

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**

**Nation needs to...**

we found the best vaccination, and it has worked very well for the entire humanity," he added.  
The vice president further said that the same vaccination has been researched and developed by the most well-developed Western economies, but all of them were running behind on how to patent it so that they can sell it for a very high price.  
"Yes, a unit of vaccination can be sold for USD 7,500, but how can a poor man afford that?" he added.

He said Indian innovations are widely accepted by the Western world as well. "So the whole world is open for you now, it is your initiative, it is your interest. It is your enthusiasm, and your hard work is going to put you at the top of the world," he added.

Radhakrishnan said recently the central government has approved the development and expansion of the Srinagar International Airport, at an estimated cost of over Rs 1600 crores.

"It was mentioned by our chief minister, Omar Abdullah, that tourism is to be expanded, but it has to be expanded without affecting the ecosystem of our great state," he said.

The Chenab rail bridge across the river is a marvel, being the highest railway bridge, he added.

"There are many other infrastructure projects which send out a bigger message. These projects are more than engineering achievements. They are the instruments of social harmony. When places are connected, people are connected. And when people are connected, hearts are closely connected," he said.

The vice president said these initiatives also create new opportunities for the youth, like the ones graduating today.

"PM special scholarship schemes for students of Jammu and Kashmir act as a great opportunity, aspiration, and national integration by enabling students to study in institutions across the country," he said.

Urging students to stay away from drugs, Radhakrishnan said, "Your parents are depending on you that you will take care of them in their old age....They want you to be successful in your life."

Every religion treats narcotics as the most sinful product, so keep away from drugs, he added.

"Advise your friends, family members, and whoever you are meeting, to stay away from drug use," he said.

The vice president also advised the youth to be mindful of social media usage. "This has to be controlled. Social media will not help you to come out more successful in your life. Everything should have its own limits," he said.

Radhakrishnan said he wanted to tell the students three lines: "Three lines I want to tell you. Mera Kashmir nahi, tumhara Kashmir nahi, Hamara Kashmir. That is what I want from all of you."

**VP enjoys Shikara...**

development and improved connectivity.  
"I appreciate the efforts of the administration in promoting eco-tourism, preserving natural heritage, and creating new livelihood opportunities for local communities," he said. "The vice president said these initiatives have not only given a boost to tourism but have also ushered in a "new era" of peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Curriculum must prioritize...**

transformation. "My Mantra is that Industry and Intellect should grow together. Our Universities should collaborate with Industry, innovators, research and development organisations to build Viksit Bharat and to ensure that the higher education campuses and companies co-create the Future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the technology evolves at breakneck speed. He said that the digital revolution, artificial intelligence, global realignments, and demands for new skills are redefining higher education.

"Possibilities for collaboration and innovation stretch endlessly. Careers being prepared for today may morph tomorrow. Industries are reshaping. The real question isn't whether change will come, but whether we can synch with it. I believe those youth will surge ahead who possess critical thinking, core knowledge, and a resolve to lifelong learning.

Artificial Intelligence now permeates every field-healthcare, agriculture, finance, urban planning, governance. So, the question arises: Will technology serve human welfare or just profit? I see universities' campuses crafting that answer, where knowledge fuses with life's values," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined three key priorities for the faculty members-"First, adaptability as every curriculum's core skill. Second, seamless integration of AI and emerging tech with human intelligence. Third, global and interdisciplinary collaboration. Modern challenges interconnect so universities must shatter subject silos and mandate cross-disciplinary teamwork."

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that our goal is to become a fully developed nation by 2047.

"Viksit Bharat isn't a dream, but a resolve fuelled by hard work. It demands diligence, innovation, moral strength, and ceaseless invention-and this mission falls to our young generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated all the medal winners and lauded the girl students for their dominant performance.

He said that out of 239 gold medals, a staggering 186 are won by our daughters and of the 164 PhDs awarded, 108 bear our daughters' names.

"No statement could more powerfully define the New India. This tells our people: Give daughters opportunity, encouragement, and equal ground, and they don't just join-they lead, excel, and set new standards. To today's medalists and graduates: You are not just forging your futures-you are rewriting possibilities for every young woman next at Kashmir University," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The dignitaries also released the Kashmir University's Profile on the occasion.  
Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Sakina Itoo, Minister for Higher Education; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor; University of Kashmir; Vice-Chancellors of various Universities; HoDs of different educational institutions, senior officials of Civil and Police administration, faculty members, students and their parents attended the convocation ceremony.

