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Oppn 'crushed women's dreams' by blocking Quota Bill: Modi

"Congress has always opposed all attempts for nation-building, betterment of our country," he said.

Modi struck a conciliatory tone at the outset, saying, "I sincerely apologise to all mothers and sisters."

He launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, All India Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party, accusing them of "selfish politics." He said, "Congress and its supporters have killed this dream," and alleged that women had been forced to "bear the brunt" of their actions.

Referring to reactions in Parliament, Modi claimed the opposition had celebrated the bill's defeat. "What they did was not just applause—it was an attack on women's dignity and self-respect," he said, adding that women would remember the moment.

Modi said the "21st-century woman is watching everything closely" and warned that those opposing the bill would face consequences. "They are taking women for granted... the opposition will be punished for this wrongdoing," he said.

Despite the setback, Modi struck a note of resolve, saying the government would persist. "We didn't have the majority yesterday, but that doesn't mean we have lost... we will not stop trying," he said, vowing to "remove every obstacle" to women's reservation.

The prime minister also accused opposition parties of fuelling fears around delimitation. "They have learnt the politics of divide and rule from the British," he said, arguing that the proposal would have benefited all states by expanding representation.

Positioning the issue within a broader political narrative, Modi said the opposition had a history of blocking reforms. "Congress has proved that it is an anti-reform party," he said, alleging a pattern of spreading confusion and obstructing progress.

Reiterating his commitment, Modi said the push for women's representation would continue, adding that the resolve to empower "half the population" remained firm despite the legislative setback.

LG joins padyatra at Rajouri, administers anti-drug pledge to officials

The cases registered before April 11 had witnessed a 3-time increase in last 7 days, he added.

"In 100 days, we must completely break the back of drug networks. When the power of society and the might of the administration come together, neither smugglers nor criminals will be spared," he said.

He also highlighted that prevention anchors Drug-Free J&K campaign and he considers that prevention is mightier than any cure in such cases.

"We must reach our children before drugs do, igniting awareness and self-respect in every school, college, playground, and community hub," the LG said.

He also called upon police and other enforcement agencies to ensure exemplary punishment for drug smugglers. "Make sure no culprit escapes. We should unleash exemplary crackdowns on traffickers poisoning our youth. Those ruining generations won't slip away," he said, adding that administration had crafted an SOP to obliterate drug smugglers networks and ensuring swift justice.

He said that from detection and counseling to detox, rehab, and aftercare, our pledge is total rehabilitation. He asked the officials to audit weekly activities including list of rehabbed lives, list of arrested smugglers while ensuring that fake centers are shuttered.

"We will restore people's dignity, reconnect them to our shared society, and unleash their potential to build Rajouri's brighter future. This mission demands more than government efforts. I call upon every social organization and NGOs to join us in this noble endeavor," the LG said.

On the occasion, he also administered an 'Anti-Drug Pledge' and also launched Rajouri Premier League and Rajouri Football Club under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Artists through Musical opera spread awareness on the devastating impacts of substance abuse.

HC offices to close in Jammu on Apr 30

Coordinator (e-courts), will close in Jammu on April 30 after office hours and reopen in Srinagar on May 4 in the forenoon.

The order states that employees shifting as part of the move would be paid a special move allowance of Rs 25,000 each, while those failing to relocate within the prescribed time would not be eligible for the benefit.

Jawan injured in landmine blast

companied him, the officials added.

In a separate operation, a rusted mortar shell was noticed in Sagra border village in Balnoi area and was subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion by Army experts, officials said.

QR code-based ID system launched for pilgrims' safety

The terror attack at Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow had left 25 Hindu holidayers and a local dead.

"Each service provider has been properly vetted by police, registered by the authorities and has been provided a unique QR code that contains personal information and other details about that person," officials said.

"When tourists scan the code with their mobile phones, they can check complete information about the person concerned. The initiative acts as a proper and registered identification system that will curb fraud and ensure that no unauthorised individuals are working or claiming to be associated with tourism," the officials added.

