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Kashi is cultural...

time in the country..."Kashi Saansad Tourist Guide Pratiyogita"...I want to do this because I want my Kashi's glory to reverberate around the world," said Modi, who represents Varanasi, also known as Kashi, in the Lok Sabha.

The prime minister said a guide should be talented and complete in terms of having all the information.

"This strength should be there in Kashi. Today tourist guide is a very big employment (avenue) as tourists who come here want to understand everything and they also want to pay," he said.

The prime minister said India established its presence globally through the G20 Summit and there was a special discussion about Kashi and its 'seva' (service), 'swaad' (taste), 'sanskriti' (culture) and 'sangeet' (music) during the meet.

Addressing the gathering, Modi remarked that the respect for Kashi has continuously grown with the blessings of Lord Mahadev and the policies for the city are reaching new heights. He said that the success of the G20 Summit is owed to the blessing of Lord Mahadev.

"Kashi is now seeing unprecedented development. Today I laid the foundation of an international cricket stadium. I also got the opportunity to dedicate to the nation 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas," he said.

The 16 residential schools in Uttar Pradesh, named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have been opened to provide quality education to children of labourers and construction workers and those orphaned in the COVID-19 pandemic. The schools will accommodate 1,000 students each.

"When I came here in 2014, the dream of development and heritage of Kashi that I had imagined is now gradually coming true," Modi said, referring to his first election from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat.

The prime minister also said the biggest base for the educational success of Varanasi is its all inclusive nature. People from different corners of the country and the world come here to study, he said.

He also spoke about the new National Education Policy and the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative.

While talking about the Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas, Prime Minister Modi said, "Construction workers move from one village to another place and the studies of their children get affected. For them, a budget is allocated."

"If you collect information, you will find that this money is with every state, and the Centre has given them a complete freehand (to utilise it). But many states (the parties governing them) are using the money on works that can fetch votes for them," he said taking a dig at his political rivals.

Praising Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the schools, he said these schools reflect how those who don't work for selfish interests or for seeking political mileage work.

But, "those whose minds and hearts are filled with only elections, (those who) have the habit of indulging in games to garner votes, they waste such money," Modi said.

Before dedicating the residential schools to the nation, Prime Minister Modi interacted with some students.

These schools will enhance access to quality education and help in the holistic development of children. Each of these schools is constructed on an area of 10-15 acres with classrooms, playground, recreational areas, mini-auditorium, hostel complex, mess and residential quarters for staff members.

The prime minister, while sharing his experience from the interaction, said that the children may be from labourers' families, but "the self-confidence, which I saw in them, I would like to congratulate their teachers".

"The way in which they were talking and asking questions...I could see a spark and capability in these children. In a span of 10 years, 'aan', 'baan', 'shaan' (pride, glory and splendour) of Kashi and of Uttar Pradesh will shine," Modi said

The prime minister applauded the vast participation in the Kashi Sanskritik Mahotsav.

Noting that this was only the first edition of the Mahotsav, he said that around 40,000 artistes took part and several thronged the venue to witness it.

He expressed confidence that the Kashi Saansad Sanskritik Mahotsav will create a new identity for itself in the coming times with the support of the people. Modi said that Kashi is becoming a centre of attraction for tourists from around the world.

Referring to the portal of the Kashi Saansad Khel Pratiyogita, which was launched on Saturday, the prime minister said that whether it is Khel Partiyogita or the Kashi Saansad Sanskritik Mahotsav, it is just the beginning of new traditions in Kashi. He announced that the Kashi Saansad Gyan Pratiyogita will also be organised.

PM lays foundation...

the coming years. To be built near the Ring Road in Rajatalab area here at a cost of about Rs 450 crores and spread across an area of more than 30 acres, the stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. The Uttar Pradesh government said it has spent Rs 121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will spend Rs 330 crore on its construction.

The spectators' gallery of the stadium would resemble the steps of the ghats of Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said he is visiting Kashi exactly one month after India reached the Shiv Shakti point on the moon where Chandrayaan landed.

"One place of Shiv Shakti is on the moon, while the other one is here in Kashi," he said.

He also noted the significance of the venue which is at the intersection of the route to Mata Vindhyavasini and its proximity with the village Motikot, the place from which socialist leader Raj Narain hailed.

Modi underlined that the development of sports infrastructure of such scale not only has a positive effect on sports but also on the regional economy. He said such developments attract more visitors which greatly benefits sectors such as hotels, eateries, rickshaws and auto drivers as well as oarsmen in the region.

The prime minister highlighted that it also has a positive effect on sports coaching and management institutions thereby paving the way for youth to venture into sports startups. He touched upon physiotherapy courses and said a new sports industry is expected to shape up in Varanasi in the coming days.

