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Emergency most inhuman...

and to strengthen our resolve to deepen the foundations of our democracy and work with complete dedication for greater success of our nation.

"We must learn from those incidents and prepare young generations to prevent such atrocities in future. It is also an opportunity to create awareness about constitutional values in every section of the society so that no dictatorial mentality can repeat it in future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid homage to the countless individuals, political leaders, journalists, activists, and citizens, who bravely resisted the authoritarian regime and safeguarded the democratic values.

"In that darkest period in India's democratic history, the soul of the country was crushed, Civil liberties were attacked, Constitutional safeguards were violated and dreams of nation-building were buried.

The suspension of fundamental rights, press censorship, and the widespread arrests of political opponents and citizens was a direct assault on the democratic dreams that fuelled India's independence movement and were enshrined in its Constitution," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called upon the youth to take the lead in exposing those responsible for the murder of the Constitution and democratic values.

"Dictatorship is a mindset that needs to be understood. The new generation needs to know how India's democracy was held captive for 21 months. The new generation needs to understand how our democratic values were tarnished and how some handful of people ruthlessly bled the very soul of the democratic republic, assaulted our democratic norms, shattered India's ancient democratic form and damaged the four pillars of democracy, for sheer political gain.

The new generation also needs to be told how our great leaders and vigilant citizens displayed great courage and unshakable loyalty to democratic values," he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared his personal experiences from the Emergency period and emphasized on educating the people about their rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

"Democracy is in the nature of India, democracy is ingrained in our veins since time immemorial, that is why India is called the mother of democracy. I also salute those great personalities who nurtured the rich tradition and heritage of this nation, those who truly enriched democratic values generation after generation.

I have full faith that the saga of sacrifices and resilience of our satyagrahis who valiantly protected the democratic values during the Emergency will continue to inspire us to further strengthen our democracy and build a truly developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Political leaders and citizens who were the victims of Emergency shared the accounts of sufferings they endured during the dark period of Emergency. The Lieutenant Governor assured them that their issues and concerns will be taken up with the concerned authorities.

On the occasion, a Dogri translation of 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita', 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita' and 'Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam' were also released by the Lieutenant Governor.

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K; Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu West; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, political leaders, and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

► In that darkest period in India's democratic history, soul of country was crushed, civil liberties attacked, constitutional safeguards violated and dreams of nation-building buried

► We must resolve to deepen foundations of our democracy and work with complete dedication for greater success of our nation.

VDG member shoots...

hearing the gunshot and found him dead. The motive behind his extreme step was not known immediately; the officials said, adding that police have started inquest proceedings in the matter:

Bollywood film-maker...

the Kashmir valley. The representatives of Citara Group also outlined their plans to set up a film city in Srinagar and to open a cinema hall and a film Museum in Pahalgam.

Nine men trapped...

overflowing stream caused a flood-like situation in Kheora, Lower Jawahar Nagar and Thudi in Rajouri town, while a couple of vehicles parked on the banks of the stream also got washed away.

According to the meteorological department, Katra town of Reasi district recorded the highest 108.5 mm of rainfall, followed by Rajouri (80 mm), Udhampur district (71.4 mm), Poonch (48 mm) and Ramban (47.5 mm) during the past 24 hours.

The weather office has predicted intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places with possibility of heavy rain at a few places of Jammu division till June 27.

Between Saturday and Monday, there is a possibility of a spell of rain and thundershower at scattered places.

CBSE Class-10...

optional. Students will be allowed to improve their performance in any three subjects out of science, mathematics, social science and languages," he added.

Explaining the rationale behind making the first phase mandatory for the students, CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh said it is being done to ensure that students take the exams seriously and the sanctity of the board exams is maintained.

"If a student does not appeared for three or more subjects in the first examination, he or she will not be allowed to appear for the second exam. Such students will be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category and can take the examination only next year in the main exam in February," he said.

"Students whose result in the first examination is compartment will be allowed to appear in the second examination under the compartment category. Additional subjects will not be permitted after passing Class-10, students will not be allowed in stand-alone subjects," he added.

According to the approved norms, Class-10 students from winter-bound schools will get an option to appear for the board exams in any of the two phases.

Similarly, sports students will be allowed to appear in the second phase in subjects which coincide with their sports events.

The internal assessment will be conducted only once during the academic session.

The CBSE announced the draft norms in February, which were put in the public domain for stakeholders' feedback, including from schools, teachers, parents, students and the public.

