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New Parliament building..

mark a period of reconstruction and work for the poor's welfare. He expressed his satisfaction over this hour of pride, noting that four crore houses and 11 crore toilets for the poor were built during the period.

Over four lakh km of roads to connect villages, more than 50,000 'Amrit sarovars' (pond), and more than 30,000 new 'Panchayat Bhavans' were also built, he added. "From Panchayat Bhavans to Parliament only one inspiration guided us, that is, the development of the nation and its people", he said.

"When a country like India, full of diversity, with a huge population that tackles various challenges, moves forward with a belief, it inspires many countries of the world.

"Every achievement of India is going to become an achievement for different countries in different parts of the world in the coming days," he said.

The prime minister asserted that India is not only a democratic nation but is also the mother of democracy.

"Our democracy is our inspiration, our Constitution our resolve. Parliament is the best representative of this inspiration and resolution," he said, adding that the new Parliament building was a perfect example of the co-existence of the old and new.

Speaking to an audience, which included MPs, chief ministers, members of the higher judiciary and other dignitaries, he invoked India's ancient glory which included its architecture and town-planning and lamented that after centuries of slavery, Indians were besotted by constructions of other countries.

India today is bending that "stream of ancient glory" to its way again, he asserted.

"Every India is proud today looking at the new Parliament. It represents heritage and architecture, art and skill, culture and the voice of Constitution," he said, lauding the use of material from different parts of the country in the building to symbolise "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

With the Opposition criticising the government's decision to construct the new building, Modi asserted that it was becoming difficult for everyone to do their work in the old building due to various technological and space constraints.

It was being discussed for a decade or two that a new Parliament building is needed, he said, adding it also needed to be considered that more MPs will join Parliament, a development that may occur after delimitation post-2026.

The Congress and other parties which stayed away from the event took a swipe at Modi, calling it a "coronation" ceremony.

"Parliament is the voice of the people! The prime minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as a coronation," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi after Modi inaugurated the building.

Soon after the prime minister arrived in Lok Sabha chamber amidst chants of 'Modi, Modi', the messages by President Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar were read out, while Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh also addressed the gathering.

In his speech, Modi talked about the 'Sengol', saying that it was a symbol of power transfer from the British and had now been given the respect it deserves after being kept in Anand Bhawan in Prayagraj.

"In the Chola empire, it (Sengol) was considered a symbol of the Kartavya path (path of duty), Seva Path (path of service) and Rashtra path (path of the nation)," Modi said.

The prime minister also pointed out that the construction of the new Parliament building gave employment to 60,000 workers and a digital gallery dedicated to them has also been built in the complex.

The building has been completed in about two-and-a-half years at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 1,200 crore.

He said the new Parliament building will be a testament to the dawn of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

"It will be a witness to our journey towards a Viksit Bharat (developed India)," Modi said at the event attended by former president Ram Nath Kovind, Chief Ministers Y S Jagan Reddy, Yogi Adityanath, Eknath Shinde and Neiphu Rio, foreign envoys, Parliamentarians and people from different walks of life.

Inaugurates new parliament...

Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP president J P Nadda among others were present on the occasion.

The prime minister felicitated with shawls and souvenirs some of the workers for their key role in the construction of the new Parliament building.

A multi-faith prayer was also held to mark the occasion.

The prime minister, along with the Speaker and some other dignitaries, later went to the old Parliament House.

The events to mark the inauguration are being held amid a boycott by several Opposition parties which insist that President Droupadi Murmu as the Head of the State should do the honours.

The new Parliament building, constructed by Tata Projects Ltd, will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for MPs, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space.

The triangular-shaped four-storey building has a built-up area of 64,500 square metres.

The building has three main gates -- Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar. It will have separate entrances for VIPs, MPs and visitors.

The material used for the new building has been acquired from various parts of the country.

The teakwood used in the building was sourced from Nagpur in Maharashtra, while the red and white sandstone was from Sarnathura in Rajasthan. The sandstone for the Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb in the national capital was also known to have been sourced from Sarnathura.