"The system helps identify tourism providers and ensure that visitors are dealing with an authorised service provider. Before trusting an individual, the tourists can scan the QR code and check the details about that person. This will help them verify the credentials of the service provider, thereby building their trust and also improving the security environment," officials said.

The QR codes contain the service provider's name, parentage, detailed address, mobile number, Aadhaar number, registration number, operational route, and whether he or she is police-verified, the officials said.

DA/DR hike approved for central employees, pensioners

the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The approval to release an additional instalment of DA to central government employees and DR to pensioners with effect from January 1, 2026, represents an increase of 2 per cent over the existing rate of 58 per cent of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for the price rise.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park to be set up in Ladakh

toric images, symbols, or carvings etched, pecked, or en-

graved directly onto rock surfaces.

The park aims to serve as a dedicated conservation space for centuries-old rock carvings (petroglyphs) that are increasingly under threat due to unregulated tourism, rapid infrastructure development, and a lack of awareness, officials said.

Officials said the park will house petroglyphs collected from vulnerable and isolated locations across Ladakh, ensuring their preservation for future generations while also making them accessible to visitors in a curated and educational setting.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the preservation of heritage for future generations through joint intervention, the officials added.

Officials informed that nearly 400 sites across Ladakh contain petroglyphs, found either in clusters or in isolation.

While cluster sites are relatively easier to conserve, isolated petroglyphs - especially those along the banks of the Indus River and Zaskar River - face significant risk of damage due to construction activities and lack of awareness among people.

These endangered artefacts will be carefully relocated to the Petroglyph Conservation Park for protection and display, officials said, adding that some of the oldest petroglyphs have inscriptions in Chinese, Arabic, Sanskrit and other ancient languages.

The LG emphasised that the park would serve as a vital step towards preserving the region's ancient art and history for generations to come. He termed Ladakh as a "repository of ancient heritage" and said the region hosts one of the most extensive collections of prehistoric rock art in South and Central Asia.

"Beyond natural weathering and climate stress, human activities, such as road construction, blasting of rocks, and unregulated tourism, pose serious risks to these petroglyphs.

"Conservation of these heritage sites must be treated as an ethical responsibility and integrated into development planning," Saxena said, while addressing a workshop on the occasion of World Heritage Day, themed "Ancient Art, Modern Challenges: Safeguarding Petroglyphs and Shaping Tourism Circuits in Ladakh".

He noted that these rock carvings depicted early human life, including hunting scenes, animals like ibex and snow leopards, and later, symbols of Buddhist faith such as stupas and inscriptions.

This, he said, showcased the cultural transition over the centuries. The Lt Governor also emphasised the creation of curated heritage circuits, including petroglyph and Buddhist circuits, to manage tourist flow responsibly while promoting lesser-known sites.

He described the petroglyphs as "open-air museums" and "civilisations carved on stone," representing a continuous record of human history from the Palaeolithic Age to later historic periods.

Found in regions such as Domkhar, Dah Hanu, Alchi, Chilling, and Tangtse, these carvings depict ancient trade routes, migration patterns, belief systems, and ecological histories.

Calling for community participation, the Lt Governor urged local residents, monks, youth, and stakeholders to act as custodians of Ladakh's heritage. He reiterated that sustainable preservation requires collective effort, awareness, and respect for cultural and ecological sensitivities.

Don't fear AI; it's only aid, not substitute: CJI

and consciously, ensuring that the judge within you remains independent and is not influenced by these technical tools," he added.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Supreme Court judges B V Nagarathna and Aravind Kumar, and Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, Vibhu Bakhru, among others, were present at the event.

Stating that the emergence of AI presents both significant opportunities and serious challenges for the judiciary, the CJI said that, on one hand, AI has the potential to enhance efficiency in meaningful ways-by assisting in legal research, streamlining case management, organising large volumes of data, and reducing administrative burdens that often consume valuable judicial time.

"With structured and targeted training, judicial officers can effectively harness these tools to improve productivity and ensure that greater time and attention are devoted to the core function of adjudication," he said.

However, he added, the adoption of such technology must be accompanied by a clear and conscious understanding of its inherent limitations.