The draft norms said the two phases will be optional and students will get the choice to either appear for both, or any of the two.

The new NEP recommended that to eliminate the "high-stakes" aspect of the board exams, all students will be allowed to take the exams on up to two occasions during any given school year:

Both the examinations will be conducted on the full syllabus meant for the year and the scheme of studies and scheme of examinations will remain the same.

The Board has clarified that no separate supplementary exams will be conducted under this system. Instead, the second session of the Board exam will serve as the supplementary exam for those who wish to improve their scores.

At present also, students have an opportunity to improve their scores in supplementary exams.

"Presently, students can improve scores in two subjects and the improvement exams are conducted in July, the results of which are announced in August.

"So, in the new setup, the second phase of exams will be conducted in May and the results will be declared in June. Also, students can attempt to improve their scores in three subjects instead of two," Bhardwaj said.

Must keep memories...

25 as the 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' and this name was chosen carefully.

The way the country was turned into a prison, the judiciary was silenced, and the restrictions were imposed on the writers during the Emergency, the entire period must be described with such harsh words, he said.

"To ensure that no individual can ever impose their dictatorial mindset on this country in the future, it is very important to remember the day of imposition of Emergency," he said.

The home minister also released a book 'The Emergency Diaries: Years That Forged a Leader' which is based on first person anecdotes from associates who worked with young Modi, and using other archival material. The book is a first of its kind that creates new scholarship on the formative years of the prime minister:

The book paints a vivid picture of PM Modi fighting for the ideals of democracy and how he has worked all his life to preserve and promote it.

"The book chronicles his experiences as a young activist during the Emergency, a period in which he was actively involved in the movement for 19 months. At that time, secret newspapers were published and PM Modi played a key role in distributing them in marketplaces, among students and to women," he said.

Shah said the story of how a 24-25 years old Modi led a resistance movement in Gujarat is in this book.

"PM Modi worked underground disguised as a sadhu, a sardarji, a hippie, an incense stick seller or a newspaper vendor," he said.

The home minister said a divine justice is taking place as a 25-year-old person (PM Modi), who had opposed Indira Gandhi's dictatorship, has uprooted in 2014 the very reason for which the Emergency was imposed -- the dynastic politics.

"The youth (Modi) who struggled against the dictatorship is now strengthening the roots of democracy in this country," he said.

Shah said in the book, PM Modi describes his participation as a young activist in the movement, led by Jayaprakash Narayan and guided by Nanaji Deshmukh, against the Emergency.

The book describes how Modi visited the homes of MISA detainees, met their families, arranged for medical care, published underground newspapers, and led a struggle in Gujarat.

"I appeal to the youth of the country to read this book. A young person, who fought against dictatorship in his early days, is today, as prime minister, further strengthening the roots of the democracy," he said.

ACB presents charge...

irregularities & misappropriation of funds." The verification conducted revealed huge misappropriation/embezzlement of funds received by education zone Kunzer during the period 2007-2010 committed by the then ZEO Kunzer and other officials from different heads through different means and methods including by raising fictitious bills /double drawl, fake vouchers etc

Accordingly on culmination of verification, official said, case FIR No 1-2015 was registered at PS VOK (Vigilance kashmir) under sections 5(1) (c) (d) r/w 5(2) Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006 and Section 120-B RPC against the then ZEO Kunzer & other officers/officials posted in education zone who were found involved and the investigation of the case was set into motion.

The investigations conducted has revealed that accused public servants had committed embezzlement/misappropriation in different heads with different methods.

"It was found that in following different heads the accused public servants had committed embezzlement by different methods:-Misappropriation by way of drawing excess amount against GP Fund/SLI Fund of teachers was Rs.11,15,187, Misappropriation by way of double drawl of pay in favour of teachers was found out Rs.534263, Misappropriation by way of double drawl of pay in favour of teachers was found out of Rs.320871, Misappropriation by way of raising of fictitious vouchers on account of various expenditures was found out of Rs.492618, Misappropriation on account of Purchase of mobile handsets of Rs 27222, Misappropriation on account of Mobile bills Rs.15675, Misappropriation on account of red cross funds Rs.89366, Misappropriation on account of Building funds Rs. 31156, Misappropriation on account of fictitious TA bill Rs.30000 vide cheque No.30828419 dated: -13-11-2010 , Misappropriation on account of difference in the opening and closing balance of Non plan account Rs.417592.; official said adding that a total Misappropriation/embezzlement of Funds committed by accused public servants in connivance with each other during the period 2007-2010 was found of Rs. 26,87,307.

