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Modi calls for technology-driven solutions to tackle cyber fraud

The prime minister highlighted the potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a transformative force, particularly for developing countries.

He noted that discussions on DPI with several world leaders have demonstrated its growing global relevance and added that such platforms can serve as a springboard for countries of the Global South.

Addressing the growing challenge of digital and cyber fraud, Modi said the problem requires technology-driven solutions. He suggested sustained awareness messages for users to warn people about potential fraud calls.

Modi also highlighted the need for global standards and common rules for emerging technologies.

On the growing threat of deepfakes and AI-generated content, he suggested exploring mechanisms to allow users to immediately identify its origin.

The GSMA board members highlighted India's emergence as a global leader in digital and mobile connectivity.

They noted the rapid expansion of 4G and 5G, the scale of digital public infrastructure and the growth of the telecom and mobile manufacturing ecosystem.

They appreciated India's investment-friendly policy framework and emphasised the role of secure, resilient and trusted digital infrastructure in supporting continued digital growth, the statement said.

The board members also highlighted growing opportunities for international cooperation with India in areas including 5G, 6G, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, digital inclusion and satellite connectivity.

Doval meets Canadian counterpart amid emerging power realignment

gagement is a far cry from the severe downturn in ties between 2023 and 2024 under former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, when Ottawa accused Indian government officials of playing a role in the murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a gurudwara in Canada.

The dispute escalated even as New Delhi called the allegations "absurd" and peaked with Canada, in late 2024, naming the then Indian High Commissioner a "person of interest" in the case. It resulted in the expulsion of top diplomats on both sides, a freeze in trade talks and visa issuance for a short while.

But ties have since gone through a complete turnaround following the exit of Trudeau. The shift was evident during Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's India visit in February when the two countries signed a \$2.6 billion multi-year uranium supply pact and negotiated a General Security of Information Agreement related to safely sharing, handling, and protecting classified and sensitive government or military information.

Over the past eight months, the two sides have exchanged multiple visits at different levels. "I think we have seen remarkable positive momentum in Canada-India relations over the past year. What is particularly significant is that progress is now taking place across several tracks at the same time," said Vina Nadjibulla, co-founder and CEO of the Centre for Strategic Statecraft, a Canadian public policy think tank, to ETV Bharat.

She noted that there is "regular dialogue and progress on the more difficult security and law-enforcement issues that were at the centre of the breakdown in relations."

"The continuing high-level exchanges, including the meeting between Ajit Doval and David Morrison in India this week, are important evidence that the two governments are developing mechanisms to address these issues directly rather than allowing them to overwhelm the broader relationship," she noted.

But the reset in ties is also being aided by an uncertain geopolitical climate which is pushing both countries to renew relations. Under Carney, there has been not just a reset but also a convergence of worldview at a time when India and Canada both have had different trouble in their respective ties with the US under President Donald Trump.

Canada and the US are engaged in a worsening trade war, and India's own trade deal with the US appears to have hit a roadblock, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying both sides have reached a "plateau beyond which giving or taking might be very, very difficult." The US has also passed a law that allows Trump to impose up to a 100 per cent tariff on India, among others, for buying Russian oil.

Trade negotiations between the US and Canada broke down in August resulting in mutual tariffs and import bans amid political friction. The US imposed 50 per cent tariffs on around \$20 billion to \$28 billion worth of Canadian goods.

Nadjibulla noted that in this backdrop there is "a larger strategic logic driving the rapprochement".

He noted that middle and emerging powers are consequently "focused on diversifying and de-risking in every sense of the term, not just their economy or their security, but also building more resilient supply chains."

Govt eases school approval norms

traffic safety rules, building safety norms, installation of fire safety equipment and safe storage of chemicals in laboratories as per court directions.

The amendments also omit several sub-clauses under Rule 6 relating to school requirements.

The order was issued by the lieutenant governor.

Fireman held in graft case

the complainant, officials said.

Officials said the CBI registered a case against the accused based on a complaint, wherein it was alleged that the accused fireman initially demanded a bribe of Rs 40,000 from the complainant for processing and issuance of the Fire and Emergency Services NOC for his hotel at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

After negotiation, the accused agreed to accept Rs 15,000 from the complainant, leading to his arrest, officials said, adding that further investigation was underway

House of Afzal Guru's relative demolished

ment regulations.

