

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Bhagwat Bats For Greater Promotion Of Sanskrit In India

NEW DELHI, APR 20: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday made a strong pitch for the greater promotion of Sanskrit in the country, saying increase in its prevalence will not only enrich all other Indian languages and serve as a bridge between them, but also connect people with ancient thoughts and culture of Bharat.

Addressing an event organised here to inaugurate newly constructed central office of the Sanskrit Bharati, Bhagwat said the essence of the name 'Bharat' is not merely geographical; nor is it solely a political-economic entity.

"Bharat is a tradition, a foundation upon which life continues to flow. It is a tradition that sustains life across the entire cosmos, encompassing all its animate and inanimate constituents. The world remains in constant need of this tradition; and fulfilling this need is the duty of those who identify themselves as Indians," he said.



For this, Bhagwat said that one has to "know and comprehend Bharat" alongside the entirety of its "wealth of knowledge" to keep it alive and carry it forward.

"And if all these have to happen, then understanding Sanskrit is essential to understanding India. India is home to numerous languages. Every language of India is, in its own right, a national language. But what is the link that connects these diverse national languages? It is Sanskrit," he added.

Bhagwat called upon the Sanskrit Bharati to make efforts for greater promotion

of Sanskrit in the country, saying the work in this regard should progress to such an extent that every individual in India is able to converse in Sanskrit.

"Sanskrit is not merely a language. In India, Sanskrit is the very 'prana' (life force) of the nation. For the most ancient tradition still in existence today—of thought, of life, and of culture—is India," he said.

The RSS chief further said that the increase in the prevalence of Sanskrit will enrich all other languages of India for the underlying "stream of sentiment is one and the same". It serves as

the "vehicle for emotion", he added.

Bhagwat said Sanskrit doesn't establish itself by replacing any other language. "This is its virtue. Sanskrit continues to thrive in India. Sometimes its flow was weak, sometimes it was strong. Sanskrit continues to thrive today. There are families and villages that speak Sanskrit," he said.

It has never thrived at the expense of other Indian languages, preventing their development, and will never do so in the future, Bhagwat said. "The Sanskrit language is a unifier. It is the mother of languages. Moreover, it serves as a bridge language.

Sanskrit is the link that connects all the languages of India. In every language, at least 30 to 40 per cent of the vocabulary consists of words derived from Sanskrit or their 'tadbhav' (words came out of Sanskrit)" he added.

The Sanskrit Bharati is an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Northwest, Central, Adjoining East India To Witness Heatwave Conditions For Next 4-5 Days: IMD

NEW DELHI, APR 20: Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of northwest, central and the adjoining parts of east India for the next four to five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

It said isolated pockets of Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, East Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, West Uttar Pradesh, West Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and scattered pockets of East Uttar Pradesh are expected to witness heatwave conditions on different dates between April 20 and April 25.

"Hot and humid weather conditions are very likely to prevail in isolated pockets over Gangetic West Bengal during April 20-26; Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and



Karaikal during April 20-22; Kerala and Mahe, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during April 20-24; coastal areas of Gujarat on April 24 and April 25," the IMD said.

Also, warm night conditions are expected to prevail in isolated pockets over

Haryana, Chandigarh, West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha on April 20 and April 21, Chhattisgarh on April 20, and Odisha between April 20 and April 22.

The IMD highlighted that moderate to intense thunderstorm activity can occur

over different states of south, central, east and northwest India on Monday. There is also a possibility of hailstorms over Madhya Maharashtra, arathawada, Madhya Pradesh Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh on Monday, according to the IMD. (Agencies)

We are not 'vishwaguru' anymore: M M Joshi bats for Sanskrit

NEW DELHI, APR 20: Batting for greater promotion of Sanskrit and its use even in quantum computing, BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi on Monday said India is not a 'vishwaguru' (global teacher) anymore and this term should not be used.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Joshi also made a strong pitch for making Sanskrit India's official language, saying many people, including B R Ambedkar, made efforts for it in the past, but the proposals were not cleared.

