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'Viksit Bharat' seed has sprouted, historic milestones achieved: LG

member that history remembers civilisations for their economies and also for what they did with the resources and prosperity generated by those economies."

The LG identified five major challenges that eminent personalities, industries, business leaders, engineers must address together to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat.

"Transforming India's vast young population into a skilled workforce equipped with expertise in emerging technologies is important for us and also ensuring sustainable development by balancing progress with environmental responsibility. We also need to strengthen institutions by building transparent, accountable, and efficient institutions responsive to citizens' needs," he said.

"We should focus on ensuring balanced regional development by bridging gaps between advanced cities and underserved regions to create equitable growth. We must create the future rather than purchase it by becoming not just a consumer but a global creator of technologies, innovations, and ideas. We must resolve that we will not merely use artificial intelligence; we will also contribute to the future of artificial intelligence. We must resolve that we will not import innovation; we will export innovation," he added.

He also highlighted the transformation in Jammu & Kashmir, noting the region's immense potential in youth power, natural resources, tourism, horticulture, handicrafts, and hydropower.

He urged industry leaders to actively invest in the Union Territory, ensuring that it becomes a vital contributor to India's development story.

"PM Modi has created confidence and opened new avenues for the J&K youth. It is the collective responsibility of industry now to make Jammu & Kashmir a subject of constructive action. We must recognise its hydropower potential, and connect its horticulture, tourism and handicrafts with global markets. The intervention of industry leaders in every sector of Jammu & Kashmir will be an investment in India's future," Sinha said.

He reminded the IIT alumni and eminent personalities that India's cultural ethos has always emphasised collective well-being. He reiterated that the dream of Viksit Bharat is about historic GDP growth as well as creation of an inclusive and prosperous nation where development is the right of every citizen.

He called upon all stakeholders, industry leaders, policymakers, educators, and citizens, to reflect on the impact of their contributions on society. He urged the younger generation to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of 2047, when India will celebrate 100 years of independence, and to ensure that the nation's progress uplifts every region and community.

"The new generation, which will be at the peak of its careers and energy in 2047, must ask itself today- When India becomes a developed nation, what will you be creating? What impact will my creation have on society, and how will it affect people's lives? Although eminent personalities are engaged in different activities, I strongly believe that together they are creating one common thing- the future of India. We must contribute to the welfare of our country, society and humanity as a whole," he said.

MP Shashank Mani Tripathi, IIT Alumni Council president Ravi Sharma, NSE MD & CEO Ashish Chauhan, eminent alumni of IIT and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present on the occasion.

Araghchi dismisses Trump's sanctions threat as 'old bullying tactic'

According to IIRB, the Iranian Foreign Minister reiterated that the Islamic Republic remains undeterred by sanctions campaigns, maintaining that Washington's repeated reliance on coercive policies yields no results against the Iranian populace.

His remarks came after Trump announced what he called an "Economic D-Day" campaign against Iran, describing it as the "most crushing economic operation ever taken against any country."

Trump said the campaign would amount to "Economic Warfare and Isolation on an unprecedented scale" and called on US allies to join Washington in isolating Iran.

In response, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref on Saturday slammed Trump's latest economic pressure campaign, saying the country's experience shows that economic pressure cannot alter the Iranian people's resolve and instead produces the opposite result.

In a post on X, Aref said the Iranian government would not allow US "economic terrorism" to undermine the country's economic stability and people's livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian acknowledged that his country's citizens face "many problems", after the United States launched a new wave of sanctions seeking to further isolate its economy.

"I understand we have many problems in society right now. We are trying to prevent these as much as we can," he said in a speech broadcast on state television.

His comments came after the United States vowed last week to bring about the "collapse" of the Iranian regime through a newly announced sanctions campaign, nearly six months after the start of their war.

In his response, Pezeshkian said that, thanks to US President Donald Trump, Iran was "in a full-scale economic, military and security war".

Pak drone sighted near IB

utes. Soon thereafter, security forces launched searches in the area to find out if the quadcopter had dropped any payload - narcotics or weapons - before flying retreating to Pak territory, officials said.

Nothing objectionable had been recovered so far, the officials added.

House gives way to heavy rains

the building. Officials said the structure collapsed at about 7.30 am amid heavy rains, damaging household items.

