

Modi breaks Indira Gandhi's record to become 2nd-longest serving PM of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Friday become India's second-longest serving premier in consecutive terms, completing 4,078 straight days in office, surpassing Indira Gandhi's uninterrupted tenure between 1964 and 1977, and is only behind the country's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, a person aware of the matter said on Thursday.

Modi, 74, the first prime minister born in Independent India, was sworn-in for the third consecutive term in June last year, having first entered the top office on May 26, 2014. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader is also the longest-serving PM from a non-Congress party.

On July 25, PM Modi will complete 4,078 days in office in three straight terms. "On this day, he (Modi) will become the second longest consecutive serving PM of India, surpassing Indira Gandhi, who was the PM



consecutively for 4,077 days, from January 24, 1966 till March 24, 1977," a person aware of the matter said. Indira Gandhi had also served as the PM from January 14, 1980 until her assassination on October 31, 1984. Her father Jawaharlal Nehru remains the longest-serving PM of India, having

been in the office for 16 years and 286 days from August 15, 1947 till May 27, 1964.

Before becoming the PM, Modi was the longest-serving chief minister of Gujarat, having been in office from 2001 to 2014.

"He is the first and only non-Congress PM to complete at least two full terms

as Prime Minister and to get re-elected thrice...He is also the first and only non-Congress leader to secure a majority on his own in a Lok Sabha election," the person quoted above said.

In 2014, the BJP stormed to power at the Centre with a brute majority of 272 seats, with Modi as the party's PM face. Five years later, the party improved its tally, winning 303 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats.

Although the BJP fell short of reaching the halfway mark in 2024, it emerged as the single largest party and formed the government for a third straight term with support of its NDA partners.

"He is the first sitting Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi (in 1971) to get re-elected with a majority and the only Prime Minister, apart from Jawaharlal Nehru, to win three consecutive elections as leader of a party," the person added.

Govt to roll out employment-linked incentive scheme from Aug 1

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Employment-linked incentive scheme, PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, will come into effect from August 1, 2025, the Labour Ministry said on Friday.

Earlier, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the scheme, which is aimed at incentivising job creation in the country, the ministry said in a statement.

With an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, the PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

According to the statement, the employment-linked incentive scheme will come into effect from 1st August 2025 as the "PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY)".

The name is in alignment with the scheme's overall objectives towards the Viksit Bharat initiative and reflects the government's commitment to generating inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities in the country.

The scheme, which incentivizes employers to create new employment, aims to provide benefits for the generation of new jobs across various sectors with special focus on the manufacturing



sector.

It forms a crucial part of India's strategy to accelerate economic growth through employment-led development.

The Scheme consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers and Part B focused on employers.

Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, Part-A will offer one-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments. Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible.

The 1st installment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd installment will be payable after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the em-

ployee.

To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument or deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date.

This part will cover the generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector..

The employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh..

The Government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufac-

turing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months.

All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using the Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.

Supreme Court Rejects Plea To Increase Assembly Seats In Andhra, Telangana

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to issue a direction to the Centre to increase the number of Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh was dealing with pleas seeking implementation of the provisions under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which provided for delimitation of Assembly seats in the two successor states.

In its judgment, the Justice Kant-led Bench refused to direct delimitation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, observing that Article 170 of the Constitution al-

lows delimitation only after the first census conducted post-2026.

Delimitation under Article 170 has been frozen until the first census after 2026, as per the 84th and 87th Constitutional Amendments.

The apex court rejected the contention that the Centre's decision to carry out delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the number of Assembly constituencies from 83 to 90 based on the 2011 census, while excluding Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, was arbitrary and discriminatory.

Highlighting the constitutional distinctions, it opined that J&K, having been recon-

stituted as a union territory, is regulated by parliamentary legislation and provisions of the Constitution under Chapter III of Part VI will not apply.

In a related development, the Telangana Assembly, in a resolution passed in March this year, urged the Centre to increase the number of seats from 119 to 153, pursuant to the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014 and as per the latest census.

The state Assembly urged the Union government to introduce necessary Constitutional amendments for this purpose in order to strengthen representative democracy.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy pointed out that the Centre, in reply to his question when he was a member of the previous Lok Sabha, had stated that the delimitation of Assembly constituencies would be done only after the 2026 census.

Reddy slammed the Centre for its double standards on the issue. He said the Centre increased the number of Assembly constituencies from 83 to 90 as per the 2011 census in Jammu and Kashmir, and, in Sikkim, a resolution was passed in the Cabinet in 2018, and the process of delimitation of constituencies is currently underway. (Agencies)

Covid vaccination had no effect on risk of heart attacks: Nadda tells Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Friday Covid vaccination had no effect on the risk of heart attacks.

In a written response to a question in Lok Sabha, he also clarified that data regarding heart attack cases is not maintained centrally.

Heart attack cases are not notifiable and there is no central registry for these.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that in order to understand the reasons for heart attack, ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) conducted a multi-centric matched case-control study in 25 hospitals across India.

Cases were patients aged 18-45 years admitted in the study hospitals with newly diagnosed Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) between October 2021 and January 2023, Nadda said.



Controls were patients aged 18-45 years admitted in the same hospital for other causes, matched for time of hospitalization.

Information was collected regarding the various risk factors.