It was established during investigations that the accused public servants in connivance with each other under a well-kept conspiracy, by brazen abuse of their official positions and authority, have misappropriated the Govt. funds to the tune of Rs. 26,87,307 through fraudulent and dishonest means, thereby conferring undue pecuniary benefits upon themselves & causing corresponding loss to state exchequer.

The investigations conducted has also revealed that the accused public servants have acted in brazen violation of financial regulations, created fictitious bills ,indulged in misappropriation of funds by showing fake vouchers, bills expenditure statements and fail to maintain proper record of expenditures incurred.

After completion of investigations today the charge-sheet of the case was presented before the Anti corruption Court Baramulla against the accused public servants namely Abdul Hamid (then In-charge Zonal education Officer Kunzer, now retired), son of Sultan Mohammad, resident of Gundi Gujran Karnah, Kupwara, at present Usman Abad Lawaypora, Srinagar; Hilal Ahmad Mir (then Senior Assistant in the office of Zonal Education Officer Kunzer, now retired), son of Saif-u-Din Mir, resident Mamooosa Pattan, District Baramulla; Noor Mohd Parray (then In-charge Zonal Education Officer Kunzer, now retired), son of Mohd Ramzan Parray, resident of Narbal, at present Kirmani Abad Suezeth Lawaypora, Srinagar; Nazir Ahmad Rather (then Head Teacher; Government Middle School Gonipora of Education Zone Kunzer, now retired), son of Ghulam Qadir Rather; resident of Waripora Tehsil Kavarhama, District Baramulla and Mohd Yousuf Wani (then Head Teacher; Government Middle School Sagri Batpora of Education Zone Kunzer, now retired), son of Abdul Ahad Wani, resident of Kunzer, District Baramulla for commission of offences under section 5(1)(c), 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006 and Section 467, 468, 471, 477-A &120-B RPC. All the accused public servants were presented before the court in custody which were released by court on personal bail bond, official said adding that next date of hearing has been fixed by court for 30th August 2025.

Anti-Emergency movement...

whose families suffered during that time to share their experiences on social media. It will create awareness among the youth of the shameful time from 1975 to 1977."

The prime minister recalled that he was a young RSS pracharak during the period.

He said, "The anti-Emergency movement was a learning experience for me. It reaffirmed the vitality of preserving our democratic framework. At the same time, I got to learn so much from people across the political spectrum."

He added, "I am glad that BlueKraft Digital Foundation has compiled some of those experiences in the form of a book, whose foreword has been penned by Shri HD Deve Gowda Ji, himself a stalwart of the anti-Emergency movement."

"The publisher in a post said the book delves into the compelling role Modi played in the fight against the Emergency.

Based on first person anecdotes from associates who worked with Modi in his youth, and using other archival material, the book is a first of its kind that creates new scholarship on the formative years of a young man who would give it his all in the fight against tyranny, it said. It added, "Emergency Diaries - paints a vivid picture of Narendra Modi fighting for the ideals of democracy and how he has worked all his life to preserve and promote it." This book is a tribute to the grit and resolve of those who refused to be silenced, BlueKraft said, and it offers a rare glimpse into the early trials that forged one of the most transformative leaders of our time. In his comments on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, Modi recalled the suppression of civil liberties, including the arrest of opposition leaders and activists besides the censorship on media, and said it was as if the then Congress government had put democracy under arrest.

Multi-layered security...

make the yatra safe and smooth," the Inspector General of Kashmir Police told reporters in Anantnag.

Birdi visited the Nunwan base camp of the yatra along the Pahalgam axis and reviewed the security arrangements for the pilgrimage which starts July 3.

The IGP said the security arrangements for the 38-day pilgrimage have been divided into different levels, including zonal, and security drills were held at every level on Wednesday ahead of the yatra. "The aim of the drills is to refine our alertness, and preparedness of our actions and responses at the time of any contingency. Such drills were conducted at every place like camps, roads or interior sections along the yatra routes so that all the security forces remain alert and know what specific tasks they have to carry out to fight any contingency," he added. Asked about the local support to the yatra, Birdi said the yatra cannot be conducted without the support of the local population.

"They become successful due to the help and support by the locals. This time also, the people are excited to welcome the yatris and provide them any possible help," the IGP said.

