

On Bihar trip, Vice President calls for making the best of modernity & tradition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA/RAJGIR/MOTIHARI: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday called for unreservedly embracing modern innovations in the economic sphere while, at the same time, remaining mindful of the ancient Hindu and Buddhist traditions that stressed on happiness, not just comfort .

Naidu, who was on a tour of Bihar, shared his thoughts at a symposium he inaugurated in Rajgir, organised by the Nalanda International University, and earlier in Motihari where he addressed the second convocation of Rajendra Agriculture University.

The audience got a taste of his penchant for alliterations and rhythms, for which he was renowned during his active political career, as the vice-president lamented today, there is too much tension. There is no attention, only pretension .



At the symposium in Rajgir, which was based on the theme of Dharma Dhamma traditions' role in building the post-COVID world order , Naidu held forth on the stress laid by Hindu and Buddhist traditions on nature and culture for a better future .

He also underscored that the ancient Indian civilisation stood for peace and welfare of all, as opposed to aggression and encroachment , and the thrust was on ensuring that people were happy, which is something greater than acquiring com-

forts .

We need a world where competition gives way to compassion, wealth makes way for health, consumerism gives way to spirituality and supremacy and dominance yield to peaceful co-existence , he said.

Those who were present at the function in Rajgir included Governor Phagu Chauhan, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BJP leader Ram Madhav, whose India Foundation is one of the co-organisers of the three-day conference.

The governor and the chief minister had also accompanied Naidu in Motihari, where an extension campus of the renowned agricultural university based in Pusa of Samastipur district is situated.

Besides addressing the second convocation of the varsity since it was given the central status, Naidu inaugurated a college named after RSS

ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay, where courses would be offered in horticulture and forestry.

The new institution will also serve as a centre of excellence in the field of embryo transfer technology and preservation, and improvement centre for indigenous cattle breeds.

In his convocation address, Naidu called upon students to work for passion, not for fashion or notion .

He stressed on the need for innovations in agriculture, adopting artificial intelligence which the developed world had taken to in a big way, and hailed the role played by farmers in ensuring food security even during the trying times of Covid .

He suggested that agricultural universities take active interest in setting up cooperatives in their vicinity, thereby giving a boost to enterprise in the sector, which would give a fillip to employ-

ment generation.

The slogan should now be Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan, said Naidu, highlighting the role of technology and innovation in modern world.

The vice president, who had arrived in Bihar on Saturday, left after the function in Rajgir.

Before leaving Patna for the day's engagements, Naidu was called on at the Raj Bhavan by Major General Rajpal Punia, who presented him with a copy of his book Operation Khukhri: the bravest peacekeeping mission abroad .

He (Punia) co-authored the book with his daughter Damini Punia. It chronicles the successful rescue mission of over 200 Indian peacekeepers who were sent to Sierra Leone in 2000 by the UN to help the government there in tackling the rebel group, Revolutionary United Front, Naidu tweeted.

BJP resolution praises Modi's leadership, accuses opposition of opportunism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Assembly elections in five states on its mind, the BJP's national executive meeting here on Sunday saw Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath proposing the party's political resolution that praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, with the chief ministers of the three other states pitching in as well.

The resolution also accused the opposition of "opportunism" and acting with a mindset of "extreme hate", while predicting a big win for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur due to the development works of its state governments and the party's organisational strength.

Asked about the decision to pick Adityanath to propose the resolution, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman retorted, "Why not", while praising his work as chief minister and noting that he heads India's largest

state.

The resolution was largely devoted to lauding Prime Minister Modi's leadership over a range of issues - from the COVID-19 vaccination programme to his stand on climate change - with Sitharaman asserting that his government has restored faith in governance in India and built the country's image abroad.

India has played an active role in the domain of foreign policies and ensured that it is heard, she told reporters.

The resolution said India is setting new standards of success globally under Modi but the opposition is solely acting out of "extreme hate", alleging that it was busy derailing the COVID-19 vaccination programme by making every effort and conspiracies and spreading disinformation.