Sharing the key findings of the study (not yet published), Nadda said that hospitalization with AMI was associated with presence of any known co-morbidity, family history

of thrombotic event and ever being smoker.

"Receipt of vaccination against COVID-19 had no effect on the risk of AMI. Even in those without any comorbidities, family history of thrombotic events and ever smoking was associated with increased risk of AMI," he said.

He further informed that the ICMR in last two years has funded two centres of ad-

vanced research for research on cardiac disorders.

The National Health Mission (NHM) provides technical and financial support to the states and Union territories under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), Nadda said.

Cardiovascular disease is an integral part of NP-NCD. Under the programme, 770 district NCD clinics, 6410 community health centres NCD clinics and 233 cardiac care units have been set up.

Further, a population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs including diabetes and hypertension has been rolled out in the country under NHM as a part of comprehensive primary health care.

Under the initiative, people above 30 years of age are targeted for their screening, Nadda said.

Six students dead as portion of school building collapses in Rajasthan

JHALAWAR (RJ), JUL 25: A portion of a government school building collapsed in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district on Friday, leaving six children dead and 29 injured, police said.

The children at the Piplod Government School in Manoharthana block of the district were assembling for morning prayers when the incident took place.

The police were informed at around 7:45 am.

Police said the children were pulled out of the debris with the help of teachers and villagers.

Five of the deceased have been identified as Kunder, Kanha, Raidas, Anuradha and Badal Bhl, Station House Officer, Manoharthana, Nand Kishore

said.

There were around 35 students in the building when the incident occurred, officials said.

Earlier Station House Officer at Dangpura police station Vijendra Singh had said that classes for 6 and 7 in the building gave away leading to the collapse.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the incident.

In a post on X, he said, "The mishap at a school in Jhalawar, Rajasthan, is tragic and deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the affected students and their families in this difficult hour".

"Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected,"

he added.

Condoling the loss of lives, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said, "The concerned officials have been directed to ensure proper treatment of the injured children." "May God grant a place to the departed divine souls in his lotus feet and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense sorrow," he said.

Education minister Madan Dilawar said a high-level inquiry will be conducted into the incident.

He directed officials to rush to the spot and ensure that the children get proper treatment.

"A very unfortunate incident occurred in Piplod village in Jhalawar where roof of a school collapsed.

HYDERABAD, JUL 26: ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on Friday said that India has to nearly triple its number of satellites in space, from the current 55, within the next three years.

Delivering "The GP Birla Memorial Lecture on Indian Space Programme – Accomplishments, Challenges and Future Perspectives", Narayanan said by 2040 India would be on par with any other nation in terms of space technology, application area, and infrastructure.

He also said as many as 12 launch vehicle missions are planned by the ISRO this year. The upcoming mission, NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar



(NISAR) scheduled to be launched by India's GSLV F16 on July 30.

"Now we are working on building our own space station. We are going to have our own Chandrayan landing. Right

now, 55 satellites are in orbit serving the common man in this country. And in another three years, this number has to become almost three times. The requirement is huge. The demand is so much that we have to build satellites. We are working towards that," he said.

Later, talking to reporters, he said that in 2035 India will build a full space station, and the first module will be placed in orbit in 2028.

Narayanan said, as far as space sector reforms are concerned, a lot of work is going on and earlier ISRO's model of work used to be service-oriented, but now it wants to grab business opportunities.

LS Speaker convenes all party meeting, urges Oppn members to let House function

New Delhi, July 25: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday called for an all-party meeting after the lower house was adjourned amid sloganeering and protests by Opposition members, urging for members to let the house function properly.

During the meeting, there was also a discussion regarding a session on Operation Sindoor. The proposed 16-hour discussion in Parliament is set for July 28.

Earlier today, both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha were adjourned. While the upper house is set to meet now on Monday 11 AM, Lok Sabha is set to convene again at 2 PM.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has called for the House to function with discussions and dialogues, including the Question Hour, to continue, amid protests by Opposition members demanding a discussion on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar. Efforts are currently being made to reach a consensus during the all-party meeting.

The opposition MPs have been demanding a discussion on several key issues of public importance, including the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise being carried out by the Elec-



tion Commission (EC) in Bihar ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

"There's a way to register a protest. If you don't want to run the Parliament...the house is adjourned till 2:00 PM today," Birla said earlier while addressing the lower house, as the Opposition members entered the well of the house, holding placards.

Before adjourning, the Speaker urged the opposition members to allow the lower house to function normally and objected to the banners, saying that the "stalemate" is not good. "Come, there will be a dis-

cussion to end the stalemate. There will also be representatives from the government...If there is disagreement, it should be expressed as per house norms," Birla said.

Earlier in the day, Congress MP Manickam Tagore moved an adjournment motion notice to discuss the "Mass Disenfranchisement of 52 Lakh Voters in Bihar", which he called as a "deliberate assault on the constitution and democracy by the Modi Government using the Election Commission."

The Parliament has witnessed frequent adjourn-

ments for the last four days since it began on July 21. Yesterday, the proceedings in both houses of Parliament were adjourned for the day amid protests by the opposition.

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday joined the protest by MPs of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) against the ongoing SIR of voter rolls in poll-bound Bihar. The protest, which entered its fifth consecutive day, was held at Parliament's Makar Dwar.

Several senior Congress