Nationhood comes from common sense of history, vision of future: NSA

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Nationhood is constituted by people who share a "common sense of their history" and a "common vision of their future", National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said as he released an 11-volume book series that charts different phases of the history of ancient India and its accomplishments.

Addressing a gathering at the launch event here on Tuesday, the NSA said, "People who have got a different sense of history, 'if my hero is your villain', you and I cannot make a nation."

Describing India as a "civilisation of antiquity" and "civilisation of continuity" spanning thousands of years, Doval also said that it was a "paradox" that the narrative that has been brought is that probably, "the first chapter about Indian history in any western, this thing... is that it starts with Alexander".

After releasing the series 'History of Ancient India', published by Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) and Arvan Books, he said it consists of scholarly papers contributed by a

Vol I of the series, which covers a vast array of fields, is titled 'Prehistoric Roots' while Vol IX is on 'Science and Technology, Medicine'.

Doval said while discussing the project during its inception phase several years ago with S Gurumurthy, VIF chairperson, he had shared the "new idea and thinking" to contribute to something that would be able to give a "new sense of identity and pride, not only to our countrymen but also to our coming gen-

"Our self-image, our identity is deeply connected to vour own perception of history, and... perception of what you are," the NSA said. He described the series as not an end, but a "means to an end", and the end objective is to build "a nation on the basis of a sense of common heritage, of common background from which we come from, having pride in our ancestry and achievements of the past, and having a vision for the future".

Earlier in his speech, Doval said nations or members of nationhood are "those people who share a common sense of their history, common sense of our ancestors, common sense of their achievements of their past, and a common vision of their future. All those who believe in that they make one nation. People who have got a different sense of history, 'if my hero is your villain', you and I cannot make

a nation". He said the research papers are of "very high quality" and "great references" have been quoted.

There are a few aspects about Indian history that nobody questions, including 'our detractors", he said.

"One is its antiquity, that it is one of the oldest civilisations, and probably a human life had evolved, and society had perfected to a very high (level). Now, who did it? Were they the original people or they came from outside? "There may be a bias about that but they will all say that this is a civilisation of antiquity. The second is its continuity. It has been continuing for thousands of vears without disruption. And, the third feature, its vast expanse, where the footprint of the civilisation was

On Alexander's connection with India, Doval cited

very visible." he added.

he was a big Sanskrit scholar who said that "nowhere in Sanskrit or Pali or Prakrit literature or local dialects, he could find any mention of Alexander". There is "no mention", the NSA added.

It was a "non-event, it was a very small event of history" where some raiders on horseback, probably wanted to plunder, but faced resistance and returned.

"But you make such a mountain of it as if the world history has changed with Alexander the great conqueror," he said.

Foreign domination was "responsible to some extent" for the feeling of nationhood not developing, he said.

Then, there was a deliberate attempt to "destroy" the vestiges of the proof of that. Now, it's not only the temple, the religious bigotry. institutions Nalanda or Taxila universities, or the libraries, etc., were the "prime targets", they had to be destroyed and any sources from where Indians could connect themselves to their glorious past, he added. But, there was another reason -- Indians' mindset. "For us events and personalities were very secondary," Doval said.

these factors deprived us of our own existence and identity. And history is important for your identity," he said. Doval said anything that scholars have quoted or any inference drawn in this work is based on a "solid, scientific foundation".

"When we started the project, we said, let it be totally authentic, we don't want to generate propaganda material. The foundation of such kind of intellectualism does not have a long shelf life," he said. The volume is "bulky and expensive" and so its dissemination is a bit constrained. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented this work and told about it, and it has found "a place of prominence in his library".

The prime minister suggested that these can be donated to libraries and that idea is still there.

The NSA further said "may be we probably will accomplish" it and send it to various western and eastern

The people associated with the upcoming maritime museum in Lothal, Gujarat have also shown interest in

We should give hope to the

Kukis, resulting in the loss of

more than 200 lives. While

the Meiteis have concentrat-

ed in Imphal city, the Kukis

Polling for the two Lok

Sabha seats in Manipur will

be held in two phases on

April 19 and 26. While Inner

Manipur and some segments

of Outer Manipur will vote in

the first phase on April 19,

the remaining segments of

Outer Manipur will vote on

"People are convinced that

if Manipur is going to be on

the path of peace, the BJP is

the only pathway that can

provide that. The Congress

has failed miserably. When

they governed Manipur for

over 15 years, there were

many deaths that were

unnatural, more than 1,800

of which are being inquired

into right now," Singh, a for-

mer Indian Police Service

April 26.

have shifted to the hills.

