events in Kashi, Ayodhya, Mathura, Haridwar and Kanchipuram. The event will be held in Dwarka next year.

JMC orders

particularly on institutional buildings, given the number of people who may be exposed to risk in case of a structural failure.

In the residential category, structures that are 50 years old or older, especially those showing significant signs of dilapidation, will also be examined.

"Since engineers will also be part of these teams, the inspection will be carried out on the spot, and the report will also be prepared at the site itself," Yadav said.

He clarified that the JMC would not automatically demolish every unsafe structure; structural engineers affiliated with the corporation would also consider whether unsafe buildings could be secured through retrofitting or structural strengthening.

Based on the ward-level inspection reports, structures requiring immediate intervention will be prioritised for prompt action under the relevant provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act, he added.

Alongside the building-safety exercise, Yadav said the JMC has introduced an AI-based system for detecting potholes and other urban infrastructure problems.

He noted that potholes become a major concern after the monsoon, while conventional processes involving project approvals and tenders can take considerable time.

"The new system is intended to enable the corporation to identify problems before they result in accidents or prolonged public inconvenience. Under the system, cameras mounted on JMC garbage collection vehicles scan roads as the vehicles move through the city. The technology identifies potholes and can also detect other problems, including roadside garbage dumps, fallen poles and similar civic issues," he said.

Yadav stated that the identified locations will be compiled into a list for field teams, which can then visit the sites and undertake the necessary repairs.

This initiative, he emphasised, is aimed at ensuring timely resolution of urban grievances, a crucial aspect of the smart city approach.

Dr Jitendra

Surakshit Sagar' campaign, launched in 2022 during the celebrations of India's 75th year of Independence, has evolved into a whole-of-government and whole-of-society movement for cleaner coasts and safer seas.

What began as a 75-day inter-ministerial campaign has grown into an annual nationwide initiative around International Coastal Cleanup Day, observed on the third Saturday of September, bringing together government institutions and citizens in a collective effort to protect India's coastal and marine environment. The 2026 campaign is being conducted from September 12 to 19.

Dr. Jitendra Singh led the coastal clean-up programme at Juhu Beach, Mumbai, organised on the eve of International Coastal Cleanup Day. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, and BCCI President Mithun Manhas were among those present, along with Directors and senior officials of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and its institutions, public representatives, celebrities, volunteers and other participants. The programme included a mass Ocean Pledge, followed by a hands-on clean-up activity in which Dr. Jitendra Singh joined officials and volunteers in removing plastic and other waste from the shoreline.

The campaign has brought together coastal States and Union Territories, State Governments, Central Government departments and agencies, the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, students, NGOs, volunteers and local communities. Celebrities, public representatives and sporting personalities have also joined the initiative, giving the campaign a wider social reach. The participation of BCCI President Mithun Manhas at Juhu Beach this year further reflected the effort to bring diverse sections of society together for ocean conservation.

The initiative is rooted in India's growing engagement with its vast maritime domain. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the Deep Ocean Mission from the Red Fort, India has been strengthening its scientific and technological capabilities to explore the deep ocean and understand its resources and ecosystems. The oceans hold significant potential in terms of metals and minerals, fisheries, marine biodiversity and bioresources, making scientific exploration, responsible use and conservation of marine resources important for India's long-term development.

The Minister said that the benefits of India's maritime resources can be realised only alongside protection of the health of marine ecosystems. Cleaner beaches, reduced plastic pollution and greater public awareness are therefore essential to maintaining healthy oceans and ensuring sustainable use of marine resources. The campaign seeks to turn this awareness into sustained citizen participation and collective action.

India's coastline of about 11,098 km extends across its coastal States and Union Territories and supports diverse ecosystems, communities and economic activities. Its scale calls for coordinated action by governments, scientific institutions, coastal communities and citizens to address marine litter and protect fragile coastal ecosystems.

The 2026 edition of 'Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar', being conducted from September 12 to 19, features coastal clean-up drives and a range of public-engagement activities across the country. The campaign is bringing together citizens, students, coastal communities, educational institutions, NGOs, volunteer organisations and government agencies as part of a nationwide effort to promote ocean conservation and responsible environmental practices. The Ministry of Earth Sciences and its institutions are supporting the campaign through scientific and public-outreach initiatives related to marine litter and coastal environmental protection.

Citizen participation is also being strengthened through the Sagar Prahari platform, which enables public engagement with the campaign and supports documentation of marine litter. The initiative complements the larger objective of combining scientific understanding with public participation in addressing marine pollution and protecting coastal ecosystems.

The Juhu Beach programme brought together government representatives, sporting personalities, public figures, volunteers and citizens in a common effort to protect India's coastline. The mass pledge and clean-up activity reinforced the message that keeping India's shores clean and its seas safe is a shared responsibility, requiring sustained participation well beyond a single day or campaign.

