

Peaceful environment necessary...

intensity, the world can learn from the country's age-old principles of harmony and coexistence. He also stressed the need for nations to focus on strategic security through strong defence capabilities and underlined that a peaceful environment is necessary for growth.

Noting that peace disruption or conflagration in any part of the globe has the potential to upset and unsettle growth, he said a robust national security architecture based on a clear national security strategy is a pre-condition for achieving our developmental goals. Delivering a lecture at the National Defence College here on 'India's Core Values, Interests and Objectives', Dhanekar underlined that inclusive development, peace, and universal well-being, while nurturing the environment, is at the heart of Indian philosophy.

He said India's core values for ages are the foundation of its identity and are premised on its civilisational ethos. In the present times, they are a blend of ancient wisdom and modernity aimed at fruitfully people's aspirations. As the world's largest democracy, the vice president said, India celebrates its diversity with several official languages, multiple religions, and varied ethnicities canvassed under one constitution ensuring freedom and equality.

In his address, Dhanekar said that India's interests are driven by the welfare of its people and global peace while emphasising that the menace of terrorism and fundamentalism need to be combated in tandem and together. Highlighting the nation's commitment to gender justice he said, "India is committed to gender justice, this being vital to economy and societal values, as also harmony. This has resulted in not only the empowerment of women, it has graduated to the next level of women-led growth."

Jawahar Tunnel in...

twin-tube tunnel has historically served as a vital passage through the Pir-Panjal Range connecting the Kashmir Valley and Leh with the rest of India. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has carried out extensive renovations of the 1956-built tunnel, the defence ministry said in a statement.

"It was upgraded to enhance the security, safety and comfort of the users using state-of-the-art modern technology, thus bringing it at par with the modern tunnels," it said. The renovated tunnel will be opened to the public in December, the ministry said. The rehabilitation was carried out through engineering, procurement and construction modes at a cost of Rs 62.5 crore funded by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. It has been completed in almost one year through 'Project Beacon' of the BRO, the statement said.

The upgrade comprised civil as well as electro-mechanical work. It also includes 76 high-definition CCTV cameras, smoke and fire sensors, SCADA systems and a centralised monitoring room for real-time supervision, a senior official said. It acts as an alternate route to National Highway 44. Vehicles that are not allowed to cross the newly constructed Quazikund-Banihal tunnel such as oil tankers, explosive-laden and gasoline vehicles, will use this tunnel, the ministry said.

Hope Centre will...

"If it has happened, it needs to be investigated," he said. "There is a demand for JPC. I hope the Central government will take the issue seriously and investigate it thoroughly," Abdullah told reporters.

The billionaire industrialist has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts. This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged. US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The Adani group, however, has denied the charges in response to a question on his party MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi seeking a review of reservation, Abdullah said "this is a good thing that the Lok Sabha member is raising people's issues." The job of the government is to bring forth all the issues of the people. The 'gundaraj' is over. We are answerable to people because they have voted for us," he said.

PM to launch...

the event as esteemed guests. Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will attend the event on November 25. He will chair the inaugural session of the Global Cooperative Conference as Chief Guest.

Asked whether Pakistan is participating in the event, the secretary said, "More than 100 countries are participating. We have received request from many countries for participation. There are approvals and protocols required for some countries. The protocols are being followed by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding allowing representatives from such countries to participate in the event." Out of the total cooperatives globally, Bhutani said there are 25 per cent cooperative organisation in India and added that the event will give an opportunity to showcase might of Indian cooperatives. There are 8 lakh cooperatives in India.

The success story of dairy and fertiliser cooperatives in India will be shared with global audience, he added. "Co-operative is uniquely placed in developing Indian economy as well as global economy," Bhutani said, as he highlighted the steps taken by the government in the last 10 years. IFFCO MD US Awasthi informed that the event will be carbon neutral and 10,000 peepal tree will be planted across the country. Only vegetarian food will be served with no liquor, he added. He said the theme of the event will be 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity of All' and the subthemes will be - Enabling Policy and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems; Nurturing Purposeful Leadership to Create Prosperity for All; Reaffirming The Cooperative Identity; Shaping the Future: Towards Realizing Prosperity for all in 21st Century.