He was speaking to reporters at the inauguration of the central office of the



Sanskrit Bharati, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Asked about his view on India's role

in the promotion of Sanskrit at a time when India has become a 'vishwaguru' and is also emerging as an AI hub,

the former Union minister said, "The notion that we are a 'vishwaguru'... I personally believe nowadays that we should refrain from using this term. We are not 'vishwaguru' at present. We should aspire to be 'vishwaguru'."

"Indeed, we were 'vishwaguru' at one time. However, the reality today is that we are not," he said.

From this point of view, Sanskrit is very significant today, Joshi said, batting for greater promotion of the ancient language and its use in modern scientific pursuits, including quantum computing. (PTI)

ED seeks time to file reply on Jacqueline Fernandez's plea to turn approver in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, APR 20: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday sought time to file its reply on a plea by actor Jacqueline Fernandez seeking to turn approver in a Rs 200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

Special Judge Prashant Sharma posted the matter for further proceedings on May 8.

The court had earlier on April 17 issued notice to the agency after the actor's counsel filed the application.

Fernandez, who was summoned by the ED several times in connection with the investigation, was named as an accused for the first time in a supplementary charge sheet filed by the agency.



On July 3, last year, the Delhi High Court dismissed her petition for quashing the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in the money laundering case.

Two months later, the Supreme Court refused to interfere with the high court's order. Delhi Police had booked Chandrasekhar for allegedly duping the spouses

of former promoters of Ranbaxy, Shivinder Singh and Malvinder Singh, of Rs 200 crore. There are other ongoing investigations against him in several cases across the country.

Chandrasekhar and his wife, Leena Paulose, facing proceedings in a money laundering case, were arrested by Delhi Police along with others.

The police invoked the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) in the case.

Paulose and Chandrasekhar were alleged to have used 'hawala' routes and created shell companies along with other accused persons to park the money earned as proceeds of crime. (PTI)

British PM faces angry lawmakers over Mandelson's appointment as ambassador

LONDON, APR 20: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will try on Monday to get a grip on a crisis that has left power slipping from his grasp.

Starmer will face a tough barrage of questions in Parliament when he stands up to explain why Peter Mandelson, a scandal-tarnished politician and friend of Jeffrey Epstein, became Britain's ambassador to Washington despite failing security checks — and seemingly without Starmer being told about the concerns.

The revelation has left furious opponents calling for Starmer to resign. Right-of-centre Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said in the Mail on Sunday that he had "misled Parliament over Mandelson, misled the country and is taking the public for fools."

Ed Davey, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, said Starmer had "showed catastrophic misjudgment."

Senior government colleagues have defended the prime minister. Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy said that if Starmer had known about the failed security vetting, "he would never, ever have appointed him ambassador."

But lawmakers in Starmer's centre-left Labour Party, already anxious about the party's dire poll ratings, are restive. Starmer has already defused one potential crisis in February, when some Labour lawmakers urged him to resign over the Man-



delson appointment.

All the main opposition parties have called on Starmer to resign. Right-of-centre Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said in the Mail on Sunday that he had "misled Parliament over Mandelson, misled the country and is taking the public for fools."

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delson appointment. He could face a new challenge is, as expected, Labour takes a hammering in local and regional elections on May 7, which give voters a chance to pass a midterm verdict on the government.

Critics say the Mandelson appointment is more evidence of a failure of judgment by a prime minister who has made repeated missteps since he led Labour to a landslide election victory in July 2024. Starmer has struggled to deliver promised economic growth, repair tattered public services and ease the cost of living, and has been forced into repeated policy U-turns.

He picked Mandelson for one of Britain's most important diplomatic jobs despite being warned by his staff that Mandelson's friendship with Epstein, who died in prison in 2019, exposed the government to "reputational risk."

Mandelson's business links to Russia and China also set off alarm bells. But

his expertise as a former European Union trade chief and contacts among global elites were considered assets in dealing with President Donald Trump's administration.

He lasted less than nine months in the job. Starmer fired Mandelson in September 2025 after evidence emerged that he had lied about the extent of his links to Epstein.