He also said there is a change in attitude towards sports among parents. "Now the mood of the nation is - Jo Khelega wo hi Khilega (one who will play will blossom)."

The prime minister also saw a change in Kashi towards sports. He said effort is to provide world-level sports facilities to the youth of Kashi.

That is why, along with this stadium Rs 400 crore are being spent on Sigra stadium where facilities are being developed for more than 50 sports, he said, adding this

is going to be the first multi-sports complex which will be divyang friendly.

Khelo India's budget got a hike of about 70 per cent compared to last year, he said. "Government moves with the athletes like a team member from school to the Olympics podium," he asserted.

The prime minister highlighted the World University Games where India won more medals in this year's edition compared to all the medals bagged in the previous editions.

He acknowledged the presence of sporting potential in every village, city nook and corner of the country and emphasized the need to find them and develop their skills.

"Youth coming from small towns and villages have become the pride of the nation today," Modi said as he stressed creating more and more opportunities for them.

Former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar and Ravi Shastri, BCCI president Roger Binny, vice president Ravji Shukla and secretary Jay Shah were present on the occasion. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also attended the function.

Acknowledging the presence of the stalwarts from the sporting fraternity on the occasion, Modi thanked them for their affection towards Kashi.

"Good coaches and good coaching are equally important to encourage and hone new talent," he emphasised as he informed that athletes who have won national and international accolades are encouraged to take up the role of coaches.

Modi said that new infrastructure will give new opportunities to the athletes from small towns and villages.

He informed that under the new National Education Policy, sports is treated as a proper subject rather than an extra-curricular activity.

"The expansion of sports infrastructure is essential for the development of a nation," he emphasised.

Modi mentioned that several cities in the world are known for organizing global sporting events and stressed developing sports infrastructure in the country capable of hosting such global events.

This stadium, he said, will be a witness to this resolution of development which will not merely be a structure of bricks and concrete but will also become a symbol of the future of India.

Great freedom fighter...

Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar: He said the high ideals of Dinkar ji are a link between literature and politics and a source of inspiration for the generations to come.

Prominent personalities from diverse fields, members of Rashtrakavi Dinkar Smriti Vikas Samiti, family members of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and the people in large numbers were present.

Two LeT terrorists...

the spokesperson said, adding that two hand grenades were recovered from his possession.

The investigation has so far revealed that the two terrorists were operating on the directions of Pakistan-based handlers and were planning to recruit more people and carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla and the nearby areas, he said.

The investigation is at an initial stage and more arrests and recoveries are expected, he said.

Institutional collaboration precursor...

that I believe lies the framework to find usual solutions."

Knowledge sharing is a two-way street and decisions of the Indian Supreme Court are being regularly cited and relied upon by foreign courts, he said.

"At the administrative level too, the Indian judiciary must remain receptive to collaborating with various nations. India has played a pivotal role by constructing the Supreme Court buildings in Mauritius and in Bhutan," the CJI said.

He said that drafting of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly is a classic example of engaging beyond partisan lines.

"We find the same bi-partisan effort and this is something to which we, as citizens of India must be proud, has gone into the passing of the women's reservation bill in Parliament recently," Justice Chandrachud said.

He further said, "In our tendency to emphasise differences, we often forget the abundant examples of collaboration between institutions to further the interest of justice. This holds true not only in lofty constitutional challenges but more frequently in the everyday interaction between the courts and the government."

Citing an example, the CJI said a constitution bench of the Supreme Court is presently hearing a challenge pertaining to whether a person holding a driving licence for light motor vehicles can drive a commercial vehicle under the Motor Vehicles Act.

"Instead of viewing the case as an adversarial challenge, the court and the government are collaborating to protect the livelihoods of millions of drivers across the country," he said, adding that the ultimate aim of different institutions is the same and that is the progress and prosperity of the nation.

Justice Chandrachud said that last week, a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved phase three of the e-courts project with a financial outlay of over Rs 7,000 crore.

He said the Supreme Court e-committee is not working in isolation but with constant cooperation with other forms of governmental institutions.

"The e-courts programme being implemented collectively by the e-committee, Supreme Court of India and the Union Ministry of Law and Justice is a perfect example of institutions collaborating to make justice more accessible, affordable and transparent," the CJI said.

He also talked about setting aside differences and engaging as individuals in the service of the nation.

"Indeed, nothing explains this push towards engagement across nations better than the slogan for the recently concluded G20 summit -- 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- the world is one family," Justice Chandrachud said.

He applauded the Bar Council of India, the Law Society of England and Wales, the Bar Council of England and Wales and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association for collaborating and putting together a conference of "immense promise and relevance".

