

BLOs bedrock of...

remarks after meeting BLOs in Bihar's Nalanda district. "BLOs are the bedrock of democracy. They go to every voter's home and, in a transparent manner, ensure that eligible electors get their voter ID cards made," he told reporters on the sidelines of a conference here.The CEC said that after meeting the BLOs in Nalanda, he felt the capabilities possessed by these officers in the district should be "present in all the BLOs across the country". Kumar also announced the setting up of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) under ELC 2.0 across the nation, starting from Bihar."The process of setting up clubs about electoral processes and their transparency has been started from Bihar, and will be expanded on a large scale for the entire country," he said.

Kumar said the conference, attended by vice chancellors and principals of schools and colleges, and a large number of students from across Bihar, saw "very good suggestions" around strengthening the electoral process."After interacting with the participants, I have full faith that just as Bihar gave transparent and peaceful voting as a gift to the entire country, it will provide ELCs as a boon to the nation," he said.

One dead, 12...

Jammu-Poonch National Highway when a two-wheeler first collided with a taxi and an auto-rickshaw. The three-wheeler subsequently rammed into five parked cars, officials said.

Thirteen people, including three boys on the two-wheeler, were injured in the collision and rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital.Officials said one of the boys, Manish Kumar (18), succumbed to his injuries there.Police said the condition of two of the injured is critical.Police have seized all the vehicles involved in the accident.They said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at the local police station for further investigation.

BJP should restore...

BJP had every democratic right to protest but should first fulfil its "long-pending" commitment to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Give us statehood and then see the results," Sadiq told reporters in Srinagar.He asked the BJP to explain to the people of Jammu and Kashmir why it had not fulfilled commitments made after the abrogation of Article 370."They (BJP) they are the one who defeated the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Sadiq told reporters in Srinagar.

He said that the BJP had promised to restore statehood after completing the delimitation exercise and holding Assembly elections, but had failed to keep its word till now.Sadiq claimed that Jammu and Kashmir had performed strongly across several sectors before its reorganisation and accused the BJP of weakening the region by downgrading it into a union Territory and dividing it into two separate entities.

He also alleged that several important matters remained pending with the Centre, affecting the functioning of the elected government"... Our files are still pending. We still do not have an Advocate General. The reservation file is still with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Why are they not returning these matters? Why are they not allowing an elected government to function?" he asked.

Accusing the BJP of creating unnecessary obstacles, Sadiq described the protest as "drama" and said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were aware of the circumstances that had led to the present situation."People of Jammu and Kashmir know the reality. The damage caused by the BJP and the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir is unprecedented," he said.

Chhari Puja held...

the annual Amarnath Yatra. Following its worship in Srinagar, the holy mace is taken along the pilgrimage route to the Amarnath cave shrine for final prayers on Shravan Purnima.

"Embarking on the main course of pilgrimage on August 22, the holy mace will be taken to the shrine of Swami Amarnath Ji to perform 'Pujan' and have 'Darshan' on the auspicious occasion of 'Shravan Purnima' on August 28," Mahant Deependra Giri said.

There will be night halts at Pahalgam on August 22 and 23, at Chandanwari on August 24, at Sheshnag on August 25 and at Panchtarani on August 26 and 27, respectively.More than 4.80 lakh pilgrims have performed the Amarnath Yatra since the pilgrimage began on July 3. It will conclude on August 28.

Diversity is our...

and making space for one another in our hearts is the essence of India's civilizational ethos. He noted that diversity is not a weakness but the nation's greatest strength, a heritage safeguarded through mutual trust and respect. "Mutual trust and respect to all faiths and beliefs was an integral part of our way of life. The civilisation of our beloved Bharat gave us a profoundly beautiful message 6,000 years ago to walk together, converse together and make space for one another in our hearts," he said. The Lieutenant Governor said that India's soil has, for centuries, welcomed faiths, cultures, and traditions from across the world, weaving them into the fabric of the country. He highlighted that this confluence of traditions is visible today in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-the world is one family-and in the ethos of Kashmiriyat, which teaches that true identity lies in conduct and humanity, not in labels of faith or community. Acknowledging the efforts of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation, the Lieutenant Governor commended the young volunteers working against drug abuse and promoting brotherhood. He urged that such initiatives be expanded on a broader scale. "Such initiatives need to be expanded on a much broader scale. I believe that another meaning of true peace is that it begins when we start understanding one another. From that perspective, our gathering here is not merely a social meeting. The true meaning of Mulaqat is to listen to one another, understand one another, respect one another and, wherever there is distance between hearts, take the first step towards dialogue. Through programmes such as Mulaqat, we must create a culture in which people belonging to all faiths, all systems of worship and all sections of society sit together, discuss issues, examine the truth and assess reality. Wherever a wall has been erected between people, everyone must work together to bring it down," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also outlined a six-point roadmap for the future and called upon administration and all sections of society to Institutionalise regular interfaith dialogues in schools, colleges, and community centres to foster understanding among youth. He stressed on Youth Peace Ambassadors and called upon youth to lead initiatives in cultural exchange, community service, and environmental protection.