Meanwhile, several parts of Jammu, including Tallab Tillo, Bhagwati Nagar, Krishna Nagar and Canal Road, witnessed extensive waterlogging following the rainfall, with rainwater entering some houses and shops.

Jammu city recorded the highest rainfall in J&K during the last 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Sunday, receiving 66 mm, followed by Udhampur (56 mm), Poonch (45 mm), Kokernag (42 mm) and Qazigund (32.6 mm).

From August 24 to 28, the weather was expected to remain generally hot and humid, with brief spells of rain or thunder-showers at scattered places, mainly during early morning and afternoon hours, MeT department said.

Govt pushes states to speed up PNG adoption

Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience.

"PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives. Its accelerated adoption contributes to reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution, enhancing consumer convenience, and improving utilisation of CGD infrastructure created through substantial public and private investment," Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry is seeking district-level intervention as it moves to implement a regulatory framework aimed at preventing house-

holds from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available.

The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households for cooking purposes, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year. LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those supplies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving through the Strait of Hormuz.

The disruption forced the government to prioritise domestic LPG supplies, with commercial and industrial consumers facing restrictions before supplies were progressively restored. India has since moved to diversify its LPG sourcing, including higher purchases from the US and Algeria, as it seeks to reduce its exposure to disruptions in Middle Eastern supplies.

Piped natural gas, by contrast, proved considerably more resilient during the crisis, particularly for domestic household consumers.

Domestic PNG supplies received priority allocation of domestically produced natural gas, insulating the segment from much of the disruption that affected imported LPG and LNG cargoes.

While industrial and commercial gas users with greater dependence on imported LNG faced some exposure, domestic PNG and CNG supplies were expected to remain largely unaffected.

The experience has strengthened the case for expanding city-gas infrastructure and shifting households towards piped cooking fuel as part of a broader strategy to reduce India's dependence on imported LPG and make the country's energy system more resilient to geopolitical and shipping disruptions.

To promote faster PNG adoption, the government has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Orders of 2026 and LPG Control Orders under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The orders prohibit households from retaining simultaneous LPG and PNG connections and provide for discontinuation of LPG supply to households that fail to apply for a PNG connection despite due notice, wherever PNG supply is available, Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry has directed authorised city gas distribution (CGD) entities and public-sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to establish a PNG Coordination Committee (PCC) in every geographical area.

The committees will identify eligible housing societies and households, issue statutory notices to housing societies, resident welfare associations and individual consumers, and conduct outreach camps to accelerate PNG connections.

The ministry said the PCC mechanism is already operational but its experience so far shows that district-level administrative support is crucial for implementing the transition within prescribed timelines.

The district administration will be expected to help secure right of way or right of use from RWAs and housing societies, facilitate the transition between LPG distributors and CGD entities, support consumer outreach and verification, and resolve consumer grievances.

It will also monitor PNG adoption in notified areas and, where required, enable designated officers to exercise powers under the control orders when access to non-public areas is refused.

The ministry said officials of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies are best placed to provide this support because of their existing regulatory interface with LPG distributors and their field-level administrative reach.

Mittal has, therefore, asked chief secretaries to direct their respective food and civil supplies departments to nominate one nodal officer at the district level, not below the rank of district supply officer, to be formally associated with the local PCC.

States and UTs have also been asked to provide the names, designations and contact details of the nominated officers at the earliest so that PCC members can coordinate with them and expedite PNG expansion.

The ministry asked states to accord priority to the matter, citing the government's commitment to expanding PNG adoption in a time-bound manner.

The push comes as India seeks to expand its city gas distribution network and shift more household cooking demand towards piped natural gas, potentially reducing the need to transport LPG cylinders over long distances and making greater use of infrastructure created through public and private investment.

Doval to visit China for boundary talks with FM Wang

round of SR talks on Tuesday, according to official sources.

Both Doval and Wang are the designated SRs for the boundary talks mechanism, which was established in 2003 to comprehensively address the vexed boundary dispute of the India-China border spanning 3,488 km.

While success eluded it in resolving the boundary dispute, officials on both sides regard the structured mechanism as a useful tool in addressing the recurring tensions between the two countries on various fronts. The upcoming talks assume significance as they are being held ahead of the much-anticipated visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India to attend the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

While there is no official confirmation about Xi's visit, officials on both sides are optimistic about the Chinese leader's participation, which could provide an opportunity for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit to discuss initiatives to take forward bilateral ties.