Rahul slams BJP, says history doesn't change by "spewing lies" from political platforms

NEW DELHI: Amid the BJP's repeated 'Muslim League imprint' barb over the Congress manifesto, Rahul Gandhi Wednesday said history is witness as to who joined hands with the forces that wanted to divide the country and asserted that history does not change by "spewing lies" from political platforms.

Gandhi said that the 2024 Lok Sabha polls are a fight between two ideologies, with the Congress. which has always united India, on one side and those who have always tried to divide people on the other side.

"This election is a fight between two ideologies! On one side there is the Congress, which has always united India, and on the other side there are those who have always tried to divide people," the former Congress chief said in a post in Hindi.

History is witness as to who joined hands with the forces that wanted to divide the country and strengthened them and

BJP saved Manipur for future generations, does not

support separatism: LS candidate Basanta Singh

who fought for the unity and independence of the country, Gandhi said.

"Who stood with the British during the 'Quit India Movement'? When India's jails were filled with Congress leaders, then who was running the government in the states with the forces that divided the country?" he said.

History does not change by "spewing lies" from political platforms, he added.

Gandhi's remarks come amid repeated attacks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that the Congress manifesto bears 'Muslim

The Congress has moved

the Election Commission against his remarks while party chief Mallikarjun Kharge has said that "there is a stink of RSS" in Modi's speeches.

The Congress has alleged that the prime minister is resorting to the "cliched Hindu-Muslim script" as he is scared that the BJP may struggle to even cross the 180-seat mark in the Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress has countered the BJP pointing out that Jan Sangha founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the president of the Hindu Mahasabha then, was himself part of the coalition government in Bengal with the Muslim League in the early 1940s.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar accuses Shashi Tharoor of defamation, sends legal notice



STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Union Minister of State for Information Technology and Electronics Chandrasekhar has sent a legal notice to Congress MP Shashi

Tharoor accusing him of making defamatory statements against the BJP leader on a TV channel recently. Chandrasekhar, who is facing off against Tharoor in the

Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency in the upcoming polls on April 26, has alleged that the Congress MP disseminated "patently false information" regarding bribing of key voters and influential figures such as parish priests, among others, by the BJP leader. The notice has claimed that the statements by were made with an intent to harm Chandrasekhar's from defaming, harassing, join the investigation.

reputation and image and that his remarks also disrespected the entire Christian community of Thiruvananthapuram and its leaders by accusing them of engaging in cash-forvotes activities. It has also contended that the Congress MP's statements were in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The notice also

claimed that the statements

were also targeted at injuring

the BJP leader's election cam-

paign and benefitting Tharoor in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The legal notice to the Congress leader has sought that he "immediately withdraw" all the allegations made against Chandrashekhar on April 6, tender an unconditional public apology to him on print and electronic media and "cease refrain and desist

the minister in the future.It has warned that failure to comply with the stated conditions within 24 hours of receipt of the notice would lead to initiation of appropriate criminal and civil proceedings in a competent court of law.

Money laundering case: Arvind Kejriwal move SC challenging Delhi HC order

STATE TIMES NEWS

court's order.

In a blow to Kejriwal ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Delhi High Court had on Tuesday upheld his arrest in the money laundering case, saying the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was left with "little option" after he skipped repeat-

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court challenging a high court order upholding his arrest in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise scam. Keiriwal's counsel Vivek Jain told PTI that they have filed the petition in the apex court challenging the high IMPHAL: The BJP stands people and talk about the for a united Manipur and unity of the state. Now is not the time to be divisive now is there can be no separate the time to be united." he administration in the state for any particular communiadded. The hill state has witty, said Thounaojam nessed sporadic, sometimes intense, ethnic clashes since Basanta Kumar Singh, the law minister of the strife-torn May 3 between the majority state and the saffron party's Meitei community and the

Stating that the Congress is nowhere in the picture in the state, Singh said the BJP will win "hands down" in Manipur and asserted that the public knows his party is the only pathway towards peace.

Manipur in the Lok Sabha

candidate from

He also asserted that the BJP has saved Manipur for future generations. "We as a party and govern-

ment stand for a united Manipur ... there should be no separatism of any kind, we have been like this for centuries and will remain like this. During the Second World War, France and Germany went to war and today they are the best of allies and neighbours," Singh told PTI, responding to a question about the demands of the Kuki-zo community for a separate administration.

Asked if the conflict that has been going on for more than 11 months will have any impact on the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections, Singh said, "The Congres is not in the picture, it's the BJP which will win hands down in Manipur and contribute towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi being sworn in for the third

Yes, people are concerned that the conflict has been going on for a long time. We have made people understand why the conflict has been going on ... we have also gone to the people and shown them ... we have explained what we have contributed towards keeping Manipur one, united. At the same time, to save the indigenous people of Manipur, the central and the state governments have contributed to the agenda" he said.