'Hatya' of Constitution...

underlined that Article 352 was brazenly misused, and India was turned into a political prison. Over one lakh citizens-including opposition leaders, journalists, students, and social activists-were arbitrarily jailed without trial. The press was censored, the judiciary was pressured, and civil liberties were crushed. "Thought, dissent, and the pen were all locked behind bars. The Constitution was butchered to suit the whims of a single family," Chugh said. He described the night before the Emergency as "the longest night after Independence," one whose morning came only 21 months later-when the people of India, through their vote in the 1977 elections, resurrected democracy and rejected dictatorship.

Chugh launched a fierce political attack on the Congress, stating that it has never expressed remorse for the imposition of Emergency. He recalled how Rajiv Gandhi shamelessly defended it as a "necessary decision," exposing the party's deep-rooted disdain for democratic values. "Today, the very party that once trampled the Constitution pretends to be its guardian. Worse still, those who were victims of that tyranny now sit shoulder-to-shoulder with its perpetrators, raising hollow concerns about democracy. This isn't just hypocrisy - it's a betrayal of their own struggle and sacrifice." Chugh said that during the Emergency, the Constitution was amended so drastically that it became a "mini version" of itself. Students were labelled anarchists, journalists were branded as anti-nationals, and ordinary citizens were reduced to the status of slaves under a dynastic regime. "Whenever the dictatorial mindset within an individual gets emboldened by absolute power, democracy is the first casualty. Our youth must know what really happened in 1975-not from textbooks, but from the truth," he said.

Chugh said: "India's democracy is built on strong foundations. Any tyrant who tries to

shake that foundation will end up ruining their own future. Let June 25 remain a symbol-not just of historical betrayal-but of eternal vigilance against those who seek to weaken the Republic."

He appealed to the citizens of India, especially the younger generation, to observe June 25 not just as a date in history, but as a reminder of the dangers of authoritarianism, and to pledge themselves to protect democracy in spirit, action, and thought.

Shubhanshu Shukla enroute...

of India's human space programme and it is my desire that all the countrymen become a part of this journey," Shukla said.

"Your chest, too, should swell with pride... Together, let's embark on this journey of India's Human Space Programme. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat," Shukla said.

Shukla scripted history by embarking on a space odyssey along with three others to the International Space Station as part of a commercial mission by Axiom Space on Wednesday, 41 years after astronaut Rakesh Sharma's spaceflight onboard a Russian spacecraft.

The footage beamed by cameras from inside the crew capsule showed the four astronauts strapped into their cabin, seated side-by-side in helmeted white-and-black flight suits.

The 39-year-old, Lucknow-born Shukla became only the second Indian astronaut to undertake a space flight, 41 years after his icon Rakesh Sharma's eight-day space odyssey on board the then Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in 1984.

"We are orbiting the earth at a speed of 7.5 km per second... This is not just the beginning of my journey to the International Space Station, but the beginning of India's human space programme and it is my desire that all the countrymen become a part of this journey," Shukla said in Hindi.

Congratulations poured in from all quarters as the Ax-4 mission astronauts entered the earth's orbit. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar among others hailed the space mission.

The astronauts will spend 14 days at the ISS and conduct 60 scientific experiments during their mission.

The commercial mission by Axiom Space, a US-based startup, is expected to contribute to microgravity research in areas including human physiology, nutrition, and seed germination in space.

In addition to the planned experiments, the astronauts are flying food that celebrates their heritage: Indian curry and rice with mango nectar; spicy Hungarian paprika paste; and freeze-fried Polish pierogies(dumplings).

Once in orbit, the astronauts revealed the name they gave to their brand-new capsule - Grace.

"Good things come to those who wait. Godspeed to the maiden crew of Grace," SpaceX told the crew.

Before the flight, Shukla, who has over 2,000 hours of flying experience on elite fighter aircraft, said he hopes "to ignite the curiosity of an entire generation in my country" and drive innovation. "I truly believe that even though I, as an individual, am travelling to space, this is the journey of 1.4 billion people," he said.

Shukla is expected to participate in several outreach events during his stay at the ISS and also likely to interact with Prime Minister Modi.

Chants of "Hip Hip Hurray", spontaneous bhangra and quiet tears marked the watch party at Shukla's alma mater City Montessori School in Lucknow.

