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From seas to skies, India becoming increasingly self-reliant: Modi

itage, he said the Central Sanskrit University in Delhi is launching a B Tech program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

"This marks a crucial step towards integrating modern technology with India's traditional knowledge," he said.

Modi said Indian culture is reaching various corners of the globe, noting that in the Dominican Republic, where the Indian population is just around 100, a team has been formed by some Spanish-speaking locals who have named it as 'Brahmakamal Dominicana.'

"The members study Vedic literature together and are learning to chant Vedic mantras. They have received no formal training on this; but they have learnt the correct pronunciation by listening to audio recordings," he said.

The prime minister also spoke about the superstition surrounding the Hargila bird in Assam, which plays a vital role in keeping nature clean.

"Hargila was considered inauspicious in certain parts of Assam and trees housing Hargila nests were even cut down," he said, adding biologist Purnima Devi Barman witnessed this and resolved to change the misconceptions deeply rooted in people's minds.

"She spoke to women and explained the facts based on science; gradually, women began joining this campaign. Then, a major transformation began. The bird that was once driven away as a bad omen started becoming the identity of the villages," he said.

Modi said far more young people are now pursuing sports as a career and shared that a special initiative has been taken in Nagaland where the 'Nagaland Baby League' of football was launched.

Children, both boys and girls aged 5 to 12 can participate in it. "It not only inspires them and nurtures their speed and talent but also helps establish their identity," he said.

Talking about Meghalaya's root bridges, Modi said India has now sought inclusion of the root bridges in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Network.

He said climate change poses several challenges to these root bridges but people of Meghalaya have admirably shouldered the responsibility of preserving this natural heritage.

"Today, local residents look after more than 120 root bridges. Some teams inspect the condition of these bridges annually, and some individuals have even established nurseries to strengthen the surrounding areas. An entire ecosystem has thus developed around their conservation," he said.

Modi also spoke about how some women from Biaoira in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh have resolved to remove plastic waste in their area.

Instead of waiting for someone else to bring about the change, they took the initiative to collect plastic waste and empty bottles from across the town themselves and gradually, this effort expanded, and the collected plastic began to be converted into eco-bricks.

"Today, these very eco-bricks are being used to beautify public spaces. In Rajgarh, hundreds of kilograms of plastic has been recycled and put to productive use over the past few months. In other words, the plastic that once polluted the city is now contributing to its beauty, thanks to the efforts of these women," he said.

Referring to the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in September, he said many people have written to him suggesting that he should speak on a topic related to Ganesh Utsav, even though the festival is still quite some time away.

He said the work of crafting Ganesh idols begins well in advance and idol makers and those involved in the idol trade become active right now.

"Therefore, I urge all of you... please make an effort to ensure that the idol of Ganpati Bappa installed in your home, society, or neighbourhood is made from the soil of our own country and crafted by the hands of our own potters and local artisans.

"I also urge those who make Ganesh idols to prioritise clay idols, and I ask buyers to check what the idol is made of and which country it was produced in," he said.

LG visits Baltal, reviews preparations for pilgrimage

robust coordination for the safety and security of all pilgrims.

Stressing the importance of efficient pilgrim management, he instructed the departments concerned to increase the number of on-the-spot registration counters to facilitate quicker registration and minimize waiting time for devotees.

The deputy commissioner, Ganderbal, presented a comprehensive overview of the preparations of line departments ahead of the annual yatra.

The senior superintendent of police, Ganderbal, briefed the meeting on the security plan, including deployment of personnel, area domination, surveillance measures, access control, traffic management and emergency response mechanisms.

The meeting was attended by SASB member K N Rai, DGP Nalin Prabhakar, special DG (coordination, PHQ) S J M Gillani, LG's principal secretary & SASB CEO Mandeep K Bhandari, divisional commissioner (Kashmir) Anshul Garg, JKPDC managing director Rahul Yadav, IGP V K Birdi, IGP traffic M Suleman Choudhary, DIG CKR Rajiv Omprakashn, Ganderbal DC Jatin Kishore, Ganderbal SSP Sudhanshu Dhama, director information Shreya Singhal, DG, rural sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra and senior officers of civil administration, police and security forces.

