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New Parliament building to herald rise of developed India, will inspire world: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the inauguration of the new Parliament building as an "immortalised" moment in the country's development journey, asserting it will mark the dawn of a self-reliant and developed India which will also inspire the progress of other nations.

In a speech delivered from the grand and cavernous Lok Sabha hall decorated in peacock motif, Modi said the new Parliament reflected the aspirations and resolve of the "new India" to set and work towards achieving greater heights.

"Every decision taken here will lay the foundation of India's glorious future... the way to empower the poor, Dalits, backwards, tribals, divyangs and other marginalised sections goes through here," he said, adding "each brick and wall of this Parliament building should be dedicated to the welfare of the poor".



PM Narendra Modi addressing at inauguration ceremony of new Parliament House in New Delhi on Sunday.

About 25 parties attended the event while 20 opposition parties boycotted it, accusing the prime minister of "sidelining" President Droupadi Murmu.

However, Murmu, in her speech read out at the event, expressed deep satisfaction at the inauguration by Modi

who, she said, symbolises Parliament's trust.

Lauding the building for its reflection of India's diversity and traditional riches in its architecture, Prime Minister Modi said the new India is shedding the "slave mentality" which had crept into the country after hundreds of

years of bondage.

He equated the 25-year period - from now till the centenary of India's independence in 2047 - to the similar time gap between Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement which had ended in 1922 and the country's freedom.

Gandhi's movement led to a "new consciousness" among the masses and filled them with confidence as they devoted themselves to freedom, he said, adding that every citizen should work similarly for a developed India in the next 25 years.

"The new Parliament is a reflection of aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians. This is a temple of our democracy that gives a message of India's resolve to the world. There are a few moments in every nation's history that are immortalised. Some dates become the indelible signature on the face of time. May 28, 2023 is one such day," he asserted.

Modi's address came after he inaugurated the new building this morning at a grand ceremony which included a havan, a multi-faith prayer ceremony and the installation of the Sengol in a special enclosure in the Lok Sabha chamber.

The prime minister said the nine years of his government

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Inaugurates new parliament building, installs historic Sengol



PM Narendra Modi installing 'Sengol' at new Parliament building.

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building here on Sunday morning and expressed hope that it will become a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality.

Dressed in traditional attire, Modi walked into Parliament premises from its Gate No. 1 and was welcomed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Amid Vedic chants by priests from Karnataka's Shringeri Math, the prime minister performed "Ganapati Homam" to invoke divine blessings.

The prime minister prostrated before the Sengol and sought blessings from high priests of various adheenams in Tamil Nadu with the holy sceptre in hand.

Modi then carried the Sengol in a procession amid tunes of nadaswaram and chanting of Vedic mantras to the new Parliament building and installed it in a special enclosure on the right side of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber.

"As the new building of India's Parliament is inaugurated, our hearts and minds are filled with pride, hope and promise. May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress," the prime minister tweeted later.

He also shared pictures of the inaugural event held this morning.

Several Union ministers, including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, S Jaishankar, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya and Jitendra

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Rapist, woman peddler among seven hardcore criminals arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seven people with criminal history including a rapist and a woman drug peddler were arrested in Samba district on Sunday, police said on Sunday.

Parvaz Ahmed, accused of abducting and raping a minor girl, has been arrested from Rakh Amb Talli, a police officer said.

Police have also arrested one Saleema Bibi, who was wanted in a case registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said. She was arrested from the Bari Brahmana area.

"Bibi had been supplying

heroin to addicted youths and was also involved in an attack on a Police party," the officer said.

Another criminal, Badroo Din alias 'Badaru', was arrested from Vijaypur for his involvement in an attack on a police party recently, he said. He was the fifth accused arrested in the case.

Roshan Lal and Mohit Ram Patel were arrested from Bari Brahmana after they were named in a theft case, while two cow smugglers were nabbed from Mansar; the officer said.

Six cattle and two vehicles were seized with the

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DPAP will fight for restoration of J&K’s statehood, land rights of people: Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: DPAP chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday said he would fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the job and land rights of its people if the party wins the Assembly elections.

He said a progressive Jammu and Kashmir is possible only if people stand united and defeat the politics of hate as he called for unity and harmony among all communities.

"The people of J&K must rise above personal beliefs and find a common path to usher a new dawn of peace



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing party workers at Akhnoor on Sunday.

and prosperity as the Union Territory is lagging far behind due to divisive and petty politics by successive regimes," Azad said addressing a party function in Akhnoor sector here.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Rattan Lal joined the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) along with his supporters on the occasion.

Welcoming the new

13 gamblers arrested across J&K, stake money over Rs 3.7 lakh seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: In an act of alertness and prompt action, police on Sunday nabbed 13 gamblers and recovered over Rs 3.7 lakh stake money from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Janipur led by SDPO West Vikram Singh assisted by SHO Janipur Inspr Sikander Singh while on patrolling duty received the information regarding some persons gambling in a house at Sultanpura, Janipur area. On this, police raided at the suspected place and caught five

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Wrestlers detained after scuffle as Delhi Police thwarts protest near new Parliament, clears sit-in site at Jantar Mantar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Protesting wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were detained on Sunday after a scuffle with security personnel who tried to stop them from marching to the new Parliament building as it was being inaugurated. Soon after, the Delhi Police cleared the site of their over-month-long sit-in at Jantar Mantar and said they will not be allowed to return there.