Bhutani noted that the theme of the event 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All' is in line with the government of India's slogan of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi' which exactly translates to 'Prosperity through Cooperation'. The cooperation ministry has launched 54 initiatives for the growth and development of cooperative movement. "Whether it be computerisation of PACS or formation of three new cooperatives in the sectors where cooperatives didn't have a national level presence, all these steps have put India at the forefront of the global cooperative movement with India becoming one of the fastest growing cooperative sectors," the statement said. The event will also mark the bestowal of Rochdale Pioneers Award 2025, which is awarded to individuals or organisations for their valuable contribution for development of cooperatives and strengthening the international cooperative movement.

Guyana, Dominica confer...

This is a recognition of the 140 crore people of India," he said in a post on X.

"This is living proof of your deep commitment towards our relations which will continue to inspire us to move forward in every field," he said while accepting the award. Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and the deep-rooted historical ties between the people of the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release. He also emphasised that his State visit is a testament to India's continued commitment towards deepening India-Guyana friendship. "Another feather in the cap for India! President @DrMohamedIrfaal @presidentlity of Guyana conferred PM @narendramodi with the highest national award of Guyana 'The Order of Excellence', for his exceptional service to the global community, statesmanship and contribution in deepening India-Guyana ties," the MEA said in a post on X.

Modi is the fourth foreign leader to be conferred with the highest National award of Guyana, according to the ministry. Before this, the prime minister was conferred the "Dominica Award of Honour" by President Sylvanie Burton of Dominica on the sidelines of the India-CARICOM Summit here. "Honoured to be conferred with highest national award by Dominica. I dedicate it to the 140 crore people of India," Modi said in a post on X. "This honour is dedicated to my sisters and brothers of India. It is also indicative of the unbreakable bond between our nations," he said in a separate post. "The award is a recognition of PM's statesmanship and contribution to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his commitment to strengthening India-Dominica ties," the MEA said in a post.

Replying to an X post by Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, Modi said, "Your kind words have touched me. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit. With deep humility and gratitude, I accept the 'Dominica Award

of Honour'." "You spoke about the support during COVID-19. It fills my heart with joy to see how our solidarity during COVID-19 strengthened bonds across borders and continents. We will keep working closely with Dominica in the times to come," he added. "In 2021, during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, your generous provision of 70,000 AstraZeneca vaccines became a lifeline for Dominica," Prime Minister Skerrit said in his post on X.

He said the accolade was more than a symbol: "It is a tribute to your enduring legacy of leadership, your commitment to humanity, and the indelible mark you have left on nations, including ours, far beyond your shores." Skerrit asserted that it "transcended a donation; it was a powerful reminder that true leadership knows no borders". "This singular act of solidarity echoed the essence of global partnership and South-South collaboration," he said. "This honour also reflects the shared values that unite Dominica and India - our unwavering dedication to democracy, resilience in the face of adversity, and belief in the power of unity. Today, we recognise that your inspiration extends far beyond the oceans that separate us. Like Dominica, the world owes you a debt of gratitude for your tireless efforts to uplift humanity," he said.

Barbados will also confer its top award on Prime Minister Modi, bringing his tally of international honours to 19. Dominica announced its top award to Modi a few days ago. According to a statement released by Skerrit's office on the award's announcement, it also recognises India's support for Dominica in healthcare, education and information technology under Modi's leadership and his role in promoting climate resilience-building initiatives and sustainable development on a global level. The statement quoted Prime Minister Skerrit as saying that the award is an expression of Dominica's gratitude for Modi's solidarity with Dominica and the wider region. In accepting the offer of the award, Prime Minister Modi emphasised the importance of collaboration in tackling global challenges such as climate change and geopolitical conflicts and affirmed India's commitment to working alongside Dominica and the Caribbean in addressing these issues, the statement underlined.

Nepal's President Paudel...

an age-old tradition that first started in 1950, reflecting the strong ties between the two militaries. Gen Dwivedi, who is leading a five-member delegation, arrived here on Wednesday for a five-day official visit at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart Gen Ashok Sigdel. President Paudel conferred the honorary rank to Gen Dwivedi at his official residence Shital Niwas. Earlier in the day, Gen Dwivedi met Gen Sigdel at Nepal Army Headquarters here and discussed matters relating to the collaboration between the two armies, officials said.