Accompanied by senior officers, the LG later took stock of the health, lodging, and other pilgrim-centric facilities at the base camp.

He interacted with service providers and officials and directed them to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness, upkeep, and pilgrim-service management.

Sinha also visited the Baltal Base Camp Hospital, where he inspected the healthcare infrastructure, including wards, laboratories, emergency facilities and patient care arrangements.

He interacted with doctors, paramedical staff and healthcare workers, appreciating their commitment and directed them to ensure round-the-clock availability of quality medical services, adequate medicines, emergency equipment and specialist care for the pilgrims throughout the yatra.

Interacting with the media persons, the LG said: "Preparations for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra have been underway for the past several months with the joint efforts of the shrine board, the administration, Government of India and all concerned departments. Comprehensive security and other arrangements are in place. I am hopeful this year's yatra will surpass the numbers of previous years".

Sinha greets people on Kabir Jayanti

and social justice continues to inspire across generations," the LG said.

"On this sacred day, let us internalise his teachings and rededicate ourselves to serving humanity with selflessness, devotion, and compassion," he added.

CB registers FIR in Grameen Bank fraud case

ter complaints forwarded by the Crime Headquarters, through the director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, were received from the chief of audits, inspection and vigilance of the bank, officials said.

During an internal inquiry, officials said it was found that at the Kaluchak branch, 58 loan accounts under 15 joint liability groups (JLGs) and two cash credit limit accounts were allegedly opened and operated fraudulently without the knowledge or consent of the account holders concerned, resulting in a suspected fraud of approximately Rs 42 lakh.

It was further revealed that around Rs 12 lakh was allegedly diverted to bank accounts reportedly maintained in the name of deceased senior manager Bhagwan Singh Saini, while the remaining loan amounts were allegedly withdrawn through ATMs.

The inquiry also disclosed that a daily wager engaged at the branch had allegedly admitted to utilising loan proceeds of Rs 2 lakh in one JLG account for personal use, following which recovery was affected in two accounts, officials said.

In a separate complaint relating to the Surankote branch, the official said allegations were made against branch head Rohit Kumar and others regarding unauthorised transactions and debits amounting to Rs 7.37 lakh, besides fraudulent sanction and withdrawal of loans worth about Rs 19 lakh through five fake loan accounts allegedly opened without the knowledge or consent of the borrowers.

The accounts were subsequently shown as settled or closed allegedly to reconcile the branch's cash position, officials said.

On the basis of the complaints and the findings of the preliminary verification, which disclosed a prima facie commission of cognisable offences, the police station Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu registered a case against Rohit Kumar and other suspected persons for in-depth investigation.

Ladakh welcomes Dalai Lama

with the grand celebrations expected to attract devotees and Buddhists from across the Himalayan region, officials said.

The Tibet spiritual leader's two-month stay in Ladakh will also include religious teachings, public audiences and interactions with devotees in the Union Territory, the officials added.

Justice Narasimha to be part of SC collegium

he retires on May 2, 2028. Justice Maheshwari retired on Sunday, demitting office after a nearly five-year tenure.

The Collegium will now comprise Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice B V Nagarathna, Justice M M Sundresh and Justice P S Narasimha.

Under the Collegium system, which came into existence in 1993 after a Supreme Court judgement, five top judges of the apex court recommend the appointment, transfer and elevation of judges to the Supreme Court and 25 high courts.

The government can return the recommendation to the Collegium under this system. While it usually accepts the recommendation if it is reiterated by the Collegium, there have been cases when the government returned the file or did not respond to the recommendation.

