

Have to isolate 'Dimaagi Naxals' looking to create unrest: Modi

ernment's battle was not limited to armed insurgents. He said people with a Maoist mindset had found influence within the corridors of power and alleged such groups sought to incite violence and anarchy and used different methods to push society along the "wrong path".

"In the forests, in the deep jungles, we have succeeded in eliminating armed Naxals and liberating the country from that crisis. However, while the armed Naxals have been rooted out, the Dimagi Naxals remain," he said.

He called for this vigilance against this ideological challenge, signalling that the government's approach to Left-wing extremism would increasingly focus not only on armed cadres but also on what it considers their ideological and institutional supporters.

"For four decades, huge areas and people were in their clutches under the fear of guns.Over 3,500 security personnel died protecting people; the number is higher than those who die in war," he said.

Modi added, "For years, those with Naxal mentality had their place in the power corridors. They were in government committees as advisors. Maoist thinking impacted policies.

With March 2026 set as the deadline, security agencies intensified anti-Maoist operations over the past few years across the areas historically known as the "Red Corridor", spanning Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Several Maoists have been killed in encounters, while hundreds of cadres have surrendered. Many have also been killed, arrested or forced to surrender. The latest major breakthrough came with the arrest of Misir Besra in June, who was India's last active Maoist politburo member, who carried a bounty of Rs 1 cr.

"India has transformed from 'Fragile Five' to the world's fastest-growing major economy in the last 12 years,"he said as he highlighted the strides the country made during his tenure.

The world had dumped India's economy in the 'Fragile Five', he said.

However, India has, within just 12 years, emerged as the world's fastest-growing major economy, he said.

After Independence in 1947, the prime minister said, India had big dreams, but progress often fell short of the pace the country aspired to achieve.

Today, India is moving ahead with unprecedented speed and confidence, and now, no force can stop the resolve of 140 crore Indians, he added.

He said India has a big dream to build a Viksit Bharat, or Developed India, by 2047, powered by the strength and resolve of 140 crore Indians.

"When the world's most populous nation sets its sights on becoming a developed country, it sends a powerful message to the world and is reshaping how the world sees India," he said, adding that any nation becomes great when it achieves its accomplishments.

Highlighting the achievements of his government in the past 12 years, Modi said defence production has increased four times, electronic manufacturing has risen seven times, modern railway coach production has increased 21 times, internet users have increased four times, and digital transactions have expanded 100 times.

He also said the country is moving towards becoming a major player in the semiconductor sector.

India has already begun production at three semiconductor plants, and five to eight more plants are expected to come up in the coming years, the prime minister said.

The prime minister also spoke on emerging technologies and announced that one crore youth will be trained in skills related to artificial intelligence (AI).

"Every heart is vibrating with Vande Mataram. There is a tricolour in every house, every heart. With a new energy, the nation is moving ahead with new resolve," he said.

Earlier in the morning, he unfurled the tricolour at the Red Fort after receiving a guard of honour.

An Army band played the tune of Vande Mataram as guests present on the occasion sung the national song.

Flower petals were showered at the venue by two Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force - one trooping the national flag and the other carrying a flag depicting 'Vande Mataram'.

He highlighted that the country saw numerous achievements in the digital and innovation sector as well.

"Internet consumers increased by four times. Grant of patents went up by four times. Digital transactions increased by 100 per cent," Modi added.

The Prime Minister assured families affected by floods and landslides in several parts of the country that the government stands with them and shares their pain.

Modi said, "My dear Indians, in the past few days, some parts of the country have witnessed floods and landslides, and many families have been affected. We fully understand their pain and suffering. I assure the affected families that the entire country stands with them."

He expressed solidarity with those affected by the natural calamities.

This year, heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have affected several parts of the country, including Assam, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Nagaland. Rains have caused flooding and landslides in several areas, affecting people and disrupting normal life.

The Prime Minister highlighted the pace of railway electrification under his government, saying 70 per cent of the network was electrified in 10 years compared with 30 per cent in the previous 90 years.