He also laid a wreath and paid homage at Bir Smarak (Martyr's Memorial) at the Army Pavilion in Tundikhel, Kathmandu. He also received the Guard of Honour at the Army headquarters. During his visit, Gen Dwivedi is scheduled to visit Army Staff College in Shivapuri, located on the outskirts of Kathmandu. He also plans to have a mountain flight, officials said. There has been a long tradition of exchange of visits by the army chiefs of Nepal and India and to confer the title of honorary General to both the army chiefs. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Gen Dwivedi is accompanied by his spouse Sunita Dwivedi, chairperson of the Army Wives Welfare Association of the Indian Army.

Judge recommends sending...

of Parliament. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh, who was also scheduled to pass an order on Rashid's application seeking regular bail, sent the case file to the District Judge, who would likely hear matter on November 25. Apart from the case lodged by the NIA and the bail application of Rashid, the judge also recommended transferring a related money laundering case to the special court. Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case. Both the cases filed by the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others. Based on the NIA FIR, the ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons. The NIA lodged the FIR against the accused persons for "conspiring to wage war against the Government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

Rahul, Cong tried...

infrastructure behemoth, saying it is for the company to give an explanation and defend itself.

"Law will take its own course," he said while keeping the focus on Gandhi's allegations against the prime minister and the BJP government at the Centre. Patra also pointed out that four states -- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh Tamil Nadu -- where government functionaries were allegedly paid bribes of over USD 250 million to secure favourable deals, were ruled by non-BJP parties during the period mentioned in the indictment. While the Congress and its ally were in power in Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, the YSR Congress and the BJD, two regional parties unaffiliated to either the ruling or the opposition alliance nationally, ruled Andhra Pradesh and Odisha then, respectively.

The BJP spokesperson cited investments of tens of thousands of crores of rupees by the Adani group, the ports-to-energy conglomerate, in states ruled by the Congress and its allies to question Rahul Gandhi over his party's dealings with the behemoth when he calls its boss Gautam Adani "corrupt". Patra claimed that Gandhi's allegations on Thursday fitted the pattern of him, his mother Sonia Gandhi and the Congress trying to tarnish Modi's image since 2002, a reference to the communal riots in Gujarat when the BJP leader was the state's chief minister, but in vain.

Rahul Gandhi alleged corruption in the Rafale deal in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and had also gone after the Central government over the Covid vaccines issue, he said, noting the Supreme Court had dismissed the bribery charges in the procurement of the fighter jet. Instead of levelling allegations in press conferences, Gandhi should move courts and lodge cases if he believes that there was any wrongdoing, Patra said. He noted the BJP had repeatedly moved courts and received favourable judgments in its demand for an investigation into the charges of corruption against the previous Congress-led UPA government.

The prime minister received the highest civilian award in a foreign country on a day the opposition party was attacking him, the BJP leader said. Gandhi had claimed in his press conference that the opposition had been successful in destroying Modi's credibility over his alleged proximity to the business tycoon. Citing the Adani group's investment in various states ruled by the Congress and its allies, Patra noted that it invested Rs 25,000 crore and Rs 65,000 crore in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan when Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot were at the helm there, respectively.

The conglomerate invested Rs 45,000 crore in the DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu and had recently given Rs 100 crore donation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a skill development foundation, he added. If Adani is "corrupt", then why are the Congress governments seeking investment from his company, the BJP leader asked. The billionaire industrialist and his nephew are among those charged by US prosecutors for allegedly paying bribes to Indian officials and duping investors. This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged. US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The Adani group, however, has denied the charges. The Congress, Patra alleged, cannot tolerate the Indian economy gaining in strength with Modi as prime minister, as it is now on track to become the third biggest global economy. Rahul Gandhi has been trying to target the Indian economy by making all kinds of allegations and over 2.5 crore investors lost a lot of money as the stock market tanked on Thursday, he said. The Congress leader targeted the government over the alleged corruption in the Rafale aircraft deal and had also gone after it over the issue of Covid vaccines, he added.

Patra also objected to Gandhi's claim that his party has to do the job of the judiciary as well, saying it amounted to contempt of court. Gandhi does not understand the legalities and technicalities around an issue and merely repeats what he is briefed by a few advisors, he added. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will now start a "drama" when Parliament's Winter session begins on November 25 and try to disrupt its proceedings and target the economy, Patra claimed.