Born on May 3, 1963, in Hyderabad, Justice Narasimha graduated with triple majors in economics, political science and public administration from the Nizam College, Hyderabad, and pursued law at the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, in 1988.

Enrolled as an advocate in the same year, he practised in the high court, civil courts and tribunals in Hyderabad, before shifting his counsel practice to the Supreme Court.

He appeared in a large number of cases before the Supreme Court, including those of the Constitution benches.

During this time, he was appointed the commission counsel for the Justice Chinnappa Reddy Commission. He was also a member of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee.

Justice Narasimha was designated as a senior advocate by the full court of the Supreme Court in 2008. As a senior advocate, he appeared in many public law cases involving constitutional, administrative and environmental issues.

He was appointed the additional solicitor general of India in 2014. During that time, he assisted the court as a law officer in several landmark cases, including the NJAC case before a Constitution bench.

He was also part of a Supreme Court delegation to the Canadian Supreme Court, where he presented a paper on extradition and the environment.

Justice Narasimha was elevated as a Supreme Court judge directly from the Bar on August 31, 2021.

India, Seychelles unveil 19

outcomes spanning def, space
tual ground-breaking ceremony for a Professional and Technical Education Centre, the MEA said in a series of posts on X.

The two countries also signed an agreement between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), International Payments Limited, and the Central Bank of Seychelles to advance UPI-based digital payments in the archipelagic nation and deepen economic and technological cooperation.

An agreement between HLL Lifecare Ltd. and Seychelles' health ministry under the Jan Aushadhi scheme aims to facilitate access to good quality and affordable Indian medicines, while another memorandum of understanding provides for preliminary preparations for the new Seychelles National Hospital, the MEA said.

The two sides also concluded agreements on diplomatic training between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and Seychelles' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, agriculture research and education, recognition of training and certification of seafarers serving on Seychelles-flagged vessels, and cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, the MEA added.

The outcomes were announced after delegation-level talks between Modi and Herminie during the Prime Minister's three-day state visit to Seychelles, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister, who is undertaking the state visit at the invitation of President Herminie, will participate in the National Day celebrations of Seychelles as the Guest of Honour.

After 15-yr-wait, 263 CRPF officers get first promotion

officers to Deputy Commandant (DC). The AC rank is the entry-level officer post in the central forces.

"The development is significant because it will act as a morale booster for the officers who waited 14-15 years for their first promotion, which should ideally have come in five years," a senior CRPF officer said.

A Supreme Court order issued on April 16 clarified the position in this context.

The CRPF headquarters subsequently followed up with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), leading to the issuance of the much-delayed order, the officer said.

He said the newly promoted officers will, however, continue to serve in their current positions because their posting orders could not be issued immediately due to "operational and administrative constraints".

The CRPF called the development a "significant milestone" on its social media post on X.

Numerous field units where these officers are posted are holding rank pinning ceremonies to honour the newly promoted men and women. A second officer said these orders will further impact lower-rank personnel, as promotions to the AC rank will now occur from the Inspector rank, creating a ripple effect for other subordinate ranks.

PTI reported in April that CRPF Director General GP Singh, during an official event, assured officers and jawans of the force that efforts were ongoing to expeditiously resolve the "biggest problem" of stagnation in promotions in the force.

The CRPF, a 3.25-lakh-strong Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the MHA, is the country's lead internal security force. It is deployed to counter Naxal violence, North Eastern insurgencies, and terrorist-affected regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

India trashes Pak allegations on Karachi terror attack

that terrorist groups are increasingly exploiting social media, instant messaging and streaming platforms to raise and move funds, as digital technologies create new avenues for financing terror activities.

In its latest report, the global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing watchdog said the rapid evolution of social media, messaging and streaming platforms (SMSPs) had significantly expanded the financial tools available to terrorist networks.

"Once used primarily for communication and propaganda, these platforms now incorporate payment systems, virtual assets, creator monetisation features and cross-border financial services, making them attractive channels for fundraising and financial transfers," it noted.