The two leaders met in August last year on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin.

Ahead of Doval-Wang talks in Beijing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday reiterated that peace and tranquillity along the border areas are prerequisite for good relations with China. His comments came amid reports of aggressive posturing by Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri region in recent weeks.

Earlier, New Delhi also trashed Beijing's criticism of its decision to formally identify 27 places and geographical features in Arunachal Pradesh by their standard names, emphasising that the state is an "inalienable and integral" part of India and nothing can change this "indisputable reality".

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, has been releasing its set of names for the region since 2017. India termed the Chinese move as "vain and preposterous", asserting that such actions will not alter the "undeniable" reality that the state "was, is, and will" always remain an integral part of India.

Anti-narcotics drives to begin from Sept

24 different special drives that will run for a fortnight each till August next year, officials said.

While an awareness program for students in schools and colleges is ongoing since August 16, the enforcement action drives will begin from September which includes a fortnight where foreigners who indulge in drug crimes will be identified across the country for deportation while the next 15-day drive will target absconding narcotics offenders, according to the action plan.

These fortnightly campaigns are intended to supplement the regular tasks and time-bound targets already earmarked for various agencies in the country under the national Vision Document for Narcotics Control 2026-29 that was unveiled recently, the officials said.

The NCB has said these coordinated nationwide fortnightly campaigns will not only strengthen inter-agency collaboration but also enhance public awareness and contribute significantly towards achieving the vision of Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drugs Free India).

India capable of becoming global shipbuilding hub: Rajnath

in the state.

The projects comprise three facilities of GRSE and two of Yantra India.

He also said that the West Bengal government will take steps to usher in a "new renaissance of development".

"Change in Bengal took place for development of the state. The news of closures and lockouts of factories in West Bengal has now been replaced by the launch of new projects," Singh said.

Speaking on the occasion, Adhikari alleged that previous governments in West Bengal did not work with the Centre for development of the state.

"Earlier governments in West Bengal did not work with the Centre for development of the state. The negativity of 50 years has ended, and our double-engine government will now ensure that the state advances," he asserted.

A GRSE official said that as part of its capacity expansion, the company has signed lease agreements with the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) for two small shipyards on either bank of the Hooghly, along with a 32-acre riverside property at Raichak, to enhance capabilities in warship construction and refit.

The Raichak facility will be developed as a shipbuilding hub with an investment of over Rs 2,500 crore, he said.

At Yantra India's Metal and Steel Factory (MSF), Ishapore, two facilities with a combined investment of over Rs 750 crore will strengthen indigenous metallurgical and defence manufacturing, the official said.

"These projects will strengthen the capabilities of GRSE, while supporting the revival of West Bengal's industrial ecosystem through employment generation and increased opportunities for ancillary industries, particularly MSMEs," he said.

Nabin holds strategy meet

bly polls due in seven states next year, including Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

The crucial meeting was attended by the newly-appointed office bearers of the party, presidents of its state units and other key functionaries. Those in-charge of the BJP state units were also present at the meeting held at the BJP headquarters here, according to sources.

BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh was also present at the meeting, which delved into measures for strengthening grassroots outreach and youth connect, especially in the states where elections are due next year, the sources said.

There was no official word from the BJP on what transpired in the meeting.

Assembly polls are due in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat in 2027. The BJP is in power in five of these poll-bound states, except Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. While the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) currently rules Punjab, the Congress is in power in Himachal Pradesh.

"A political compromise of 1937 cannot be elevated above the constitutional settlement of 1950 and legislation enacted by Parliament in 2026," the party stated in the resolution.

Destroyed during Op Sindoor, JeM's Bahawalpur base rebuilt

was reportedly spent specifically on rebuilding the central hall. The latest visuals show a significant speed in reconstruction, when compared with the visuals accessed by the news channel in April earlier this year. The footage had reportedly showed heavy machinery and construction vehicles at the compound, with repair work underway for the damaged domes.

A month later, in May, high-resolution imagery accessed by India Today TV had shown the domes appearing darker, allegedly implying fresh cement work on the structures. The most recent visuals show that the restoration has progressed substantially, with the damaged structures refurbished, the debris cleared and the complex appearing to be functional once more.