Hitting back at Gandhi's allegations that India has been hijacked by a cabal, he said the country was hijacked when the Congress was in power but it is now sailing along smoothly under Modi's leadership. It is he and his mother Sonia Gandhi who are on bail in a corruption case, Patra said, referring to the National Herald case in which Congress leaders have been accused of misappropriating assets of a trust linked to their party.

'Even Ajmal Kasab...

prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of politician Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Jammu tourism packages. The bench, however, remarked, "How will cross-examination be done online? There is hardly any connectivity in Jammu... In our country, a fair trial was given even to Ajmal Kasab and legal assistance was given to him in the high court." The bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, to take instructions on the total number of witnesses in the case. Mehta pointed out security concerns and said Malik couldn't be taken to Jammu for the trial.

The law officer accused Malik of "playing tricks" for having asked to appear personally and not engaging a lawyer. Mehta said Malik was not an ordinary criminal and showed a purported photograph of Malik sharing the dais with terrorist Hafiz Saeed. The top court said it could order trial to take place inside the jail besides asking the judge to come to the national capital for the proceedings. The bench, however, noted all the accused persons in the matter had to be heard before it passes an order. Mehta said Malik physically appearing in the Supreme Court had raised security concerns previously. The bench said Malik could be allowed to appear virtually in the apex court proceedings and posted the matter on November 28. The CBI in the meantime has been directed to amend its petition and implead all accused persons as respondents. In 2023, Mehta wrote to then Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla flagging a "serious security lapse" after Malik was brought to the Supreme Court to appear in a case.

Malik, serving life sentence in a terror-funding case, was brought to the high-security apex court premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission. Voicing surprise at his presence, Mehta informed the apex court there was a procedure for high-risk convicts to be allowed into the courtroom to argue their case personally. The CBI said Malik, the top leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, was a threat to national security and cannot be allowed to be taken outside the Tihar jail premises. The apex court on April 24, 2023, issued notices on the CBI's appeal following which the incarcerated JKLF chief wrote a letter to the registrar of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2023 seeking permission to appear in person to plead his case. An assistant registrar took up his request on July 18, 2023 and said the apex court would pass necessary orders - a decision the Tihar jail authorities reportedly misconstrued to allow Malik to appear and argue his case.

Mehta referred to the CBI's contention in its appeal against the trial court order to bring Malik to Jammu for in-person examination of the witnesses in the kidnapping case, and said under Section 268 of the CrPC a state government may direct certain people to not be shifted from the confines of a prison. On September 20, 2022, a special TADA court in Jammu directed Malik to be physically produced before it on the next hearing for him to cross-examine prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping case. The CBI challenged the trial court order before the Supreme Court as appeals in TADA cases are only heard by the top court. Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar on December 8, 1989 and freed five days later after the then BJP-backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange. Mufti, who now lives in Tamil Nadu, is a prosecution witness of the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990s. Malik is lodged in Tihar jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in May, 2023 in a terror-funding case.

Crime Branch files...

report filed in the Hon'ble court. The modus - operandi of the accused had been that BPL & AAY food grains much in excess of the authorized quantity of ration for BPL and AAY families was shown issued without any justification and money so obtained by means of misappropriation of ration was swindled.

Of the thirteen accused, seven passed away, one bailed out, one surrendered before the court, whereas rest four were arrested and produced before the court of law at the time of submission of charge-sheet. Pertinently, similar ration misappropriation was also committed during the year 2004, which was investigated and challaned by the ACB. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that investigation of case FIR No.21/2009, U/S 409, 420 120-B RPC, R/W 5(2) P.C. Act, P/S Crime Branch Jammu has been completed and chargesheet against thirteen (13) former officers of CA&PD department and Accounts department, has been filed in the Ld. court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu for judicial determination.

Most parts of...

freezing point, officials said. Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced snowfall last week, resulting in the cold conditions across the Valley. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius, a slight increase from the previous night's minus 0.7 degree Celsius, the weather office said.