While women detainees were released later in the evening, opposition parties slammed the central govern-

ment over the alleged "man-handling" of wrestlers. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said that the "arrogant king is crushing the voice of the people" on the streets as the "coronation" is over and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it is "shameful our champions are treated in this manner".

The wrestlers, who had resumed their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23 demanding his arrest for alleged sexual harassment of several women

grapplers, had called for a women 'Mahapanchayat' on Sunday for which they did not have permission.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed at the dharna site at Jantar Mantar, barely three kilometres from where the new Parliament building was inaugurated by the prime minister, as protesters and police personnel shoved and pushed each other when the Phogat sisters, Sakshi Malik and others tried to breach the barricades.

Immediately after the wrestlers and other protesters were pushed into

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Upper age limit extended by 3 yrs for J&K Combined Competitive Exams

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Administration has extended by three years the upper age limit for the combined competitive examination-2023.

According to a notification issued by the General Administration Department by the order of Lt Governor, the upper age limit for open merit candidates was fixed at 35 years from the current 32 years.

Similarly, the upper age limit was enhanced for Reserved category candidates and Physically challenged candidates from 34 years to 37 years and from 35 years to 38 years, respectively, the order issued by Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma said.

On May 10, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had approved age relaxation in the upper age limit for JKCCE in view of the demands from aspirants and representations by several delegations.

Drive underway to rescue children in street situation in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As many as 18 children forced into begging or labour were rescued over the past couple of days in the city by a special task force constituted to deal with such cases, officials here said on Sunday.

The task force was set up by Deputy Commissioner (Jammu) Avny Lavasa to collect information on Children in Street Situation (CISS) and carry out rescue operations within the ecosystem created by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

The task force members

include the senior superintendent of police, chief medical officer, district child protection officer, assistant labour commissioner, the NGO Kitaab aur Kalam Foundation and Childline (Jammu).

"We have rescued 18 children, including two girls, below the age of 14 years, from different hotspot areas in the city over the past couple of days. The children were then produced before the Child Welfare Committee for their proper rehabilitation," Arti Choudhary, Protection Officer of the Social Welfare department's

Mission Vatsalya, told PTI.

She said the drive was initiated in busy marketplaces, outside religious sites, traffic signals, posh localities, including Gandhi Nagar, Vikram Chowk and Bohu Plaza, immediately after the joint task force was set up on Tuesday.

Its focus remained on children being forced to beg, work as rag pickers, sell articles or engage in labour work at construction sites, she added.

"Children are the future of our nation and we have to end this disease to

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Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL/JAMMU: Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits and devotees on Sunday visited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami here at Tullamulla Ganderbal.

Every year, on this auspicious day, Kheer Bhawani Mela is organized at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple in Tulumulla, Ganderbal and devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir visit the holy shrine here.

Kheer Bhawani is considered to be the deity of Kashmiri Pandits, who have a lot of recognition there. Over the years, the Kheer Bhawani Mela has become a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir.

The religious sanctity of

Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, built atop a holy spring, has a special spiritual significance among Kashmiri Pandit devotees across the world.

The Tulumulla area of district Ganderbal witnessed enthusiastic scenes as a large number of devotees arrived here, who paid obeisance and prayed for the entire humanity.

As the number of devotees this year were huge in numbers the arrangements made by the J&K Dharmarth Trust was upto the mark as many visitors praised the facilities provided during the religious congregation at the shrine.

Brig R S Langeh, President Dharmarth Trust himself took the lead and monitored the facilities being extended to the devotees



Devotees offering prayers at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami at Tullamulla Ganderbal on Sunday.

ensuring that not even a single visitor faces any difficulty or hardship during the pilgrimage.

Addressing the devotees, Trust' President said that Dharmarth Trust under the

patronage of Chairman Trustee Dr Karan Singh has been providing upto the mark facilities to the devotees visiting this shrine on annual basis since last so many years.

He however said that due to turmoil and other exigencies the number of devotees was down in the past but this year the number has again swollen and hustle bustle in the shrine is back.

He praised the Government of J&K for standing shoulder to shoulder with the Trust this time in making the arrangements fool proof besides providing security for the pilgrims.

Giving exact details, he said that Kheer Bhawani Mela's sheen is back with a good number of visitors after a gap of about five years.

He said that support by the locals also holds great significance in making this annual event successful as their support changes the dynamics of the event and people feel comfortable with enthusiastic surroundings.

He said, "As a convention since ages, a large number of Muslims also become part of this religious congregation making the event complete in all senses".

He thanked the civil admin-


istration and the J&K Police for the support and moral boost which led to grandiose conduct of this religious event amidst Valley.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal inspected the arrangements and enquired about the facilities being provided to the devotees. Full attention was given to ensure that devotees do not face any issue.

Mostly Kashmiri Pandits were seen performing the rituals of the festival at the temple besides that Muslims were seen greeting pandits and making arrangements.

Pertinently, the District Administration had made necessary arrangements for uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, transport, security, fire tenders, ration, bedding,

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.0°C Min: 19.2°C

Humidity
Max: 43 Min: 38

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.4°C Min: 8.9°C

Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 34

Sunset : 19:31 Hours
Sunrise : 05:27 Hours