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India achieves major milestone in wind energy: PM Modi

ment task; it is a responsibility for all of us. Your participation is vital. The information you provide remains completely secure and confidential, protected by robust digital security," he said.

The prime minister said Census is a very important campaign currently underway in the country and every Indian must be aware of it. He also noted that the Indian Census exercise is the largest such exercise in the world.

"Census 2027 has been made digital. All information is being recorded directly through digital means," he said.

Modi said the personnel visiting people's homes are equipped with a mobile app and they will speak to everyone and enter the information right there. "Friends, your participation in this Census has also been made easier. You can now record your information yourself. A self-enumeration facility will be available to you 15 days before the official visit. You can fill in the details at your own convenience," he said.

Once completed, the applicant will receive a unique ID via mobile or email, he said.

"Later, when the official arrives at your home, you can simply show this ID to confirm your details," he said.

Modi said this eliminates the need to provide information twice, saving time and making the process seamless.

He said in states where self-enumeration has been completed, the work of house-listing by Census officials has already begun.

So far, the house-listing for approximately 12 million (1.2 crore) families has been completed, he said.

Modi said for those who have been through this process before, their experience this time is going to be different.

LG calls upon citizens to take pledge for organ donation

day have given the most precious gift of all, the gift of organs, the gift that sustains life itself," he said.

Sinha commended the work of State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation of J&K (SOTTO J&K) and said the team had worked with deep commitment to raise awareness across communities.

"SOTTO J&K through its campaigns, hospital partnerships, collaborations with NGOs, and training of medical professionals to sensitively identify and manage brain-dead donor cases, has become a movement of compassion and humanity," he said.

He urged the SOTTO J&K team to increase registrations and pledges through dialogue and outreach.

He asked the SOTTO J&K's representatives to spread the message of organ donation through every social network, every community meeting, every school and college, every place of worship, and every workplace.

"To those who hesitate due to cultural or religious concerns, I wish to remind you that our traditions affirm the sanctity of life and the virtue of selfless giving. Speak to any spiritual guide, family members and community elders and you will find that this gift of life is not only respected across faiths but celebrated as a blessing," he said.

"Throughout history, organ donation has been recognized as one of the most profound expressions of compassion across the civilisations. A person whose earthly journey has ended can still give a new life. Through cornea donation, that same person can restore sight, dignity, and the simple joy of seeing a child's smile or a sunrise," he added.

The LG had pledged for organ donation last year by registering himself on Ayushman Bharat Organ Donation Registry of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Heatwave alert for 5 distts

to stay hydrated.

In Kashmir, the weather was expected to remain pleasant and dry with the possibility of light rain at some places over the next 48 hours.

"One or two spells of light rain or thunder may occur at many places with gusty winds or hailstorm at a few places towards evening on April 27 and 28, the official said.

The maximum temperature in Kashmir has been hovering around 17-22 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature recorded last night was around nine degrees Celsius.

Police officers transferred, posted

Sharma.

Vikas Kumar, SSP Traffic, Ladakh, is relieved from the additional charge of incharge DIG, Leh-Kargil range.

Meanwhile, as per an order of J&K police headquarters, Tahir Amin Sheikh, DSP DAR, Jammu, is transferred and posted as SDPO, Domana, while Dheraj Singh Katoch, SDPO Border, Kathua, is transferred and posted DSP DAR, Jammu.

Domana SDPO Mudassar Hussain is transferred and posted as DSP 4 JKAP and will join after expiry of his earned leave, while Karan Kumar, who was serving as DSP, CID CI, Jammu (JIC), is transferred and posted as SDPO Border, Kathua.

Local body polls underway in Gujarat

gained ground in the local polls. It carried the momentum to the 2017 assembly elections, reducing BJP to 99 in the 182-member House. The Congress's tally rose to 77, its highest tally in decades.

In 2021, the trend reversed. BJP retained all major municipal corporations and expanded its hold across local bodies. AAP had emerged as the second biggest party in the Surat Municipal Corporation, replacing the Congress. In the 2022 assembly elections, the BJP won a record 156 seats and the AAP five seats. The Congress's tally fell to its lowest in three decades to 17 seats.

On Sunday, over 41.8 million voters were eligible to vote for 25,537 candidates across Gujarat. Nine newly formed municipal corporations in Nadiad, Surendranagar, Anand, Navsari, Vapi, Morbi, Gandhidham, Porbandar, and Mehsana are going to the polls for the first time.

The polling began at 7am and will continue until 6pm, with slow voting in urban centres. In Surat, around 5% of votes were polled in the first hour, and 4% in the first two hours in Ahmedabad.

The State Election Commission said the average voter turnout for municipal corporations was 15.1% until 11:30am, municipalities 22.97%, taluka panchayats 22.12%, and district panchayats 21.03%

Electronic Voting Machine malfunctions were reported at multiple locations across the state in the opening hours, delaying voting.

