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Modi calls for collective push towards 'Drug-Free India'

the idea interesting. The websiteallows users to select a particular year and learn about the rulers and kingdoms that existed in different parts of India during that period.

PM Modi praised Seshadri's effort and said, "His effort will not only be beneficial for students of history, but it will also help us learn history in an interesting manner."

Designed to make the complex geopolitical history of the Indian subcontinent engaging and accessible, the website allows users to seamlessly navigate through more than a thousand districts across multiple centuries of structural and political transformations.

The website features a dynamic slider spanning thirteen centuries - from 700 CE to the present day - allowing users to enter any specific year to track shifting borders and territorial expansions in real-time.

Rather than providing generalised maps, the custom database maps exactly who held power at a micro-level, showing transitioning borders between prominent regimes - including the Mughal Empire, Maratha Empire, and regional princely states.

Built with a strict educational mission, the platform's underlying mapping data is completely open-source under a Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license. This allows students, teachers, content creators, and media houses to freely copy, remix, and print the map layouts without requiring prior permission or copyright clearance.

The PM also spoke to Seshadari, the Mumbai developer who having no prior professional coding experience, he utilized modern generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to write the complex code and build the feature-rich database from scratch.

During PM's MKB programme at the end of the conversation, when the PM asked Seshadri on what other hobbies he had apart from creating the history website, the Mumbai developer said, "I am a boring type of person who remains immersed in history and technology. This elicited laughter from the PM Modi who wished Seshadari and wrapped up the conversation.

During the episode, the Prime Minister also spoke about the ongoing Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan, which he said is gaining momentum across the country.

"The goal is clear--drug-free youth, drug-free India," PM Modi said, emphasising the collective resolve to ensure the health, happiness and bright future of the country's youth.

He said drug addiction does not affect only an individual, but its consequences are felt by the entire family and society.

The Prime Minister commended those working to create awareness about drugs and helping people struggling with addiction.

He also urged citizens to come up with creative ways to spread the message of a drug-free life.

"Can our young musicians make a song which contains the message of a drug-free life?" he asked, while encouraging students and theatre groups to create short plays highlighting the dangers of drugs and ways to overcome addiction.

Modi also called upon content creators to produce material in different Indian languages and share it on social media.

"There is no dearth of excellent content creators in India," he said, adding that "creative efforts can sometimes be more effective than formal campaigns".

Meanwhile, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahji listened to the 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat in Bhubaneswar.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also listened to the programme in Guwahati, while Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel heard the Prime Minister's address in Ahmedabad.

Curiosity first lamp of learning, says LG Sinha

through science. I am pleased that the Gurukul has included modern subjects, particularly science and computer technology, as part of its educational system," the LG said.

He urged the Gurukul and the shrine board to make environmental consciousness a way of life. He called for initiatives in water conservation, energy conservation, tree plantation, and cleanliness, making the institutions living examples of sustainable development.

"Our ancient scriptures reflect deep respect for nature. The Prithvi Sukta of the Atharaveda expresses a spirit of gratitude towards the Earth and a commitment to its protection. At a time when we are confronting the challenges of climate change, we need to study and understand our knowledge traditions along with modern scientific understanding," he said.

He proposed three initiatives for the Gurukul including Values and Science Innovation Centre to create dialogue between Indian knowledge traditions and modern science, service and society campaign to connect students with communities through service activities like cleanliness, digital literacy, and environmental protection and future skills and ethical technology to prepare students for emerging technologies with responsibility and ethics.

"I have full confidence that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul will, in the years ahead, emerge as a centre of education where tradition and modernity enrich one another, and where students become aware, sensitive, and virtuous citizens," he said andadded, "Knowledge is complete only when it is accompanied by compassion, humility, and a sense of responsibility towards humanity."

"May Mata Vaishno Devi bless us all with strength, wisdom, and the spirit of service, and may she bless India to continue moving forward on the path of knowledge, compassion, and progress," the LG said.

Among others, the celebrations were attended by Swami VishveshvaranandGiriji Maharaj, Ashok Bhan, Lalit Bhasin &Suresh Kumar Sharma, all members of SMVDSB; Vishwa Murti Shastri, SMVDSB CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya, additional CEO Alok Kumar Maurya, other senior officers &staff of SMVDSB, besides faculty members, parents and students of SMVD Gurukul.