Congress seeks polls...

"We urge the Lt Governor to immediately set right the constitutional wrong being committed and hold the elections to the municipal corporations and other urban local bodies under the superintendence and control of an independent state election commission on time," Wani said.

He questioned the two norms being followed in the Union Territory for the same set of the institutions of the Panchayati Raj system -- one for rural areas and another for urban areas.

Wani referred to the Congress' contribution in bringing the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution and their implementation in Jammu and Kashmir, like other parts of the country, guaranteeing 33 per cent representation for women in all three tiers of rural panchayats and urban local bodies, apart from proportional representation for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

"Besides this, there is another important component of these amendments which mandated the holding of elections to these basic institutions of democracy under the superintendence and control of an independent state election commission, which though has been duly constituted in Jammu and Kashmir but having powers and jurisdiction over the panchayats elections only but not the urban local bodies so far," he said.

Ex-IAS officer...

appointed for the Union territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep, the spokesperson said.

The LG congratulated Pandey on assuming the charge of the SEC of Ladakh and wished him the best.

Mishra later discussed various issues with the new SEC, including the preparations for the upcoming elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territory, the spokesperson said.

10 arrested for...

were arrested for sloganeering after the Friday prayers at the grand mosque. Some youths raised slogans when Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq came out of the grand mosque after offering the congregational prayers following his release from over four years of house arrest.

Govt orders change...

and due diligence. Using drone flying and GIS mapping, Digital Terrain Model/Digital Elevation Model of the catchment area of Ballol Nallah was prepared. Based on input data of land use land cover and highest observed discharge, hydrological modelling study was conducted and Flood Risk zone maps for varying return periods were prepared which were then used to demarcate the width of Balol Nallah. The combined results were used for delineating and demarcating the land. Various specialized agencies including Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and National Institute of Hydrology Centre, Jammu were consulted during the process.

It is pertinent to mention that the issue of delineation and demarcation of lands which do not form part of any water course or source but have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, Gair Mumkin Darya, Gair Mumkin Nallah etc in Revenue records has been a long pending issue. The Government had set up a three-tier committee for delineation and demarcation of the said areas.

Maharaja Hari Singh's..

Raina said. Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani accompanied by other party leaders also paid rich tributes to the maharaja at Tawi bridge



Glimpses of Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday celebration in Jammu.

and recalled his contributions to the region as a ruler.

Wani said that Jammu and Kashmir became an "integral part of India" under the maharaja's signature.

"Unfortunately, the historical state that he ruled has been disbanded, divided and downgraded, and all rights and protection to the permanent residents of his state have been removed arbitrarily and unilaterally by the B-JP government at the Centre," he said.

Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with India on October 26, 1947, to repulse an attack by Pakistan army-backed tribals on Jammu and Kashmir.

Wani demanded that the historical state be given full statehood and rights as well as democracy be restored in Jammu and Kashmir without any delay.

The maharaja's birth anniversary was also celebrated in several other districts, including Samba, Kathua and Udhampur.

Kashmir's first auto...

On specially designed circuits, head-to-head competitions are taking place that demand precision, agility, and split-second decision-making.

"We have brought professionals to make this track, FMSCI officials are here to regulate this event, we have taken care of all safety measures here like ambulances, fire tenders etc.," Amrit Pal Singh Bali, an official with the JKMSF, told PTI.

Bali said the Kashmir valley is full of talent but lacks platforms to showcase skills. "We want those youths who are wasting time and energy on roads, to come on these tracks and show their skills. We have talent here but we need platforms so they can showcase their skills," he said.

"This is second day of event and more than 100 (have) participated till now. More entries (are) coming as people are unaware about the auto cross, (but) they came to know through social media etc," Bali added.

Shiekh Yasir, one of the organisers of the event, said they had not expected such a response. "I was surprised to see people turn up. They are actually showing interest and coming all the way to this place to participate in it," he said.

Yasir informed that they are planning motocross and other events for bikers. "This for the first time this motorsports is happening here and especially for the first time in Srinagar. It will be helpful for us," said a participant named Mehboob-ul-Hussain.

Another participant, Kaiser Ahmeda said, "We also request the government for support, to provide us proper space for practice etc."

"The youth should not do stunts on roads which (could be) fatal, they should participate in events like these and learn it in proper way. There is good scope in these sports if the government supports us," he said.

CRIME REPORT

Two hooligans arrested under Arms Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Saturday arrested two hooligans under Arms Act for possessing & brandishing sharp-edged-weapons ('Toka') at two separate public places in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur of district Samba.