Officials said the family members of Guru, who was convicted in the 2001 Parliament attack case and executed in February 2013, had built and occupied the structure.

Land approved for mobile towers in underserved areas

Kalakote, Kralpora, Basantgarh, Khour, Latti Marothi, Banihal, Pogal Paristan, Ramsoo and Qila Darhal under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Omar said the initiative would help extend reliable connectivity to remote and border communities and ensure that geographical location does not become a barrier to access to digital services and opportunities.

The infrastructure is being developed under the USOF to expand 4G network coverage and achieve telecom saturation in areas that remain underserved.

The initiative is expected to strengthen access to online education, e-governance services and emergency communications, besides improving digital inclusion for residents of rural, remote and border areas.

The provision of dedicated land for telecom infrastructure is also aimed at facilitating faster deployment of mobile towers in difficult and geographically challenging loca-

tions, thereby helping bridge the digital divide across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative reflects the government's focus on extending the benefits of digital connectivity to communities in far-flung areas and strengthening communication infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Saxena attends passing-out parade of police

ful completion of training by newly recruited personnel as well as the professional advancement of serving personnel through pre-promotional courses.

The LG also inaugurated 24 two-BHK police family quarters to improve accommodation and welfare of personnel; launched the official Emblem, Flag, Logo and badges of the Ladakh Fire & Rescue Service to strengthen its identity and professionalism; inaugurated its official website to provide citizens easy access to fire-safety services and information; and released the Comprehensive Fire Safety Handbook to enhance fire prevention, preparedness, emergency response and public awareness.

He inspected the parade and took the salute of the marching contingents during the ceremonial march past. He also presented awards to the Overall Best, Indoor Best, Outdoor Best and Best Marchman among the Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, Followers and SPOs. The Chief Drill Inspector was also felicitated on the occasion for his contribution to the training and preparation of the personnel.

A total of 114 newly recruited SPOs have successfully completed their training and are being inducted into Ladakh Police. They will be deployed in the newly created districts of Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Drass and Zaskar, augmenting police manpower and strengthening the Police presence closer to communities in remote and difficult-to-access areas.

The passing-out parade also marked the successful completion of pre-promotional courses by 99 police personnel. These include 8 Sub-Inspectors undergoing courses for promotion to Inspectors, 9 Assistant Sub-Inspectors for promotion to Sub-Inspectors, 77 Head Constables for promotion to Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and 5 Police Followers for induction as Constables.

Congratulating all the passing-out personnel, the Lieutenant Governor noted that policing in Ladakh involves unique challenges arising from its vast geographical spread, high-altitude locations, difficult terrain, extreme weather conditions and dispersed settlements.

"Ladakh Police performs its duty in some of the most challenging conditions in the country, and the courage, discipline and dedication of its personnel deserve our highest appreciation. Today's induction of 114 newly recruited SPOs, along with the promotion and professional advancement of 99 serving personnel, will further strengthen the Police force across Ladakh. Our initiatives for police housing and the strengthening of Fire & Rescue Services are aimed at ensuring that our personnel are supported with better facilities, modern systems and the resources they need to serve the people effectively," the LG said.

He paid tribute to the officers and personnel of Ladakh Police and Ladakh Fire & Rescue Service for their dedicated service and said that their courage, professionalism and commitment constitute a vital strength of Ladakh's security and emergency response system.

EC cites 'procedure', 'unusual request' for not meeting Oppn MPs

Delhi Police that the delegation comprised 240 parliamentarians and that the proposed venue was the Parliament House Annexe.

"The Election Commission considered this request unusual and therefore, it could not be accepted, as, in accordance with ECI protocol, such meetings are held only on the premises of the Election Commission of India," it said.

The commission said it proposed sending its senior-most officer on duty to the meeting venue to receive the memorandum, which in itself would have been an unprecedented step, but the offer was also declined by the MPs.

The commission said it respected parliamentary and democratic processes as well as its own protocols and conventions, which are of utmost importance.

"Any political party may, at any time, request a meeting with the Election Commission; and the Commission, keeping in view the suitability of time, schedules a date and time for the meeting. This is a regular practice," it said.