Singh, who belongs to the Meiti community, is the son of Thounaojam Chaoba Singh, who served as the Union Minister of State for sports, youth affairs, culture and food processing in the National Democratic (IPS) officer, told PTI in an Alliance (NDA) government steps have been taken and polls.

led by Atal Behari Vajpayee. The 59-year-old Singh is the MLA from the Nambol

constituency in Bishnupur

district. He is pitted against Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Angomeha Bimol Akojiam of the Congress from the Inner Manipur seat, which encompasses the valley districts. The BJP has decided not to contest from the state's other constituency, Outer Manipur, where it has extended its support to NDA ally the Naga People's Front candidate Kachui Timothy Zimik, a retired Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. Among the party's achievements in the state listed by Singh during his campaign are fencing on the Indo-Myanmar implementation of the Inner-Line Permit (ILP), scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) that allowed people to move freely between India and Myanmar, deployment of a new border guarding force, steps towards implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur, and identification and depor-

tation of illegal immigrants. "To save Manipur these

people are aware that to save Manipur these steps are needed, which previous governments didn't take ... we have saved Manipur for future generations," he said.

Posters of political parties, mega rallies and visible movement of leaders -- the traditional elements of campaigning -- are conspicuously missing in violence-hit Manipur.

The only visible hint of the impending election is the hoardings put up by local election authorities, urging citizens to exercise their franchise. Amid the muted election fervour, major party figures have refrained from visiting the conflict-ridden state to canvass for votes or make electoral pledges.

While the BJP has enlisted prominent figures such as Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah as star campaigners, the Congress includes Sonia lineup Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and other key leaders.

However, none of them have made an appearance in Manipur yet.

Singh also conducts public meetings at the party office or his residence ahead of the

Ex-Punjab minister Sucha Singh's son among 5 arrested with heroin in Shimla

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHIMLA: Five people, including the son of a former Punjab minister Sucha Singh, were arrested with 42.89 grams of heroin in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla, police said on

Wednesday. The arrests were made after a police patrolling party raided a room in a hotel near Panchayat Ghar, Old Bus Stand on Tuesday, Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told the PTI.

The main accused was identified as Prakash Singh (37), the son of for-

Punjab minister merSucha Singh. The remaining four accused are Ajay Kumar (27), Shubham Kaushal (26)and Balbinder (22), all from Punjab, and Abni (19) of Kinnaur district, the SP said.

A case has been regis-

tered against the accused under the Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and an investigation is underway, police said.

Earlier, Prakash Singh was arrested for possessing and consuming heroin in Punjab's Gurdaspur.

initiatives for Sikh community, public welfare **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman of the National Sikh Front (NSF) , embarked on a spirited journey through the heart of Jammu City, encompassing vibrant neighborhoods including Preet Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Ekta Vihar, Kunjwani, Bandurakh, Greater Kailash,

Sainik Colony. Engaging fervently with the local populace, Singh fervently appealed to the citizens to cast their ballots in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), endorsing the transformative vision spearheaded by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh's impassioned outreach underscored a deep-seated appreciation for the Modi government's unwavering commitment to uplifting every section of society, with a special emphasis on the Sikh community. Highlighting landmark initiatives such as the historic inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor and the dedicated train service to Hazoor Sahib.

Singh lauded these visionary endeavors as catalysts for fostering communal harmony and spiritual connectivity. In a resounding testament to

the Modi administration's

NSF Chairman commends Modi Govt's

proactive governance, Singh extolled the array of developmental programs and policies aimed at bolstering public welfare. Noteworthy among these are initiatives such as "Ayushman Bharat," which has revolutionized healthcare accessibility, and the transformative "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," a nationwide crusade for sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore. Singh emphasized the pivotal role played by the government in facilitating the safe return of the revered Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan, underscoring the administration's unwavering commitment to preserve ing the sanctity of Sikh heritage. Singh's endorsement of the Bharatiya Janata Party resonates as a resounding affirmation of the transformative governance paradigm instituted under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As the nation marches stead fastly towards progress and prosperity, the National Sikh Front stands poised as a steadfast ally, championing the cause of communal harmony socioeconomic development, and

BJP repeatedly tried to impose its will on people of Tamil Nadu: Cong

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress on Wednesday accused the BJP of repeatedly trying to impose its will on the people of Tamil Nadu and flagged issues such as "devastating impacts" of NEET in the state and insufficient devolution of taxes from the Centre.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his rally in Coimbatore and posed questions to him on key issues affecting the state. "Today, PM Modi will be in

Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. In a state which has a long history of advocating for cooperative federalism, the BJP has repeatedly tried to impose its will on the people," Ramesh said.