He noted that preserving historical and cultural sites as common heritage through joint participation of citizens and administration is significant. The Lieutenant Governor urged youth to promote digital literacy and counter misinformation to safeguard public trust."It is the collective responsibility of the public and the administration to ensure that youth receive an education that teaches them to ask questions, access to technology that guides them towards progress, and the character that inspires patriotism and nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also highlighted the role of social justice and equal opportunities for progressive society and asked all the stakeholders to ensure impartial systems that deliver education, employment, healthcare, and justice to all citizens. In his sixth and last recommendation, the Lieutenant Governor asked for constituting Village Peace Committees, representing all sections of society to strengthen compassion, humanity and development.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that while governments can make laws and administrations can provide systems, true harmony is built by the people themselves. He called upon administrative officers to ensure the safety of citizens, equal opportunities in development and proper implementation of welfare schemes.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor flagged off the Tiranga Yatra from Sports Stadium, Pulwama. He also commended the people of Pulwama for their enthusiastic participation in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and other national integration programmes.

Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir Range; Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Ms. Tanushree, SSP Pulwama; Shri Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation; Ms Anika Nazir, Women's Wing President, Shri Mudasir Dar, Zonal President (South Kashmir) and other members of the Foundation; senior officials, civil society members, prominent citizens, people from different walks of life and youth in large

number attended the Mulaqat programme.

Jammu-born IAS...

Capital Territory of Delhi.As per Order No. 327, dated August 14, 2026, the officers assigned postings are Arjun Gupta, IAS (AGMUT: 2024) - Joint Commissioner (Industries).Benjo P. Jose, IAS (AGMUT: 2024) - Joint Commissioner (Industries).The order stated that both officers were posted as Joint Commissioner (Industries) on joining the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.The transfer and posting orders have been issued with immediate effect.

326 MPs, 14...

Hansaria, who has been appointed amicus curiae in a PIL seeking expeditious disposal of criminal cases against MPs and MLAs, said that there are over 4,000 criminal cases against Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

The affidavit stated that the chief ministers of 14 states, out of 28, have declared criminal cases, including serious ones.According to the data, Telangana CM Anumula Revanth Reddy has 89 cases against him, followed by West Bengal CM Suvedu Adhikari, who has 29 cases, and Karnataka CM D K Shivakumar, who has 19 cases.

Hansaria submitted that despite monitoring of cases by the top court and high courts to ensure expeditious trials, the number of pending criminal cases against MPs and MLAs since 2018 has remained almost at the same level.Collating data from various high courts, the amicus informed the apex court that 1,243 criminal cases were decided in 2025, while 1,050 new cases were registered in that year.

He told the court that the total number of cases pending against former and current MP/MLAs is 4,192."In the Lok Sabha, out of 543 members, 251 members have criminal cases against them, of which 170 cases are serious criminal cases (punishable with five years of imprisonment or more).

"In the Rajya Sabha, out of 233 members, 75 (33 per cent) members have criminal cases against them, of which 40 (18 per cent) cases are serious criminal cases (punishable with five years of imprisonment or more)," the affidavit said while referring to a report published by the Association for Democratic Reforms.

The senior lawyer also filed an analysis of reports filed by various high courts, except Uttar Pradesh since no report was received from the Allahabad High Court.According to the affidavit, filed through advocate Senha Kalita, 19 out of 20 MPs (95 per cent) from Kerala faced criminal charges, and 11 of them faced serious cases.

Of the 17 MPs from Telangana, 14 faced criminal charges (82 per cent), Odisha 76 per cent (16 of 21), Jharkhand 71 per cent (10 of 14), Tamil Nadu 67 per cent (26 of 39), around 50 per cent of MPs from other major states - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh - faced criminal cases.

