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India rejects UN expert's report on youth freedom

port ironic, taking note of the "satirical political movement" created by the country's youth. "In which repressive State does a satirical youth party question the government, marches on the capital, and then sits across the table with senior national leaders," Swarup said.

He pointed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights' comment in the Human Rights Council last month that dialogue with young leaders is far more effective in the context of youth-led movement in India.

"Perhaps that update escaped the Special Rapporteur's attention," he said, adding that when students protested this summer over irregularities in public examinations, the government engaged constructively with the youth.

Within weeks, the Indian Parliament amended the Public Examinations Act, doubling punishments for paper leaks, carried out a systemic examination overhaul, and created fast-track courts in every state, specifically dedicated to prosecuting individuals involved in exam fraud, he said.

"This is the true testament of democracy in action. Youth represents our strength and shared future," he said, as he cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words that youth capability will become India's capability, and their success will take India's success to new heights.

Further, over five million young people took part in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue this year, shaping national priorities directly with the Prime Minister.

Several ministers, including Prime Minister Modi, continue to engage with youth of the country directly and through social media, he said.

Children have fundamental right to access internet: SC

ordered. It added that where an intermediary finds a match against an entry, i.e., CSEAM of "known origin", the intermediary shall immediately disable and remove it, without awaiting further verification at its end. The guidelines or standard operating procedures will be revised periodically by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The top court directed the Union government to formulate guidelines, standard operating procedures and suitable amendments to this end.

Speaking about the introduction of "child mode" for social media accounts, the Supreme Court said that these measures may include accounts being made private by default, restrictions on contacts and messages from unknown adults, and moderation of advertising and content accessible to children. Such measures may be implemented for pre-teens, with reasonable and proportionate means to verify parental consent.

The court also directed the Union and state governments, national and state commissions for protection of child rights, and other stakeholders to take measures such as teaching children how to use the internet safely, protect their personal data and privacy online, and recognise signs of enticement, sexual extortion and other similar exploitative and abusive practices.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka, who represented the petitioner in the case, said that with the government's support, India can now have one of the strongest child online safety frameworks in the world. "The Supreme Court has laid down a clear and practical roadmap: immediate removal, reporting to the police within two hours, dedicated grievance officers and a uniform reporting mechanism," Phoolka added.

Hailing the SC's order, Rachna Tyagi, who represented Just Rights for Children Alliance, said, "The SC has reaffirmed its 2024 judgment in the clearest possible terms: no platform, however large or powerful, is above the law when it comes to the safety of our children. The court has made it plain that taking down child sexual abuse material quietly is not enough. It must be reported to the police as POC SO mandates. Safe harbour is not a shield for silence."

Man held with heroin

Four packets containing a total of 385 grams of 'heroin' were recovered and seized during the operation.

Preliminary investigation indicated possible links between Jammu-based traffickers and sources in Punjab, with the suspected contraband believed to have been intended for distribution within Jammu district, officials said.

Further investigation was underway to identify other persons involved and establish the forward and backward linkages of the suspected trafficking network, including possible interstate connections, the officials added.

Saxena lays foundation stones for 2 water bodies

trict, taking a significant step towards addressing the acute water crisis faced by local communities and strengthening water security in the region.

Water scarcity in Sodh tehsil has severely affected agriculture and rural livelihoods, forcing some residents to migrate from their villages. The new water bodies are expected to improve water availability, support agricultural sustainability and help revive village life.

During his previous visit to the area on September 2, 2026, the LG had witnessed firsthand the acute water shortage and its adverse impact on local agriculture and livelihoods.

Taking immediate cognisance of the situation, he had directed the district administration to identify potential water sources, including nearby glacier streams, that could be channelised to ensure a more dependable water supply to the villages.

The project envisages channelising nearby glacier streams to meet local water requirements, ensuring a more reliable water supply for agricultural activities and rural households. The Lieutenant Governor directed that the two reservoirs, with a combined storage capacity of approximately 60-70 lakh litres, should be completed by the end of November.

Emphasising the importance of water security for agriculture and rural development, Saxena directed Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, to take the necessary measures to ensure adequate irrigation water for the people of the concerned areas. He stressed that effective water conservation

and management are essential for protecting livelihoods, sustaining agricultural activities and securing the long-term development of rural communities.

During the programme, YourbaltakCouncillor Manzoor Hussain also submitted a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor, highlighting key developmental and public welfare issues concerning the constituency. The LG assured residents that the Administration would examine and address their genuine concerns on priority.