Can't punish students for asking questions: SC judge

and questioned" and disagreements are not met with hostility.

A university should be where the habit of thinking freely begins, and a student does not hesitate to ask difficult questions, the top court judge asserted, while underscoring that the right to question was not an act of defiance, and that "an intolerant mind" is at odds with the spirit of the Indian Constitution.

The top court judge was speaking at the 13th convocation ceremony for the postgraduate students of National Law University, Delhi.

"When students express a different point of view, when students ask questions, they cannot be threatened with punitive action. That is unconstitutional. That is a misuse of power and office," said Justice Bhuyan.

"It's (university) a place where individuals encounter ideas that may be different from their own, where established positions can be examined and questioned, and where disagreements can take place through reason rather than hostility. If we want a democratic society that respects liberty and difference, that culture has to begin from the universities," he added.

Justice Bhuyan said the Indian Constitution recognises that a free society will witness different opinions and beliefs, and that participation in public life will be meaningful only when there is space for dissent.

He stated that tolerance is a "constitutional value", and being the land of Buddha and Gandhi, India has no place for an "intolerant mind", which is a form of violence.

"Our constitution protects the freedom to speak, to think, and to believe differently. Intolerance begins to undermine that framework when disagreement or dissent is no longer treated as a legitimate difference of opinion but as something that must be silenced, rejected or punished. The ability to live with disagreement is, therefore, not merely a social virtue. It is the very essence of a liberal constitutional democracy," said the judge.

Justice Bhuyan emphasised that the responsibility of legal professionals and scholars was to ensure that even in moments of dissent, the constitutional values of liberty, equality, dignity, and justice continue to remain at the core of the understanding of law.

"A democracy becomes meaningful not when everyone speaks the same language of thought but when different voices can co-exist, be heard and be treated with dignity," he asserted.

"The majority of a democracy is reflected not merely in how it treats opinions that are popular...but how it responds to opinions that are difficult, unpopular or sometimes very inconvenient," he said.

Police attach house

of NDPSAct,"officials said. The property was identified as having been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal trade of drugs and narcotics, officials said.

Officials said the property was attached in connection with a NDPS case registered at Shopian police station.

The attachment proceedings were carried out in the presence of a police team, an executive magistrate, the lambardar and the chowkidar, ensuring compliance with legal procedures and transparency, the officials added.

Ladakh's development must leverage unique strengths: NITI Aayog

ties for the people of the Union territory.

Lahiri was chairing a meeting with senior administrative officers, including chief secretary Ashish Kundra, at Leh to review the ongoing projects and key challenges in infrastructure, connectivity, education, tourism, energy, water and employment, an official spokesperson said on Sunday.

In the meeting, Kundra briefed everyone about Ladakh's finances and highlighted major economic challenges facing the the Union territory, along with sector-wise GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), GSAV (Gross State Value Addition) and employment trends.

Responding to the chief secretary's request for support in strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Ladakh, Lahiri said NITI Aayog would extend support for training and mentoring young entrepreneurs through initiatives such as the Atal Innovation Mission.

He also proposed creating a consolidated database of promising ideas and linking young entrepreneurs from Ladakh with experienced mentors from outside the Union territory.

The meeting discussed strengthening science, technology and innovation support for Ladakh and developing a roadmap with measurable milestones for economic and social development.

Lahiri emphasised that Ladakh's development strategy should focus on its unique strengths, including its natural resources, cultural heritage, human capital and renewable-energy potential, while ensuring environmental sustainability and generating sustainable livelihoods.

The spokesperson said the meeting also discussed the infrastructure gap, particularly in energy and connectivity, and reviewed major ongoing and proposed initiatives, including the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), power transmission projects, road connectivity, the new domestic airport terminal, 4G connectivity and other major infrastructure projects.

2.63L appear in NEET-PG

ing to decide the course of action against the technological partner and agency responsible for ensuring adequate infrastructure at the examination centres, officials said.

At the two iON Digital Zone centres in Sitapura, Jaipur, the examination could not be completed for 2,445 candidates due to internal power-supply issues attributable to TCS Ltd, the technological partner and the examination-conducting agency, the health ministry said.