However, the night temperature was still 1.1 degrees Celsius below the normal for this time of the season. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Pahalgam settled at minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, the coldest in the Valley. The Gulmarg ski resort registered a low of 0 degree Celsius, while Kupwara shivered at minus 0.9 degree Celsius. At Kokernag, the minimum settled above the freezing point at 0.7 degree Celsius, officials said. The Met department said the weather conditions would continue till November 23. On November 24, the weather would likely be cloudy with a possibility of light rain/snow at scattered places of Kashmir, especially in the higher reaches.

Abdullah visits Poonch...

Secretaries, District Development Council Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly from Poonch district, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, top civil and police officers, and departmental heads.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Poonch delivered a detailed presentation on the progress of CAPEX projects and the achievements of various departments. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of completing ongoing projects within stipulated timelines while adhering to the highest quality standards to ensure maximum benefit for the public. Reaffirming the government's commitment to equitable development, the Chief Minister stated: "This is the people's elected government, and it is our duty to maintain close contact with the public. Today, I personally met around 24 delegations from different areas of Poonch district, reviewed developmental works, identified areas requiring improvement, and issued necessary directions to address key issues."

He further highlighted the importance of inputs from elected representatives, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and District Development Council (DDC) members. During the meeting, MLA Haveli Ajaz Jan and MLA Surankote Chowdhary Akram raised pressing issues, including road connectivity, healthcare, education, and power infrastructure. Prominent delegations, including representatives from Beopar Mandal, religious leaders of all communities, civil society organizations, the ex-servicemen association, bar associations, social workers, and sports persons, also met with the Chief Minister, presenting their demands and concerns.

The Chief Minister assured the delegations of timely redressal of their genuine demands, emphasizing the government's resolve to address public grievances effectively. As part of his visit, the Chief Minister also inaugurated several completed projects in virtual mode of various departments, including PWD, School Education, Animal Husbandry, and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Union Minister Khattar...

homeless people in the Union Territory to ensure no one remains homeless. Highlighting Ladakh's immense potential for solar power development due to its vast area, Khattar said work is progressing on a 13 GW solar plant which aims to meet local energy needs besides addressing energy demands in other parts of the country.

Khattar arrived in Leh on Thursday morning on a three-day visit to the Union Territory (UT). "A survey of all homeless people will be conducted

in the Union Territory so that they can avail the benefits of PM Awas Yojana. The ministry will ensure that no person remains homeless in Ladakh," Khattar, who also holds the housing and urban affairs portfolio, told reporters in Leh. He also said that financial assistance has been provided to all the street vendors under the PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, and all efforts will be made to ensure that no one is left out.

In Leh, the minister received a comprehensive overview of the operations of the power and housing departments, including their achievements. Expressing satisfaction with their performance, he assured all possible support to overcome the challenges posed by the region's tough terrain. On waste management and worker safety, he emphasised Ladakh's goal of achieving 100 per cent processing of waste materials. "I was presented a detailed project report on this. I also stressed the importance of improving the working conditions of 'Safai Mitras' to eliminate occupational hazards," Khattar said.

Instructing the officials to expedite the preparation of detailed project reports (DPRs) for the water supply and sewage treatment plant (STP) projects in Leh and Kargil, Khattar said, "Timely completion of these DPRs is crucial for the smooth implementation of the projects which will enhance the quality of life in both the regions." Addressing the challenges faced by the power department during the winter months, Khattar assured that the UT's additional power demand will be met from the Government of India's surplus quota to ensure uninterrupted supply.

He also promised to resolve manpower issues in the power department at the earliest. The Ladakh administration submitted estimates worth Rs 1,080 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, with approvals expected shortly, the minister said. Stating that the ongoing projects under the PM Deendayal Package would be completed by December, Khattar announced plans to set up power supply and distribution lines to Nubra Valley and Zaskar Valley, which will significantly enhance energy availability in these regions. He also assured that efforts are being made on a war footing to address the bottlenecks hindering different project implementation.

Jammu petrol pumps...

School Education (DSE) has also issued a circular prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school. The poster, first displayed at petrol pumps in the Gandhi Nagar area on the Jammu-Pathankot highway reads, "No fuel for minors." The poster, which specifically focuses on minors riding two-wheelers without helmets or four-wheelers, is aimed at ensuring the safety of children," said an employee of the petrol pump.