The march was the latest in a series of protests by politicians and civil activists to press for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation since a September 25 Indian Express report that suggested irregularities in the SIR process and differences among the election commissioners.

Def Min launches Fleet Support Ship-1

an official press release said.

The upgraded Slipway-4, with its extended length and enhanced load-bearing capability, supported by the goliath crane will enable the shipyard to build and launch vessels of up to 45,000 DWT.

This is a prominent expansion of the shipyard's capacity to undertake large and complex platforms.

Likewise, FSS-1, the first of five fleet support ships being built for the Indian Navy, entered the waters of the Bay of Bengal just 18 months after steel cutting, said the press release.

"These 43,500-tonne vessels will replenish warships at sea, extending the Navy's endurance and reach across the Indian Ocean Region. The keel laying of FSS-5 will mark the programme's steady march towards series production," the release added.

Govt notifies 375 permissible works under VB-G RAM G

the largest category, covering check dams, recharge shafts, rejuvenation of rivers and water channels, reclamation of waterlogged land and rainwater harvesting.

The schedule also provides for drip irrigation, sprinkler systems and interventions such as artificial glaciers for water conservation.

The core infrastructure category includes solar street lighting, waste recycling plants, greywater treatment units, rural libraries, veterinary and rural health centres, Common Service Centres and additional classrooms and laboratories in government schools.

Repair and maintenance of Jal Jeevan Mission water-supply infrastructure is also covered.

For the first time, the framework has a dedicated category for disaster preparedness and extreme weather events. The 38 works include flood relief shelters, embankment strengthening, flood protection, restoration of rural roads and community assets after disasters, and forest-fire management measures, the ministry said.

The VB-G RAMG Act, which came into force on July 1, replaced MGNREGA's demand-driven employment framework with a new system that provides for 125 days of guaranteed wage employment per rural household annually.

It also introduced a 60:40 Centre-state funding ratio for most states, with the Centre determining state-wise normative allocations and states bearing expenditure beyond those allocated.

The opposition had objected to the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme and raised concerns over the revised funding pattern, the allocation mechanism and

a provision allowing states to pause work during peak agricultural seasons for up to 60 days a year.

Gujarat initiatives to Op Sindoor, cabinet hails Modi governance

inspired PRAGATI, bringing governments together to review stalled projects, resolve obstacles and accelerate completion. Jyotigram's separate agricultural electricity feeders similarly became a national approach, extending Gujarat's experience across India."

His "sensitivity towards poverty grew from watching his mother struggle with everyday hardships and encountering deprivation during his travels," it stated.

"The resolution connects these experiences with programmes delivering homes, water, banking and healthcare. Nearly 60 crore Jan Dhan accounts, over 4 crore homes and 25 crore people moving out of poverty show how personal understanding became public action, bringing families dignity," it stated.

His "determination to help people shape their futures" runs through the resolution. "Approximately 3.5 crore women became LakhpatiDidis, while the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provided for women's reservation. Startups, skills and education reform expanded youth opportunities. PM-KISAN transfers exceeded Rs 4 lakh crore, while PM-JANMAN brought focused support to particularly vulnerable tribal communities, extending development to those historically left behind," it stated.

The resolution lays particular emphasis on Modi's "will- ingness to pursue reform despite political risks". "GST, welfare delivery reforms and the replacement of colonial laws demonstrate his determination to address long-standing challenges. His appeals on cleanliness, digital payments and local products drew citizens into change. Reform emerges as a sustained commitment of his leadership, strengthened by conviction, public participation and national purpose," it stated.

Under Modi's leadership, "public capital expenditure rose from Rs 2 lakh crore to over Rs 12 lakh crore, alongside highway expansion and railway electrification". "Electronics production increased from around Rs 2 lakh crore to more than Rs 13 lakh crore. Defence production and semiconductor manufacturing further reflect his determination to strengthen India's ability to meet its needs," it stated.

Modi's faith in technology, it said, emerges through achievements spanning everyday services and scientific frontiers. "Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile connectivity improved welfare delivery, while UPI transformed payments. Developing India's own Covid vaccines and landing Chandrayaan-3 near the Moon's south pole demonstrated PM Modi's vision of a scientifically capable, self-reliant Atmanirbhar Bharat. Private space participation and work in artificial intelligence, quantum technology and biotechnology carry forward the vision celebrated in the resolution: technology improving lives while expanding national possibilities."