The affected centres are:iON Digital Zone iDZSitapura (TC Nos41682 &41683).

Further details, including the venue for the re-examination and revised admit cards, will be shared separately, the board said.

The NEET-PG was scheduled for 2,73,096 candidates at 1,111 examination centres across 339 cities, covering all 36 states and Union territories, the ministry said.

A total of 2,65,980 candidates appeared in the NEET-PG, with the examination successfully completed for approximately 2,63,535 candidates, the ministry said.

The nationwide examination was supported by extensive real-time monitoring and stringent security measures, it added.

A total of 2,527 faculty members were appointed as independent appraisers to oversee the conduct of the examination. In addition, more than 700 senior faculty members, including deans, directors, medical superintendents and senior professors, were deployed as Flying Squad members.

To strengthen coordination and monitoring, 16 NBEMS regional command centres were made operational across the country, the ministry said.

The examination centres were also placed under live CCTV surveillance, which was continuously monitored from the NBEMS Command Centre at its headquarters in Delhi's Dwarka.

The NBEMS deeply regretted the inconvenience caused to the affected candidates and said it has taken prompt steps to ensure that they are provided a fair and equitable opportunity to appear in the NEET-PG 2026.

AFs Civilian Employees' delegation meets Jitendra

The delegation submitted him a memorandum and held detailed discussions on issues concerning career progression, promotions and pending service-related matters.

The interaction provided an opportunity for the representatives to place their concerns before the Minister and discuss the issues in a constructive and positive atmosphere.

Singh appreciated the delegation for coming forward to discuss the concerns of employees in a structured manner.

He said that continuous and constructive dialogue with employee representatives is important for addressing genuine service-related concerns and for ensuring greater administrative efficiency.

India, Uzbekistan upgrade ties to comprehensive strategic partnership

dia-Uzbekistan strategic ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reflecting the growing depth and expanding scope of cooperation.

Modi and Mirziyoyev witnessed the exchange of agreements covering a wide range of areas such as mining, culture, education, tourism, ayurveda, among others.

"Uzbekistan is at the heart of Central Asia and is at the heart of India's engagement in the region," Modi said.

The prime minister added: "A stronger India-Uzbekistan partnership will be a powerful force for peace, progress and prosperity in Central Asia."

Delving into the ambitious agenda of future cooperation between the two sides, Modi said India and Uzbekistan will encourage their defence industries to look at co-development and co-production of military hardware.

On trade and investment, he said issues relating to market access, banking, payment systems and connectivity will be

addressed in a structured way.

"The close defence and security cooperation between our two countries reflects our deep mutual trust. In the future, we will promote direct linkages, co-production, and co-development between our defence industries," Modi said.

"We believe that terrorism, extremism, and separatism pose serious challenges to the entire region."

"Maintaining a policy of zero tolerance against these threats has been, and will continue to be, our shared resolve," he added.

A Letter of Intent for the restoration and conservation of the Buddhist sites of Fayaz Tapa and Kara Tapa in Uzbekistan was also agreed upon.

These ancient Buddhist monasteries in southern Uzbekistan highlight how Buddhism spread along the Silk Road and flourished in Central Asia.

The two sides announced that a commercial pact was firmed up between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre JSC to enable UPI apps of India to scan national QR - UZQR for making merchant payments in the Central Asian nation.

The announcements made at the end of the talks between Modi and Mirziyoyev included a grant of USD 1 million for afforestation in the Aral Sea region.

Modi landed in Tashkent on Saturday on a two-day visit to bolster ties with Uzbekistan in a range of areas, including trade, investment, defence and clean energy.

The Uzbek president said his country is determined to boost ties with India in diverse sectors.

"We are aiming to advance cooperation in sectors such as energy, culture, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, and agriculture."

"We will prepare roadmaps for each of these sectors; specific teams from India will visit here, and our teams will travel to India, enabling us to clearly define our objectives in these fields," he said.

The joint statement said the two leaders welcomed the close alignment of their positions and the growing importance of Central Asia.

Amid a complex geopolitical situation, they stressed the need for a free, open and rules-based international order. Building on their multilateral cooperation, it said.