This step has drawn praise from residents and encouraged the authorities to take proactive measures. On November 14, two young boys died while another was critically injured after a tragic collision between two vehicles near the Tengpora area in Srinagar. This incident sparked a debate on driving by minors and road safety in the valley. Following another accident in Srinagar last week, in which two teenage boys died and two others were injured after their car rammed into a stationary truck, the DSE issued an order prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school.

"It has come to notice that some underage students are driving vehicles while going to schools or coaching centres. Such an act has the potential of causing road accidents, endangering public safety, and is also in violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act," the DSE said in a circular issued on Thursday. It further said, "In view of the above, it is impressed upon Heads of Institutions of all government and private schools & coaching centres to implement these instructions strictly. They should keep a close vigil to ensure that no underage student is allowed to attend the institution while driving any motor vehicle, including two-wheelers or four-wheelers."

Such students must not be permitted entry and their parents should be informed accordingly, the circular added. The directive further instructed schools and coaching centres to ensure proper sensitisation of students and parents about the dangers and risks involved in underage driving. Awareness programmes on age restrictions and traffic rules should be organised in collaboration with the traffic police, it said. "Parents and guardians should be educated through PTMs (parents-teachers meetings) about the consequences of underage driving and their responsibilities," it stated.

Additionally, schools and coaching centres are required to monitor parking areas and entry points to ensure compliance, it said. "Any instance of a minor driving a vehicle should be immediately reported to the concerned authorities. They should also regularly coordinate with the Traffic Police to enforce strict measures," the circular said. The directive emphasised activating all road safety and school safety clubs to raise awareness in schools. "All government and private schools & coaching centres must strictly ensure the implementation of the above circular instructions in letter and spirit. Any violation of the instructions shall invite legal action under the Motor Vehicle Act and relevant laws, including the withdrawal of recognition and registration of the institution," it said.

JDA demolishes Kashmir...

has floated tenders for constructing a shopping complex in Muthi Camp Phase II. Ten shops will be constructed soon and allotted to these shopkeepers," he said. Political parties, including the BJP, PDP and Apni Party, and several Kashmir Pandit organisations condemned the JDA's action and called for the construction of new shops for the displaced community to help them sustain their livelihood. Pointing to his demolished shop, its owner Kuldeep Kisroo said, "Instead of helping us survive by providing better facilities and financial support, this government has snatched our bread and butter by bulldozing our shops."

Jav Lal Bhat, another shopkeeper who set up his shop in a tin shed in 1991, said, "How can we feed our families when we are solely dependent on the earnings from these shops? We urge the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister to intervene and give us justice." Another shopkeeper, Jawahar Lal, described the demolition as "sheer hooliganism". He said, "No notices were served to us for the demolition." President of the Muthi migrant camp Anil Bhan criticised the timing of the demolition. "It should have waited for another month as the relief department is already constructing shops for them within the camp. This unfortunate incident could have been avoided," he said.

PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti shared a clip of the affected shopkeepers on X and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue with compassion and urgency. "Heartbreaking scenes emerge as Kashmiri Pandit shopkeepers stand helplessly by the rubble of their demolished shops, reportedly brought down by the JDA without prior notice. This act further deepens their sense of alienation and loss," she said on X. BJP Spokesperson G L Raina, who visited the site and met the affected families, said, "This visibly seems to be a revenge action soon after the return of the NC-Congress government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah."

"JDA should have provided alternatives to these families. The government must stop targeting this hapless community," he said. Apni Party General Secretary and former legislator Vijay Bakaya expressed dismay and questioned the intentions of the JDA. "Many shops being run by Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Muthi for nearly 30 years have been demolished. If these shops had to be removed for any legitimate reason, notice should have been given and alternative locations provided. This high-handed action by the authorities is most condemnable," he said.

NIA raids multiple...

into terrorist infiltration cases, official sources said. The searches are being conducted following the registration of cases involving the infiltration of Pakistani terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir, they said, adding that raids are underway at nine places in the division. "NIA raids are going on at various locations in Reasi, Doda, Udhampur, Ramban and Kishtwar in cases related to terrorist infiltration," a source said. The NIA officials are being assisted by the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in this operation. The focus is on dismantling networks linked to terrorist infiltration, including overground workers, surrendered militants, suspected guides and harbourers.