

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
J&K not lagging...

-- celebrated their Indian heritage with full zeal and enthusiasm, Modi said.

The Indian community in Suriname celebrates June 5 as Indian Arrival Day and Pravasi Din, and Bhojpuri is also widely spoken there along with Hindi, he added.

"The number of our brothers and sisters of Indian origin living in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is also around 6,000. All of them are very proud of their heritage. The way they celebrated Indian Heritage Day on June 1 with great jubilation reflects this feeling. Every Indian feels proud when such a spread of Indian heritage and culture is seen all over the world," the prime minister said.

Noting that the entire world celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and zeal on June 21, the prime minister said locals, including women, joined him in participating in the yoga programme in Srinagar.

"As the observance of yoga day is progressing, even new records are being made. Yoga day has attained many great achievements all over the world. For the first time in Saudi Arabia, a woman, Al Hanouf Saad ji, led the common yoga protocol. This is the first time a Saudi woman has instructed a main yoga session. This time in Egypt, a photo competition was organised on yoga day," he said.

Pictures of lakhs of people performing yoga on the banks of the Nile river, on the beaches of the Red Sea and in front of pyramids became very popular, he said.

Yoga sessions were held at Myanmar's Maravijaya Pagoda complex, famous for its marble Buddha statue, for children with disabilities in Bahrain, at Galle Fort in Sri Lanka and at the Observation Deck in New York, among other places the world over, Modi said.

"A grand yoga day programme was also organised in Thimpu, Bhutan, in which my friend, Prime Minister Tobgay, also participated," he said, adding that people should practise yoga regularly.

The Prime Minister said that people expressed their unwavering faith in the country's Constitution and democratic process in the "world's biggest" polls in which over 65 crore of them voted.

He thanked people and congratulated the Election Commission and every person associated with the process as he touched on a host of issues in the nearly 30-minute radio address, which was suspended in February due to the approaching elections.

The prime minister also cheered Indian athletes who will be competing in the Paris Olympics starting next month, and urged people to use "cheer4Bharat" hashtag to motivate them.

He said the performance of Indian players in the previous Olympics in Tokyo had won the hearts of every citizen, and the participating athletes have been since wholeheartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics.

"If we take all the players together, then all of them have participated in nearly 900 international competitions. This is a very big number," he said, adding that Indians will get to witness certain things for the first time.

"In shooting, the talent of our players is coming to the fore. Both men's and women's teams have qualified in table tennis. Our shooter daughters are also part of the Indian shotgun team. This time, members of our team will compete in wrestling and horse riding in those categories as well, in which they had never participated before," he said.

One can make out that this time they will see a different level of excitement in sports, he said, noting that Indian contingent had shown its best performance in the World Para Athletics Championship as well.

"Our players have also won glorious laurels in chess and badminton. Now the whole country is hoping that our players perform well in the Olympics as well, winning medals in these games and also the hearts of the countrymen. In the coming days, I will also get an opportunity to meet the Indian team. I will encourage them on your behalf," he said.

During the radio address, the prime minister spoke of the afforestation initiative named 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' launched on the World Environment Day.

Noting that he also planted a tree in memory of his mother, Modi said, "I am immensely happy to see that the campaign to plant trees in memory of the mother or in her honour is progressing rapidly.On social media, people are sharing pictures of planting trees with their mothers or with their photographs."

This campaign will also help protect the 'Mother Earth', he added.

The prime minister paid rich tributes to tribal freedom fighters Veer Sidhu and Kanhu, who led the Santhal uprising against the British rule in 1855, much before the first war of independence in 1857.

Tribal population observe June 30 as 'Hool Diwas'. This day is associated with the indomitable courage of Veer Sidhu-Kanhu, who strongly opposed the atrocities of the foreign rulers, Modi said.

With the monsoon season picking pace, he spoke of the 'Karthumbhi' umbrellas crafted in Attappady, Kerala, by tribal women.

He said, "Karthumbi umbrellas have completed their journey from a small village in Kerala to multinational companies. What could be a better example than this of being vocal for local?"

In his broadcast, Modi congratulated the All India Radio on its Sanskrit bulletin completing 50 years and said the ancient language has played a big role in the progress of Indian knowledge and science.

"The demand of today's times is that we should respect Sanskrit and also connect it with our daily life," he said, noting that locals at a Bengaluru park meet every Sunday to converse in the language.

Massive landslide blocks...

forcing suspension of vehicular movement. Machines were moved to the scene to clear the road at the earliest, they said.

The weather in most parts of Jammu region remained overcast throughout the day with reports of light to moderate rains in different areas, especially in the hilly districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Ramban.

Jammu city also witnessed a light rainfall in the early hours on Sunday. Rainfall was also witnessed in some areas of the district this evening.