**J&K to get...**

In a bid to promote sports, culture and tourism, Mandaviya said the region's potential needed to be fully explored.

"I am all for a 15-day festival in Gulmarg. It will not only have all the components of winter sports competition like skiing and snow mountaineering, it will also include a FIT India carnival and cultural programmes to give it a festive atmosphere. To explore the amazing potential of the region, we need to do more to make a global tourism destination," said Mandaviya.

Mandaviya felicitated the Indian Army team for defending the Khelo India Winter Games championship title.

Army won 23 medals, including nine golds, six silvers and eight bronze. Runners-up Himachal Pradesh (14 medals including six golds, seven silvers and one bronze) and No. 3 Haryana were also handed their trophies by the minister.

"Khelo Bharat Niti will fulfil the aspirations of the youth of India. Times have changed and there can be no politics in sports. Our policies are athlete centric and not built in favour of national federations," said Mandaviya.

Praising the Jammu and Kashmir administration for successfully conducting the Gulmarg leg of KIWG 2026, Mandaviya congratulated all stakeholders, especially the security forces, for enabling a seamless Games.

The first phase of KIWG 2026 was held in Ladakh from January 20-26. More than 900 athletes from 25 states and Union Territories took part in six different sports held across Gulmarg and Leh. "After the abrogation of Article 370, there is newfound belief in J&K. Earlier stone-pelters used to make headlines now it is sports. Times are a changing in J&K," Mandaviya added.

**J&K emerging as...**

including the trauma of 2025 and the economic setbacks that followed, he said resilience had defined the people of J&K. "My government is focused on three pillars: Meritocracy, Sustainability, and Digital Sovereignty," he asserted.

Urging students to honour the sacrifices behind their success, he asked them to look towards their parents seated in the gallery and said the degree they were receiving belonged as much to them. Quoting Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), he reminded them, "Your Heaven lies under the feet of your mother," and said that as they walked across the stage, they were walking with the dreams and sacrifices of their elders. He also expressed gratitude to the faculty for mentoring students with discernment in an age of information overload.

Calling the convocation a day of "succession," the Chief Minister told the graduating students that they were succeeding the generations who kept the flame of knowledge alive through difficult times and were now the torch-bearers of the future. Quoting Kashmiri mystic poetess Lalleshwari (Lall Ded), he urged students to embark on the journey of self-realisation even as their formal education concluded.

He asked students to acknowledge the sacrifices of their parents and expressed

gratitude to faculty members for their contribution in shaping lives of students.

Highlighting a key milestone, the Chief Minister said that nearly 60 percent of the degrees and medals at this year's convocation were earned by women. Terming it a powerful instrument against poverty and instability, he said J&K had moved from "Women's Welfare" to "Women-led Development."

He said under the UMEED scheme, 7 lakh women had been organised into 80,000 Self-Help Groups, leading to the rise of "Lakhpati Didis" as financial anchors in their communities. He added that interest-free soft loans were being provided for women-led startups in manufacturing and IT sectors. He encouraged women graduates to aspire for leadership roles in civil services, biotechnology and be part of global platforms.

"I want to see you in our civil services, leading our biotech labs, and representing us on the global stage. Your brilliance is the gold medal J&K wears today," he said.

On tourism, the Chief Minister said while it remains J&K's lifeline, it must evolve. He stressed that reliance solely on destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam was not sufficient and highlighted the government's push for border tourism in villages such as Keran, Gurez and Teetval. He said nine new destinations were being developed in coordination with the Union Government to ensure benefits reach the last mile.

Emphasising sustainability, he said investments were being made in sustainable infrastructure, including artificial snow technology in Gulmarg and promotion of eco-friendly accommodations, to protect the fragile environment. He called upon Environmental Science graduates to help create a "Green Standard" for Kashmiri hospitality.

Turning to agriculture, he described it as the cultural soul of the people but stressed the need for transformation through a High-Density Revolution. He said technology and quality saplings were being provided to enable fruit exports to international markets. He urged Science and IT graduates to develop solutions such as real-time pest detection apps and blockchain-based traceability systems to authenticate products like Pampore saffron in global markets.