"The leaders highly appreciated the progress achieved in regional cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening engagement within Central Asia-India format at the level of Heads of States and other levels," it said.

Nepal flash floods death toll surges to 781

have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in central Nepal.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

In a statement, the NDRRMA warned that water levels in the river had risen again. "The water level in the flooded Bhotekoshi River has risen to some extent; all concerned are urged to take precautionary measures," it said on Sunday, adding that it will provide updates on the situation after receiving additional information.

As many as 2,502 people, including 320 foreigners, remain missing in Nepal following the disaster, according to authorities.

The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Saturday said that more than 275 Indians and 128 persons of Indian origin remained missing or non-contactable, while 108 others were rescued following the flash floods.

Dhamala said 96 bodies had so far been buried after completing the necessary legal procedures. DNA samples were collected from the bodies before burial and preserved in designated places in accordance with existing regulations, he said.

The identified bodies are being handed over to their families after completion of the verification process, Dhamala added.

At the Trishuli hydropower project site, Nepalese security personnel, with the assistance of Indian tunnel experts, continued efforts to evacuate those trapped by locating the tunnel's entrance even after Saturday midnight despite heavy rain throughout the night, according to Nepal Army sources.

According to the NDRRMA, 239 people injured in the flash floods were admitted to different hospitals, including Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital and Bir Hospital in Kathmandu and Rasuwa District Hospital in Dhunche as on Sunday evening.

So far, 37 trucks of food items and seven helicopters filled with food and non-food items have been dispatched to the affected areas.

India has also provided 68.5 tonnes of relief materials and sent technical teams, forensic experts and equipment to assist in search and rescue operations, according to the Indian embassy.

Pak-based terrorists using porn sites to contact 'recruits' in J&K

stall mobile apps.

Additionally, they are using privacy-focused platforms such as a France-based app that allows end-to-end encrypted messaging without requiring a SIM card or phone number, making user attribution difficult.

Agencies are also monitoring Vietnam-based apps alongside anonymous platforms like Moonchat, which includes PGP-encrypted versions with suspected Chinese origins that bypass traditional registration. This app has many versions used for finding singles in your vicinity.

Though several of these porn applications are banned in India, they are downloaded illegally using Virtual Private Network (VPN). A VPN creates a secure and encrypted connection over the internet by masking Internet Protocol addresses and encrypting online traffic, making it more difficult to track online activity and access data.

Security experts feel that many platforms using the Tor network present unique tracking challenges by bouncing encrypted traffic through multiple volunteer-run relay nodes globally to hide both the origin and destination of the data.

While Tor is maintained by the US-based non-profit, The Tor Project, for legitimate privacy and anti-censorship efforts, its anonymity features are increasingly being exploited by clandestine networks including terror groups.

The officials said that security agencies continue to adapt their cyber-surveillance frameworks to map and intercept these off-grid communication channels.

Justifying the ban on these apps, the officials said terror groups were increasingly using the encrypted instant messaging applications of porn sites in recruiting and radicalising youths in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a departure from the use of conventional social media, handlers are now reaching out to prospects through these platforms which, in order to evade detection, differ from each other in terms of the level of security they provide.

While some apps offer basic encryption features, others employ end-to-end encryption, self-destruct messages, and the RSA-2048 encryption algorithm that processes data on the user device without any third-party interference.

RSA is an American Network Security and Authentication company founded in 1982 by US-born Ron Rivest and Leonard Adleman and Israeli-born Adi Shamir. The acronym RSA is used worldwide as the foundation key in

the cryptosystem.

The trend has witnessed terrorists moving away from commonly used social media apps like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Signal, the officials said.

The security officials observed that both handlers and recruits from the Valley had been relying on specific applications which work even when there is a slower 2G or EDGE network speed. Some of these applications do not even require a phone number or email from the user while registering.

The new tactics were uncovered as security forces strived to combat the use of foreign-generated virtual SIM cards. Developed by foreign-based companies, virtual SIM cards enable the computer to generate phone numbers that can be used on smartphones through specific applications, leaving negligible digital traces.