Cabinet reshuffle buzz gains momentum

"Team Nitin Nabin" is likely to be announced soon, as the BJP top brass is believed to have finalised the list, with younger faces expected to be deployed in prominent organisational roles.

The sources indicate that the BJP president also held consultations with a few Union ministers of state last week.

There are strong possibilities of some Union ministers being sent to take organisational roles in the BJP and party office-bearers being inducted into the Modi ministry.

Speculation is also rife about portfolio changes for some ministers, while the future of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is under a cloud, given a spate of controversies relating to matters under his ministry, especially the NEET paper leak and irregularities in the CBSE digital marking system.

The sources suggested that the reshuffle, if it happens, may take place sometime in July, ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament which normally begins in the third week of the month.

The date for the ministerial shake-up is expected to be fixed taking into account the prime minister's packed schedule.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day tour to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, and he is also likely to travel to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand between July 6 and 11. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is also scheduled to visit New Delhi from July 1 to 3.

Sources indicate a growing view among the government's top brass that key ministries need fresh blood.

Additionally, there are political compulsions to balance the cabinet based on regional, state, caste and loyalty factors.

Two Union ministers - Pankaj Chaudhary and Harsh Malhotra - have already been given the responsibility to head the party units of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, respectively.

It is highly likely that the BJP will follow its 'one man, one post' rule, which would lead to their exit from the government.

Two other Union ministers - George Kurian and Ravneet Singh Bittu - were not renominated by the BJP for the recently concluded Rajya Sabha elections. Their tenures in the Upper House concluded on June 21.

While Kurian has already resigned from his post, Bittu continues to be a minister. It is learnt that he has been asked by the top brass to focus on the upcoming Punjab elections.

Bittu, a former Congress leader and grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, is a prominent face of the influential Jat Sikh community.

More representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab are likely to find a place in the Modi ministry, as Assembly elections are due in these three states next year.

Following the BJP's landslide victory in West Bengal, some of its MPs from the state could be inducted into the Union Ministry.

There is a possibility that a few representatives of the rebel Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) groups will secure ministerial berths.

While the 20 rebel TMC MPs announced their merger with the West Bengal-based Nationalist Citizens Party of India and declared their allegiance to the ruling NDA, the six dissident Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs have joined the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

It is also suggested that a senior functionary of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena may be inducted as a Cabinet minister.

One or two faces among the seven Rajya Sabha MPs who deserted the Aam Aadmi Party to join the BJP could find a place in the council of ministers, the sources said.

However, any decision to induct members from the breakaway TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) factions will depend on the Lok Sabha Speaker's ruling, given that their respective parent parties have sought their disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.

The reshuffle buzz intensified after Prime Minister Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 23, on the sidelines of a Padma Awards function.

The speculation was further fuelled two days later, on June 25, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah also called on the President.

Officials described the meetings as courtesy calls, insisting that the two leaders routinely meet the President at regular intervals.

However, it is highly probable that the reshuffle issue came up during the prime minister's meeting with the Pres-

ident.

The Rajya Sabha terms of two Union ministers - Hard-eep Puri and BL Verma - will end in November, and it remains to be seen what decision the top brass takes regarding their renomination to the Upper House.

Three governors - Thawar Chand Gehlot (Karnataka), Mangubhai Patel (Madhya Pradesh) and Lt General Gurmit Singh (Uttarakhand) - are set to complete their terms in the coming months. Gehlot and Patel in July, and Singh in September.

There is a possibility that some ministers exiting the government could be given gubernatorial assignments.

However, informed circles note that Prime Minister Modi always keeps major decisions under wraps until the last minute, and a clear picture will emerge only when a formal announcement is made.

CEC arrives; to interact with grassroots-level poll officials

and other stakeholders of Budgam district on Monday morning, officials said, adding that the visit was part of the Election Commission's efforts to strengthen engagement with voters and electoral stakeholders, enhance field-level preparedness and promote democratic participation and awareness.