Articulating a "Saffron & Silicon" vision, he said J&K was being positioned as a data-friendly zone and an ideal destination for Green Data Centers, with a focus on creating job providers rather than job seekers.

Addressing concerns about employability, he said the administration was restructuring industrial policy to incentivise knowledge-based industries and establish R&D centres within J&K so that graduates would not need to migrate to cities like Pune or Hyderabad for opportunities. Common Facilitation Centres were being developed to help young innovators convert ideas into prototypes without heavy financial burdens.

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of mental health, stating that society had endured immense pressure and trauma. He said the government was expanding district-level counselling through Mission Youth and urged Psychology and Social Work graduates to help de-stigmatise conversations around mental well-being.

Reiterating his government's commitment to a transparent and stable environment, he said recruitment reforms were aimed at replacing "Recommendation" with "Qualification," ensuring merit remained the only currency.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi's call to "Be the change that you wish to see in the world," he urged graduates to solve problems, confront injustice and pursue their dreams with resilience.

"The road from Naseem Bagh leads to the world," he said, encouraging students to excel globally while preserving the spirit of Kashmiriyat. Referring to the university's motto, "Let us move from darkness to light," he told the graduates, "Today, you are that light," expressing confidence that they would lead Jammu & Kashmir towards a bright and dignified future.

**J&K's dev budget...**

Jammu & Kashmir, is a testimony to the fact that people of Jammu & Kashmir have rejected the ideology of terrorism and violence propagated by Pakistan and are surging ahead on the path of development and democracy," she said.

In a strong retort, Singh said, "If the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest bridge inaugurated in Jammu & Kashmir last year is fake, then Pakistan must be hallucinating or living in the la-la land."

"Or maybe, Pakistan finds it unbelievable that the developmental budget of Jammu & Kashmir is more than double the recent bailout package they sought from the IMF," she said.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had approved disbursement of about one billion USD to Pakistan under Extended Fund Facility (EFF), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to about USD 2.1 billion.

"Despite Pakistan's efforts to destabilise the region through relentless state-sponsored terrorism, Jammu & Kashmir continues to surge ahead - politically, economically and socially," she said.

"Pakistan would do well if it focuses on fixing its deepening internal crises than to mask them with grandstanding at such a platform - the world can certainly see through its charade," she added.

She said the OIC, by "parroting" Pakistan's propaganda, only reveals how deeply it has allowed itself to be co-opted by one member.

"Pakistan's incessant propaganda now reeks of envy. We have no desire to dignify such propaganda, however, we will make a few points, to dismantle it with facts," Singh said.

India asserted that "Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

"No amount of wishful rhetoric or audacious propaganda by Pakistan can alter the immutable fact that the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to India was completely legal and irrevocable, and in accordance with Indian Independence Act (1947) and the international law.

"In fact, the only outstanding dispute regarding this region is the illegal occupation of Indian territories by Pakistan. We call upon Pakistan to vacate these areas, which remain under its forcible occupation," she said.

**SC bans NCERT...**

education, asking them to explain why action not be initiated against those found responsible for introducing the "offending" chapter.

"As an abundant precaution, a complete blanket ban is hereby imposed on any further publication, reprinting or digital dissemination of the book titled 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond' (Vol II)," the bench, which also comprised justices Joyymalya Bagehi and Vipul M Pancholi, said.

Pradhan underlined that the government has full respect for the judiciary and has no intent of disrespecting the institution.

"I am very sad at what has happened and express regret... There was no intention to insult the judiciary. An inquiry will be conducted and accountability fixed. Action will be taken against those involved in drafting the chapter. As soon as we get to know (about it), the circulation of the textbooks was put on hold," Pradhan told reporters in Jamshehpur.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) social science textbook for Class 8 in question states that corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the judicial system.

After stern words by the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it will not allow "anyone on earth" to tarnish the judiciary's integrity, the NCERT pulled the textbook from its website, apologised for "inappropriate content" and said it will be rewritten in consultation with the appropriate authorities.

The top court warned that any attempt to circumvent its order through electronic medium or alternative titles containing the same content shall be treated as a direct interference, willful breach and defiance of its directions.

"They have fired a gunshot. The judiciary is bleeding," a visibly irked CJI said during the hearing in a suo motu matter over the book.

"It is my duty as the head of the institution to find out who is responsible; heads must roll," the CJI said, adding, "We would like to have a deeper probe".

