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GOVT & POLITICS 5

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Opposition's joint presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh (extreme right) during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

REACHING OUT

YASHWANT SINHA, the joint opposition candidate for the Presidential elections, will file his nomination papers on Monday. Sinha is planning to visit as many state capitals as possible as part of his campaign tour. Incidentally, Sinha is said to have reached out to BJP veteran LK Advani for a meeting with him to seek his blessings. One goes to hear that he was told that Advani's daughter Pratibha is down with Covid, and a meeting perhaps would not be possible now. It will be interesting to see who all from the opposition turns up when Sinha files his nomination papers on Monday.

KEEPING ISSUE ALIVE

THE VIOLENT protests over the Agnipathi scheme for recruiting soldiers across the three services may have died down, giving way to the Maharashtra political crisis to dominate the news cycle, but the Congress is trying hard to keep the issue alive. On Sunday the Congress set a battery of its leaders to hold press conferences in state capitals. In all 20 cities, leaders addressed the media in 20 cities. Among them were Shaktisinh Gohil in Delhi, Deepender Hooda in Jaipur, Alka Lamba in Ahmedabad, Supriya Shrinate in Mumbai, M M Pallam Raju in Bengaluru, Gaurav Gogoi in Chennai, Pawan Khera in Kolkata, Karthikeya Kumar in Patna and Ajay Malen in Lucknow.

POOR SHOW

THE TRINAMOLU Congress's dismal performance in the by-poll to four Tripura assembly constituencies, with all candidates losing their security deposit, is likely to force an organisational rejig. The party was hoping to win in Tripura, building on its hegemonic presence in West Bengal. But as the party analyses the factors behind Sunday's defeat, its over-reliance on West Bengal-based leaders and celebrities trying to make inroads in the Northeastern state has been identified as one of the factors that went against it. The local party leaders also note the absence of a strong local face with mass appeal in its local unit.

Emergency a black spot on vibrant history of India's democracy: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

DESCRIBING EMERGENCY rule in 1975 as a "black spot" on the vibrant history of India's democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that democracy was trampled and suppressed 47 years ago but the people of India responded to it in a democratic way.

Addressing the Indian community in Germany, the Prime Minister said, "Today is June 26 which is also known as the day when India's democracy, which is the DNA of every Indian, was trampled and suppressed 47 years ago. Emergency is a black spot on the vibrant history of India's democracy."

"The people of India responded to all the conspiracies to crush democracy in a democratic way. We Indians take pride in our democracy wherever we are," he said.

"Today, we can proudly say that India is the mother of democracy. The diversity of culture, food, clothes, music and traditions makes our democracy vibrant. India has shown that democracy can deliver and has delivered."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Indian diaspora during his visit to Munich on Sunday. PTI

Highlighting the achievements of his government in the past eight years, the Prime Minister said, "In last century, Germany and other countries benefited from the 3rd Industrial Revolution. India was a colony

back then, that is why it could not get the benefits. But now India will not be left behind in the 4th Industrial Revolution, it is now leading the world."

Modi said that drone technology is being used, which is unprecedented, and then cited several examples — farmers are being sprayed using drones,

land smuggling in Indian villages is being made through drones.

"Today's India has come out of the mindset of 'It happens, it runs like this. Today India takes a pledge to have today, have today and have to do tomorrow', he said.

Modi, who arrived in Munich on Sunday on a two-day visit to Germany, will attend the G7 summit on Monday and discuss issues like energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment and democracy with the leaders of the powerful grouping and its partner countries.

"An early morning touchdown in Munich... PM @narendramodi will participate in the G7 Summit... the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Twitter.

"At the invitation of @BundeskanzlerOlafScholz, PM @narendramodi arrives in Germany for the G7 Summit. Besides participating in G7 discussions on climate, energy, food security, health, gender equality and more, PM will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides handling a global food and energy crisis.

Modi is likely to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indonesian President Joko Widodo in bilateral meetings during his stay.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," Modi had said in a statement ahead of his visit.