The ruling BJP won 736 seats uncontested, compared to 220 in 2021 and 37 in 2015. It rejected allegations of the Opposition parties blaming pressure and inducement for the withdrawals of their candidates.

On April 15, over 400 Congress and AAP candidates withdrew nominations within hours across Vadodara,

Surat, Mehsana, and Banaskantha.

Former police officer M L Ninama, ex-radio jockey Abha Desai, and former AAP legislator Bhupendra Bhayani are among other prominent candidates in the fray. In Rajkot, Congress has fielded cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's sister, Nainaba. Jadeja's wife, Rivaba Jadeja, is a minister in the state government.

The elections are the first since the implementation of 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC), 50% for women, and rotation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe seats. Seven district panchayat president posts have been reserved for OBC candidates for the first time.

The AAP has fielded around 5,000 seats, the highest so far. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen is also in the fray, with its chief Asaduddin Owaisi campaigning in Ahmedabad and Bhuj.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited his home state of Gujarat ahead of the polls on March 31. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed a tribal programme in Vadodara on March 23. AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwan Mann held meetings from March 24 and 27.

The votes will be counted on April 28, with re-polling was scheduled for April 27, if required.

AAP moves disqualification plea against 7 MPs post-defection

Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikram Sahni, and Swati Maliwal announced their resignation from the party and their subsequent merger with BJP. The defecting members alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party had strayed from its founding principles and core values.

Chadha had defended the merger by citing constitutional provisions that allow two-thirds of a party's legislative unit to merge with another organization without facing disqualification. Since the AAP holds a total of 10 seats in the Rajya Sabha, the group of seven exceeds the required two-thirds threshold. However, Singh countered this by stating that the party has consulted constitutional experts, including senior advocate Kapil Sibal and a former Lok Sabha secretary general, who believe the MPs remain liable for disqualification under the law.

At the presser, Singh claimed that many Supreme Court judgments, including in cases related to Uttarakhnad and Arunachal Pradesh, had clarified how such defections could lead to disqualification.

He also referred to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, saying that "it clearly does not permit such political defections".

"While delays in such cases could lead to disappointment, the AAP would pursue the matter in court if required. These members were elected by the party but later chose to leave and join another outfit. This is a betrayal of the people of Punjab and also of the Constitution of India," Singh said.

Jitendra reviews plans to build space labs

sign.

"The aim is to build a strong pipeline of skilled youth for India's expanding space sector, which has attracted over USD 600 million in private investment over the past five years following the opening up of the sector to non-government entities," an official said.

Singh also reviewed the progress made in India's space reforms and the growing participation of private players across the value chain.

The country's private space ecosystem has expanded rapidly, with the number of startups increasing from a single digit in 2019 to more than 400 by early 2026.

"These startups are now active across launch vehicles, satellite and payload manufacturing, ground infrastructure, data services and emerging in-orbit segments," the official said.

The government has launched a host of initiatives to support this momentum. For instance, Rs 500 crore Technology Adoption Fund is enabling the transition of early-stage innovations into commercially viable products, the official said.

"Efforts to build a skilled workforce are also underway, with 17 specialised training programmes completed and nearly 900 participants certified in areas such as satellite manufacturing, launch vehicle systems and space cybersecurity," the official added.

Omar pushes for private university investment in J&K

ceived assent of the lieutenant governor, becoming an Act.

Highlighting the significance of the new framework, he said, "It opens up substantial opportunities for reputed institutions to establish campuses in Jammu & Kashmir, fostering a modern, inclusive and globally competitive higher education ecosystem."

Emphasising the government's commitment to facilitating quality investments in the education sector, he invited leading institutions to partner in shaping the region's academic future.

He reiterated that the J&K administration was focused on providing a transparent, enabling and investor-friendly environment aimed at attracting students, scholars and research collaborations from across the country and beyond.

Chief Minister's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Tanvir Sadiq, senior officers and several education representatives were present during the interaction.

Amit Shah to visit Leh next week

"It gives me great pleasure in sharing that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be arriving in Leh on April 30 for a two-day visit.

"On May 1, he will pay his respects to the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima and share his thoughts on the spiritual significance of the sacred exposition being held in Ladakh from May 1-14," the lieutenant governor said in a post on X.

The home minister's visit underscores the commitment of the government of India for the development of Ladakh, he added.

The sacred relics of Lord Buddha will arrive in Leh on April 29 for a first-of-its-kind public exposition in the region. The relics, excavated from Piprahwa in Uttar Pradesh (ancient Kapilvastu), will be displayed at Jive Tsal, Choglamsar, from May 1 to May 14.

Trump rushed out of dinner event after shots fired; 1 arrested

California.