India had last year, after the Operation Sindoor strikes, said the armed forces had struck terror camps, airfields and aircraft in Pakistan in a calibrated operation. "We struck and decimated their 9 terrorist camps on 7th May. The proof is there for everybody to see. We struck 11 of their airfields. We destroyed 13 of their aircraft either on the ground or in the air, including one high-value airborne asset at a record distance of 300 kilometres plus," Air Marshal AK Bharti had said at the time.

US seeking to restrict Canada's leverage unacceptable: Carney

beneficial agreement but in recent days, the United States proposed new terms that were "uneconomic, unfair, and undermined the net benefits for Canada".

He said it raised questions on reliability of any deal. "They asked too much, and they offered too little," he said.

Carney said the US stance revealed the limits of their commitment to a true economic partnership. "Last evening, I suspended trade negotiations with the United States and directed our negotiators to return to Ottawa," he added.

The development came after trade negotiations between Washington and Ottawa broke down late Friday night, with the United States imposing a 50 per cent tariff on nearly USD 28 billion worth of Canadian imports from 12:01 am ET.

The levies affect nearly 5.5 per cent of Canada's total exports shipped across the southern border, with targeted items ranging from hockey sticks to cement.

Carney said Ottawa would not accept any restrictions on its ability to independently execute trade deals around the globe.

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative Jamieens Greer confirmed on Friday that Washington had proposed "significant tariff reductions on steel, aluminium, autos and lumber" provided Ottawa made reciprocal concessions.

For months, Ottawa has been attempting to secure exemptions from those sector-specific US levies, which have inflicted serious strain on the Canadian economy, provoking widespread workforce layoffs and creating friction within what was historically an iron-clad trade relationship.

The diplomatic impasse comes after the White House accused Canada of "discriminatory treatment" regarding imported US dairy, automobile, and alcohol products prior to imposing the new duties.

PM hails India's space journey

In a post on social media platform X, Modi said, "Happy National Space Day! Here's to dreaming even bigger, innovating more and pushing newer frontiers..."

The Prime Minister highlighted the growing role of young engineers, designers, coders and scientists in strengthening India's rapidly expanding space ecosystem. He also underlined the increasing contribution of private talent and said the country's achievements in space were inspiring a new generation of young Indians to aspire to become scientists.

India's space programme has expanded significantly in recent years, with greater emphasis on private sector participation, startups and technological innovation alongside the work of established space institutions.

National Space Day is observed to celebrate India's achievements in space exploration and the country's growing ambitions in science and technology. Modi's message reflected the government's focus on encouraging young minds to contribute to India's future journey of scientific discovery and space exploration.

Space, AI, other tech integration

to shape India's future: Shekhawat

coming years, all these technological streams will no longer remain separate. Their convergence will determine the direction of human life, the global economy and geopolitical positioning," Shekhawat maintained.

"The nation that possesses the power of this convergence will have not only technological leadership in the 21st century, but also economic leadership and the capacity to inspire," he added.

The minister hailed the visionary leadership of Indian scientist Vikram Sarabhai and his contributions to the field of space and technology.

He noted that privatisation does not mean reducing the importance of entities like ISRO.

"The day the space sector was opened up to the private sector and startups, IN-SPaCE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) was created as an institutional mechanism for private entities; the way private entities were promoted, enabled, hand-held, authorised and supervised - that day, some people had doubts that although we were moving ahead with the commercialisation of ISRO's technological capabilities, the entry of non-governmental entities might reduce the importance of an institution like ISRO," he said.

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, Gujarat Science and Technology Minister Arjun Modhwadia and IN-SPaCe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka were also present at the event.

"August 23, 2023 was a historic day for Indians across the globe as Chandrayaan-3 successfully made a soft landing near the south pole of the moon," Narayanan said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for celebrating that day as 'National Space Day' to commemorate this historic achievement.

He noted various targets, including Gaganyaan, which is on its final leg; Chandrayaan-4 and Chandrayaan-5; a mission to launch over 300 satellites in 6-7 years with the help of startups and the government; missions to Mars and Venus; and the establishment of an Indian Space Station by 2035.