The Kesharia green stone has been procured from Udaipur, the red granite from Lakhna near Ajmer and the white marble has been sourced from Ambaji in Rajasthan.

"In a way, the entire country came together to construct the temple of democracy, thus reflecting the true spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," an official said.

The steel structure for the false ceilings in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers has been sourced from the Union territory of Daman and Diu, while the furniture in the new building was crafted in Mumbai.

The stone 'jaali' (lattice) works dotting the building were sourced from Rajnagar in Rajasthan and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

The materials for the Ashoka Emblem were sourced from Aurangabad in Maharashtra and Jaipur in Rajasthan, while the Ashok Chakra donning the massive walls of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers and the exteriors of the Parliament building were from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

The new Parliament building used manufactured sand or M-sand from Charkhi Dadri in Haryana in the concrete mix for the construction activities.

M-Sand is considered environmentally friendly as it is manufactured by crushing large hard stones or granite and not by dredging river beds.

The fly ash bricks used in the construction were sourced from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, while brass works and pre-cast trenches were from Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

Built at an estimated cost of Rs 1200 crore, the new Parliament building can comfortably seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chamber and 300 in the Rajya Sabha chamber.

In the case of a joint sitting of both Houses, a total of 1,280 members can be accommodated in the Lok Sabha chamber.

The prime minister laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament building, a key component of the ambitious Central Vista project, on December 10, 2020. The construction work started in early 2021 and took a little over two years to complete.

The present Parliament building was completed in 1927 and is now 96 years old. Over the years, the old building was found to be inadequate for the present day requirements.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha had passed resolutions urging the government to construct a new building for Parliament.

The existing building served as independent India's first Parliament and witnessed the adoption of the Constitution.

Originally called the Council House, the building housed the Imperial Legislative Council. The Parliament building witnessed the addition of two floors in 1956 to address the demand for more space.

In 2006, the Parliament Museum was added to showcase the 2,500 years of rich democratic heritage of India.

Officials said the old building was never designed to accommodate a bicameral legislature and the seating arrangements were cramped and cumbersome, with no desks beyond the second row.

The Central Hall in the old Parliament building has a seating capacity only for 440 people and the need for more space was acutely felt during joint sittings of both houses.

IPL final moved...

There were some serious puddles on the covers and exposed parts of the outfield, which would have taken the groundstaff more than a hour to clear, provided the rain had stopped.

As per the rules, the IPL final will have a reserve day Monday, May 29 in this year's case in case the match is not able to start by 12:06am cut-off time, in which case there will be a five-overs per-side contest.

There are no such predictions of rain here on Monday, which means that there is full possibility of a 20-20 over match.

DPAP will fight...

the people." Urging the people to reject the "divisive forces who try to vitiate the brotherhood and harmony to gain political mileage", Azad said he had made it clear that there is no place in DPAP for those who try to make money through illegal means or believe in divisive politics.

"Only those who believe in serving people can be allowed to join the DPAP," he said.

Azad said he founded the DPAP for the same reasons and promised the people that Akhnoor will see development, including improved educational and health facilities, if the DPAP was elected to power.

"We understand the sufferings of people living in the border belts because of hostile situations. The time has come for Akhnoor residents to overcome their sufferings," he said.

On the occasion, the senior AAP leader Rtd Xen Er Rattan Lal joined the party and said that he was impressed by the pro people agenda of DPAP.

Among others present on the occasion were, Provincial President Jugal Kishore Sharma, Vinod Mishra General Secretary, Ch Gharu Ram Zonal President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Zonal President P.R.Manhas, Distt President Ashok Bhagat, Adv Maheshwar Singh Provincial Vice President, Spokespersons Gurmeet Kaur, Sunita Arora, Vishal Chopra, Sobat Ali Gen Secretary, Prabha Salathia President Mahila Wing, R.S.Pinky Provincial Secretary, Vicky Mahajan, Anoop Khajuria Provincial Secretary, Kulwant Singh, Sheikh Zaffarullah, Suraj Prakash Sharma, Sarpanch Naseeb Singh, Capt Rashapl Singh, Capt Gurmukh Singh, Joga Singh, Karan Singh, Ranjit Singh and others.

