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Exceptional coordination among...

a "powerful symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and its handover to the Navy led to renouncement of a major colonial legacy.

"A few months ago we had seen how INS Vikrant had given Pakistan some sleep-less nights. INS Vikrant, the name itself puts an end to the courage of the enemy," Modi said.

Modi spent a night onboard INS Vikrant and witnessed the Navy's air power at the high seas with MiG 27 aircraft demonstrating its skills on the aircraft carrier built at the Cochin Shipyard.

He said that when the enemy is in front and war is imminent, the side that possesses the strength to fight independently always holds the advantage.

"The fear instilled by the Indian Navy, the extraordinary skill demonstrated by the Indian Air Force, and the bravery of the Indian Army, along with the exceptional coordination among all three services, brought Pakistan on its knees swiftly during Operation Sindoor," the prime minister said, adding that the armed forces deserved a special salute for their actions.

"For the armed forces to be strong, self-reliance is essential," he said, asserting that over the years India's forces have steadily advanced towards self-reliance.

"Missiles such as BrahMos and Akash have proven their capabilities during Operation Sindoor. Several countries around the world are now interested in purchasing these missiles," Modi said.

He said that the armed forces have identified thousands of items that will no longer be imported, resulting in most essential military equipment now being manufactured domestically.

He said that in the last 11 years, India's defence production has more than tripled, crossing Rs 1.5 lakh crore last year.

Since 2014, Indian shipyards have delivered over 40 indigenous warships and submarines to the Navy, Modi said, adding that on an average a submarine or warship produced domestically is being inducted every 40 days.

He said India was building the capacity to export weapons and equipment for all three armed forces.

"India's goal is to be counted among the world's top defence exporters", Modi said, adding that over the past decade, the country's defence exports have increased more than 30-fold.

He credited this success significantly to the contributions of defence start-ups and indigenous defence units.

The prime minister also commended the Indian Coast Guard for their vital role in national defence and noted their continuous coordination with the Navy to secure India's coastline day and night.

He recalled the moment when INS Vikrant was handed over to the nation, and said the warship was grand, immense, panoramic, unique and exceptional.

"Vikrant is not merely a warship; it is a testament to 21st-century India's hard work, talent, impact, and commitment," Modi said.

"On the very day the nation received the indigenously built INS Vikrant, the Indian Navy renounced a major symbol of colonial legacy," he said.

Modi highlighted that inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Navy adopted a new flag.

INS Vikrant, India's first home-built aircraft carrier, was commissioned in 2022 to strengthen the country's naval presence.

Described as a city on the move, INS Vikrant is the largest warship to be built in India and also India's second operational aircraft carrier after INS Vikramaditya, which was built on a Russian platform.

Modi arrived here on Sunday evening and boarded the home-built aircraft carrier off the coast of Goa.

While onboard INS Vikrant, the prime minister went to the Flightdeck, surrounded by MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

He witnessed the takeoff and landing of MiG 29 fighter jets on a short runway of the aircraft carrier, both during the day and in the dark night.

Modi also witnessed a vibrant cultural programme where the officers and sailors of the Indian Navy sang various patriotic songs, including a song specially written by them to commemorate the success of Indian Armed Forces in Operation Sindoor.

Modi had dinner with the extended family of naval personnel during the Bara Khana.

On Monday morning, Modi joined a Yoga Session on the deck of INS Vikrant and also witnessed a spectacular steampast of warships and flypast by aircraft.

The warships which took part in the steampast included INS Vikrant, INS Vikramaditya, INS Surat, INS Mormugao, INS Chennai, INS Imphal, INS Kolkata, INS Tushil, INS Tabar, INS Teg, INS Betwa, INS Deepak and INS Aditya.

The flypast included Chetak, with flag and naval ensign, MH 60 R, Seaking, Kamov 31, Dornier and PSI and MiG 29K.

"Last night spent onboard INS Vikrant is hard to put into words. I saw the immense energy and enthusiasm you all were filled with. When I saw you singing patriotic songs yesterday, and the way you described Operation Sindoor in your songs, no words can ever fully convey the experience that a jawan feels standing on a battlefield," Modi said.

"My Diwali has been special as it was spent amongst you," he said.

The prime minister has been celebrating Diwali with the armed forces since 2014.

PM celebrates Diwali...

with their families. And so do I, which is why every year I meet our Army and security personnel who keep our nation safe," Modi said.

"Witnessed an awe-inspiring Air Power Demo on INS Vikrant, showcasing precision and prowess. The take-off and landing of MiG-29 fighters on a short runway, both in daylight and in the dark night, was a breathtaking display of skill, discipline and technological excellence," he said.

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The prime minister was deeply moved by this experience, sources said.

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He delivered an inspiring address to the Navy personnel and also gave them sweets.