Modi said railway electrification had begun in 1925 but only 30 per cent of the network was electrified in the next 90 years.

"We completed 100 per cent electrification in just one decade. Thirty per cent in 90 years and 70 per cent in 10 years - this is the pace of work," he said.

He said electrification has helped save imported diesel and benefited the environment as trains are increasingly powered by electricity.

Modi also highlighted India's entry into the green hydrogen train sector, saying the country had started a train powered by green hydrogen.

"What is special is that it is the longest and most powerful train, and India has also made its mark in the field of hydrogen trains in the world," he said.

India's first indigenous hydrogen powered train was flagged off by Modi on July 17, 2026, marking a step towards adopting hydrogen-based technology in the railways. The service runs on an 89-km Jind-Sonipat section of the Northern Railways in Haryana.

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The prime minister said India's semiconductor journey reflects its growing technological self-reliance.

Over the next seven-eight years, five-eight more plants are expected to come up, strengthening India's path towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, the prime minister announced.

Safeguarding freedom truest tribute to freedom fighters: LG

Acknowledging the challenges ahead, he expressed strong confidence in India's potential to emerge as a global

leader. Sinha emphasised that citizens must unite to foster an inclusive society that prioritises public interest and extends compassion to the underprivileged.

"Let us strive for the balanced growth and economic empowerment of women to build a more humane and compassionate society. We must prioritise empowering women and youth, generating jobs and ensuring environmental sustainability. Our ongoing initiatives, such as revitalising heritage sites, restoring ancient monuments and undertaking massive afforestation drives, stand as a testament to our steadfast commitment to sustainable development," he said.

He also emphasised the importance of every citizen's active contribution to realising the vision of a self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir and Viksit Bharat by 2047, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Calling upon all the citizens of UT of Jammu & Kashmir to dedicate themselves in nation-building, the LG underscored the necessity of transparency and accountability in governance.

He congratulated all the brave personnel of the J&K police and CAPFs who received gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day, while also commending sportspersons for their exceptional achievements and contribution to the Union Territory's pride.

He urged everyone to renew their commitment to serving the nation with greater vigour, sincerity, and dedication

Army dog honoured on I-Day

Despatches (MiD) approved by President Droupadi Murmu on I-Day eve on Friday.

Tyson is the only animal hero among the 89 personnel chosen for MiD, which is an official military commendation recognising bravery and meritorious service in a combat zone.During Operation Trashi-I in Chatroo belt of J&K's Kishtwar district on Feb 22 this year, Tyson scouted ahead of the troops and located a hidden terrorist hideout.

"Tyson displayed extraordinary courage by taking the first bullet while leading the entry into the terrorists' hideout. Undeterred by his injuries, he pressed forward and launched a fierce assault, compelling the terrorists to open fire and thereby confirming their presence. His fearless action enabled troops of White Knight Corps, J&K police and CRPF to precisely engage and neutralise three Pakistan-sponsored terrorists," Army had said in a post on X.

Tyson was then airlifted to Command Hospital, Udhampur, for emergency treatment and has now recovered. "Wounded yet in high spirits, alert and recovering well, Tyson exemplifies unwavering devotion to duty, a true warrior and a soldier in every sense," Army said later.

Tyson is part of the elite squad of Army assault dogs, which are trained like soldiers for high-risk operations. They are used in a situation where a human soldier may be exposed to immediate danger, locating hidden terrorists, detecting threats and helping troops establish the enemy's position.

The honour formally acknowledges the frontline role military dogs play in counter-terror operations. Mention-in-Despatches recipients do not receive a gallantry medal, but they get an official certificate and the right to wear a specific emblem on the ribbon of their campaign medal.

'Terrorists' sighted in Ramnagar woods

security agencies rushed to the forest area and launched a combing operation to track down the suspected terrorists, officials said.

Searches were continuing at multiple locations when reports last came in but forces were yet to establish any contact with the suspects, the officials added.

'Vande Mataram' played at Red Fort on I-Day

the Red Fort amid patriotic fervour and multi-layer security.