Preserve Sanskrit as India's living knowledge heritage: Kavinder

From the Vedic traditions of the north to those of the south, Sanskrit has served as a common thread of India's civilisational unity and embodies the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," the governor said.

He appreciated the efforts of Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust for taking Sanskrit beyond the confines of traditional scholarship and connecting it with society through a range of activities. "Sanskrit processions, anti-drug awareness rallies, free medical camps, plantation initiatives and the Maha Aarti along the Chandrabhaga river demonstrated how cultural traditions can be used to create positive social awareness and community participation, he said.

"The younger generation has a particularly important role in carrying India's knowledge traditions forward. Learning Sanskrit should not be seen as a return to the past, but as an opportunity to deepen intellectual understanding and strengthen confidence in India's own civilisational heritage," he said.

Referring to the emerging possibilities in Artificial Intelligence and language technology, the governor called for greater research, digitisation and technological applications of Sanskrit.

He said the vast Sanskrit knowledge corpus should be made accessible to younger generations through modern, scientific and user-friendly platforms.

He highlighted the importance accorded to Indian languages and knowledge traditions under the National Education Policy 2020, and said universities, researchers and institutions associated with Sanskrit could play a significant role in taking this knowledge tradition into the digital age.

Highlighting Himachal Pradesh's own cultural and linguistic heritage, Gupta said the state's identity is deeply rooted in its Dev Parampara, folk traditions and linguistic diversity.

He stressed that preservation of local languages and dialects is equally important, as India's linguistic diversity constitutes a major source of its cultural strength.

Calling for sustained efforts beyond the annual observance, Gupta expressed the hope that Sanskrit Mass would evolve into a year-round movement for wider public awareness and engagement with Sanskrit and India's cultural heritage.

JMC commissioner Devansh Yadav said that Indian culture has always advocated a balanced way of life in harmony with nature. He described the distribution of saplings, medical camp, art exhibition, and other public-oriented activities organized during the concluding ceremony of Sanskrit Month as a commendable example of connecting culture with social responsibility.

Later, a grand Maha Aarti was performed by the Shri Raghunath Ji Aarti Sansthan, Jammu. Vedic recitations, Thali dance, spiritual programmes, a special exhibition showcasing the art and culture of Jammu, and various cultural performances remained major attractions of the event. The exhibition provided visitors with a rich glimpse into Dogra art, traditions, and cultural heritage.

On the occasion, ex-judge Suresh Sharma, Vinay Aggarwal, Lucky Sharma, and Akhil Gupta were felicitated.

Among those who were present included Ritu Singh, Chairperson, Shri Raghunath Ji Aarti Sansthan, Jammu; former DDC Shilpa Dubey; RK Chhibber, Director on the Board of Jammu & Kashmir Bank; Baldev Khullar, and other prominent citizens.

Monsoon Session of Par awaits formal closure

prorogued (formally ended) within the next three to four days. However, the prorogation notification for the Monsoon session had not been issued as of Sunday morning.

The Budget session ended on April 18 and was prorogued on April 20.

An earlier attempt during the Budget session had failed as the government could not stack up the numbers. Opposition parties, particularly those from the south, were worried that population-based delimitation would reduce their strength in the Lok Sabha.

To assuage their concerns, the government has worked on a formulation to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats across states and Union territories by a uniform 50 per cent.

There were strong suggestions that the government could seek passage of the constitution amendment bill after Independence Day.

Ramesh said it was true that the gap for the Monsoon session in 2015 was 28 days and in 2021, it was 20 days, but there were no "diabólico" moves afoot then.

His remarks indicated a shift from the categorical opposition to delimitation through the resolution he moved in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on August 12.

However, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also attended the Mahabalipuram meeting, demanded that the central government retain the existing number of Lok Sabha seats - 543 - for the next 25 years.

3 ships deployed in search for 22 crew members off Odisha coast

sank, officials said.

The ship had left the Odisha coast on Friday and was carrying iron ore bound for Singapore.

The vessel sank around 240 nautical miles from the Paradip coast in Odisha, officials said.

Following the loss of communication and sinking of the vessel, the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy launched a joint rescue operation.

Other vessels in the vicinity were also alerted and asked to assist in the search for the missing crew members. The operation was focused on locating the remaining crew and establishing their positions.

The exact circumstances that led to the vessel sinking had not yet been established.