The LG reiterated that the administration remains committed to people-centric and inclusive development, focusing on ensuring reliable water resources, strengthening rural livelihoods, and improving the quality of life across Ladakh.

The event was attended by the Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohmad Hanifa Jan; Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra; elected representatives; councillors; senior officers; and other dignitaries from the UT Administration and Kargil district.

Aadhaar mandatory for PM CARES for Children Scheme

der PM CARES for Children, which provides assistance for continuing education from Class 1 to Class 12, will be required to undergo Aadhaar authentication or furnish proof of possession of an Aadhaar number.

"An individual desirous of availing of the said benefit under the said scheme shall be required to undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number," the notification said.

However, paragraph 4 of the notification states that "the benefit under the said scheme shall not be denied to any child" who fails to establish identity through authentication or furnish proof of possession of an Aadhaar number or submits an application for enrolment where no Aadhaar number has been assigned.

In such cases, the benefit will be provided after verifying the child's identity and establishing the relationship with the parent or legal guardian through the documents specified in the notification.

Beneficiaries who have not been assigned an Aadhaar number will be required to apply for enrolment. In the case of a child, the application can be made only with the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

The department will ensure the enrolment of beneficiaries who are yet to be enrolled and facilitate updates to their Aadhaar details.

Until an Aadhaar number is assigned, children below 18 years can establish their identity by submitting an enrolment acknowledgement containing the Enrolment ID and a document establishing their age, such as a birth certificate, Indian passport or a Class 10 or Class 12 certificate or marks statement issued by a recognised school education board.

They must also furnish a photograph-bearing document to establish their relationship with a parent or legal guardian. The prescribed documents include a ration card, Indian passport and caste or domicile certificate issued by an authorised officer, among others.

The notification also specifies documents that may be furnished by foreign nationals.

For a foreign national below 18 years who has not been assigned an Aadhaar number, the prescribed documents include an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card for an OCI cardholder, a registration certificate issued by a Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for a Tibetan refugee, and a Nepalese or Bhutanese passport for nationals of those countries.

In cases involving legal guardianship, an adoption order or another document establishing legal guardianship, issued by a competent authority, may also be furnished.

For beneficiaries aged 18 years or above who have not been assigned an Aadhaar number, the enrolment acknowledgement containing the Enrolment ID must be accompanied by one of the prescribed identity documents bearing their photograph.

These include an Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC), ration card, Indian passport, driving licence, Class 10 or Class 12 certificate or marks statement, and specified caste or domicile certificates, among others.

The notification provides for alternative authentication methods if Aadhaar verification fails because of poor-quality biometric information or other reasons.

"If any particular biometric-based mode of authentication is not successful, any other mode of biometric-based authentication or one-time pin (OTP) based authentication shall, wherever feasible and admissible, be offered," it said.

The department will maintain records of cases in which children receive benefits through the alternative verification process and subject them to periodic review and audit.

For genuine beneficiaries aged 18 years or above, the department will follow the exception-handling mechanism specified in an Office Memorandum dated December 19, 2017, issued by the Direct Benefit Transfer Mission under the Cabinet Secretariat.

Omar thanks Modi for Rs 475.41 cr approval for J&K ITI clusters

would help transform ITIs into modern skill development hubs, ensuring that vocational training remains responsive to changing economic needs and emerging employment opportunities.

The central government had yesterday approved investment plans worth Rs 1,194.92 cr to upgrade 25Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across J&K, Maharashtra and Odisha in partnership with five industry players, including Tata Steel Foundation and Belri-seIndustries, to strengthen vocational training and youth employability.

The approvals were given at the sixth National Steering Committee meeting of thePradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme on Friday, according to the Ministry of Skill Development andEntrepreneurship.

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

The five approved plans cover ITI clusters in Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar inMaharashtra, Kataka in Odisha, and Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu &Kashmir. Eachcluster comprises one hub ITI and four associated institutes.

CJI to inaugurate Ladakh bench of High Court

General of India would also attend the event, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra said at a press conference today.

"It is a very big thing. Frankly speaking in recent times, if you scan the history of the High Courts in India, I don't think that in the last 40 years any sitting bench has been set up in this fashion for any other High Court. The only example which comes to my mind is maybe that of the North Eastern States, where the Guwahati High Court, had benches in Arunachal Pradesh, where I have worked," he said.