"For everyone present at this ceremony today, this is also a historic moment. For the first time since independence, Vande Mataram is echoing from the Red Fort on August 15. And as we celebrate 150 years of Vande Mataram today, what could be a more wonderful occasion than this," he said in his 75-minute address.

Soon after the prime minister's arrival on the ramparts of the Red Fort, an Army band played the tune of 'Vande Mataram' as the guests present on the occasion sang the national song. This was followed by the prime minister unfurling the national flag, and then the national anthem was recited.

Programme booklets issued for guests contained the event details as well as the full six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram'.

After the flag unfurling, the tricolour received a 'Rashtriya Salute'.

Written in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, 'Vande Mataram' turned into a rallying cry during the freedom movement. It was adopted as India's national song by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.

The government last November launched a year-long celebration to mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'.

'Vande Mataram' was initially composed independently and later included in Chatterjee's novel 'Anandamath'. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Congress Session in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

The chant 'Vande Mataram' as a political slogan was first used on August 7, 1905, according to a note '150 Years of Vande Mataram: A Melody That Became a Movement', shared by the government on November 6 last year.

'Vande Mataram' was first published in the literary journal 'Bangadarshan' on November 7, 1875. Later, Chatterjee incorporated the hymn in his novel 'Anandamath', which was published in 1882. It was set to music by Tagore, it said.

Omar unfurls Tricolour, commits to take J&K to new heights

the words beautifully capture the love, pride and emotional bond that people share with their country.

"Independence Day is an occasion to reflect on whether the India envisioned by those who made the supreme sacrifice had been fully realized and, if not, what more needs to be done," he said.

"Today is a day of joy, a day of remembrance and a day of gratitude," he said, paying tributes to all those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the nation and reaffirming the commitment to build an India marked by greater progress, peace, brotherhood and happiness.

He reiterated that his government's resolve is to build a stronger Jammu & Kashmir and take it to next level in terms of development, prosperity and progress, while working for the restoration of its statehood and constitutional guarantees.

He said the government would continue to represent, serve and work for the people of Jammu & Kashmir and strive to fulfil the dreams of those who sacrificed their lives

for the freedom and future of the region.

"We will continue to represent you. We will continue to serve you. We will continue to do our work to bring Jammu and Kashmir to that level," the chief minister said, assuring the people that the government would work to make their aspirations a reality.

He said the government was committed to fight for the restoration of the constitutional guarantees of Jammu & Kashmir, regaining its statehood and ushering in a new era of progress and development.

"Whether it is to bring Jammu & Kashmir to that level again, whether it is to restore the constitutional guarantees of Jammu and Kashmir, whether it is to regain the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, or whether it is to start a new era of progress in J&K, your government is not only a promise for all these things, but your government will make it a reality," he said.

He said the government's efforts were aimed at ensuring that every young person in every village could see a ray of hope and feel that Jammu & Kashmir was moving from uncertainty towards a better future.

He emphasised that development, prosperity and employment opportunities could not be achieved through words alone and that the real test lies in translating commitments into action.

Reflecting on the 80 years since Independence, he said the occasion was not only one of celebration but also of remembrance, gratitude and introspection about the India envisioned by those who made the supreme sacrifice for its freedom.

He underlined that democracy and federalism were among the two biggest strengths of the country and stressed the need to preserve, strengthen and deepen both.

"Our country is a Union of States," he said, asserting that strengthening federalism required strengthening the states and ensuring that their constitutional powers and responsibilities were respected.

Omar said that when the powers of states were eroded or central agencies interfered in areas falling within the states' domain, federalism was weakened. He cited education and health as areas where states traditionally had an important role and said that national-level examinations for national institutions were legitimate, while state institutions should retain the right to conduct their own examinations and admissions.

He also stressed the importance of restoring public trust in recruitment and admission processes at the Centre, saying that while it takes only moments to lose trust in a system, rebuilding it requires years of sustained effort.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, whether it is admission, recruitment or any other process, it should be transparent, merit-based and fair, so that those who genuinely deserve a job or a seat get their rightful opportunity," he said.

He paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country and recalled the contribution of the people of Jammu & Kashmir who fought against tribal raiders and infiltrators in 1947, even before the Indian Army reached the region.

Remembering Late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, he said the contribution of the people of J&K to defending the region could not be forgotten while reflecting on Independence Day.

Referring to the situation across the Line of Control, he said that looking at the circumstances there today reinforced his belief that the decision taken by the leaders of Jammu & Kashmir 80 years ago was the right one.

He recalled the sacrifice of brave people who raised the call of "Hamlavar Khabardar, Hum Kashmiri HainTayyaar" and those who made the supreme sacrifice in resisting the tribal invasion.

He particularly remembered Master Abdul Aziz, a National Conference leader who was killed in Muzaffarabad while resisting the tribal attack.

Referring to the situation in the part of Jammu & Kashmir under Pakistan's occupation, he said the people living there were not strangers but part of the same land and people of Jammu & Kashmir.

"We consider those people as our own, not strangers," he said, adding that the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly continues to keep seats vacant for them in the hope that one day the people of that part of J&K would be able to occupy those seats.

He said that the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu & Kashmir eight decades ago continued to hold relevance and that their aspirations had to be honoured through peace, development, democracy and justice.

Calling for continuous engagement between the government and the people, the chief minister said governance could be meaningful only when the government remained connected with the aspirations and expectations of the people.

He said the government had the responsibility to work, the Opposition had the responsibility to question and hold the government accountable inside and outside the Legislative Assembly, while the media had an important role in questioning both.

He said the government had been working for almost the last two years for the betterment, development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This government is your government. It is working for you. It is working for the betterment and development of Jammu and Kashmir. It is working for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He chose not to read out the official speech and the list of achievements of his government and said it should be deemed to have been read.

Concluding his address, he congratulated the people on Independence Day and expressed hope that the next 80 years of the country would be more magnificent than the previous eight decades, marked by greater progress, brotherhood, peace and happiness.

"Jai Hind. Jai Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The chief minister also inspected the parade and took salute at an impressive march past of the contingents comprising of J&K Police, Security forces, school students, besides Brass & Pipe bands of J&K Police and school students.

Several cultural programmes, showcasing the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, were also presented on the occasion, drawing applause from the Chief Guest and the audience.

The function was also attended by NC president Farooq Abdullah, several MLAs, senior officers of the J&K civil and police administration, and a large gathering of people.

The CM also presented awards to outstanding officers and employees in recognition of their contribution to public service.

He also gave away prizes among the students, members of police, para-military, J&K Sports Council and artists from Cultural Academy for their performances which were rated by a jury present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, he also paid floral tributes at Balidan Stambh in Srinagar to honour the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs as the nation celebrated its 80th Independence Day on Saturday.

The CM laid a wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence as a mark of respect for those who laid down their lives in the service of nation.

DGP Nalin Prabbhat, ADGP Headquarters, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, senior officers and security personnel were among those present on the occasion.

Saxena hoists Tricolour at Polo Ground

salute of the marching contingents amid the cheering of the crowd.

In his address, he paid tributes to the countless freedom fighters whose courage and sacrifice secured India's Independence and laid the foundation of the country's democratic journey.

He also saluted the officers and jawans of the Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, Ladakh Scouts, Police and Border Roads Organisation guarding the nation's borders in the challenging terrain and harsh climate of Ladakh.

He highlighted the creation of Ladakh as a separate Union Territory in 2019 as a significant milestone in its development journey. With the support of the Government of India and in response to the aspirations of the people, the L-G said, the Administration has focused on strengthening infrastructure, governance, healthcare, education, tourism, renewable energy, agriculture, water security, connectivity and social welfare.

He said the creation of five new districts-Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass-and 17 new tehsils and 16 new engineering divisions had brought administration and public services closer to the people. He also highlighted the ongoing process of establishing Hill Councils in all seven districts to strengthen grassroots democracy and ensure development is tailored to local needs.