"Opposition parties practised opportunistic politics. They never hit the road during the pandemic and confined themselves to Twitter to spread suspicion," she said in

the briefing on the resolution.

The resolution also attacked West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress for "sponsored violence" against BJP workers in the state and vowed to ensure justice through legal means.

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai seconded the resolution moved by Adityanath with Union ministers G Kishan Reddy, who is from Telangana, and Ashwini Vashiaw, MP from Odisha, also speaking.

It said the BJP put up an admirable performance in the assembly polls in five states, Bihar, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal, and numerous bypolls and local elections, claiming that this shows the party-run governments and bodies have lived up to people's expectations.

Asked if there was any reference to the recent by-election results, which have been a mixed bag for the party, Sitharaman said there was no specific discussion on them.

India condemns assassination attempt on Iraqi Prime

Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday strongly condemned an assassination attempt using armed drones on Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and said terrorism and violence have no place in any civilised society.

Kadhimi survived the attack early on Sunday. Drones laden with explosives were used to target his residence inside Baghdad's high-security Green Zone area.

"We strongly condemn the assassination attempt by drone attack today morning on the Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagechi said.

"Terrorism and violence have no place in any civilised society. They cannot be allowed to undermine peace and stability in Iraq," he said.

According to reports, six of Prime Minister Kadhimi's security guards were injured in the attack.

"We express our concerns for the casualties caused by the attack and reiterate our support for the democratic process in Iraq," Bagechi said, responding to media queries on the assassination attempt.

Prisoner dies, 30 cops injured in clash at UP jail

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

FARRUKHABAD (UP): A prisoner was allegedly killed and about 30 policemen injured in a clash at a district jail here on Sunday after the death of another man due to dengue.

The prisoners allegedly hurled stones at policemen and started a fire in the jail after hearing about the death of an inmate, identified as Sandeep Yadav, in Saifai Medical College due to dengue.

The police, however, claimed that another prisoner, Shivam, who died later, was also suffering from an

ailment and lost his life while being taken to the hospital on Sunday.

But in a purported video which surfaced on social media, Shivam claimed before his death that he suffered a bullet injury.

The incident took place on Sunday morning, when the inmates started pelting stones at the policemen after they learnt about the death of Yadav, who was admitted to Saifai Medical College a few days ago as he was suffering from dengue.

The video purportedly showing Shivam claiming that he was hit by a bullet

fired by the jailor while he was trying to close the gates of the barrack surfaced later in the afternoon.

"Around 8.45 am, the district jail officials requested for police force. On reaching the jail, senior officials learnt that one Sandeep Yadav, who was undergoing life imprisonment in a dowry case since 2012, had got infected by dengue on November 5. He was referred to Saifai Medical College, where he died yesterday (Saturday). Today, when tea was given to the inmates around 8.30 am, they attacked the deputy jailor.

"Subsequently, there was stone pelting and arson in the barrack, and this was done by inmates with a criminal mindset. The police force then managed to control the situation. In this, 30 policemen were injured, and the deputy jailor, too, was attacked by the inmates," Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena told reporters earlier in the day.

A fire brigade had to be called after the inmates resorted to arson. Heavy police force was deployed to control the situation, police said.

Director General Jail

Anand Kumar, when contacted, told PTI, "The DIG Jail is conducting an administrative inquiry. Judicial inquiry as per CrPC will also take place since an inmate has died in the incident in the jail."

District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Singh said the guilty will be punished after investigation.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) VP Tripathi arrived at the jail in the evening and said the entire matter will be investigated and action will be initiated against those found guilty.

Farmers will not get justice till BJP is in power: Akhilesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Recalling the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said farmers would not get justice as long as the BJP's "triple-engine" government remains in power.

Along with the BJP-run governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh, Yadav counted as the third engine Union Minister Ajay Mishra, whose son Ashish Mishra was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) leader was speaking at the 'Janadesh Maharally' held in Ambedkarnagar district, where he formally inducted senior BSP leaders Lalji Verma and Ramachal Rajbhar



in the party fold.

Verma was the leader of BSP legislature party in the state assembly and Rajbhar state chief of BSP before they were expelled for "anti-party" activities.