The arrested hooligans have been identified as Vikas Sharma, son of Tilak Raj, resident of Dihanai tehsil Bishnah district Jammu and Abhi Kumar alias Abi, son of Karam Chand, resident of Joian tehsil Arnia district Jammu.

Two cases -- FIR Nos. 130, 131/2023 under section 4/25 Arms Act have been registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation is underway.

Accused Vikas of Bishnah has been arrested while possessing and brandishing sharp-edged-weapon ('Toka') at a Jagrata organised by people at Jakh, whereas accused Abhi of Arnia has been arrested while possessing and brandishing 'Toka' at RakhBarotian Vijaypur.

The hooligans have been arrested by Police team comprising of SHO Vijaypur Sandeep Charak, PSI SohailMunir and ASI Kulbir Chand under the supervision of SDPO VijaypurRohit Kumar and Additional SP Samba SurinderChondhary.

2 narco smugglers arrested; 46 grams of heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Saturday nabbed two narco smugglers and recovered 46 grams of heroin 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 Naka duty at Buta Nagar Paloura area rounded up two suspected persons. During search 46 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of accused later identified as Rinku Massih, son of Naku Massih, resident of Gurdaspur, Punjab at present Sainik Colony Jammu and Ajay Kumar, son of Kala Ram, resident of Grait, Amb Gharota, Jammu. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 101/2023 under sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Janipur.

3 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 Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Stations Domana, Miran Sahib and Police Post Chatha acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 3 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

The seized vehicles include One Dumper without Registration Nos, by Domana Police; One Tractor Trolley bearing Chassis No MBNBEBBAZMNE02431 by Miran Sahib Police and One Dumper bearing Registration No JK05L- 4504 by Chatha Police. The recoveries were made by SHO Domana Inspr Kunal Singh Jamwal, SHO Miran Sahib Inspr Bopinder Singh and In-Charge Police Post Chatha PSI Harjinder Paul Singh in their respective jurisdiction.

Notorious drug peddler arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police on Saturday arrested a notorious narcotics peddler during a raid in Dhanore Jarallan village of Rajouri.

Police said that over some specific information of suspicious movement, a team of police headed by Deputy SP Headquarter Rajouri, Mudassir Hussain raided a location and a house at Dhanore Jarallan village of Rajouri.

During raid, notorious narcotics peddler Mohammad Waqar

son of Nazir Hussain resident of Dhanore Jarallan was intercepted and eight grams of Heroine like substance was found from his possession.

The peddler was subsequently arrested from the spot, police said. Police said that a case in FIR 451/23 U/Ss 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered in police station Rajouri and further investigation is going on.

4 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substances recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Saturday arrested 4 drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession. A police party of Police Station Kunzer headed by SHO Kunzer at checkpoints established at Lolpora & Chanpora Kunzer Bridge intercepted three persons identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh son of Gh Mohammad resident of Dara Kunjan Boniyar, Danish Ahmad Dhoib son of Gh Mohammad resident of Ugmuma & Sahil Ahmad Reshi son of Abdul Samad resident of Chanpora. During search, 225 grams of Charas was recovered from their possession.

Similarly, a police party of Police Station Uri headed by SHO Uri at a checkpoint established at Jabla Bridge intercepted one person identified as Zubair Ahmad Badan son of Mohammad Nazir resident of Dachi Uri. During search 38 grams of Charas was recovered from his Possession.

All the accused have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Kunzer & Uri and investigation has been initiated.

Biker killed in Anantnag road accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SKINAGAR: A biker has died in a road mishap in Ranipora area of Anantnag district on Saturday morning.

As per details, a motorcyclist, identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Kuchay, lost control of his bike and skidded off the road, resulting in his death. The police have taken note of the incident.

Man dies in suspicious condition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died under suspicious circumstances in Domana area on Saturday.

According to the information, Janak Raj, son of Firat Ram, resident of Chhattisgarh, was living in Barnai area these days was found lying unconscious near his house. He was taken to the hospital but during investigation the doctors declared him dead.

Man's skeleton found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The skeleton of a man has been recovered in Chenab river of Akhnor on Saturday.

According to the information, people saw a skeleton lying in the river and informed the police. Acting on the information, police reached the spot and recovered the skeleton. It is believed that it came floating from above.

Man found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: A man was found hanging in his own house in Akhnor area on Saturday. According to the information, Praveen Kumar, son of Jankar Chand, resident of Naibala was brought to the hospital and during investigation here, doctors declared him dead.

This information was given to the police. Acting on the information, police reached the spot and took his body into custody. During investigation it was revealed that he had committed suicide by hanging himself.

Police said that the case has been registered and investigation started.