A trove of Epstein-related documents released by the US Department of Justice in January included emails suggesting Mandelson had passed on sensitive, and potentially market-moving, government information to Epstein in 2009 after the global financial crisis.

British police launched a criminal probe and arrested Mandelson in February on suspicion of misconduct in public office. Mandelson has previously denied wrongdoing and hasn't been charged. He does not face allegations of sexual misconduct. (AP)

'Monumental Setback' For Modi's Foreign Policy: Cong On Pakistan's Role In US-Iran Peace Moves

NEW DELHI, APR 20: The Congress on Monday took a swipe at the Modi government over Pakistan's role in the US-Iran peace talks, saying Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir becoming a "huge favourite" of American President Donald Trump is a "monumental setback" for India which needs a complete overhaul of its diplomatic engagement strategy.

The opposition party claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "simply incapable" of the overhaul of India's diplomatic engagement strategy that is needed.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The 'dalal' country, as the erudite and always nattily dressed External Affairs Minister described it, is reportedly hosting the second round of US-Iran peace talks today." After the completion of the first round of these talks on April 12th, Pakistan borrowed USD 6 billion from Saudi Arabia and Qatar to repay a USD 3.5 billion loan taken from the UAE and to retire a USD 1.43 billion



tranche of Eurobonds, he pointed out.

Pakistan's economy is clearly in dire straits and it depends on largesse given to it by friendly countries, Ramesh said.

"But it is for now playing a pivotal diplomatic role after having given sanctuary to Osama Bin Laden and other terrorists, bombing drug rehabilitation centres in Afghanistan, and most recently orchestrating the Pahalgam terror attack a year ago," the Congress leader said.

It is abundantly clear that the substance and style of

Prime Minister Modi's regional and narrative management have failed to isolate Pakistan which has received a whole new branding — different from what Dr. Manmohan Singh had been able to achieve after the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, Ramesh said.

"That Field Marshal Asim Munir — whose provocative and inflammatory remarks provided the oxygen for the Pahalgam terror attack — has become such a huge favourite of President Trump is a particularly severe setback for India," the Congress

leader said.

"That the Field Marshal and his colleagues seem to have succeeded in managing the Trump ecosystem of family and associates much better than India is obvious. It is a monumental setback for Mr. Modi's foreign policy," Ramesh said.

"India needs a complete overhaul of its diplomatic engagement strategy and tactics — which Mr. Modi is simply incapable of doing," he said.

The US and Iran held rare direct talks in Pakistan on April 11 and 12 in Islamabad aimed at ending their conflict, but the talks concluded without any agreement.

Trump has announced a fresh round of talks, raising hopes of extending a two-week ceasefire that expires by Wednesday.

Trump has announced that American negotiators will be in Islamabad on Monday for peace talks with Iran.

However, there was no confirmation from the Iranian side about Tehran's participation in the second round of talks. (Agencies)

Delhi HC Judge Justice Sharma To Pass Order On Recusal Plea By Kejriwal At 2.30 PM

NEW DELHI, Apr 20: Delhi High Court Judge Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma will pronounce her verdict at 2.30 pm on Monday on pleas by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and others seeking her recusal in the liquor policy case.

Justice Sharma had reserved her decision on April 13.

Kejriwal had raised several objections against the judge hearing the CBI's plea against his discharge in the liquor policy case, including that she

had earlier denied him relief on his petition challenging his arrest and refused to grant relief on the bail pleas of other accused, including Manish Sisodia and K Kavitha.

He also claimed that Justice Sharma had made "strong and conclusive" findings.

The former Delhi chief minister further alleged a "direct conflict of interest", claiming that the judge's children are empanelled central government lawyers who receive work through the solic-

itor general, who is appearing in the matter for the CBI. Besides Kejriwal, the applications for recusal of the judge were also filed by AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak. Other respondents, including Vijay Nair and Arun Ramchandra Pillai, have also sought her recusal.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for the CBI and opposed the plea. He urged Justice Sharma to initiate contempt action against Kejriwal and others for seeking her recusal.