In 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Verma had won from Katehari seat, while Rajbhar won from

Akbarpur Assembly constituency.

Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati said taking BSP "turncoats" into its fold will not help the Samajwadi Party increase its mass base and will only weaken it.

Commenting on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident,

Yadav said it was unforgettable, and that the tragedy was the doing of the Centre and the state, which were assisted in it by Ajay Mishra, who hails from the area.

Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri district after being allegedly hit by a vehicle that was carrying workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on October 3.

"The farmers are our backbone, who give support to the economy, and are our 'annadata', but the BJP government has cheated them and has done injustice to them, the SP chief said.

He also went on to attack 'Ujjwala Yojana', Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

flagship scheme for distribution of LPG cylinders to poor households.

"Due to price rise, the 'Ujjwala Yojana' has become 'bujwala' (damp squib) yojana'. And our 'Baba chief minister' sometimes is afraid of red colour: Our CM in order to reduce the price rise can change the colour of the cylinder or its name," he said.

Yadav said the recent slashing in prices of petrol and diesel was owing to the BJP's loss in by-polls, and said they will come down further still if they lose the UP polls.

He stressed the coming election in the state was crucial for democracy, and invoked B R Ambedkar to say the country needs to be run according to the constitution as drafted by

the founding fathers.

"This is also an election to save democracy and the constitution," he said.

Yadav said the country got a bad reputation around the world because of the BJP's "poor handling of COVID-19 pandemic".

He sharpened his attack against the current chief minister for his promise to distribute laptops to students, saying the world has moved on since and people are carrying computers in their pockets in the form of phones.

He exhorted people to not look up to a leader who does not know how to operate a laptop - referring apparently to Yogi Adityanath.

He also challenged the government to reveal the figures

for the number of laptops distributed in the last four-and-half years the BJP has been in power in the state.

The SP chief lambasted the government for highlighting its achievement in generating employment through advertisementss in Delhi and asked people how many of them got any jobs.

He claimed that if the SP was in power, the Purvanchal Expressway would have been completed in less time, and said the BJP government could never finish the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in four-and-half years.

Yadav also hit out at the disinvestment policies of the BJP-run Union government and likened them with those of the East India Company's.

Mental health of person cannot be compressed into one size fits all approach: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The mental health of a person cannot be compressed into a "one size fits all" approach, the Supreme Court has said while setting aside an order of the Karnataka High Court which quashed criminal proceedings against a government official in a case of abetment of suicide.

A bench of justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said the observation of the high court that there is no material to corroborate the allegations made in the suicide note is erroneous.

"The Single Judge, other than deciding on the merits of the case while exercising the power under Section 482 of the CrPC, has also made observations diminishing the importance of mental health. The mental health of a person cannot be compressed into a one size fits all approach," the bench said.

The apex court said it is not a consideration for the high court while exercising its power under Section 482 of the CrPC, particularly in view of the fact that the trial has not begun.

The top court said the Single Judge of the high court has termed a person who decided to commit suicide a 'weakling' and has also made observations on how the behavior of the

deceased before he committed suicide was not that of a person who is depressed and suffering from mental health issues.

"Behavioural scientists have initiated the discourse on the heterogeneity of every individual and have challenged the traditional notion of 'all humans behave alike'. Individual personality differences manifest as a variation in the behavior of people.

"Therefore, how an individual copes up with a threat- both physical and emotional, expressing (or refraining to express) love, loss, sorrow and happiness, varies greatly in view of the multi-faceted nature of the human mind and emotions. Thus, the observations describing the manner in which a depressed person ought to have behaved deeply diminishes the gravity of mental health issues," the bench in its recent judgement said.

The top court's judgement came on an appeal filed by Karnataka against the high court decision to quash a case of abetment of suicide against a government officer.

The government officer's driver died by suicide and left a note in which referred to the illegal activities of the accused in amassing wealth in excess of Rs. 100 crores, converting black money into

white and transferring funds from the bank account of the deceased through his mobile to the accounts of the relatives of the accused.