"I heard a noise and sort of thought it was a tray going down. I've heard that many times. It was a pretty loud noise, and it was from quite far away. He (the attacker) hadn't reached the area at all. They really got him," Trump told reporters, recalling the incident.

Trump said one security officer was shot at but saved as

he was wearing a bulletproof vest. Several protestors had lined up on the road outside the hotel, raising slogans against the Trump administration and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth.

A CNN reporter who was outside the ballroom at the Washington Hilton said he saw a gunman opening fire just a few feet away. He was among the dozens of attendees who took cover as law enforcement swarmed the venue.

The suspect, identified as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen from California, has been arrested. Asked how Saturday's incident impacts him as the US president, Trump told reporters he is in a dangerous job but that he is no "basket case." "I like not to think about it. I lead a pretty normal life, considering, you know, it's a dangerous life. I think I handle it as well as it can be handled," Trump said.

"I will say you had Republicans, Democrats, independents, conservatives, liberals, and progressives...everybody in that room, big crowd, record-setting crowd," he said.

"We had some great work done by law enforcement, but in light of this evening's events, I ask that all Americans recommit with their hearts in resolving our differences peacefully," Trump said. Reacting to the incident, law-makers cutting across party lines asserted that political violence has no place in the United States.

Veteran Democrat leader Nancy Pelosi, a prominent Trump detractor, said it was a great relief that the President, First Lady and everyone in attendance at the White House Correspondents' Dinner are safe. "The brave men and women of the United States Secret Service and local law enforcement are to be commended for their swift action to secure the scene and protect those present," Pelosi said. "My thoughts are with the brave Secret Service agent who was shot. Political violence is completely unacceptable. There is no place for it in our country," Democrat leader Ro Khanna said. Republican leader Steve Scalise thanked the brave members of law enforcement who acted quickly to protect all attending Saturday night's White House Correspondents' Dinner. "This is an event meant to bring people together. Violence has NO place in our country," Scalise, the House Majority Leader, said in a post on X.

World leaders expressed relief that Trump, First Lady Melania and other guests were unharmed, emphasising that political violence has no place in a democracy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was relieved that President Trump, First Lady and Vice President Vance were safe and unharmed. He said violence had no place in democracy and must be unequivocally condemned.

"Relieved to learn that President Trump, the First Lady and Vice President are safe and unharmed following the recent security incident at a Washington DC hotel. I extend my best wishes for their continued safety and well-being. Violence has no place in a democracy and must be unequivocally condemned," Modi said in a post on X.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who has had frequent run-ins with Trump, described the incident as a "disturbing event". "Political violence has no place in any democracy, and my thoughts are with all those who have been shaken by this disturbing event," Carney said in a post on X.

"We send them our respect. Violence must never be the way," Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said. Trump has survived two assassination attempts over the past two years - first at a presidential election campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024, and later in Palm Beach, Florida, on September 15, 2024.

Doval meets UAE Prez, discusses regional situation amid Iran war

deepen bilateral ties, the regional security situation, and other issues of mutual interest.

"He called on President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Conveyed greetings of PM, Narendra Modi. Measures to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the regional situation, and other issues of mutual interest were discussed," the Embassy stated in its post.

The UAE state-run news agency WAM further reported on the meeting, stating that Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed received NSA Doval, following which greetings were exchanged between the leadership of both countries.

Doval conveyed PM Modi's greetings and best wishes for the UAE's continued progress and prosperity, while the UAE President reciprocated with his greetings for the Indian leadership and wished further development and prosperity for India and its people, as per WAM.

The discussions also focused on recent developments in the Middle East and their implications for regional and international security and stability, along with global energy security concerns.

The meeting was also attended by Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and Ali bin Hammad Al Shamsi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for National Security.

This was the second high-level meeting between the two countries in one month.

Earlier in the month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with the UAE President as part of his two-nation tour.

Jaishankar pointed out the robustness of the India-UAE strategic partnership, noting that the ongoing dialogue between the two nations remains strong and transparent despite a complex regional environment.

Mandaviya flags off 'Sunday On Cycle' event

tion.

Mandaviya, who is in Srinagar for the three-day Chintan Shivir organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, flagged off the 'Sunday on Cycle' event on the banks of Dal Lake.

"Sunday on Cycle is a message of fitness. If India has to become a developed country, the citizens will have to remain fit. When citizens are fit, society will be healthy. Only a healthy society can make India a developed nation," he told reporters here.

The minister said to achieve the goal of fitness, 'Sunday on Cycle' events are being held at 16,000 places across the country. "From now on, our youth in Srinagar will send a message of Fit India by taking to cycling every Sunday," he added.

Centre to resume talks on May 22: LG Saxena

in dialogue with the Centre since 2021 over their key demands, including statehood and inclusion under the sixth schedule for Ladakh, have been demanding the resumption of talks.