Jammu recorded a high of 36 degrees Celsius and a low of 26.3 degrees Celsius, which is near normal during this part of the season, a spokesperson of the meteorological department said.

He said Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, recorded a maximum of 32.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 24.6 degrees.

The spokesperson predicted light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places of Jammu division towards late night or early morning hours till July 3 followed by intermittent light to moderate rainfall at most places and heavy showers at few places from July 4 to 7.

The weather department has also issued an advisory of flash floods, landslides and shooting stones at few vulnerable places and moderate thunderstorm or lightning at some places in the coming week.

Father-son duo...

Shahpur, the officials said. Ahmad lost control of the car which rolled down 50 feet from the road, resulting in his on-the-spot death along with his son, they said, adding Akhter was evacuated and sent to hospital where her condition was stated to be serious.

Worship place ‘vandalised’...

a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of DySP Operations Reasi, who alongwith his team is stationing in Arnas area for investigation of the case on priority.

Sharing the details, SSP Reasi said that around 12 suspects round up and apprehended in the case till now for questioning and further investigations in the case is going on.

SSP appealed the people of Reasi should remain calm and should maintain peace and communal harmony in the area as Reasi Police is committed to solve the case and trace the culprit at the earliest.

The place of worship was found vandalised by a visitor in a village in the Dharmari area on Saturday evening, sparking tension and spontaneous protests, with the protesters demanding that the culprits be identified and punished.

Members of both the Hindu and Muslim communities jointly staged the protests and said such incidents are a deliberate attempt to create a rift among them to harm the age-old brotherhood in the district.

The protesters blocked the main road in the district by burning tyres and staging a sit-in, the officials said, adding that they dispersed peacefully after senior police officers told them that an FIR has been registered and efforts are on to nab the culprits.

"Anyone trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere will not be spared. It is an attempt to create hurdles and sabotage developmental activities, besides communal harmony.

"This is my guarantee.... We will not tolerate any attempt to damage peace in the district," the Deputy Commissioner said.

Cong imposed Emergency...

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla regarding the dark chapter of the Emergency, a black mark in Indian history imposed by the Congress government, which cannot be

forgotten.

"The Congress government's Emergency was an example of dictatorship in this country. During the Emergency, leaders, educators, scholars, journalists and others were imprisoned for raising their voices against it. The fundamental rights of citizens were snatched away, turning the entire country into a prison at that time. The government also imposed restrictions on the media and put a leash on judicial independence", he added.

Chugh emphasized that when the condemnation motion was introduced in the Lok Sabha, leaders of the Congress and opposition parties were chanting slogans to end dictatorship, exposing the mindset of the Congress and opposition parties'. The Congress government's Emergency in 1975 was an example of dictatorship in this country. The emergency had put a stop to the judiciary's autonomy, he said and lamented that now the Congress is giving sermons on democracy.

Those present on the occasion included retired SP BJP leader, Sarabhjit Singh Shanti, District Vice President Chandrashekhar Sharma, Deepak Makhija, BJP leaders Rajesh Mehta, Mandal Pradhan Shiv Kumar Sharma, Romy Chopra, Tahal Singh, Arun Khanna, Harpal Pannu, Davinder Heera, Anuj Sharma, Yogesh Khanna, Satish Agrawal, Bobby Pradhan, Dr. Deepak, Rajinder, Secretary, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Punjab Pradesh Coordinator Tarun Aroda, Kartik Mahajan, Chirag Tandon Sunil Sahgal, Rakesh Mamma, Sanjeev Aroda, Women's Front District President Shruti Vij, Manjit Chandoke, Sudha Sharma, Jyoti Kala, and Kamlesh Kumari and others.

Gen Upendra Dwivedi...

of Actual Control (LAC). Gen Dwivedi succeeds Gen Manoj Pande who superannuated after more than four decades of service.

"Gen Dwivedi brings with him, a wealth of experience and a proven track record, of effectively planning and executing for the unexpected," the Army said.

He was serving as the Vice Chief of the Army since February 19. Before becoming the Vice Chief, he was serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command from 2022 to 2024.

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, Gen Dwivedi was commissioned into a regiment of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in 1984. He has a unique distinction of balanced command as well as staff exposure across Northern, Eastern and Western theatres in varied operational environments.

The Army said Gen Dwivedi's impetus would be to augment the infusion of critical technologies by leveraging the nation's vibrant, capable and productive technology eco-system to enhance the force's overall capability.

"He takes over as the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at a time when the global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and the ever-changing character of modern warfare," it said.

Gen Dwivedi has taken charge of the 1.3 million-strong Army at a time India is facing various security challenges including along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

As the Chief of Army Staff, he will also have to coordinate with the Navy and the Indian Air Force on the government's ambitious plan to roll out theatre commands.