Rapist, woman peddler...

arrest, he said. Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh said a total of 82 thieves, 73 cow smugglers and 42 heroin suppliers have been arrested in the district in the past four months.

Wrestlers detained after...

buses and taken to different locations, the police personnel began clearing the protest site by removing cots, mattresses, coolers, fans and the tarpaulin ceiling along with other belongings of the wrestlers.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dependra Pathak claimed the protesters ignored repeated requests and warnings and "wrestled" with police personnel who tried to stop them. He said an FIR will be filed against the protesters.

"Today was an important day for the country as the new Parliament building was to be inaugurated and despite warnings and repeatedly urging protesters at Jantar Mantar to not march beyond the protest site, they continued to do so," he said, adding the behaviour of the wrestlers was "highly irresponsible".

"They were out to disturb the preparations made by security agencies," the senior police officer told PTI.

"The detained protesting wrestlers will not be allowed to continue with their dhar- na at Jantar Mantar. The entire protest venue at Jantar Mantar has been cleared," Pathak said.

13 gamblers arrested...

gamblers along with Rs 3 lakhs of stake money and one deck of playing cards.

The accused arrested have been identified as Tassaduq Ahmed Munshi, son of Ghulam Mohd Munshi, resident of Chinar Colony Buchpura, Srinagar at present Sultanpura Janipur, Jammu; Mohd Sultan Mir, son of Ghulam Hassan Mir, resident of Athwajan, Srinagar at present Zubairabad, Sunjwan Jammu; Abdul Majeed Lone, son of Lt.Ghulam Mohi Din, resident of Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar; Aijaz Ahmed Sheikh, son of Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, resident of Bemina, Srinagar and Samundar Khan, son of Ayub Khan, resident of Awra, Kupwara, Kashmir and case under Section 3/4 of the Gambling Act was registered against them at Police Station Janipur.

Similarly, a team of Police Station RS Pura led by SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO RS Pura Inspr Pawan Kumar received an information regarding gambling in village Tohana Tibba near Poultry farm area. On this police teams raided at the suspected location and arrested four gamblers along with Rs 30,000 and one deck of playing cards. The arrested accused were identified as Krishan Singh, son of Sahib Singh, Pawan Singh, son of Kirpal Singh, Arjun Singh, son of Shal Singh and Ajay Kumar, son of Ram Dass, all resident of Satraiyan Tehsil Suchetgarh District Jammu. Case under section 13 of Gambling Act got registered at PS RS Pura and accused got arrested.

In another instance, acting on specific information regarding gambling activities in the jurisdiction of Police Post Mirbazar, a police party headed by Incharge Police Post Mirbazar raided the suspected gambling site at Furrah and apprehended four gamblers on the spot. They have been identified as Shahnawaz Ahmad Lone on of Bashir Ahmad Lone resident of Malpora, Javed Ahmad Mir son of Mohd Amin Mir resident of Furrah, Nisar Ahmad Khanday son of Ghulam Ahmad Khanday and Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Aziz Wani both residents of Zadoora.

Officers have seized stake money of Rs. 46,000, 4 mobile phones and a set of playing cards from their possession. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody. FIR No. 93/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police station Qazigund and investigation has been taken up.

Drive underway to...

protect their childhood. After rescuing a child, verification is done to know whether he or she is from within or outside Jammu and Kashmir and a rehabilitation plan is chalked out accordingly," Choudhary said.

The official said the rescued children have been admitted to child care institutions where proper diet, counselling and medical care are available.

Since most of the children rescued are from Rajasthan, efforts are underway to establish contact with the authorities concerned to ensure that they are linked to government schemes for their proper rehabilitation in their home districts, she said.

The rescued children will be enrolled in Anganwadi centres or schools and their information uploaded in the CISS portal so that they are not dragged back into begging or labour.

In her order, the deputy commissioner said the inspection-cum-rescue drive will be done every fortnight.

"The task force shall adopt standard operating procedures suggested by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for restoration of rescued children," Lavasa said.

