

India-Indonesia ties rooted in thousands of years of shared culture: PM

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the relations between India and Indonesia are not just geopolitical but are rooted in thousands of years of shared culture and history with both countries have a tradition of unity in diversity.

Modi made the remarks while addressing the Maha Kumbabishegam of Shri Sanathana Dharma Aalayam in Jakarta, Indonesia, via video conferencing.

"It is my pleasure that I have become a part of the Maha Kumbabishegam of the Murugan Temple in Jakarta. I am far from Jakarta but my mind is close to it just like India and Indonesia are close to each other..I extend my wishes to all the people there on the occasion of Maha Kumbabishegam," Modi said.

Just a few days ago, President Prabowo Subianto had taken the love of 140 crore Indians from India, Modi said and added that through their president, the people of Indonesia must be experiencing the good wishes of every Indian.

"I congratulate all of you and crores of devotees of Lord Murugan in India-Indonesia and across the world on the occasion of Maha Kumbabishegam of Jakarta Temple. I wish that the praise of Lord Murugan continues through the hymns

PM pitches 'Modi's guarantee', expresses confidence of BJP's win in Delhi polls

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NEW DELHI: Asserting that the Union Budget has filled every family with happiness, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that this is the most middle class friendly Budget in India's history.

Addressing a rally here ahead of the Delhi assembly polls on February 5, Modi spoke about various beneficial provisions of the Budget for the middle class to claim that never since India's Independence those earning up to Rs 12 lakh have received such a relief.

The middle class is saying that this is the most friendly Budget for them in India's history, he said. Slamming the Aam Aadmi Party government in the capital for its alleged false promises and corruption, he said its policies have led to closing of factories, adding that those who have looted people will have to account for it.

While on the one hand is 'AAP-da' which stands for false promises, on the other is 'Modi's guarantees', the prime minister said.

Greeting people on Basant Panchami on Sunday, he said the festival marks the change in the season, adding that people of Delhi have made up their mind to elect a BJP government.

The prime minister said the "AAP-da" has destroyed 11 years of the national capital, and a double engine government dedicated to its development and growth will now be elected.

His government at the Centre, he asserted, has stood for strengthening four pillars of poor, farmers, youth and women, and the Budget is the guarantee of fulfilling Modi's guarantees.

The Budget's focus on employment generating sectors like tourism and manufacturing will benefit the youth, he said.

He spoke of welfare promises made in the BJP manifesto, including for senior citizens and women, to highlight the benefits a BJP government in the national capital will bring to them.

When Modi gives a guarantee, he puts his heart, mind and soul into fulfilling it, the prime minister said.

With the middle class, including salaried employees, making up for a significant section of voters, the prime minister said his government takes decisions which meet their dreams and aspirations.

Taking on the Aam Aadmi Party's claims, the prime minister told people that no jhuggi will be demolished in Delhi and no welfare scheme shut in the case of the BJP coming to power.

Reaching out to people from Purvanchal, Modi noted that he is an MP from the region, a reference to Varanasi.

He added that the National Democratic Alliance government is working day and night to develop Bihar and mentioned several state-specific proposals in the Budget.

Expressing confidence about the BJP's win, Modi said, "You can note it down the BJP government will be formed in Delhi on February 8, and by March 8, International Women's Day, women will start receiving Rs 2,500."

Women, he said, have worked as his protective shield and have made a big contribution in ensuring the third term of his government at the Centre.

Delhi, he said, has paid a heavy price due to the AAP government and has decided to get rid of it, he said.

Those who live in 'sheesh mahal' cannot related to a poor family's jhuggi or a middle class family's 2BHK flat, he said, in a swipe at former chief minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal.

The AAP has committed scam and corruption in every field, including in health measures for people, he claimed.

With several AAP leaders, including sitting MLAs who were not given ticket by the party in the polls, quitting it, Modi said they have realised the massive anger people have for the party. Feeling jittery, the AAP is making false announcements everyday, he added.

of Tiruppugal. May the mantras of Skanda Shashthi Kavacham protect all people," Modi said.

"For the people of India and Indonesia, our relations are not just geopolitical but are rooted in thousands of years old culture. We are connected by thousands of years old history. Our relationship is of heritage, of science, of faith. Our relationship is of shared faith, of spirituality. We are also related to Lord Murugan and Lord Shri Ram. And, we are also related to Lord Buddha," he said.

When a person going from India to Indonesia folds his hands in Prambanan temple, that person gets the same spiritual experience as Kashi and Kedar, he said.

When people of India hear about Kakawin and Serat Ramayana, they get the same feeling as Valmiki Ramayana, Kamba Ramayana and Ramcharit Manas, Modi said.

"Now in India, Indonesia's Ramlila is also staged in Ayodhya. Similarly, when we hear 'Om Swasti-Astu' in Bali, we remember the Swasti recitation by the Vedic scholars of India," he said.

"In your Borobudur Stupa, we see the same teachings of Lord Buddha, which we experience in Sarnath and Bodh Gaya in



India. Bali Jatra is celebrated even today in our state of Odisha. This festival is connected to those ancient sea

voyages that once connected India and Indonesia with trade and culture. Even today, when people from

India board 'Garuda Indonesia' for air travel, they get a glimpse of our shared culture," Modi said.

Prime Minister Modi said that the relationship between India and Indonesia is woven with many strong threads.

He said that during President Prabowo's recent visit to India, they cherished many aspects of this shared heritage.

He highlighted that the new grand Murugan Temple in Jakarta adds a new golden chapter to the centuries-old heritage.

Modi expressed confidence that this temple will become a new centre for both faith and cultural values.

Noting that the Murugan Temple in Jakarta houses not only Lord Murugan but also

various other deities, Modi emphasized that this diversity and plurality form the foundation of our culture.

"In Indonesia, this tradition of diversity is called 'Bhinneka Tunggal Ika', while in India, it is known as 'Unity in Diversity'," he said.

The prime minister highlighted that this acceptance of diversity is the reason why people of different faiths live with such harmony in both Indonesia and India.

He stated that this auspicious day inspires us to embrace Unity in Diversity.

"The cultural values, heritage, and legacy are enhancing people-to-people connections between India and Indonesia," Modi said.

He highlighted the joint decision to preserve the Prambanan Temple and the shared commitment to the Borobudur Buddhist Temple.

He also talked about the Indonesian Ramlila in Ayodhya and emphasized the need to promote more such programmes.

The prime minister expressed confidence that, with President Prabowo, they will advance rapidly in this direction.

He stated that the past will form the foundation of a golden future.




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