The resolution highlights Modi's ability to give India direction through global upheavals. "During Covid, he united the country, backed domestic vaccine development and enabled rapid vaccination. During the West Asia crisis, timely decisions and energy security measures helped India withstand disruption. His leadership combined immediate responses with capabilities built over years, giving the country resilience and confidence in difficult times."

The resolution cited the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot air strikes and the 2025 Operation Sindoor as national security red lines established under Modi. "The resolution places these alongside the removal of Article 370, One Rank One Pension and creation of the Chief of Defence Staff's post. Action against Maoist terrorism and peace efforts in the Northeast bring out leadership combining national resolve with development, stability and public trust," the statement said.

The resolution links India's rising stature with Modi's ability to build cooperation across divisions. "Consensus at G20 and BRICS, advocacy for the Global South and the African Union's G20 inclusion reflect his diplomatic leadership. Vaccine Maitri demonstrated how India's capabilities could serve others. Honours from 36 countries underline the international regard accompanying PM Modi and India's growing influence and contribution to shared solutions," it stated.

At the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, India also launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which today has 59 member countries and 13 partner organisations. India has also deployed search and rescue teams at disaster sites, notably in Nepal in 2015 and 2026, in Türkiye and Syria after the 2023 earthquake.

India calls for cessation of attacks in Hormuz

itime chokehold.

"We condemn the attack earlier today on a Panama-flagged commercial vessel MT On Peace (IMO 9893204) off the coast of Oman, where it was struck by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Of the total crew of 19, 17 are Indian nationals. It is learnt that 12 crew members have been injured, including 11 Indian nationals," the MEA statement read.

The MEA informed that the injured seafarers were safely evacuated and are currently being medically treated in Khasab, Oman.

Expressing gratitude towards the Omani authorities, the MEA stated, "With the assistance of Omani authorities, the injured crew have since been evacuated and are receiving medical treatment in Khasab, Oman. We thank the Omani authorities for their valuable support."

The MEA, in the strongest terms, condemned these perpetual attacks on commercial shipping and reiterated the call for an immediate end to the hostilities to re-establish peace and stability in the region.

"The continuing incidents of attacks on shipping in the region remain a cause of deep concern for India. We reiterate our call for an immediate cessation of such attacks in the interests of peace and stability in the region," the statement read.

"The targeting of commercial shipping, seafarers and civilian infrastructure in the region must end, and navigation and commerce through international waterways must be restored at the earliest," it added.

This comes after the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported that a commercial tanker transiting inbound through the Strait of Hormuz was forced to turn around after being hailed and threatened by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The incident occurred on Monday at approximately 08:27 UTC, about 11 nautical miles north of Khasab, Oman.

According to UKMTO Advisory, the IRGC forces hailed the vessel and warned that it would be targeted if it failed to comply with instructions to turn back. The vessel's Master confirmed that the crew complied with the directive and altered course.

Authorities are currently investigating the incident. UKMTO has advised all ships transiting the region to exercise extreme caution and immediately report any suspicious activity.

He also called for immediate restraint and de-escalation in the Gulf region to protect civilian crews and ensure uninterrupted energy supplies and global trade.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit appointed new IAF Chief

Southern Sector.

The Air Officer subsequently served as Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command and held the appointments of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans) at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan).

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ments of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans) at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan).

In recognition of his exemplary and distinguished service to the nation, Air Marshal Dixit has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2023 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026.

Army, CAPFs covered under special arrangements in J&K, Ladakh: Amit

no house listing operation (HLO) for them. Special Charges include the military, paramilitary forces and other Central forces," he said, announcing that the enumeration exercise was successfully completed.

He said the census authorities had adopted a separate mechanism for special charges because of their distinct operational and security requirements.

"The enumeration for these Special Charges is being conducted through paper schedules. There are security concerns involved, so their information cannot essentially be collected over the internet. Therefore, the paper schedules were printed in a timely manner and the required information was collected through these schedules," he informed.

Sharma said the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, had also held an exclusive meeting with representatives of the special charges during his visit to Ladakh in September and reviewed their preparedness.