The bench said it was "nearly shocked" when a newspaper published an article regarding the release of the social science textbook having the chapter.

It said after the media report was published, the apex court's secretary general was asked to verify whether such a publication was released by the NCERT.

"Instead of having an introspection of what had been written in the book in the most reckless, irresponsible, contemptuous and motivated manner, the director (of NCERT) responded in writing defending the contents of the book," the bench said.

It said on a prima facie examination of the book's contents read in conjunction with the administrative response received from the director, it seemed "there is a calculated move to undermine the institutional authority and demean the dignity of the judiciary".

"We may, however, hasten to add that we do not propose to initiate the suo motu proceedings to stifle any legitimate critique or with a view to stop any individual or organisation from exercising their right to scrutinise public institutions, including the judiciary," it said.

"Given the serious consequences and an everlasting adverse impact on the independence and autonomy of judiciary, such a misconduct would fall within the definition of criminal contempt under section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971..." it said.

The bench asked the director of the NCERT to produce the original records of minutes of the meetings where the offending chapter was deliberated and finalised,

and the names and credentials of the textbook development team responsible for drafting the chapter.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta tendered an unconditional and unqualified apology on behalf of the department of school education. Mehta said the two individuals who prepared the chapter would never be associated with any activity of the ministry.

"There are 32 books which went in the market and which are being withdrawn. Rest of the books we are not circulating. The entire chapter would be re-visited by a new team," the top law officer said, adding, "We can't teach our Class 8 students that justice is being denied in the country".

**Modi holds wide...**

," a press release from the Presidency said.

"Our talks were extremely fruitful and wide-ranging," Modi said in a post on X. "Both leaders explored avenues to further enhance cooperation in education, startups, innovation, tech and connectivity," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

During the meeting, Modi thanked Herzog for the "very warm and grand reception" since he landed in Israel. "This shows the love that the people of Israel have towards India and Indians," he said.

He also conceded that the India-Israel relationship, across sectors, can do a lot for the global good, be it science, innovation or educational institutions.

"We have had very positive exchanges, especially in sectors such as water and agriculture. India is also implementing a lot of good Israeli solutions in our country, especially in the agricultural sector, and we have had great results because of that," Modi said.

"I have had the chance to meet you on different occasions in other parts of the world. You have been very clear with your thoughts, and you are also very committed to India. You respect India a lot. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment and respect for India," he said.

The Prime Minister also extended an invitation to Herzog to visit India, saying 1.4 billion people of India are eager to receive him.

"I warmly invite you to visit India, and when you come, don't limit your visit to just Delhi, but take out more time to travel to other parts of India also," he said.

**Steady decline in...**

terror camps in Pakistan, he said, "We have kept them under watch. We are fully aware of what actions are taking place there. If they are trying to regenerate or reassemble their terrorist bases, we have that information. We will formulate our plans accordingly."

On reports of terrorist infrastructure being rebuilt after Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan's military leadership thrives on confrontation. "Pakistan's military leadership wants to remain relevant and does not want politicians to take over power. Their relevance comes through a state of confrontation with India. Despite repeated peace efforts from our side, they keep doing something to keep this confrontation alive," he said, calling it a matter of concern.

He said that India will respond with greater force to any future misadventure by Pakistan and will not be deterred by nuclear threats.

Replying to a volley of questions on the prospect of Operation Sindoor 2, Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan has been taught "a very strong lesson" during Operation Sindoor and any renewed provocation would invite a stronger response.

"Our preparations are ongoing, and we must remain prepared. If they do not understand this lesson and create conflict conditions again due to their internal reasons, we will respond in an even better and stronger manner," he said.

On claims that Pakistan sought a ceasefire through other countries and assertions of foreign mediation, the Army commander clarified the sequence of events.

"After the attack on May 7, 2025, our DGMO (Director General of Military Operations) conveyed that we had completed our action and wanted to talk. They refused at that time. Fighting continued for the next 88 hours. After extensive damage to their military bases, their DGMO approached our DGMO, and it was during that conversation that the ceasefire draft was prepared. After deliberations, our government accepted the request," he said.

Rejecting suggestions that India's actions targeted civilians or political leadership, the Army commander said the operation was precise and objective-driven.