"AI operates on patterns, algorithms, and existing datasets; it does not possess judgment in the human sense, nor can it engage with the ethical, social, and moral dimensions that frequently underpin judicial decision-making," Justice Kant said.

"The process of judging is not merely analytical—it is also reflective, contextual, and guided by constitutional values. An over-reliance on AI tools risks reducing this nuanced exercise to a mechanical output, thereby diluting the depth, independence, and integrity of judicial reasoning," he said.

Expressing concern about inaccuracies generated by such systems, he said there have been recent instances of fabricated precedents, incorrect citations, and entirely fictitious legal propositions being produced by AI platforms.

"These so-called 'hallucinations' are not minor technical lapses; they strike at the very foundation of the judicial process, which rests on accuracy, authenticity, and trust. If left unchecked, they have the potential to mislead, distort legal arguments, compromise the quality of adjudication, and misdirect outcomes," he said.

Justice Kant further warned of the growing risk of AI tools being misused to generate misleading pleadings, frivolous claims, or superficially convincing yet substantively flawed submissions.

"Such practices not only burden the judicial system but also divert attention from genuine disputes that require urgent resolution. In an already strained system, this adds a layer of complexity that must be addressed seriously," he said. Highlighting the role of judicial officers in this evolving landscape, the CJI said, "Technology must be approached with discernment, not deference." Any material generated through AI must be subjected to scrutiny and independent verification, he said, adding, "The responsibility to ensure accuracy, authenticity, and fairness cannot be delegated to a machine. It remains an essential and non-negotiable component of judicial duty."

He emphasised that while navigating this evolving landscape, it is necessary to reaffirm a foundational principle—that justice is, and must remain, a human endeavour. "It is shaped by reasoning, guided by values, and enriched by experience, and no technological advancement can replicate the intuitive understanding and moral judgment at the core of judicial decision-making," he said.

The CJI said the future of the judiciary will be shaped by its ability to adapt without losing its core identity. This requires continuous learning, reflection, and a commitment to excellence, he added.

"We stand at a moment of transition, where the choices we make will define the trajectory of the judiciary for years to come. While our tools and methods may evolve, our fundamental responsibility remains unchanged—to deliver justice that is fair, accessible, and humane," he said.

"As custodians of this responsibility, we must ensure that technology serves to enhance, and not replace, the human elements that define justice," he added, noting that trust in the judiciary is sustained not by words but by the consistent discharge of duty in courtrooms across the country.

Highlighting that there are moments in the life of an institution when introspection becomes indispensable, the CJI said the time to pause and introspect has arrived for the Indian judiciary.

A time comes when it must pause—not out of hesitation, but out of responsibility," he added.

Admin takes over 58 schools linked to banned Jel

lawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

"These 58 functional schools were found to be directly or indirectly affiliated with the banned outfit or its trust," officials said.

"Deputy commissioners have been directed to assume control of the schools and propose fresh, verified committees to ensure that students' academic future remains unaffected," the officials added.

According to authorities, the move aims to maintain quality education as per National Education Policy (NEP) norms without disruption.

Court seeks written submissions in Sonia Gandhi voter list inclusion case

related to citizenship fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Central Government, while disputes over electoral rolls are under the authority of the Election Commission.

She also contended that no credible documentary evidence has been produced to support allegations of forgery or fraud, and described the proceedings as an abuse of the legal process.

Shabir Shah arrested in terror related case

allowed a three-day transit remand.

The separatist, who was recently released on bail after nearly seven years of imprisonment in other cases, was produced before the special NIA court in Jammu on Saturday, where the agency sought his custodial interrogation, officials said.

After hearing the submissions, officials said, the court sent him to a 10-day NIA remand, allowing investigators to question him in the 1996 case.

Shah was granted bail by the Supreme Court in a terror-funding case on March 12 and by a Delhi court in a money laundering case on March 28.

Congress reiterates stand on women's reservation

The manifesto had also pledged to remove what it termed "objectionable provisions" and implement the reservation immediately, including in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures elected after the next round of elections.

Speaking to reporters, Jairam Ramesh also questioned the government over the absence of written proposals for discussion during an all-party meeting on the issue, and asked why consultations had not been formally structured.