"INS Vikrant is not just a warship. It is a testimony to 21st-century India's hard work, talent, impact and commitment," Modi said.

He added that the name Brahmos strikes fear in some minds and now many countries are keen to buy these missiles.

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The prime minister has been celebrating Diwali with the armed forces since 2014. Last year, he visited the India-Pakistan border in Kutch in Gujarat to celebrate Diwali with the personnel of the Border Security Force, Army, Navy and Air Force.

CM extends greetings...

entire country," the Chief Minister said.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Diwali.

In his message, Rana said that Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. He urged everyone to celebrate the festival with love, harmony, and a spirit of togetherness.

"May this Diwali bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to all. Let us also remember to share our joy with the less privileged and keep our environment clean and safe," he said.

He underlined the tradition of celebrating festivals in an atmosphere of amity and brotherhood and called for strengthening same in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the occasion teaches us to rededicate ourselves in the service of people, reaffirm our commitment towards brotherhood and selfless service to humanity.

In a heartfelt message imbued with light and goodwill, the Director School Education, Jammu, Naseem Javaid Chowdhary extended warm greetings to the students, teaching fraternity and all officers and officials of the department on the

auspicious occasion of Diwali.

He described Diwali as "a festival where the outer illumination mirrors an inner awakening" - a reminder that education, too, is an act of lighting lamps in the corridors of the mind. Mr. Chowdhary urged the teaching community to continue being custodians of that sacred flame which dispels ignorance and nurtures wisdom.

To the students, he conveyed that every spark of learning they kindle today becomes the guiding lantern of tomorrow. He further wished that this Diwali bring peace, prosperity and renewed purpose to every home and every classroom across the Jammu region.

"May the triumph of light over darkness inspire us all to make knowledge our Diya and compassion our fragrance," the Director said, concluding his message of hope and harmony.

LG Manoj Sinha...



of peace, ideals and inspiration for future generations. Holy relics are back home but Buddha's enduring presence in Kalmykia will continue to guide seekers for their own awakening".

Veteran actor Asrani...

He was 84. The veteran of several films spanning over five decades, Govardhan Asrani, known popularly by mononym Asrani, was remembered for his characters in "Sholay", "Namak Haram", and "Guddi".

The end came on Monday afternoon, four days after he was admitted to Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital in suburban Juhu.

"He was a bit unwell. He was admitted following breathing issues. He passed away today at 3:00 PM. We were told by the doctors that water had accumulated in his lungs," Asrani's manager Babubhai Thiba told PTI.

Asrani had acted in over 300 films in a career spanning over five decades. He has largely played character roles, and has garnered wide acclaim for his impeccable comic timing.

His dialogue, "Hum angrezon ke zamane ke jailor hai" has achieved a cult status. The comical character in Sholay was modelled after Charlie Chaplin in "The Great Dictator".

Some of his popular films include "Bawarchi", "Golmaal", "Hera Pheri", "Chup Chup Ke", "Hulchul", "Deewane Huye Pagal", "Welcome", among others.

His last rites were held this evening at Santaacruz crematorium which was attended by family and close friends.

"We did not inform anyone about his demise as it was his wish that we should keep it a private thing," Thiba added.

Asrani is survived by his wife.

Flash floods in...

"We had a review recently. The DCCO (Date of Commencement and Commercial Operations) has been impacted by three to five months, which will impact the commercial production, and that will again have a negative impact," Chatterjee told PTI in an interview.

However, he said, there is no direct impact of it on the bank. "Our funding is in place. Mostly, in all these units, we have a share from our bank. The progress has been halted, but I don't see a major cost overrun. I have spoken to these (executing) companies, and they can fund it on their own."

There are five major power projects with a combined generation capacity of nearly 3,100 megawatts, which are currently at various stages of construction in Jammu and Kashmir. These projects include Ratle (850 MW), Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kvar (540 MW) and Parnai (38 MW).

Four of these five projects are on the Chenab river or its tributaries in Kishtwar district, which was severely affected by the cloudburst and heavy rains in August this year. Only the Parnai power projects are located in Poonch district.

More than 60 people died while 300 others were injured in the cloudburst at Chositi in Kishtwar district on August 14.

Asked if the bank has seen any surge in borrowings from the flood-affected areas, Chatterjee said there has not been any indication of such a thing.

"They have not come as an opportunity yet. All (rehabilitation) efforts are being taken care of at a level where they have not asked for any funding from the bank," he added.

Chatterjee said the inclement weather and the closure of the national highway did affect the horticulture sector in the Valley, but the people have shown resilience and are heading back to normalcy.