Iran attacks Bahrain, Kuwait following US strikes

lating the Cease Fire Agreement, AGAIN!" He warned of a point where the US may no longer be able to be reasonable, "and will be forced to militarily complete the job."

"If that happens, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The incident follows a similar back-and-forth that occurred just days prior, when an Iranian drone struck a merchant vessel off the coast of Oman on Thursday, and the US military retaliated with strikes.

According to ship tracking websites, the Kiku left a Qatari oil field in the middle of the Persian Gulf earlier in the week and was bound for a port in the United Arab Emirates that sits on the Gulf of Oman, just on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz.

It appeared to be attempting to use a route that was established near the coast of Oman, which is serving as an alternative to the route sanctioned by Iran that runs through its own waters.

The US military said that "Iran had a chance to honour the ceasefire agreement" but "elected not to" when its forces attacked the Kiku.

After the US strikes early Sunday, Kuwait's military said air defences intercepted incoming Iranian drones and missiles. It offered no immediate information on any damage. Kuwait is home to a major US Army base.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry issued a statement denouncing what it called "a dangerous escalation that reveals that what Tehran is doing is not a passing act, nor an isolated incident, but rather a deliberate approach and a systematic pattern of repeated aggression against the sovereignty of the kingdom, and the security of its citizens and residents."

Bahrain is home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet, whose base there came under repeated attack during the war.

The Guard claimed responsibility for both attacks, saying it targeted Al Asad Air Base in Kuwait.

"Let the enemy know that violating the ceasefire ... will lead to a complete halt of ongoing processes," the Guard added.

The Guard, which controls Iran's ballistic missile arsenal, answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei and is thought to be wielding even greater influence now in the Islamic Republic.

3 Pak Rangers killed in terrorist attack at Karachi

pressed condolences to their families and wished the wounded a speedy recovery in a statement issued by his office. He also praised the sacrifices of Pakistan's security forces in the fight against militancy and reaffirmed the nation's resolve to eliminate terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the attack and praised security forces for repelling the assault.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks targeting police and security forces in recent years.

The military said operations were still underway to eliminate any remaining accomplices of the attackers.

VB G RAM G will only guarantee centralisation: Cong

other relevant stakeholders. Now it emerges that several states have raised concerns regarding its substitute VB G RAM G scheduled for launch from July 1, Ramesh said on X.

BJP-governed states like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand have opposed the huge additional expenditure burden that is set to be levied on states, he said.

Four other state governments have opposed the blackout period of the scheme during the peak agricultural season, Ramesh said, adding at least five states have sought an increase in the wages of rural workers.

The Rural Development Minister's (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) own home state Madhya Pradesh was voicing concerns around the Modi government's new pet project, Ramesh said.

"MGNREGA guaranteed right to work derived from the Constitution. VB G RAM G will guarantee only centralisation and further financial stress on states," Ramesh said.

The Congress has alleged that the only guarantee that the law offers is that of "extreme centralisation" and "weakening of the bargaining power of rural labour".

The Centre had announced that the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act will come into force across the country from July 1, replacing the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The new Act will have a fresh framework that promises 125 days of statutory wage employment to rural households.

Putin vows to ensure Russia's security amid Ukraine strikes

proximately 700 kilometers from our border," Zelensky said on X on Sunday.

Last week, another Ukrainian attack caused a major fire at a refinery in the southeast of Moscow, shrouding the capital's suburbs in plumes of thick black smoke.

Russian-annexed Crimea on Friday declared an "emergency situation" in a bid to ease the fallout from increasing Ukrainian aerial attacks on the peninsula.

The territory grapples with fuel shortages and power cuts triggered by Ukrainian attacks on logistics chains and oil facilities across Crimea, other Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine and southern Russia.

Russia seized and annexed Crimea in 2014, though the vast majority of countries -- including many of Moscow's allies -- do not recognise the move.