The Army said operational preparedness to counter security threats to a rising nation would figure prominently as a key focus area for the COAS.

"Concurrently, a focused response strategy, to myriad non-traditional security challenges, too shall be a priority, towards augmenting the nation's defence," it said.

"Gen Dwivedi has tenanted critical appointments and played a pivotal role in combating grey zone manifestations in the national security canvas," it said in a release.

The Army said the officer has a deep understanding of modern and emerging technologies in the security domain and possesses a thoughtful approach to harnessing and integrating cutting-edge technologies into military systems to enhance operational effectiveness.

"This vision finds congruence to the ongoing pursuit of the Indian Army to fulfil its modernisation and capability development needs through Atmanirbharta," it said.

"A firm believer and follower of the Chetwode Motto, the General will also focus on promoting a culture of trust, empowerment of junior Officers, well-being of the soldiers and welfare of veterans and Veer Naris," it said.

In his long and distinguished career spanning nearly 40 years, he has served in a variety of command, staff, instructional and foreign appointments.

The command appointments of Gen Dwivedi include command of regiment (18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles), Brigade (26 Sector Assam Rifles), Inspector General, Assam Rifles (East) and 9 Corps.

He has been decorated with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and three GOC-in-C Commendation Cards.

As Northern Army commander, Gen Dwivedi provided strategic guidance and operational oversight for the planning and execution of sustained operations along the northern and western borders, besides orchestrating the dynamic counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

During this period, the General officer was actively engaged in the ongoing negotiations with China to resolve the vexed border issue, they said.

He was also involved in the modernisation and equipping of the largest Army command of the Indian Army, where he steered the induction of indigenous equipment as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

PM speaks to...

dedication, strategic insights and nurturing the right talent have transformed the team, the prime minister added.

"India is grateful to him for his contributions and for inspiring generations. We are happy to see him lift the World Cup. Happy to have congratulated him," he said.

The prime minister said the team showed excellent skill and spirit throughout the tournament. Each player's commitment was very motivating, he added.

With all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja also announcing retirement from T20 internationals, Modi praised his contribution to cricket.

"You have performed exceptionally as an all-rounder. Cricket lovers admire your stylish stroke play, spin and superb fielding. Thank you for the enthralling T20 performances over the years. My best wishes for your endeavours ahead," Modi said.

DC Jammu orders...

Department staff to attend to public applications diligently.

The district administration has assigned strict deadlines at each level of the revenue application process to ensure timely service delivery.

CS visits Holy...

Chief Secretary appreciated the facilities put in place by the district administration and different departments and Shri Amarnath Shrine Board.

He directed the officers to ensure that Yatris should be facilitated at all the camps and along the yatra route. He further instructed that health facilities should cater to all yatris especially in view of high altitude illnesses.

He enquired about the amenities created enroute and the locations of such facilities. He also reviewed the NDRF/SDRF teams kept available on both the axis. He asked about the status of communication, water, power and ration availability for the langars. He also impressed upon the local administration to monitor such facilities for their uninterrupted availability for smooth conduct of the yatra.

Notably, the Yatra has commenced from 29th June on both Pahalgam and Baltal axis and a large number of yatris have come for pilgrimage during these initial days of the yatra slated to continue till 19th of August, 2024.

On 12th Amarnath...

cutout and uses his hands to move.

"For the first four or five years, I dragged myself using my hands but now it has become difficult for me. I travel in a palki (palanquin)," Singh said.

Highlighting the "special" nature of his relationship with Lord Shiva, he said, "This bond is getting stronger every year. That's why I come here."

Despite his disabilities, he does not feel "underprivileged".

"It does not matter what people say about me. While some view my endeavour positively, some others criticise me. Not all people are the same," he said.

Singh has pledged to visit the Holy cave shrine as long as he can do it on his own.

The annual yatra to the cave shrine, housing a natural ice stalagmite resembling a lingam, in the Pahalgam area of Anantnag district of the south Kashmir Himalayas began on Saturday.

The 52-day pilgrimage will conclude on August 19.



The cave was discovered by a Muslim shepherd more than 150 years ago.

NEET-UG exam...

prosecutor Rakesh Thakor, adding that Patel is now being taken to Ahmedabad by the CBI to acquire his remand.

"As the case has been handed over to the CBI by the Gujarat government, a CBI team will produce him (Dixit Patel) before a designated court in Ahmedabad to acquire his remand," said Thakor.

Jay Jalaram School was one of the designated centres where the NEET-UG exam was held on May 5.

Patel is the sixth person to be arrested in this case wherein the accused had allegedly demanded Rs 10 lakh from candidates to help them in clearing the test.

SFs launch search...