"It will be wrong to say if I say it has not affected. It has affected, but not to the extent I had expected. The Union Territory government has declared this event as a disturbed geography for the purpose of application of the RBI's master policy on agriculture. We have already implemented it. So far, only 85 units have come to us with a request for rehabilitation.

"Now consider that almost 2.35 lakh units are eligible for it, for a total amount of Rs 16,000 crore -- that is the basket that is available. But only 85 people have come. That shows the resilience in the people in this economy," he added.

Chatterjee said people have been affected adversely as the revenue streams have slowed down.

I have spoken to the business people here, especially from the tourism industry; it has been very badly affected. Tourists are coming, but they are generally budget tourists; the high-end tourists are not yet coming here. It will take some time for this to totally recover," he said.

Chatterjee said he was very hopeful that the economy would be able to recover.

"As a bank, we will be providing all kinds of relief. That will have two impacts -- it will help the business directly to get up and running once again through our support, and the application of that master circular will reduce the stress in our accounts. Both ways will be beneficial," he said.

Reflecting on the second quarter results, which were released last week, the MD said the growth story of the bank was going strong.

"If you are talking about profits, you need to understand there was a one-time impact of the merger of Ellaquai Dehati Bank with JK Grameen Bank. As per the latest RBI guidelines, we had to provide for investment impairment of Rs 180 crore during this half-year.

"If you add back that Rs 180 crore, the profit is 20 per cent. Effectively, the growth story is extremely good. If you look at what has happened in quarter two as far as the top line is concerned, both in deposits and advances, we have grown better than what we had grown last year," he said.

Chatterjee said the regional rural bank that was merged with JK Grameen Bank was in very bad shape, but has now been turned around.

"It has posted profits for this quarter. There is another positive that we will be able to write back these provisions in subsequent quarters. So, that will again add to the profits," he said. On NPAs, the bank MD said, "We have brought the NPAs below three per cent and are on course to bring it on par with the industry standard of less than two per cent by the end of the current fiscal".

Chatterjee said the bank was on course for another year of record profits as all guidance for the 2025-26 fiscal year was being achieved so far. "The guidance that we have given, I am sure we will achieve 12 per cent improvement in credit top line, 10 per cent improvement in liability, and another record profit. We would have been much better placed if not for the impairment provision for the regional rural bank," he added.

Chugh slams Akhilesh...

vote bank politics are now giving lessons on Diwali," he added.

Chugh asserted that the people of the country are aware of the "double standards" of the opposition and will not be misled by their newfound reverence for Hindu traditions.

33 nominations filed...

National Conference candidate and District Development Council member Shamim Begum and BJP rebel and president of J-K Panchayat Conference Anil Sharma who is fighting as an independent.

Former minister Harsh Dev Singh of J-K National Panthers Party (India) is among the other prominent faces from the constituency. There are four other inde-

pendents in the fray as well as AAP leader Joginder Singh.

NC, BJP candidates...

was joined by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma while filing nomination papers. Talking to reporters, Abdullah said he was hopeful that the people of Budgam would vote in large numbers for his party's candidate.

"The entire organisation is with Aga Mehmood. From today, we will take our message to the people and hope that when results are declared, Aga Mehmood will be a winner by a big majority and represent the people of Budgam in the assembly," the chief minister said.

Abdullah said National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, in consultation with party leaders, decided that Aga Mehmood was the best candidate for the NC.

"There was no confusion in our party... we were waiting for others. We were in no hurry. Candidates of almost all political parties filed papers today. How did we delay? We had decided earlier, but we also played along with others. Elections are contested under a strategy," he added.

Asked about his decision to vacate the Budgam seat in favour of Ganderbal last year, the chief minister said he had never kept the people of Budgam in the dark.

"I did not want to contest from two seats, but I was compelled (by the party). After leaving the seat, we did not abandon it or ignore the development of Budgam. In the last one year, we have expedited works," he said.

Asked if estranged NC MP Aga Ruhullah would support Aga Mehmood, the chief minister avoided a direct reply, saying the party candidate had already spoken about it. Mehmood earlier told reporters that Ruhullah was like his son and a party man, and that he expected the MP to campaign for him.

However, Ruhullah took to X, saying his loyalty was to his conscience and principles. "While I hold respect for my elders in my family, I request them not to belittle my fight (our fight). If they can't comprehend it and be part of it, at least don't drag me and my struggle to this level," he said. On the Nagrota seat, Abdullah said his party had fielded a candidate after the Congress refused to do so. "In 2014, we had a (winning) candidate there. Last year also, we had a candidate. Now our DDC member Shameema has been authorised by Farooq Abdullah to file the nomination papers on behalf of the NC," he said.

NC fields DDC...

a rough patch ever since the National Conference (NC) refused a safe seat to the Congress for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Elections to the four Rajya Sabha seats in the Union Territory will be held on October 24.