Haryana (10 MPs) and Chhattisgarh (11 MPs) have just one MP each facing criminal charges; Punjab has two out of 13, Assam has three out of 14, Delhi has three out of seven, Rajasthan has four out of 25, Gujarat has five out of 25 and Madhya Pradesh has nine out of 29 MPs with criminal charges.

Asserting that the criminal cases against MP/MLAs need to be monitored by the top court for their expeditious disposal, the amicus has sought directions that the courts designated as Special Court MP/ MLA will exclusively conduct trials against MPs/ MLAs; and only when the trials of these cases are concluded, other cases would be taken up.

"The Principal District and Session Judges of all the districts will allocate regular court work to the Special Court MP/ MLA only when the trial of cases against MPs/MLAs are concluded."The High Courts shall monitor the progress of a trial on a monthly basis on the judicial side in the suo motu Writ Petition, and ensure that all the cases pending are concluded expeditiously and not later than one year of the framing of charge," the amicus said.

The senior lawyer also requested that the high courts shall micro-monitor the cases and pass effective orders in each case, wherever such cases are pending for more than three years.Hansaria is assisting the court in the PIL filed by Ashwini Upadhyay for speedy disposal of cases against the lawmakers.

On November 9, 2023, in a significant verdict aimed at fast-tracking trials in more than 5,000 criminal cases against lawmakers, the top court had directed high courts to set up a special bench to monitor cases for their speedy disposal.It had also asked special courts not to adjourn proceedings in such matters except "for rare and compelling reasons."

Issuing a slew of directions to high courts, district judges, and special courts designated to hear matters related to lawmakers, the top court had directed that criminal cases against members of Parliament, legislative assemblies and legislative councils be given priority.

Govt destroyed ISI...

live cartridges, and CCTV cameras used for espionage, were made from the ISI-funded group, he said.In a message on 'X', the Home Minister said, "Modi government destroyed the ISI-backed terror group Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of Independence Day and thwarted its plans for subversive attacks by arresting more than 200 operatives." "Indian security forces ripped apart the network by launching coordinated operations across different locations in 14 states, upholding a brilliant example of India's zero-tolerance towards terrorism," he said.The network was involved in several terrorist activities, Shah said. According to a government statement, the Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) is a Pakistan-based terror syndicate linked to grenade, IED and petrol bomb attacks and targeted killings across India. The SBN has also been paying local conduits to receive police, defence and religious sites, and to install CCTV cameras for espionage. The NIA is probing multiple cases against Bhatti, including an alleged link to the March 2025 grenade attack at the residence of social media influencer Roger Sandhu in Jalandhar, Punjab.In April 2026, the NIA had chargesheeted Bhatti as an absconder, and one other accused in the case. The anti-terror agency has further found that Bhatti had also masterminded the November 2025 explosion at the Women Police Station, Sirsa, Haryana and the January 2026 blast at Baldev Nagar police station in Ambala, Haryana. In the Sirsa case, the NIA had chargesheeted nine individuals, including Bhatti and another Pakistan-based handler Sohail Ahmad alias Sohail Baloch, in May 2026.The Baldev Nagar police station case relates to a car bomb explosion, in which one arrested accused was found to have been in touch with Bhatti.

"To counter SBN-linked disruptions planned around Independence Day, a coordinated multi-state operation was carried out on August 12 using a real-time intelligence-sharing system with State Police forces," the government statement said. Over 200 arrests were made during the operation in 14 states, including Uttar Pradesh (62), Haryana (52), Delhi (51), Punjab (44), Rajasthan (15), Maharashtra (8), Uttarakhand (5), Karnataka, Gujarat and Bihar (3 each), and Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Kerala (2 each) with fresh FIRs registered in Delhi and Karnataka.

"Cumulatively, over 80 FIRs and 200-plus arrests have been recorded against SBN under UAPA, BNS, the Arms Act, NDPS Act and Explosive Substances Act," it said.

The statement said recoveries include IEDs and grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, confirming the network's direct cross-border links."Security agencies reaffirm the Government of India's zero tolerance for cross-border terror and continued coordinated action to dismantle SBN's networks nationwide," it said.

Pension reforms to...

pension system simpler, more responsive and aligned with changing social requirements.