"Justice coming closer to the people is a very big thing," the CS said.

"Otherwise, anyone who was aggrieved and wanted to file a writ petition would have to go to Srinagar or Jammu. I think the fact that this is now possible here in Ladakh is an extremely positive development," he added.

He said the bench was established within two months and was not among the demands raised during negotiations, describing it as a unilateral initiative by the Centre.

Negotiations are currently underway between Ladakhi political leaders and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ladakhi leaders are seeking a Union Territory with a legislature and constitutional safeguards under Article 371.

"The Government of India fully understands how difficult this terrain is, the challenging circumstances in which people live here and how crucial it is to ensure that justice is accessible closer to their doorstep," Kundra said.

18 killed, several injured in stampede at Durga Puja pandal

ated to be critical.

Senior police officials rushed to the spot, and Disaster Management Group personnel were deployed to carry out rescue operations.

Following the incident, the West Bengal government launched a toll-free helpline. For information related to the incident, please call 18003455678, the state government said.

Former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee expressed shock over the incident in a post on X.

"Deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the stampede at the Chore Bagan Puja Pandal," she wrote.

"I pray to Maa Durga for the speedy recovery of all those injured and for strength and courage for their families during this difficult time," the TMC chief added.

Sabarmati-Jammu Tawi Express extended to Katra

Punjab, besides other parts of the country.

As per the announced schedule, train number 19223 will depart from Sabarmati at 10.25 am and reach Jammu Tawi at 3.35 pm on the second day, before arriving at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 6.55 pm.

On the return journey, train number 19224 will depart from Katra at 4.50 am and reach Jammu Tawi at 7.40 am.

Regulation issued to revise structure, electoral procedure of LAHDCs

council elections and electoral rolls.

Election disputes can be settled filing election petitions directly before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh within 45 days of result.

It defines the "district" areas under the act to include Leh, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Kargil, Zaskar, and Drass, along with any newly-created districts.

The councils will have the powers of the panchayat at the district level.

They will be deemed to be district-level panchayats for exercising powers and performing functions under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act, 1989.

6 IPS officers adjusted; 12 DSPs transferred

Singh as SDPO, Bari Brahmana, and ?Ayush Mani Chaudhary as SDPO Nowshera.

?Abdul Ghafoor is posted as DSP Railways, Anantnag, ?Sajad Ahmad Malik as SDPO Sader, ?Pardeep Singh Sen as DSP SIA, Jammu, ?and Majad Mehboob is transferred to TMG, CID Headquarters.

?Sajad Ahmad is posted as DSP STWS, Jammu, ?Sahil Mahajan as SDPO,Nagrota, Farha Nishat as DSP EOW, Jammu, ?Sajad Ahmad Mir as DSP19 JKAP IR, ?Sartaj Ahmad as DSP 21 JKAP IR, Sanjeev Singh Slathia as DSP EOW Jammu against the OAR post of DSP, ?Gurmeet Singh as DSP Security Jammu, and ?Vinod Kumar as DSP Traffic,Ramban.

Iran insists end to war key for regional peace: Dy FM

dum of understanding by launching strikes on Iran and Lebanon. He observed that American attempts to arrange a ceasefire and end Israel's war on Lebanon had stalled, declaring that Israel could not be relied upon to keep its word and that the United States bore responsibility for reining in its ally.

Labelling the US war on Iran unlawful under international law, the deputy foreign minister said Washington had been unable to eliminate Iran's air defences or its ability to deter attacks. Tehran, he added, had withstood an existential war and would continue safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Iran stood prepared to respond to questions raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United States concerning its peaceful nuclear programme, he stated, referring to more than 15 IAEA reports that verified Iranian compliance. Tehran had further offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, stressing that it did not pursue war but would counter any imposed conflict.

Hezbollah, Khatibzadeh said, functions as a Lebanese political party created to stop Israeli assaults and occupation. Ties between Iran and its partners rested on common beliefs, values and principles.

Trump waives tariffs on Russian oil buyers

signed on Friday night, he waived the application

of specified sanctions, restrictions and duties under the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, days after striking a deal with Russia for the supply of diesel to the US and global markets.

"I am hereby waiving the application of such sanctions, restrictions, and duties provided for in the Graham Act," Trump said.

He said he had submitted a certification to Congress stating that issuing the waiver at this time was in the national interest of the United States.