"The party leadership has given mandate to DDC member Shamim Begum from Nagrota constituency after Congress decided not to contest from there. She is filing her nomination papers from the seat within the next couple of hours," NC Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta told PTI.

Begum, who won from Nagrota's Damsal block in December 2020 DDC elections, thanked the party leadership for reposing faith and giving mandate to her to fight the by-election from her home constituency.

"The people know me very well. They have seen my work as a DDC member over the last four years and they will support me whole-heartedly to give me a chance to represent them in the assembly," she told PTI.

Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said the Indian National Congress has decided to leave the Nagrota assembly seat to its ally National Conference, keeping in view the larger interest and goal of defeating the BJP.

Downplaying rift with the Congress over seat-sharing in Rajya Sabha elections, NC vice-president and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that "if the Congress has a better candidate for Nagrota, we are ready to compromise (by supporting Congress and not fight the election). We have no objection".

Sharma said the decision follows detailed deliberations over a JKPCC report and also after considering various factors, including that the NC had emerged second in Nagrota in 2024 assembly elections.

"Taking into account the broader parameters and principles of coalition, the INC central leadership has decided to leave the (Nagrota) seat to its ally NC, in furtherance of larger interests and goals of defeating the BJP," Sharma said in a statement.

The BJP has fielded Devyani Rana, daughter of Devender Singh Rana, from Nagrota. Devyani, along with JKNPP-I president Harsh Dev Singh, filed their nomination papers from the constituency on Saturday.

Devender Singh Rana had won the seat in 2024 assembly elections by a record margin of 30,472 votes, defeating his nearest NC candidate Joginder Singh who had got 17,641 votes. Congress candidate Balbir Singh was pushed to the third position with 5,979 votes. He won the seat in the 2014 elections on NC ticket, but later switched to BJP in 2021.

1 killed, 1 injured as speeding truck hits 2 toll post employees in Sopore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: A speeding truck hit two employees of a toll checkpoint in the Sopore area of on Monday, leaving one dead and the other wounded, officials said.

The truck hit the employees at Chinar crossing near Model Town in Sopore late on Monday when they signalled the driver to stop, the officials said.

It was not immediately clear if the driver intentionally rammed the truck into the employees or it happened by accident, they said.

The employees were rushed to a local hospital where one of them was declared dead on arrival, while the other was referred to a hospital here for specialised treatment, the officials said.

While the truck has been seized by police, the driver of the vehicle fled from the spot, they said, adding that efforts were underway to arrest the accused.

SFs destroy IED in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces averted a potential tragedy on Monday with the timely detection of an IED in the Shopian district, officials said.

The IED was planted by suspected terrorists and was found by security forces during a routine patrol along the roadside in Heff, officials added.

They further stated that a bomb disposal squad was called to the scene, where the IED was safely destroyed without causing any damage.

Drug peddler arrested; contraband substances recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: In its sustained efforts to root out the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Kulgam have arrested a drug peddler and seized significant quantity of contraband substances from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Khudwani Bypass arrested a drug peddler along with 09 grams of Charas and 01 Kg of grind-ed cannabis like substances.

Regarding the incident, a case vide FIR No. 82/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qaimoh and further investigation has been initiated.

2 arrested, 2 vehicles seized involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: In continuation of its ongoing drive against illegal mining, Police in Awantipora arrested two persons and seized 02 vehicles including 01 JCB used in illegal excavation and transportation of minerals.

A police party of Police Post Reshipora headed by In-charge PP Reshipora SI Muneer Ahmad seized two vehicles including a JCB without registration number and a dumper vehicle bearing registration number JK13D-8100. Two person who were driving these vehicles identified as Arshid Ahmad Bhat son of Ab Rehman Bhat resident of Renzipora and Mysar Yousuf Bandh son of Mohd Yousuf Band resident of Kachkoot were arrested. Accordingly, a case FIR number 221/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Awantipora and further investigation has been initiated.

Bail of drug kingpin rejected for 4th time

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bail of Drug Kingpin rejected by Court forth time.

In the investigation of case FIR No. 23/2025, U/s 08/20/29/27-A, NDPS Act of PS GRP Jammu has arrested, Drug Kingpin Dinesh Kumar S/o Janak Raj Yadu R/o Ward No. 5, Rampur, Shamedrang, Vaishali, Bihar figured in the case who hatched a conspiracy of smuggling Ganja from Bihar to Jammu with the primary accused in the said case.

The said accused Dinesh Kumar is also involved in case FIR No. 231/2018 U/s 08/20 NDPS Act of PS Bahu Fort Jammu. Hon'ble Court has fourth time rejected the bail of accused Dinesh Kumar. GRP

Jammu has been successful in collecting all relevant evidences on scientific basis and presenting them before the judge.