Addressing the 9th National ANUBHAV Awards Ceremony, 2026 and the 60th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Government's pension reforms are aimed not only at providing ease of living to pensioners but also at making the entire administrative system more efficient. He said the experiences of retiring and retired employees provide valuable feedback for identifying systemic gaps and improving government practices.

The ceremony was attended by Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma; Additional Member (HR), Railway Board, Shri Pravash P. Pandey; DMD, SBI, Shri Chander Shekhar Sharma; senior officials of DoPPW and representatives of various Ministries and Departments. Dr. Jitendra Singh conferred the National ANUBHAV Awards on five awardees and presented Jury Awards as part of the ceremony.

The Minister also released the Handbook on Pension Mitra, Anubhav Awardees' Citation Booklet and Guidelines for the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign-5. A short film on the National ANUBHAV Awardees, 2026 was also screened during the ceremony.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the ANUBHAV initiative, launched in 2015 on the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was conceived to preserve and make use of the vast experience acquired by government employees during their years of public service. He said the value of ANUBHAV goes beyond recognising individual awardees, as each experience can provide the Government with practical feedback to improve policies, procedures and administrative practices.

The Minister recalled an experience shared by an ANUBHAV awardee from the early years of the initiative, where an employee working in the tourism sector had sought an opportunity to upgrade her professional capacity through a specialised course. After considerable administrative time and resources had been invested in the training, she was transferred to another department. The employee eventually returned to the tourism sector, but the experience raised an important question about how administrative decisions can sometimes result in the loss of institutional investment, expertise and public resources.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said such experiences demonstrate why ANUBHAV is also a valuable source of institutional learning. Experiences of serving and retired employees can help identify systemic gaps that may otherwise remain unnoticed and enable the Government to improve its practices on the basis of actual ground-level experience.

He said the Government has continued to simplify pension procedures in response to changing administrative and social requirements. Unnecessary provisions have been removed from pension forms and cumbersome procedures have been replaced with simpler processes. Referring to recent reforms, the Minister said family pension provisions have also been strengthened to respond better to contemporary social realities, including provisions relating to eligible daughters and family members.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the pension system must remain in a continuous reform mode, with changes guided by experience, feedback and evolving social requirements. He invited pensioners and retiring employees to continue sharing their suggestions so that the Department can keep improving its services and procedures.

The Minister also spoke about the transformation brought about by the Digital Life Certificate and Face Authentication initiatives. Technology, he said, has replaced the earlier requirement of physical verification with a much more convenient digital process. The initiative has also evolved into a wider public campaign, with banks, government departments, pensioners' associations and family members helping elderly citizens submit their Digital Life Certificates.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the increasing use of technology in pension services has simultaneously improved convenience and reduced the administrative burden on the system. He also referred to the Pension Adalats, which have provided on-the-spot grievance resolution, and the continuing efforts of the Department to address pension grievances and reduce litigation by resolving issues at their source.

The Minister said the Bhavishya portal and other technology-enabled initiatives have further simplified pension processing and service delivery. He also referred to the Department's efforts towards integrating pension-related services and information, making it easier for pensioners to access the support they need.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop was conceived on the understanding that employees retiring at 60 are often in good health and possess valuable professional expertise accumulated over decades of public service. Instead of allowing this experience to remain untapped after retirement, the Government is creating avenues through which their knowledge, skills and energy can continue to contribute to nation-building.

The 60th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop brought together around 800 Government of India officials in the National Capital Region scheduled to retire in March 2027. The workshop covered retirement benefits, CGHS facilities and procedures, Digital Life Certificate and Face Authentication, cyber security, investment choices for pensioners, Bhavishya and the Integrated Pensioners' Portal, family pension, income-tax related issues, CPENGRAMS and ANUBHAV.

Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma said ANUBHAV has become an important platform for capturing and sharing the institutional experience of retired government employees. More than 14,000 experiences have been shared on the portal so far, while the 2026 awards received over 2,000 nominations, the highest number so far. She also spoke about the appointment of Pension Mitras, Digital Life Certificate campaigns, Pension Adalats and the Department's work towards developing an integrated pensioner ecosystem that brings multiple pension-related services and information onto a single platform.

Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated all the National ANUBHAV Awardees and Jury Award recipients and said government employees who have devoted decades to public service constitute a valuable national asset. Pension reforms, he said, are therefore not merely about processing retirement benefits but about ensuring dignity, convenience and continued engagement with the experience and expertise of those who have contributed to the nation's development.