She said all the rescued children will be produced before the Child Welfare Committee, which will then pass appropriate orders for their rehabilitation, including orders for family counselling and enrollment in nearby schools or vocational centres.

Mela Kheer Bhawani...

medical camps, and medical facilities at the temple besides free transport facility was also made for the devotees on various routes.

Several NGOs and civil society had also made arrangements to provide wheel- chairs and other aids for the convenience of the devotees during the Mela.

The devotees, walking barefoot, carried rose petals and offered tribute to the god- dess as men took a dip in the stream close to the shrine.

As the devotees jostled with each other to move closer to the main temple complex, the chants of hymns echoed through the temple compound and paid obeisance to the deity while offering milk and kheer (rice pudding) at the sacred spring with- in the complex.

The mela, a symbol of communal harmony, passed off peacefully as the adminis- tration had made elaborate arrangements, including security related, for the devote- es.

Gudi Zutshi, a devotee from Jammu, said their pooja' is incomplete without visit- ing the temple shrine on the occasion of the annual mela held on the birthday of the deity.

"She is our deity. It is an important day for us and without her, our pooja is incomplete, so we have to come here to celebrate her birthday. The deity has taken the form of water here. The colour of the stream keeps on changing when some- thing happens," she said.

It is believed that the colour of the sacred spring water which flows below the tem- ple indicates the situation in the Valley.

While most of the colours do not have any particular significance, the black or darkish colour of the water is believed to be an indication of inauspicious times for Kashmiri. However, the water in the spring was clean and milky white this year.

Zutshi said last year when she was here, she had witnessed that the colour of the stream water was red, apparently referring to the several attacks on the minority community in the Valley.

"Its colour turned black when there was Corona. The same happened when the Kargil war happened," she added.

However, she said, this year, the colour of the water was very good. It means there will be prosperity in Kashmir, Jammu and Delhi. "We want prosperity everywhere. Today, the situation is good in Kashmir. The arrangements are good for the mela."

Zutshi said as the situation had improved in the Valley, they prayed for the return of the community members who had left Kashmir in the early 1990s.

"We want to return to Kashmir. We miss the place. Though we come almost every year, we want to return to our homeland permanently. We have prayed for the hap- piness and prosperity of everyone and the return of Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir," she said.

Another devotee, Dileep, said there was about 80-85 per cent improvement in the situation from the 1990s in Kashmir.

"We also want to return to our homeland. We pray whenever we come here and today as well we prayed for our return," he said.

Asked if the community was wary of targeted killings that took place last year, Dileep said that such incidents happen, we cannot say anything on that. "But the situation is good now".

"We want that brotherhood back. Our Muslim brothers also want that," he added.

Bilal Bhat, a local, said the Muslim community welcomed the guests with open arms and wanted Kashmiri Pandits to return to the Valley.

"Every year we celebrate this festival. It is an unbelievable, unexpected crowd here. We have kept open our houses for our guests. We want this love, brotherhood and peace we see here to remain forever," he said.

Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar also paid obeisance at the shrine. He said, "Ganderbal Police has made very good security arrange- ments. Srinagar police had also deployed ROP (road opening parties). There is foolproof security and the locals have supported the police as well. I wish all of them well."

Meanwhile, in Jammu, thousands of migrant Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday offered prayers to goddess Ragnya Devi on the occasion of Zaisht Ashtami' at Kheer Bhawani Peeth in the Janipur area.

The peeth' was constructed as a replica of the original shrine in Tulmulla after the mass migration of the community from the Valley in the early 1990's.

"We missed a visit to Tulmulla this time and decided to offer our prayers here. We are witnessing the same atmosphere which used to prevail at the Kheer Bhawani shrine in Kashmir during the annual fair," Ratika, a devotee who vis- ited the Jammu temple, said.

Raj Kumar, another devotee, said he had never visited Tulmulla shrine but is a regular visitor here. "There is a festive look with a massive gathering of pan- dits on the auspicious occasion of Zaisht Ashtami," he said, expressing his desire to visit Tulmulla shrine and resettle in his Budgam home town one day.