The LG also highlighted the transformation in tourism and connectivity. Ladakh received more than 3.30 lakh tourists by the end of July 2026, nearly 98 per cent of the total tourist arrivals recorded during the entire year 2025. The road network has expanded from 1,799 km before the formation of the UT to over 4,200 km, while the number of bridges has increased from 19 to 72. The Zojila Tunnel, Leh Bypass and other strategic infrastructure projects are further strengthening all-weather connectivity.

Emphasising sustainable development, Saxena highlighted initiatives including Project Him Sarovar, Himalayan rock check dams, the Indus River Green Corridor, expansion of tap-water coverage, renewable energy projects and the commissioning of geothermal wells at Puga. He also highlighted measures to strengthen the Pashmina sector, including the establishment of the Ladakh Pashmina Development Board, incentives to more than 1,200 pashmina producers and an ₹8 crore revolving fund for timely payments.

He expressed gratitude to farmers, Changpa herders, teachers, doctors, nurses, health workers, engineers and all citizens whose dedication has contributed to Ladakh's progress. He called upon the youth to acquire knowledge, embrace innovation and seize the opportunities emerging in the rapidly changing Ladakh.

He stressed that development and environmental protection must go hand in hand, so that future generations inherit a Ladakh that remains prosperous, peaceful, vibrant and ecologically sustainable.

The LG expressed confidence that, with the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and continued support of the Government of India, Ladakh would continue to contribute significantly to the national goal of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The marching contingents comprising personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Ladakh Police, Ladakh Police Commando and ex-servicemen, besides NCC cadets from the 1st and 2nd Ladakh Battalions along students from schools across Leh, Kargil, Drass, Nubra, Sham, Changthang and Zaskar also participated in the march past, regaled the crowd with their synchronous marching parade.

A demonstration by the Ladakh Police K-9 Squad and a performance by the Ladakh Police Women Pipe Band were among the highlights of the celebrations. Cultural performances were presented by the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, schools and educational institutions from across the UT.

Government Higher Secondary School, Padul, secured first place in the march past, followed by GN National Public School and Jaffaria Academy of Modern Education in second and third positions. In cultural performances, Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School stood first, followed by Sindh Public School and Government School, Leh.

On the occasion, the LG's Appreciation Certificates were conferred on officials and organisations for exemplary work in their respective fields. The family of Late Col Sonam Wangchuk (Retd.) was conferred the dPalrNgam Duston Lifetime Achievement Award, while His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa was conferred the dPalrNgam Duston Award 2026.

NTA releases UGC-NET Answer Keys

to examine complaints received regarding various types of errors in the question papers, it said.

Based on the recommendations of the committee, a separate public notice concerning these three subjects will be issued later on Sunday, the NTA said.

The agency said candidates have been advised to rely only on information published on the official NTA website and its verified social media handles.

UGC-NET is conducted to determine the eligibility of candidates for the posts of Assistant Professor and admission to PhD programmes. The examination comprises two papers: Paper I, which includes 50 questions on teaching aptitude, reasoning ability, and general awareness, and Paper II, which contains 100 subject-related multiple-choice questions.The NTA also said that the joint CSIR UGC NET June 2026 candidates can also access the provisional answer key and challenge window.

"Please review the details carefully and use the official portal to submit challenges from 16 to 18 August 2026, up to 11:00 PM," it said.

The Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2026 examination were held on July 17 and 18 in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode to determine the eligibility for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as Assistant Professor, and admission to Ph.D. programmes in institutions across India.

Lead in determining use of technology to reshape legal system: CJI to NLU

However, he said, familiarity with technology alone would not be sufficient.

"A graduate who understands only the output of a technological tool would remain dependent on it, while one trained to question assumptions, verify conclusions and exercise independent judgment could use technology without surrendering responsibility," he said.

The CJI also addressed the growing debate over the use of generative AI in legal education.

Acknowledging legitimate concerns that students could become dependent on AI, lose the ability to construct arguments independently or mistake convincing-looking answers for accurate ones, he rejected an outright prohibition on such tools.