US Senator Richard Blumenthal criticised the move in a post on X. "These waivers have nothing to do with our national security, & everything to do with sucking up to Vladimir Putin. I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in condemning this craven, cowardly action," he said.

The Graham Act empowered Trump to impose sweeping sanctions on Moscow and tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported into the US from the five largest purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas, including China and India.

The law was passed by the US Congress on September 16 and signed into law by Trump two days later. It authorised Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or gas.

The executive order waives the duties provided for in Sections 112 and 113 of the Act or the order.

The waiver covers the new tariffs targeting the five largest purchasers of Russian-origin crude oil and natural gas, as well as the corresponding tariffs on countries facilitating Russian sanctions evasion. But it does not affect other US tariffs that may otherwise apply to imports from those countries.

"Pursuant to section 115(a) of the Graham Act, I hereby waive the application of any duties provided for in sections 112 and 113 of the Graham Act or this order," Trump said.

Section 115 of the Act allows the President to waive sanctions provisions, restrictions and duties in the national interest, subject to submitting a written certification to Congress and a report explaining the basis for the decision. The executive order states that Trump submitted both documents.

Section 113 of the Graham Act deals with the imposition of tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries that purchase Russian-origin crude oil or natural gas or facilitate sanctions evasion.

The executive order also directs the US Trade Representative, in consultation with senior officials, to monitor countries' purchases of Russian crude oil and natural gas, as well as the facilitation of sanctions evasion.

The officials are to inform the President of circumstances that could indicate the need for further action, including with respect to the waivers.

The order comes as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio begins a visit to India from October 17 to 22.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had raised concerns about the Graham Act during a meeting with Rubio on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last month.

Jaishankar is understood to have conveyed to Rubio that Indian oil refineries were largely configured to process medium-sour crude supplied by West Asian countries and Russia.

He also told Rubio that Venezuela supplies heavier-grade crude, while the US supplies lighter-grade crude that would require blending before being used by Indian refineries.

With oil supplies from West Asia hit by the Iran war, India has had to depend on Russian crude to keep its economy running.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's legacy of courage to inspire generations: Kavinder

fending righteousness, and the supreme sacrifices of four Sahibzadas. He said the Sikh principle of "Sarbat da Bhala" - the welfare of all - offers a universal message of compassion, service and collective well-being.

Referring to initiatives undertaken by the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for preserving and honouring Sikh heritage, the governor mentioned the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, the observance of December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas, and other measures reflecting respect for the faith, traditions and contributions of the community.

Emphasising the importance of social cohesion, Gupta said Jammu and Kashmir has a rich shared heritage shaped by diverse faiths, languages and cultural traditions. "Diversity is a source of strength and that preserving this legacy requires mutual respect, dialogue and a collective commitment to peace," he said.

He cautioned against attempts to create divisions in society and weaken the bonds of brotherhood and urged people, particularly intellectuals and community leaders, to act responsibly, verify information before sharing it and refrain from spreading rumours or provocative messages. Differences of opinion, he said, should never undermine mutual respect, social harmony or love for the nation.

The governor called upon all sections of society to promote humanity, equality, selfless service and mutual understanding. He stressed that education, responsible leadership and community engagement were essential to creating opportunities for youth, empowering women and ensuring dignity and justice for all.

He expressed confidence that the conclave would provide a meaningful platform for intellectual discourse, strengthen social bonds and inspire collective efforts towards nation-building.

He congratulated the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Trust and all those associated with the event for bringing together intellectuals, scholars and community representatives to deliberate on issues of social and national importance.

Earlier, Mahant Manjeet Singh appreciated the initiative of organising the 2nd Sikh Intellectual Conclave, stating that such platforms play an important role in promoting Sikh philosophy, preserving the community's rich heritage and fostering meaningful dialogue on social and contemporary issues.

He also lauded the efforts of Governor Gupta towards honouring the legacy of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, particularly his contribution from personal funds towards the installation of the latter's statue.

He expressed hope that such initiatives would inspire future generations to follow the ideals of courage, sacrifice, service and justice embodied by the great Sikh warrior.

Prominent among those who were present included Mahant Manjeet Singh of Dera Nangali Sahib, Poonch, Harjeet Singh Grewal, Chairman of National Commission for Minorities, Jatinder Pal Singh Sodhi, Gaddi Nasheen of Baba Banda Singh Bahadurand keynote speaker Harbhajan Singh.