It was first exposed during the investigation into the 2019 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans died. The detailed investigation done by the NIA found that more than 40 virtual SIM cards were used by the Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber and his accomplices in the attack.

India's growth to stay above 7 pc in FY27: Sitharaman

working on that path. There are advanced economies whose debt is well over 200 pc of their GDP even now," she said.

"We have given ourselves a fiscal discipline path on the fiscal deficit as well. We have fulfilled the trajectory. The last mile that had to be reached by 2025-26, we have reached, the finance minister said.

She said 2047 was the target year set for achieving Viksit Bharat. "It's hardly 20 years from now. So, the speed and scale with which the reforms are happening require a lot more support," she added.

"Lots more support from people who are talented and have exposure. Lots more support from people who can give ideas for us to carry it forward. And, above all, support in terms of capital, which is so required for a country to meet all its aspirations," the finance minister added.

India key petrol supplier to Russia

line to Russia during the month, alongside Turkey and Morocco.

The shipments have largely come from Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, which is half-owned by Russia's Rosneft.

India's role as a gasoline supplier comes against the backdrop of its increased purchases of Russian crude since 2022. India imported more than 2.6 million barrels per day of Russian crude in June and July, compared with 1 million bpd in February. During the period, Russian crude accounted for more than half of India's crude imports.

India's refiners may, therefore, have used Russian crude to produce some of the gasoline subsequently shipped back to Russia.

Vortexa said almost 55 per cent of Russia's gasoline imports in August, or around 260,000 tonnes, arrived on sanctioned tonnage.

"All India-origin gasoline cargoes Russia imported in August were carried on sanctioned fleets and involved dark ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean," it said.

Around 40 per cent of Russia's total gasoline imports in August were moved through ship-to-ship transfers. Most of those operations were conducted in the dark, with vessels switching off their automatic identification system (AIS) signals.

The surge in gasoline imports came after repeated Ukrainian drone strikes disrupted operations at Russian refineries and sharply reduced domestic fuel production.

Vortexa expects Russia to continue importing some gasoline in the near term, citing the country's historically lower gasoline-to-diesel production yields.

All registered workers migrated to VB-G RAM G: Govt

and maintain an accurate and credible worker database. "The process is simple and can ordinarily be completed in less than 30 seconds," the statement said.

The government underlined that every worker who has demanded employment has been offered work as per demand, and around 2.11 crore workers have so far been offered employment under VB-G RAM G. Simultaneously, the Centre has advised States to expeditiously complete e-KYC of all active workers.

"The Ministry is continuously supporting and monitoring States/UTs in this exercise while ensuring that no willing worker is deprived of employment merely because e-KYC is pending," it said.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pak to hold first defence pact meeting

global energy crisis.

Six months after the U.S. and Israel launched the war against Iran, negotiations are at an impasse and President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up efforts to punish Iran financially with what it has billed as an "economic D-Day".

Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest military, has said the pact with nuclear-armed Pakistan and top oil exporter Saudi Arabia was open to expansion - with Egypt as a potential candidate - and did not seek to replace existing alliances.

5,000 flats at migrant camps to be renovated

(Migrants) Commissioner Arvind Karwani, who was here to review the infrastructure, including essential services, in the migrant camps, namely Jagti township, Muthi, Purkhoo, and Mishriwala.

In the meeting, ongoing developmental and proposed maintenance and repair works for the current financial year were also discussed. The progress of extension of social sector schemes to the eligible migrant beneficiaries also came up for deliberations.

Officials said that repair and renovation of more than 200 building blocks, around 5,000 flats, community halls and other camp infrastructure would be taken up soon and the tender process was in its closing stages.

The government had recently accorded administrative approval involving financial implications of Rs 82.45 crfor these works, officials said.

Kavinder administers oath to newly appointed judges of Himachal HC

rants of appointment issued by the President of India, appointing Chirag Bhanu Singh as a judge and Bhupesh Sharma and Yogesh Jaswal as additional judges of the high court.

The ceremony was also attended by Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dhani Ram Shandil, judges of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, Sandeep Bhardwaj, Secretary the governor, senior judicial, civil and police officers, and other distinguished guests.

The swearing-in ceremony marked an important constitutional occasion and added to the strength of the judicial institution in the state.