As a precautionary measure, the authorities have shut down phase two of the Gondola Cable Car and asked tourists to not venture into that area.

The cable car services up to phase one were operational till the last reports were received.

Two pilgrims injured in road accident in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: At least two Amarnath pilgrims were injured on Sunday in a road accident in Anantnag district, officials said.

The incident occurred at Chandanwari when a van was carrying the pilgrims to the cave shrine, the officials said.

"Today, a van carrying Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris met with an accident near Chandanwari. The pilgrims sustained serious head injuries & were promptly evacuated by the #BSF QRT to nearby hospital," BSF Kashmir posted on its handle on X.

"The quick response of BSF saved the precious lives of the pilgrims," it said.

Meanwhile, a third batch of 6,619 pilgrims left the Bhagvati Nagar base camp in Jammu in two separate convoys to join the annual Amarnath pilgrimage in the Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

About 14,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine located at a height of 3,880 metres on the first day of the 52-day annual yatra, which commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on Saturday, the officials said.

The third batch, including 1,141 women, left in 319 vehicles between 3:50 am and 4:45 am amid tight security.

It was raining in Jammu when the pilgrims left for Kashmir, the officials said, adding that 3,838 devotees opted for the Pahalgam route while 2,781 were heading for Baltal to perform the yatra.

With this, a total of 13,103 pilgrims left the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 28 when Lt Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

The pilgrimage will conclude on August 19. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the cave shrine, housing a naturally-formed ice lingam, last year.

From being farmer's son to Vice Prez, Venkaiah Naidu's journey inspiring: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released three books on the life of M Venkaiah Naidu and recalled his contributions, including the fight against imposition of Emergency and as Union Minister and Vice President.

Recalling that the 50th anniversary of Emergency was observed recently, he said Naidu was even in jail for about 17 months during the fight against Emergency.

The Emergency was imposed by the Congress by tarnishing the image of the country's Constitution, he said.

The books, including a biography, were released on the eve of Naidu's 75th birthday.

Expressing happiness over releasing the biography and two other books, Modi exuded confidence that the books would inspire people and show the right direction for national service.

The journey of Naidu, from being a farmer's son to occupying high-ranking positions as Union Minister and Vice President, is filled with many experiences, he said.

Naidu chose to take up the Rural Development ministry in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite being a senior in the party, as he wanted to serve the villages, farmers and the poor, he said.

During Naidu's tenure as Urban Development Minister as his senior cabinet colleague, several initiatives, including Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities Mission, were started, Modi said.

Praising Naidu's oratory, wittiness, alertness and spontaneity, he recalled the latter's comment of 'ek hath me BJP ka jhanda aur doosre hath me NDA ka agenda' (BJP's flag in one hand and NDA's agenda in another hand) during the Vajpayee regime.

During Naidu's tenure as Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the bill to abolish Article 370 was passed with majesty, dignity and honour though the government did not have majority in the upper house, he said.

BJP grew as a 'vatvriksh' (banyan tree) that it is today, due to the efforts of lakhs of activists like Naidu, he said.

He hoped that the country would emerge as a developed nation in 2047 when Naidu celebrates his 100th birthday.

In his response, Naidu thanked the Prime Minister for releasing the books.

Appreciating Modi's endeavour for the country's development, he said skill development is the need of the hour.

"Development and welfare must go hand in hand. We should not be tempted by these freebies and then make the people lazy. Yes, we must give them a helping hand. You have been giving free ration to crores of people across the country. That should continue as long as it is required. But, at the same time, skill development is the need of the hour," the former Vice President said.

Naidu also favoured promoting Indian languages.

The books released by the PM include biography of the former Vice President titled 'Venkaiah Naidu - Life in Service,' "Celebrating Bharat - The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India", a photo chronicle and a pictorial biography in Telugu titled 'Mahaneta - Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu."

Venkaiah Naidu, several other leaders and prominent personalities attended the event in Hyderabad.

EAM meets Qatar's PM; reviews bilateral relationship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DOHA: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha and reviewed bilateral relationship, with a focus on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on a day-long visit, also exchanged views on regional and global issues with Sheikh Mohammed, who also holds the portfolio as Foreign Minister.

"Delighted to meet PM and FM of Qatar @MBA_AlThani in Doha this afternoon. Conveyed the greetings and warm wishes of PM @narendramodi to H.H. The Amir and him," Jaishankar said in a post in X.

"Reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties. Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation," he said.

"Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," he added.

Jaishankar's visit comes four-and-half months after Qatar released eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death after being arrested in August 2022.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar was received at the airport by Chief of Protocol Ibrahim Fakhroo.

The visit would "enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations, including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Qatar from February 14 to 15 and held discussions with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

"India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations which are marked by regular exchange of high-level visits," the MEA said.