Vande Mataram added...

registration of an FIR against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for alleged obstruction when Vande Mataram was being sung during the party's Independence Day function at its headquarters in Delhi.

The Congress has asserted that there was no attempt to stop the singing of the full version, while maintaining that in 1937, a meeting of the Congress Working Committee in Kolkata decided that the initial stanzas of Vande Mataram would be sung at the Congress sessions.Abdullah said Independence Day parade on Saturday was the eighth he had attended as the chief minister, but the national song was played for the first time.

"This was my eighth Independence Day parade, but it was for the first time Vande Mataram was included in it. It took me some time to understand that first I will stand up, Vande Mataram will play, then I will unfurl the flag, then the National Anthem will play. Perhaps Congress also took time to adjust; it happens," he said.

Abdullah refused to comment on PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's post on X in which the former chief minister said she was a "dimaagi naxal" as she supported the restoration of Article 370."Why are you asking me to explain or speak about what she tweets? It is her Twitter account, her daughter runs it, let her tweet what she likes," he added.

On the student protests in Jharkhand, Abdullah said there must be some truth to the protesters' demands as the government there has held one round of talks with them."If the students' demands are legitimate and correct, then somewhere they should sit down and talk. If they are not, then say it straight that their talk has no weight. If one round of talks has taken place, and you are saying there will be a second round, then somewhere there must be some truth to their demands. Whatever you can do, do it," he added.

The chief minister reiterated that matters such as education and health are state subjects as per the devolution of powers."This fault is not just of the BJP; various Central governments have played a role in weakening the states. The agencies that have been formed, the powers these agencies have received -- it is not just because of the BJP. The UPA government, unfortunately, had a role in this," he said.

Abdullah said had there not been centralisation of examinations like NEET, BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan would not have had to resign as the exams are held at the state level."If there was a lapse in any state, the minister of that state would be at fault, but centralising resulted in a lapse somewhere, and the Central minister had to resign. What belongs to the state should be left to the state; what belongs to the Centre, the Centre should handle. The Centre's habit of interfering in the states is the reason why Dharmendra Pradhan had to lose his job," he added.

Baba Budha Amarnath...

extending warm wishes to all pilgrims for a safe and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage. The Lieutenant Governor expressed deep appreciation to the Baba Amarnath and Budha Amarnath Yatri Nyas along with VHP and Bajrang Dal, local authorities, langar organisations and civil society groups for their meticulous coordination and comprehensive arrangements ensuring the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and the Budha Amarnath Ji Mela.

"The sacred journey to Baba Budha Amarnath's abode is a deeply enlightening experience. I firmly believe this pilgrimage brings profound transformation and reveals life's deepest truths to every devotee," the Lieutenant Governor said. A large gathering of eminent spiritual leaders, religious heads, public representatives, senior civil and police administrators, security officials, prominent citizens, and enthusiastic devotees attended the flag-off ceremony.

Illegal mining crackdown...

between enforcement actions and criminal prosecution, with several districts reporting hundreds of seizures but very few FIRs.

Kathua district recorded the highest number of seizures at 1,019, but only one FIR was registered in the district.Kupwara as per the government data reported 972 seizures and 48 FIRs, while Baramulla recorded 845 seizures and 41 FIRs. Samba registered 800 seizures, but there was no FIR registered.

The data revealed significant variations in enforcement patterns across districts.Budgam topped the list in J&K in terms of criminal cases, with 62 FIRs registered against illegal mining offenders despite recording 671 seizures. It was followed by Kupwara 48 FIRs, Baramulla 41, Ganderbal 30 and Srinagar 29.

In terms of penalty recovery, Kathua again led the list, with authorities recovering Rs 3.308 crore. Jammu followed with Rs 2.248 crore, while Pulwama recovered Rs 2.008 crore, Baramulla Rs 1.618 crore, and Kupwara Rs 1.499 crore.Among other districts, Anantnag recorded 530 seizures, leading to the recovery of Rs 1.01 crore, while Kulgam reported 391 seizures and Rs 0.949 crore in penalties.

In the Jammu division, the Jammu district registered 679 seizures, 15 FIRs, and recovered Rs 2.248 crore. Reasi recorded 356 seizures, while Jajouri and Udhampur reported 317 and 277 seizures, respectively.Ramban recorded the lowest number of seizures at 39, followed by Kishtwar with 58. Neither district registered any FIRs.