The management of the temple, Ardh Ratri Maha Regheneya Sewa Sanstha Trust, had set up several stalls for the convenience of the devotees, who thronged the tastefully decorated shrine to offer their prayers in their tradition- al way. A member of the trust said the sanstha, with the help of local authori- ties, had made adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the festival at the peeth.



2 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA/KULGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Sunday arrested 02 drug peddlers and recovered contra- band substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party led by SHO Police Station Baramulla during Naka checking near Hospital crossing Barmulla intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 15 grams of Brown Sugar like substance was recovered from his possession.

Similarly in Kulgam, a police party headed by incharge Police Post Frisal during naka checking at Damidulla Crossing intercepted one person identified as Tariq Ahmad Kuchay son of Abdul Majeed Kuchay resident of Kadder Kulgam. During search, 05 Cannabis sticks (105 grams) were recovered from his possession.

Both the drug peddlers have been arrested and shifted to respective police sta- tions where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations.

Burglary case solved; 3 arrested, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police on

Sunday solved a burglary

case by arresting 03 accused

persons involved in the com-

mission of crime and recov-

ered stolen property from

their possession.

As per details, On May 27,

2023, Police Station

Boniyar received a com-

plaint from one person

Mushtaq Ahmad Ahanger

(Accounts officer of Small Hydro Electric Project Boni- yar) stating therein that

some unknown burglars have

stolen steel shuttering plates

from construction site at

Maidanan Boni- yar. Accordingly,

a case under relevant sections of law was regis- tered at Police Station Boni- yar and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation,

officers with the help of technical and human

resources zeroed in on some suspects for questioning. Among them, 3 suspects

identified as Aqib Ahmad Shah son of Mohammad Hafeez Shah resident of Nangli

Pora Sopore, Bashir Ahmad Jainder son of Sayia Jinder resident of Madian

Boniyar & Sajad Ahmad Thakar son of Gulam Qadir Thakar resident of Uranbowa

confessed their involvement in the commission of crime after thorough interroga- tion. On their disclosure, officers have also recovered stolen property from their

possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.



Boy goes missing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A youth identified as Arjun Singh, son of Ranjit Singh, resident of village Basnote Tehsil Moungrri in Udhampur is missing for the last couple of days.

Reports said while missing youth did not turned up back to home despite of gap, his father Ranjit Singh informed police which registered a missing report and started investigation. 15 years missing boy have wore red shirt and black pant and Chappal. Family have appealed people that if anybody find any clue may contact on 7006347386 & 8082868215, he/she shall be rewarded suitably.

Missing girl traced from Bihar, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: Police on Sunday traced a missing girl and reunited her with her family.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station R.S Pura, by the father of a girl stating that she got missing from her home. In this regard a missing report on May 10, 2023, was registered and investigation got started. On this, a team of Police Station R.S Pura led by SDPO R.S Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO R.S Pura Inspr Pawan Kumar received the informa- tion regarding the girl in another state. On this police teams headed by SI Onkar Singh were deputed to out of J&K UT and finally traced out the miss- ing girl from Distriet Siwan of Bihar State with the help of police of the local area.

Subsequently the family of the missing girl was informed and the traced girl was handed over to the family members after completing all the legal formalities.

5 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Police in which teams of Police Stations Bishnah, R.S Pura, Jhajjar Kotli, Police Posts Phallian Mandal and Chowki Choura acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 5 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

The seized vehicles include one tractor trolley bearing Engine No. RMK2MDA0027 seized by Bishnah Police; one tractor trolley bearing Engine No. RPA2GDH1567 by R.S Pura Police; one tipper (JK14B 7139) by Jhajjar Kotli Police; one Tractor Trolley bearing Chassis No. MBNBG55AAKCL83719, by Phallian Mandal Police and one dumper (JK02DA-6921) by Chowki Choura Police.

The recoveries were made by SHO Bishnah Inspr Vikram Sharma, SHO R.S Pura Inspr Pawan Kumar, SHO Jhajjar Kotli Inspr Azad Ahmed, In-Charge Police Posts Phallian Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal and Chowki Choura-PSI Pankaj Katoch in their respective jurisdiction.