Besides India, Germany, the host of the G7 Summit, has also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as guests for the summit to recognise the democracies of the global south as its partners.

Shah: Forensic probe to be made must for offences attracting 6 years or more in jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

THROUGH CHANGES in criminal laws, the government is planning to make forensic investigation compulsory in all cases where the offences attract a punishment of six years or more, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

"The Narendra Modi government is working towards making forensic investigation mandatory in all cases of offences punishable with imprisonment for more than 6 years," Shah said.

He was addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the topic "Forensic Science Capabilities: Strengthening for Time-bound and Scientific Investigation" in Koodia, Gujarat. Shah was chairing the meeting.

According to the MHA, Shah called for the establishment of an independent Directorate of Prosecution and an independent Directorate of Forensic Science in each State/UT through proposed comprehensive amendments to the IPC, CrPc and the Indian Evidence Act. Shah stressed on the need for investigating agencies to keep abreast of criminals in view of the use of technology by them and said that the central government in collaboration with the state governments is working on a three-pronged approach to reforms in Police Investigation, Prosecution and Forensics. He said that this is the right time to focus on technology-based and evidence-based investigation to achieve the targeted conviction rate, which he pegged at 90%.

According to the MHA, Shah informed the members that the central government is providing funds to strengthen the forensic infrastructure across the country.

MANNKIBAAT

'Learn from Emergency, it was bid to crush democracy'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

CALLING THE imposition of Emergency in the country in June 1975 an attempt to "crush the democracy of India", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his 90th Mann Ki Baat address that generations to come should remember and learn from that period.

"At that time, an attempt was made to crush the democracy of India. The country's courts, every constitutional institution, the press, were put under control. The condition of censorship was such

that nothing could be printed without approval," Modi said.

"But even after many attempts, thousands of arrests and atrocities on lakhs of people, the faith of the people of India in democracy did not shake. Not at all... The people of India got rid of the emergency and re-established democracy in a democratic way," he said. The PM also said that he had the "good fortune to have been a witness and a partner in the struggle of the common man as a soldier of democracy" during the Emergency.

In his address, Modi also highlighted the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and

Authorization Centre (In-Space), an independent nodal agency formed to regulate private industry in the space sector, as an achievement in promoting new opportunities. He mentioned several space-related startups, including Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos, Hyderabad-based Skyroot, Bengaluru-based Digantara and Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space. Both Digantara and Dhruva Space are going to make their first launch from ISRO's launch vehicle on June 30.

Modi also lauded the sportspersons who set several records at the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games.

"Friends, there has been another special feature of Khelo India Youth Games. This time too, many such talents have emerged who come from very ordinary families. These players have struggled a lot in their lives to reach this stage of success. In their success, their family and parents too, have had a role to play," he said.

He also highlighted the successful 'vaccine-to-wealth' efforts of Alwal and Paducherry.

"There is a beautiful story, Chitte Laj, in Alwal, which, due to neglect for years, had turned into a heap of dirt and garbage. Efforts have started the last few years to save this river," he said.

The PM also mentioned the beginning of the Hindu pilgrimage season "As a society, we have always moved ahead by accepting new ideas, new changes. Our cultural mobility and travel have contributed a lot in this. That is why our sagas and saints have entrusted us with spiritual responsibilities like pilgrimages. All of us go on various pilgrimages," he said.

On a concluding note, Modi urged people to ensure that they, along with their family members, get the precautionary dose of the vaccine against the coronavirus on time and take necessary precautions like hand hygiene and masks.

ADVERTORIAL



Public Affairs Forum of India



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India needs to reach greater heights through smart policies that are evidence-based, process-driven, and people-centric. These should foster innovation and entrepreneurship while celebrating and encouraging investment, both domestic and foreign. Moreover, policy apparatus needs significant enhancement of state capacity, both at the center and in the states.

Realization of this vision needs alignment and collaboration on long-term priorities in an environment of trust across all the stakeholders including business, society and government. This is the underlying philosophy and raison d'être of PAFI and the 9th Annual Forum would chart out a roadmap to realize this vision predicated on **Scale, Speed and Sustainability**.

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