He criticised the timing of the notification of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyay, passed in September 2023, and alleged inconsistencies in the government's approach to the caste census.

Jairam Ramesh said the government had earlier delayed details on the exercise despite announcing it, adding that there was still a lack of clarity on its scope and implementation. His remark came a day after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, aimed at implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures by 2029 and increasing the size of the Lok Sabha, was defeated in the Lower House.

The bill, which sought to expand Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816 following delimitation based on the 2011 Census and adjust state and Union Territory assemblies accordingly, failed to secure the required two-thirds majority. While 298 MPs voted in favour, 230 opposed it, falling short of the 352 votes needed.

The three-day special parliamentary session on the bill concluded on April 18.

Toy car bomb plot foiled; 4 terror suspects held with IED

The probe revealed that one of the accused had visited Delhi in December 2025 and conducted reconnaissance of key locations, including the Red Fort and India Gate. Investigators said the module had also discussed potential strikes on high-value targets such as the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Parliament House and certain military installations.

Security agencies believe the group intended to target crowded public places and symbolic landmarks to maximise panic and psychological impact. "All four accused—Mosaib Ahmad, Mohammad Hammad, Mohammad Sohail and Sheikh Imran - belong to modest socio-economic backgrounds. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway to identify their associates, handlers and the broader network," the officer said.

Mosaib had previously worked in Gulf countries as an auto electrician and was allegedly using his technical skills to design a remote-controlled car fitted with an IED.

"Preliminary findings suggest the use of a small remote-controlled device points to a plan to execute a stealth attack in crowded areas," the officer said. Investigators said the accused had begun collecting materials, conducting reconnaissance and coordinating their activities through encrypted communication platforms before they were intercepted. Mosaib Ahmad originally hails from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and studied up to class 10th. He worked in various capacities, including as a welder, auto mechanic and as an auto electrician, in India and in countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Presently, he was working at a private automobile workshop in Thane.

He was part of multiple online groups where discussions related to "Lashkar of Mahdi and jihad" were held. He assisted co-accused Mohammad Hammad by "opening the circuit of a remote-controlled toy car for IED making and sharing its image within a closed group".

Mohammad Hammad is a resident of Mumbai. He is pursuing class 12th through correspondence. Around January 2026, he joined a closed group in which other active members included Mosaib Ahmad.

In 2024, he began listening to lectures/takreers of Tareeq Jameel, Israr Ahmed, Zakir Naik, etc. and gradually developed radical beliefs. He came across his associates Mohammad Hammad, Mosaib Ahmad, through social media and created a closed group where discussions centred on jihad, khilafat and Ghazwa-e-Hind. He discussed targeting "Ram Mandir, Parliament and military installations", they alleged.

He visited Delhi in December 2025 for a recce of the Red Fort and India Gate. He promised members that he would

arrange arms training and physical training, including horse riding, in Odisha and asked them to contribute funds for the same.

Mohammad Sohail is a resident of Katihar, Bihar. He is a plumber by profession. He studied up to Class 10th.

"He was influenced by the speeches of Israr Ahmed. He created multiple social media accounts and exhorted youth in the name of jihad. In March 2026, he incited followers of his channel to collect weapons and explosives for Ghazwa-e-Hind. He shared his bank account/QR code to collect money in the name of jihad," the officer alleged.

Multiple mobile phones and digital devices have been seized and are being analysed to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy and any possible links to other modules, police added.

LS, RS adjourned sine die

number of seats in the Lower House from 543 to 816 was defeated by a division of votes.

A three-day sitting of Parliament was held from April 16 to discuss and pass the bill along with two other enabling draft laws.

The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned sine die. Chairman CP Radhakrishnan said the Rajya Sabha functioned for 157 hours and 40 minutes, recording a productivity of around 110 per cent.

He described the Budget Session as the most important and consequential of the three annual sittings of Parliament, given its role in shaping the country's policy and growth trajectory.

He noted that during the special three-day sitting from April 16 to 18, the House elected Harivansh as Deputy Chairman for a third term. The session also included detailed discussions on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, with participation from 79 members, and an extensive debate on the Union Budget 2026-27 involving 97 members. The House also took up discussions on the functioning of key ministries, along with suo motu statements on the India-US trade agreement and the situation in West Asia.