He said, "The Modi Sarkar's track record in TN begs the question - does PM Modi want to represent the people, or does he want to

rule over them?' Ramesh said the NEET

exam was introduced by the BJP government in 2017, and it faced widespread public backlash due to fears that it would unfairly disadvantage students from poor and marginalised communities. "Very soon, these fears

were confirmed. According to 2019 data, only 2% of students who qualified for the exam did so without enrolling in private coaching. Since coaching centres charge between 2.5 Lakh to 5 Lakh per student, it is nearly impossible for marginalised students to qualify for the exam," he said.

Sure enough, the Congress leader said, data shows that the number of Tamil-medium government school students securing seats in medical courses reduced drastically after NEET was introduced -- from 600 in 2016 (before NEET) to just 5 in 2017, 7 in 2018 and 0 in 2019.

"To address this injustice." the TN Assembly has passed two NEET bills since 2017 that exempt students from

taking the exam, but neither bill was given assent by the President. The most tragic element of this narrative is that Tamil Nadu has experienced several student suicides prior to the exam every year since its inception,"

Ramesh said. All of Tamil Nadu has borne witness to the devastating impacts of NEET, he said and asked why the prime minister has not even acknowledged the damage that his policies have caused.

"Last week, the state of Tamil Nadu was compelled to move the Supreme Court as the Union government has been withholding muchneeded disaster relief funds. Tamil Nadu has been dealing with the aftermath of Cyclone Michuang, which rocked the state in December 2023, causing unprecedented flooding and significant damage," he said.

The state government has already spent Rs 3,406 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund and other state funds but it has not been

enough to cover the extensive damage caused by the cyclone, Ramesh said. In such situations, states

can seek additional aid from the National Disaster Relief Fund, which was established for the express purpose of assisting when calamities are "beyond the coping capacity of the state government", he said. The Tamil Nadu government had applied to this fund as early as December 19 last year and then again on January 10 for the release of Rs 18,214 crore of aid, he said.

"Yet, more than 4 months later, the Centre has not taken a final decision. Needless to say, this delay in the release of funds has severe implications for the people of Tamil Nadu," Ramesh said.

What "vendetta" does the PM have against the Tamil people to be so indifferent to their needs, he asked. "In 2008, when PM Modi

was still Chief Minister of

Gujarat, he had kicked up a

storm with his remarks on

power the shoe is on the other foot," he alleged. In January, the Tamil Nadu finance minister pointed out that the state received only 29 paise for every rupee it gave to the Centre, he said.

fiscal injustice and insuffi-

cient devolution of taxes

from the Centre. However,

now that the BJP is in

Ramesh said that even though Tamil Nadu accounts for 6.124 per cent of India's population, its share of central taxes has decreased from 5.305 per cent under 12th Finance Commission to 4.079 per cent under the 15th Finance

Commission. "This reduction in Tamil Nadu's share comes amidst the Modi Sarkar's introduction of a cess raj, evolved specifically to avoid sharing revenues with states," he

"Is the PM's change of heart on this issue entirely attributable to his desire for centralising power?" Ramesh said and asked Modi to break his silence on these issues.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Achieves Record **Annual Turnover Exceeding Rs 50,000 Cr**

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's sixth-largest jewellery group and the 19th-ranked brand in Deloitte's Global Ranking of Luxury Products, announces a milestone achievement with an annual retail global turnover of Rs 51,218 Crore Indian Rupees in the last financial year. This remarkable growth underscores Malabar Gold & Diamonds' rapid ascent as a trusted jewellery brand worldwide.

In just three decades, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, headquartered in Kerala, has garnered unprecedented success in the global jewellery industry. The brand's strategic retail expansion plan spans India and overseas markets, aiming to strengthen its position as a global leader. Currently, Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates 345 stores across 13 countries, with plans to open new stores in New Zealand, Egypt, Bangladesh, and more locations in Europe. The company will strengthen its presence in existing markets such as the

US, Canada, UK, and Australia, with a target of opening 100 new stores within the next year. The brand also aims to hire an additional 7,000 employees, increasing the workforce to 28,000. With 21,000 employees representing 26 countries and speaking diverse languages, Malabar offers a dynamic and inclusive work culture.

In addition to opening more stores in its current states of operation in India, Malabar Gold & Diamonds plans to expand its presence into states such as Jharkhand, Goa, Assam, Tripura, and Jammu & Kashmir. Beyond India, the company currently has stores in the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Singapore, Malaysia, USA, Canada, UK, and Australia. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also has its own state-of-the-art design studio, training centre, and research and development department The company leverages the services of globally renowned consulting firms such as Ernst & Young, Deloitte, Accenture, and IBM.