Ladakh became a Union Territory (UT) on October 31, 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 when the erstwhile J&K state was bifurcated into two UTs. Since then, a series of protests demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh have rocked the UT and had echoes in Delhi.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested under the National Security Act (NSA) in September last year after the protests had turned violent. He was released last month, with the government citing a need to facilitate "constructive and meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders" as a reason for his release. Since Wangchuk's arrest, talks between the Centre and Ladakh groups had stalled.

Saxena, who took charge as the lieutenant governor of Ladakh in March, said on April 14 that the ongoing dialogue between LAB-KDA and the Centre will lead to a resolution, asserting that he remains available to support the process whenever required.

A day later, the KDA called for an immediate resumption of talks, asserting that they remain open to any fresh proposal from the Centre, excluding council-based arrangements.

The sub-committee for was formed following a meeting held on February 19, 2024, between the High-Powered Committee (HPC) and a 14-member delegation of LAB and KDA, representing various organisations of the UT.

People-centric administration must be core of governance: Kavinder

vants in strengthening governance and ensuring efficient delivery of public services.

He urged them to remain committed to transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct, while adopting a people-centric approach in administration, especially for the welfare of those residing in remote and underserved regions.

Highlighting the need for effective implementation of government initiatives, he called upon officers to adopt a "saturation approach" to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary.

He encouraged them to act as catalysts of change and not as impediments in governance, stressing that proactive and responsive administration is key to improving the quality of life of citizens.

Gupta underlined the importance of innovation, technology-driven governance, and continuous capacity building to effectively tackle emerging challenges.

Drawing attention to critical issues such as rising drug abuse, climate change, and the need to promote organic farming, he asked the officers to take proactive measures, create awareness, and develop sustainable solutions at the grassroots level.

Emphasising the immense potential of Himachal Pradesh, the Governor called upon the young officers to promote opportunities in sectors like agriculture, tourism, and sustainable development, and to work towards unlocking the state's full potential. He reiterated that people have high expectations from civil servants and that they must work with a spirit of teamwork, guided by the principle that "Together We Can Achieve More."

Underscoring the vision of a developed and self-reliant India, the governor said the young officers had a crucial role in shaping the future of the state and ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

He urged them to remain connected with ground realities and always prioritize public interest in decision-making.

He expressed confidence that the trainee officers would serve with sincerity and dedication, contributing significantly to strengthening administrative efficiency and public trust in governance.

He extended his best wishes to the young officers for a successful and impactful career in public service.

Earlier, Rupali Thakur briefed the governor about the structure, objectives and content of the ongoing training programmes. She expressed gratitude to the governor for his inspiring guidance and support to the young officers.

Governor's secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj and course director Sandeep Sharma were also present on the occasion.

EC orders probe after voter intimidation video surfaces

"The Election Commission is addressing the matter so that these threats get curbed by today," officials said.

Campaigning for the second phase of the Assembly polls on April 29 would end on Monday evening.

Police said the case was registered at the Diamond Harbour police station on Sunday under sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) dealing with criminal intimidation and unlawful acts.

This came days after the state government, acting on a directive from the poll panel, suspended five officers posted in the Diamond Harbour police district and initiated disciplinary proceedings against them for alleged "serious misconduct" and failure to maintain neutrality.

India, New Zealand aim to double bilateral trade

ports.

The deal is aimed at doubling bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in five years. The pact will help Indian exporters, reeling under the impact of global uncertainties, including the West Asia crisis, diversify shipments in the Oceania region. India has already implemented a trade pact with Australia.

Under the pact, New Zealand will get duty-free access to goods such as sheep meat, wool, coal and over 95 per cent of forestry and wood articles.

Besides it will also get duty concessions on a number of items such as kiwifruit, wine, some seafood, cherries, avocados, persimmons, bulk infant formula, Manuka honey, and milk albumins.

To protect the interests of domestic farmers and MSMEs, India will not give any duty concessions in the politically sensitive dairy sector, like milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese.

The other products that will not be covered under the pact include vegetable products (onions, chana, peas, corn, almonds), sugar, artificial honey, animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils, arms and ammunition, gems and jewellery, copper and its products, and aluminium and articles.

As regards the services sector, New Zealand will give a temporary employment entry visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations with a quota of 5,000 visas annually and a stay of up to three years.

This pathway covers Indian professions such as AYUSH practitioners, yoga instructors, Indian chefs, and music teachers, as well as high-demand sectors, including IT, engineering, healthcare, education, and construction, strengthening workforce mobility and services trade.

Further under the pact, New Zealand will set up a dedicated Agri-Technology Action Plan on kiwifruit, apples and honey with a view to help Indian farmers enhance productivity and quality.

The cooperation includes the establishment of centres of excellence, improved planting material, capacity building for growers and technical support for orchard management, post-harvest practices, supply chain performance, and food safety.