The discrepancy in data relating to seizures and FIRs registered in connection with illegal mining came under scrutiny during a recent meeting of the Committee on Environment chaired by M Y Tarigami.Expressing concern over the disparity, the committee members sought a detailed explanation from the Mining Department.

Tarigami during the meeting directed the department to furnish comprehensive details regarding the first and second penalties imposed on violators before the seizure of vehicles, machinery, or minerals, saying the information was necessary to assess the effectiveness of the existing enforcement mechanism.

Operation Nanhe Farishte...

Jammu Division under the 'Nanhe Farishte' campaign is highly commendable. We will further strengthen such campaigns so that no child remains unsafe on railway premises," he said.Under the campaign, RPF personnel maintain vigil and patrol railway stations and trains to identify and assist children found alone or in vulnerable circumstances.

Officials said the initiative also helps protect vulnerable children from traffickers, criminals and other forms of exploitation.The RPF has appealed to passengers to remain vigilant about the safety of children during train journeys and immediately inform the RPF helpline 139 or the nearest RPF post if a child is found alone or wandering.

'Why make girls...

argued against children, particularly girls, participating in such public celebrations.

"Just came across a clip from a school somewhere in Kashmir. Independence Day celebrations held for or by the Waqf Board. I have a question."Isn't waqf board a religious body entrusted with serving the Muslim Community and ideally doing so while upholding Islamic Values?" wrote the National Award-winning actor, who had announced her disassociation from acting in 2019 as it interfered with her faith and religion.

The 25-year-old said it was almost comical that an institution founded for religious and communal purpose did not pause to question an event that reduced children to performers."Why is the default way of involving children" and particularly girls" in public celebrations to make them dance to irrelevant songs? Why aren't our institutions giving them something to think about, create, learn, discuss, build or contribute?" she asked.

She said Kashmir has a remarkable legacy of people who understood education as a means to enlighten minds, cultivate character and equip people with knowledge and spirituality."So if it's an institution whose very existence is tied to religious purpose, you are tasked with the deeper work of strengthening the communities spiritually, morally, and intellectually," she added.

The former actor said the subject of her post was not the children but the institutions that organise and facilitate such events."Children are often simply made to participate in whatever schools and institutions put before them. Perhaps that is the real tragedy here. The question is what an institution chooses to facilitate, endorse and place under its own banner," she said.

SIA Kashmir arrests...

said, adding, "Bhat allegedly played a role in facilitating the sale and distribution of narcotics in the Jammu division. His arrest followed sustained efforts involving technical surveillance, human intelligence and coordinated investigative measures."

The investigation, the spokesman said, has also revealed alleged links with Pakistan/PoK-based terrorist handlers, including Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo alias Kandoo, son of Abdul Khaliq Kandoo of Kralting, Sopore, and Manzoor Ahmad Khan, son of late Abdul Majeed Khan of Braman Panzala, Baramulla. "These individuals facilitated the trafficking of narcotics from PoK, which were subsequently collected, distributed and sold through a network operating in J&K," he said.

The spokesman said that the case was initially registered following the recovery of one kilogram of heroin from Zeeshan Ahmad Sofi and Waseem Ahmad Khan at Nowpora, Sopore. Subsequent investigation led to the recovery of seven kilograms of poppy straw and four kilograms of poppy seeds. The SIA had earlier also recovered 15 grams of heroin from the residential premises of Manoj Kumar Bhat. "One motorcycle and electronic gadgets have also been seized and are currently undergoing forensic and technical examination," hes aid, adding, "During the investigation, SIA Kashmir filed multiple charge-sheets before the competent court against Zeeshan Ahmad Sofi, Waseem Ahmad Khan, Bashir Ahmad Koli, Mohammad Ashraf Lone, Mohammad Saleem Khan and Zafraan Agar for judicial determination.

The agency said the investigation has established the involvement of a broader network allegedly associated with Hizbul Mujahideen and its Pakistan/PoK-based handlers.Meanwhile, SIA Kashmir has also secured an Interpol Red Corner Notice against terrorist handler and narco-terror operative Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo in a separate terror-related case.

The latest arrest is expected to help investigators uncover further layers of the alleged conspiracy, establish additional linkages, trace the financial trail and identify the complete chain connecting narcotics trafficking with terror financing.The SIA said its investigation remains ongoing and that efforts will continue to identify and apprehend all persons allegedly involved in the network and dismantle the structures supporting narco-terror financing.