"Our response in Operation Sindoor was very clear. We did not target any civilian areas. We initially targeted only terrorist bases. When Pakistan attacked our military stations, we responded by attacking their military stations and air bases," he said, adding that the objective was to destroy terrorist bases swiftly.

On the extent of damage to terror launch pads and camps, Lt Gen Katiyar said the operational details could not be shared. "We have this information, but it is essential for our military planning. What can be said is that we are closely monitoring all actions related to terror infrastructure in Pakistan," he said.

On infiltration and the role of Pakistan's military, Lt Gen Katiyar said, "We believe the Pakistan Army is supporting infiltration. The terrorists are coming after training, and there is a possibility that the Pakistan Army may be helping in their training."

Dismissing nuclear threats, the Army commander termed them a pressure tactic. "We see it as a bogey meant to prevent us from taking strong action. We will not get deterred by nuclear threats," he said.

Asked about the scale of a future response in case of any misadventure, he said, "The response will be stronger than what we have done earlier. How far we go and at what level depends on the situation at that particular time, but we are very clear that the response will be harsher than last time."

**CB books two...**

due diligence while processing payments and verifying supplier credentials to prevent such fraudulent activities.

This case highlights ongoing vigilance by Crime Branch J&K to curb financial and cyber fraud, especially targeting public funds during emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Big breakthrough by...**

supervision of senior officers, conducted technical analysis and examined CCTV footage from JMC Smart City surveillance, leading to the arrest of two accused persons, namely Mansa Chowdhary and Abdul Rehman. During investigation and questioning, 15 more stolen two-wheelers, mainly Hero Splendor motoreycles along with one Pulsar RS200 and one Scooty Pleasure, worth approximately Rs 12 lakh were recovered. Under Operation Meghdoot, in another case, Police Station Gandhi Nagar solved a major salon theft case with the arrest of one accused and recovery of stolen salon equipment worth about ₹10 lakh.

**House worth Rs...**

was found to be acquired using money obtained through the sale of illegal drugs and narcotics, he said, adding that the accused has been previously involved in multiple cases under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act .

The attachment process was executed in the presence of a duly constituted police team, executive magistrate, lambardar and chowkidar, ensuring full compliance with all legal protocols, the spokesman said.

**Ai+ Smartphone launches AIoT Ecosystem with NovaPods, NovaWatch; Pulse 2 Launch on March 2**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Ai+ Smartphone has expanded into the AIoT ecosystem with the launch of its audio and wearable products - NovaPods and NovaWatch - while announcing its next-generation smartphones, Pulse 2 and Nova 2 series. The Pulse 2 will officially launch on March 2, followed by the Nova 2 series.

Designed to democratize technology in India, Pulse 2 features a 50MP AI dual rear camera, an 8MP front camera, the slimmest 6000mAh battery for all-day use, and Android 16 on NxtQuantum OS. The brand aims to offer a seamless and confidence-building user experience at accessible price points.

The AIoT launch spans wireless audio, biometric earbuds, fitness wearables, open-wear formats, and kids' 4G smartwatches. NovaPods and NovaWatch will go on sale on Flipkart from February 27 at 12 PM, with pricing from Rs 699 to Rs 7,999.

Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone, said, "In under a year, nearly one million users chose Ai+, and that trust is what we're building on. This AIoT launch expands our ecosystem from phones to music, movement, health, and family safety. Our focus is integration, accessibility, and scale." The NovaPods lineup - Go (Rs 699), Pro (Rs 1,999), and Clips (Rs 3,999) - offers features like 10mm drivers, Bluetooth 5.4/6.0, multi-mic ENC, low latency, and IPX4 protection. The Clips combine technology with fashion-forward open-wear design. NovaWatch includes Active (Rs 2,499) with a 1.73-inch AMOLED display, Bluetooth calling, health tracking, and Kids 4G (Rs 2,999) offering geo-fencing, SOS alerts, 4G calling, and video calls. The Ai+ Wearbuds (Rs 7,999) combine a smartwatch with detachable earbuds, delivering an innovative hybrid experience for health, communication, and entertainment. Sujith Agashe, Vice President, Electronics at Flipkart, stated, "Ai+ is delivering a connected ecosystem with innovative features, modern design, and compelling price points, bringing next-generation devices to millions of Indian consumers." With cohesive design, expressive finishes, and diverse pricing, Ai+ aims to make everyday technology more seamless, accessible, and enjoyable for users across India.