The 'Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar' campaign continues to build on the spirit of collective action with which it was launched during India's 75th year of Independence, strengthening public participation for cleaner beaches, healthier oceans and a more sustainable maritime future.

BIS seizes

Plated Jewellery", and were not gold alloy jewellery or articles covered under the BIS Hallmarking Scheme.

The articles were found with attached tags carrying a triangular mark resembling or purporting to be the BIS Hallmark or Standard Mark, he said.

The official said the jewellery articles, along with relevant documentary evidence, were seized under Section 28 of the BIS Act, 2016.

Babu said further action would be taken in accordance with the applicable provisions of the BIS Act, Rules and Regulations.

"The use of the BIS Hallmark/Standard Mark on tags attached to articles represented as coated or imitation jewellery constitutes an offence under the BIS Act, 2016, as it may create a misleading impression that such articles are BIS hallmarked or certified," he said.

He advised consumers to exercise caution while purchasing gold jewellery and not to treat a BIS logo or Hallmark/Standard Mark appearing only on a tag, label or packaging as proof that the jewellery article itself is BIS hallmarked.

In the case of hallmarked gold jewellery, the prescribed hallmark is required to be present on the jewellery article itself, he said, adding that consumers can also verify the six-digit Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) through the "Verify HUID" feature available on the BIS CARE App.

The BIS has appealed to consumers and jewellers to report suspected misuse of the BIS Hallmark/ Standard Mark to the office.

Dismantling drug

Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir campaign in 2020. He said building on that momentum, a comprehensive 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan was initiated earlier this year in April, extending beyond formal events to villages, schools, universities, and families. Through Padyatra, awareness drives, and administrative action, the campaign became a people's movement. Women, youth clubs, teachers, doctors, civil society groups, and religious leaders played pivotal roles in spreading awareness and supporting rehabilitation.

Highlighting the three-pronged approach of dismantling supply chains, creating awareness, and rehabilitation, the Lieutenant Governor noted the introduction of the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026. This scheme aims to reintegrate affected youth into mainstream society, ensuring they lead healthy and responsible lives.

"I am happy that, in this direction, the University of Jammu has stepped forward and is playing its role through today's initiatives. Under the guidance of faculty members, students have also attempted to understand various aspects of drug de-addiction. I believe this is the true power of education, because when knowledge connects with human sensitivity, it transforms into social responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged students of the University of Jammu to take on the roles of messengers, participants, and guardians of Nasha-Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. He called upon youth to engage peers, counter misconceptions, and extend support to those struggling with addiction. He emphasized that awareness, family support, timely assistance and rehabilitation are key to lasting change.

"A major goal is to make the University of Jammu campus and other educational institutions drug-free, and I want youth to work together with the administration, health institutions, civil society groups and youth organisations. I also expect that this documentary will be screened in every department of the university and shown in other institutions of the Jammu division as well so that more and more people connect with the resolve of healthy youth, empowered society, and drug-free Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean Planning and Development; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar; Heads of Departments, faculty members and students of Jammu University attended the launch ceremony.

J&K Bank

two trusted institutions to making commercial mobility more accessible and affordable. By combining Tata Motors' diversified product portfolio and extensive dealership network with J&K Bank's deep regional understanding and customer-centric financing solutions, we aim to support transporters, fleet operators, small businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs in acquiring vehicles suited to their business requirements."

He added, "While this partnership strengthens transportation capacity across vital sectors such as logistics, construction, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, and passenger mobility in J&K and Ladakh, its pan-India scope aligns with the Bank's expanding footprint and commitment to serving customers nationwide."

VP & Business Head (SCV) Tata Motors Limited, Pinaki Haldar said, "J&K Bank has been a valued financing partner with a strong understanding of customer requirements, particularly across J&K and Ladakh. The renewed partnership will help us offer customers easier access to finance across our commercial vehicle portfolio while enabling faster coordination among the company, its authorised dealers, and the Bank. We look forward to further strengthening this association and supporting customers in their business and mobility aspirations."

Notably, Tata Motors offers a comprehensive portfolio comprising Heavy Commercial Vehicles, Intermediate and Light Commercial Vehicles, Small Commercial Vehicles, pickups, tippers, buses, and special-application vehicles serving the logistics, construction, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, and passenger-transportation sectors.

The MoU ceremony was attended from the Bank by Deputy General Manager (RAM) Abdul Majid Bhat; Assistant General Managers (RAM) Ishfaq Ahmad Hakak and Gh Nabi Dar.

Representing Tata Motors and its dealer network were Regional Manager Vishal Mahey, Area Manager Vishal Sood, RCFI Sabin Chandran, TSM Varun Bhalla, Rohit Gandotra from Fairdeal Motors, and Parvaiz Katto from KY Auto.