Radhakrishnan said the House recorded 117 questions, 446 zero-hour submissions and 207 special mentions, and functioned with high efficiency throughout the session. He thanked members across parties for their cooperation and appreciated the role of the Deputy Chairman and the panel of Vice-Chairpersons in conducting proceedings.

Indian-flagged ships attacked in Hormuz as Iran reimposes restrictions

carrying 2 million barrels of Iraqi oil.

Following the attacks, the tankers reversed course in the strait, the vessel-tracker said.

One of the vessels hit was an Indian-flagged ship carrying crude oil. A window pane was broken after bullets fired by the IRGC struck the vessel, forcing it to halt its journey and turn back. The extent of damage to the second vessel was not immediately known, but it too returned.

However, another Indian-flagged ship carrying crude oil for the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and is now heading towards India, sources said.

According to sources, India summoned Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali and registered strong protest over the attacks. The incidents came shortly after Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, in a statement, warned that Tehran's Navy was ready to defeat US forces in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement carried on his Telegram channel, Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since before the start of the war, said Iran's "brave navy stands ready to make the enemies taste the bitterness of new defeats."

Earlier in the day, Iran's central military command announced that it would resume "strict management" of the strait, calling the decision a response to a continued US blockade of Iranian ports.

In a statement shared on state television, the military stated that Washington had broken a promise by continuing its naval blockade of ships sailing to and from Iran's ports.

Iran's joint military command said on Saturday that "control of the Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state ... under strict management and control of the armed forces." It warned that transit through the strait would continue to be blocked as long as the US blockade of Iranian ports remained in place.

The announcement came as maritime tracking sites showed several ships making a dash through the narrow waterway, hugging close to Iranian territorial waters as instructed by Tehran and, for some, broadcasting their identity as Indian or Chinese in an apparent attempt to show their neutrality.

Of the 14 India-bound vessels, seven were Indian-flagged, four sailed under the Liberia flag, two under the Marshall Islands flag and one under the Vietnam flag. Six vessels were carrying crude oil, three had LPG cargo, and four were loaded with fertilisers. Five of the vessels were bulk carriers. All 14 ships were travelling in a row.

Tehran had on Friday declared the strait, which usually carries a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, open after a ceasefire was agreed in Lebanon to halt Israel's war with Hezbollah.

The decision was reversed after US President Donald Trump on Saturday said that he was planning to maintain the naval blockade of Iranian ports until both the countries agree on a permanent ceasefire deal. He also hinted that the temporary ceasefire agreement between Iran and the US, which is due to expire on April 22, would not be extended.

"Reports indicate the vessel is sailing without passengers," Marine Traffic said in a post on X.

At least two other passenger ships showed up on the tracking platform passing the strait close to Oman on Saturday.

Cabinet extends rural roads scheme, increases outlay by Rs 3,727 cr

Centre typically bears 60% of the cost in most states and 90% in north-eastern and hilly states.

Works sanctioned before March 31, 2025, but haven't been awarded until now may be taken up for tender or award, as per the official statement.

Improved connectivity will facilitate better access to education and healthcare institutions, ensuring timely delivery of essential services, particularly in remote and underserved areas, it said. "Overall, the extension will contribute to inclusive and sustainable development by bridging the rural-urban divide and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," it added.

The government had budgeted Rs 19,000 crore for the PMGSY this fiscal, up from Rs 11,000 crore a year earlier. Since the scheme's launch in late 2000, rural roads stretching over 7,94,236 km have been built under various phases, connecting around 7,00,000 rural facilities. As many as 10,666 bridges have been completed, information & broadcasting and railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a briefing after the Cabinet meeting.

Already, the government had, in September 2024, announced a Rs 70,125-crore package (central share of Rs 49,087.5 crore and states' share of Rs 21,037.5 crore) for the fourth phase of the PMGSY until 2028-29. Both the phases run simultaneously.

Under the fourth phase, the goal is to build 62,500 km of rural roads in five years over 25,000 unconnected rural habitations.