The bench said that the high court by its order has prevented the completion of the investigation in the complaint pending on the file of the IInd Additional Civil Judge (Junior Division) and JMFC Court, Maddur, Mandya District.

"The alleged suicide is of a person who was working as a driver of a Special Land Acquisition Officer, who is a public servant and against whom serious and grave allegations of amassing wealth disproportionate to the known sources of income were made by the deceased.

"The suicide note contains a detailed account of the role of the accused in the events which led to the deceased committing suicide.

These are matters of investigation and possibly trial," the apex court said.

The top court said the high court stalled the investigation by granting an interim order of stay.

If the investigation had been allowed to proceed, there would have been a revelation of material facts which would aid in the trial against the accused, the bench said.

Rahul hits out at govt over poverty issue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday hit out at the government on the issue of poverty and alleged that those who were in the middle-class in the country are poor now and the poor are being crushed now.

Taking a swipe at the government over a media report that claimed that in the last eight years the poor in the country are rising rapidly, he asked where are those who used to say "achehe din" (good days) are coming.



The report claimed that in 2020, 7.6 crore people have gone below the poverty line and the number of poor is increasing.

"Those in the middle-class earlier are now poor. Those who were poor are now

being crushed. Where are those who used to say that 'achehe din' (good days) are coming," he asked in a tweet in Hindi.

The Congress on its official Twitter account also alleged that people have lost their better days while waiting for 'achehe din' to come.

Gandhi made an apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections where he used the slogan "achehe din" are coming" in his poll campaign.

BJP national executive should speak on India-China border issues: Cong

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Questioning the BJP's "silence" on border issues with China, the Congress on Sunday dubbed the ruling party as "pseudo nationalist" and asked if it would speak out the "truth" about the "threat on our borders" and China's growing influence in the neighbourhood.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara cited a news report about China getting active and building infrastructure in Chumbi valley which poses a serious threat to the Siliguri corridor that connects the northeastern states to the rest of the country.

"Today we demand from the so-called national executive of this pseudo nationalists'

party to come out and say something on China and share with the country the deadline on when will you be able to push China back from our territory and what are you doing to reduce Chinese influence in our neighbourhood," he told reporters.

He said the developments in Afghanistan are only helping Pakistan and China, while India pays a price for what-ever happens in its neighbourhood.

"But, we don't hear a word being spoken by this government," he said.

"This is an occasion to ask the pseudo nationalist" whether they will open their mouth and say something on the growing threat from China across all our borders," he asked at a press confer-

ence, after the BJP's national executive meeting here.

Earlier in the day, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju hit out at the Congress for allegedly quoting a foreign media report to question the "credibility" of the government on the India-China border issue.

In a series of tweets, the BJP leaders claimed that "some mischievous media" wrote in bold that China has built a village inside Arunachal "and then slightly mentioned 'at the area occupied by China in 1959'. What's your purpose?"

Rijiju said that "these people" deliberately don't believe the Indian Army but quickly quoted a foreign story to "create a misleading headline to question the credibility of our government and strength

of our army with a malicious motive to demoralise the nation".

He also once again posted a short video of the then defence minister AK Antony's purported remarks on China in Lok Sabha during the Congress-led UPA rule.

In a 2013 clip, Antony told the House that independent India had a policy for many years that the best defence is not to develop the border.

An undeveloped border is safer than a developed border, the then defence minister said, adding that China on the other had improved its infrastructure on the border.

The Congress had on Saturday sought an apology from Prime Minister Modi and asked him to "withdraw

his "clean chit" to China as it cited a Pentagon report that claims China has entered 4.5 km into Arunachal Pradesh.

"Why is the Indian government silent. The prime minister does not open his mouth and does not listen to the experts, veterans and the opposition and instead gives a clean chit to China," Khara asked on Sunday.

"The massive price the country has paid due to this clean chit will go down in history as the biggest blunder of this prime minister," he also said.

He said that trade with China has increased by 67 percent since last year and claimed it reflected the BJP's pseudo nationalism as "they are not concerned about the safety of our borders".