"He held an exclusive meeting with the special charges and asked them about their preparations. He also reviewed the arrangements and was very satisfied after interacting with the concerned personnel," he said.

He said regular meetings were held with the Ministry of Defence, helping streamline the census exercise involving Army.

"One very positive development this time is that we had regular meetings with the Ministry of Defence. The Army, which has a very large presence among the Special Charges, is directly providing the required data to us," he said.

He said the arrangement had made the exercise considerably easier as Army has a vast geographical spread, with battalions and companies deployed at different locations.

"The Army has a central database. After incorporating the required Census fields, they are directly providing the data to us from that database," he added.

For the 125 special charges in Jammu and Kashmir and 47 in Ladakh, the census activity was completed through paper schedules, Sharma said, adding that any doubts and queries raised during the exercise were addressed in real time.

"Our national trainers were directly overseeing and coordinating the exercise. They were involved in the process until even the last couple of days," he said.

Sharma said conducting the census for special charges through paper schedules was a detailed exercise involving close coordination with the respective establishments.

"It may sound simple, but coordinating with special charges, providing them with everything required and getting the information collected through paper schedules is a detailed exercise," he said.

He said the exercise had been successfully concluded across different forces, including the Air Force and other central forces.

The next stage would involve the digitisation of the data collected through paper schedules, Sharma said, adding that the concerned establishments would digitise the information themselves and return it to the Census authorities within the prescribed timeframe.

"Paper records are not acceptable for integration into the census database. Therefore, the concerned establishments will themselves digitise the data and return it to us within the prescribed timeframe. We will then integrate this data with our main census database," he said.

He said the digitised information would be transmitted through a secure and encrypted mechanism, with fixed formats prescribed for its integration.

Judicial officers' retirement age enhanced

and connected matters, vide orders dated July 22, 2026 and August 5, 2026, directed state governments and UTs to take a decision regarding enhancement of retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 61/62 years in consultation with respective High Courts.

The court had further directed that wherever such enhancement was agreed to, it shall take effect from March 31, 2026, including in respect of judicial officers who retired on or after the said date, subject to consent and fulfillment of applicable conditions.

In pursuance of the directions, the matter was considered in consultation with the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Registrar General vide communications dated July 30 and August 12, 2026, conveyed that the Full Court in its deliberations held on August 10, 2026, resolved to recommend enhancement of retirement age to 62 years, subject to officers being found fit and eligible for continued utility beyond 60 years.

The Finance Department vide Udated September 9, 2026, conveyed its concurrence, and the Council of Ministers vide Decision No. 146/12/2026 dated September 22, 2026, accorded approval to the proposal.

Now, therefore, sanction has been accorded to enhancement of superannuation age from 60 to 62 years with effect from March 31, 2026, subject to assessment of fitness, eligibility, suitability, performance and continued utility by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and necessary amendments in relevant rules to be undertaken in consultation with the High Court.

Prez, Guv confer degrees on first graduating batch of AIIMS Bilaspur

ciplines in recognition of their academic performance. The awardees included Sagarika and Rakshit Vashishth from MBBS, Bhawna Thakral from BSc Allied Healthcare Science, Bhavya Malhotra from BSc Honours Nursing and Prateek Goel from MD, Community & Family Medicine.

Addressing the gathering, the governor congratulated AIIMS Bilaspur on its first convocation and extended his best wishes to all the graduating students and their parents.

He said the presence of President Murmu had added special significance and dignity to this historic occasion.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership and commitment to strengthening healthcare and medical education in Himachal Pradesh. He said the establishment of AIIMS Bilaspur had provided the state with a premier institution offering advanced healthcare services, medical education and research, benefiting not only the people of Himachal Pradesh but also those from neighbouring states and remote and tribal areas.

Recalling the PM's visit to AIIMS Bilaspur on October 5, 2022, when the institute was dedicated to the nation, Gupta said he had highlighted the significant contribution of Himachal Pradesh to national defence and envisioned that, through AIIMS Bilaspur, the state would also make an important contribution towards "saving lives".

He said the first convocation was a significant milestone in translating this vision into reality.

The governor said that AIIMS Bilaspur was helping address a long-standing challenge faced by people in the hill state, where serious illnesses often required patients and their families to undertake long journeys to major medical centres outside Himachal Pradesh.