"It's a great moment not just for us but for our country. What can we say at this moment, I am struggling for words now. My blessings are always there with my son," his father Shambhu Shukla told PTI.

"My parents started the day with prayers. We also spoke to Shubhanshu in the morning - he sounded confident, calm, and happy that the moment he had prepared for so long had finally arrived. He must have been nervous, but he didn't show it. That's just how he is," Suchi Shukla, the astronaut's sister, said.

Govt disburses Rs...

of the schemes, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asked the concerned ministries to prepare a roadmap for the next five years both on investment and disbursement.

The ministry also said the scheme has witnessed investments worth Rs 1.76 lakh crore, which has generated production/ sales of over Rs 16.5 lakh crore and employment of over 12 lakhs (direct and indirect) till March 2025.

Group of advocates lodges complaint with NHRC over public shaming of accused by police in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A group of prominent advocates has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) alleging public shaming and unlawful parade of accused persons by the police in Jammu. The complaint was lodged by 11 lawyers led by Nikhil Padha, an advocate in the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court and founder of Human Rights and Harmony. It came a day after a man accused of stealing was paraded on the streets Jammu after being garlanded with shoes. Supreme Court lawyers Sonal Gupta and Reetik Jasrotia, advocates Namita Chhabra and Padamja Sharma of Delhi High Court, advocate Rameez Rena of Patna High Court, advocates Akarshan Magotra and Abrar Hussain of J-K and Ladakh high Court and lawyers Lavanya Bhatt, Rishika Chaurasia and Jiya Gupta were the other signatories in the complaint, which flagged the public shaming of alleged criminals after their arrest in Gangwal on June 11 and in Bakshi Nagar on June 24. "We, the advocates enrolled with various courts across India, write to you with grave concern and utmost urgency regarding recent events in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir wherein police personnel engaged in unconstitutional acts of public shaming and parade-like punishments of accused persons. "These actions, widely circulated through media and social platforms, constitute a gross violation of human rights, the right to dignity, and established jurisprudence on custodial rights under Indian law," said the complaint addressed to NHRC Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian. The advocates said they have observed with collective anguish, and professional obligation, that law enforcement authorities are bypassing constitutional safeguards and replacing lawful investigation procedures with performative public punishment, leading to irreversible damage to the dignity and fundamental rights of the accused persons.

Two drug peddlers nabbed with 12.89 grams heroin like substance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police on Wednesday arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 12.89 grams approximately heroin-in (chitta) like substance from their possessions.

Acting on information received through reliable sources, a Police party headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana under the supervision of SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba established a special Naka near Dabur Factory Bari Brahmana and intercepted an Alto Car bearing registration No JK21H-2989 for checking. During checking, 12.89 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from possession of the persons sitting in the said car. The drug peddlers identified as Mohd Imran, son of Aliba Rakha, resident of Khada Madana A/P Chowdhi Jammu and Lal Hussain, son of Mohd Hussain, resident of Chowdhi Jammu have been arrested and contraband item has also been seized. A case FIR No 88/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

IGP Jammu reviews facilities at Drug De-addiction Centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, conducted an extensive inspection of the Drug De-addiction Centre, Jammu.

The visit assumed special significance in the light of the upcoming International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26th June, a global observance aimed at raising awareness and reinforcing action against substance abuse.

The IGP was accompanied by DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; SO to IGP Jammu, Shamsheer Hussain; Dr Shehnaaz Bhat, Director De-addiction centre and SP HQs, Irshad Rather. During the visit, the IGP inspected various sections of the Centre, including medical wards, counselling rooms, recreational spaces, and patient accommodation blocks. He interacted with the medical staff, counsellors, and support personnel, appreciating their dedication to facilitating recovery and providing a stigma-free, secure, and structured environment for individuals undergoing treatment. The IGP emphasized the importance of a holistic and community-centric approach to de-addiction, one that integrates medical intervention, psychological counselling, vocational training, and social reintegration.

He urged the incorporation of awareness campaigns in schools and colleges, enhancement of rehabilitation infrastructure, and a focus on early intervention through community outreach.

He also called for stronger partnerships between police units, NGOs, healthcare institutions, and civil society stakeholders.

The IGP emphasized the integration of skill development and vocational training programs within the de-addiction process to ensure long-term rehabilitation and societal reintegration of recovered individuals.

Reaffirming the three-pronged strategy of enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation, he directed officials to intensify efforts on all fronts to eradicate the drug menace.