

Peace will be restored in Manipur, PM assures LS

Govt. wins the no-confidence motion; Modi asks the Opposition to try again in 2028; many of the problems that had flared up in Manipur had their origin during Congress regimes, he says

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured the people of Manipur that India and Parliament were with them and the State and Central governments were putting all efforts to bring peace and development back to the State, as his government won the motion of no confidence amid a walkout by the Opposition.

The Opposition said it staged a walkout due to the fact that despite 90 minutes into his two-hour speech, Mr. Modi had not addressed the issue of Manipur.

Speaking about the State, after the Opposition walkout, the Prime Minister said: "The violence in



Attack mode: Many problems of Manipur are results of bad governance by the previous Congress governments, says Modi. PTI

Manipur is saddening. Crimes against women are unacceptable and the Central and State governments are working together to ensure the guilty are punished. We want to assure our mothers and daughters in Manipur that this country is with you, this House is with you." He assured the people of India

that peace and development would soon be restored in the State. "*Dard ko samajh kar, dard ki dawa ban kar saath chalein*, [let us understand the pain and become the medicine to heal together]," he said.

While speaking of providing a healing touch to the people of Manipur, however, Mr. Modi said many

of the problems that had flared up in the State were not of recent origin but were a hangover from the previous Congress governments that had administered the State.

He spoke of the record of previous Congress governments in Manipur, a time when Manipur was "consumed in the conflagration of insurgency, when the administration was under the sway of insurgents and the national anthem was banned from being sung in schools, when insurgents bombed the ISKCON temple, when the bells of temples stopped ringing by 4 p.m. and security forces had to guard these locked temples".

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Peace will be restored in Manipur, PM tells LS

During the entire period, it was the Congress that was running the government, the Prime Minister added. He also said that the present BJP-led government in the State had till now made bombs and blockades a thing of the past and they were trying to find solutions with "sincere intent."

"The Opposition that has moved this motion is very selective in its pain and empathy. All of it starts with politics and ends with it," he said.

The Prime Minister added that unlike for the Opposition, for him, the northeast was his "figar ku rukda" (a piece of his heart), and mentioned that he had visited the area 50 times as Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers clocked over 400 visits.

He also enumerated the infrastructure and other development works done there by his government.

"Northeast can seem far to you, but I can visualise that a changing world order will see the rise of the ASEAN region and bring the northeast in focus," he said.

Attacks Congress

Continuing his blistering attack on the Congress, Mr. Modi recalled that it was the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who had used the Indian Air Force to bomb Mizoram and its own citizens in 1966, and deploy a military attack on the Akal Takht in 1984.

He said the Opposition had a fondness for using unseemly words and phrases for attacking him "and in this their favourite slogan is to say Modi, we will dig your grave". Mr. Modi's speech saw the Opposition shout slogans of "INDIA", the name of the new Opposition alliance, to counter the "Modi, Modi" slogans of the Treasury benches.

Mr. Modi termed the alliance "ghamandi [arrogant]", a play on INDIA bloc, and accused them of refusing to discuss Manipur separately for their own political ends despite the offer by Home Minister Amit Shah to do so. He said that those who spoke of "Bharat Mata" during the no-confidence motion (a reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) represented a party who did the "most to break India, even as it was gaining Independence".

With a nod to the regional parties that are part of the INDIA bloc, the Prime Minister said that even recently, DMK leaders from Tamil Nadu spoke of getting back Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka.

He also spoke of a 1962 radio broadcast of the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the Sino-Indian war where he said that his "heart goes out to the people of Assam", a sentence, added Mr. Modi, which still hurt the people "who were left to their fate in war".

The Prime Minister targeted the socialist parties such as the Janata Dal(U), current allies of the Congress, for tying up with the party when their ideological mentor, Ram Manohar Lohia had clearly stated that it was Nehru who was "deliberately keeping back the northeast" describing it as a "careless and dangerous thing to keep 30,000 square miles of territory in a cold storage".

"Try again in 2028"

Terming the alliance that brought the no-confidence motion against his government "arrogant, dynastic and corrupt," Mr. Modi added however, that no-confidence motions in the past had brought him luck as the last one in 2018 had seen the NDA return with a bigger majority.

"I ask the Opposition to try again in 2028," the Prime Minister said to laughter from the treasury benches.

J&K surrendered its sovereignty to India 'absolutely, completely': SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a Constitution Bench hearing petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir ceded its sovereignty to the Dominion of India "absolutely and completely".

"It was no conditional surrender of sovereignty to the Dominion of India. The surrender of sovereignty was absolutely complete," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed orally.

The restraint on Parliament to enact certain laws in Jammu and Kashmir was akin to limitations on enacting laws on subjects on the State List of the Indian Constitution. Limitations placed on the legislative power of the



Parliament cannot be construed to mean that Jammu and Kashmir, unlike other princely states which ceded to the Dominion and became full-fledged States under the Constitution, retained its sovereignty, the Chief Justice noted.

"Take the case of Indian States other than Jammu and Kashmir. There are restraints on the Parliament to enact on State subjects... The distribution of legislative power does not affect the fact that sove-

Limitations placed on the legislative power of Parliament cannot be construed to mean that J&K, unlike other princely states, retained its sovereignty

D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
Chief Justice of India

reignty vests in India. But merely because Parliament is disabled from touching a State List item while enacting a law, does not detract from the fact that all these States had once ceded their sovereignty to the Dominion of India," he observed on the fifth day of the marathon hearings.

The court was reacting to arguments that the "special autonomous status" granted to Jammu and Kashmir and retention of "residuary legislative pow-

ers" in the State were clear indications that Jammu and Kashmir retained an element of sovereignty.

The 'Delhi Agreement' by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Jawaharlal Nehru in 1952 had seen the Union government acquiesce that residuary legislative powers would vest with Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Centre, unlike the case with other States. The agreement had also empowered Jammu and Kashmir lawmakers to confer people domiciled there with special rights and privileges.

The Chief Justice referred to the Constitution (Application) Order of 1972 in which Parliament was granted exclusive powers to make laws to prevent activities threatening sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

State govt. signs pact with Godrej group for setting up plant

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. is expected to set up a manufacturing unit at Tiruppur with an investment of ₹515 crore, to provide jobs for 400 people

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. to set up a manufacturing unit in Chengalpattu district.

The MoU for setting up the unit near Tiruppur at an investment of ₹515 crore was signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

The unit is expected to provide employment for more than 400 people.

"This facility aims at having an inclusive and gender-balanced workforce. Our plan is to have 5% of the employees from the LGBTQ community and persons with disabilities, and employ 50% women," said Nisaba Godrej, GCPL's Executive Chairperson.

In a social media post, In-



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the event held to sign the MoU between the State Government and Godrej Consumer Products Ltd., in Chennai on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dustries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said bringing in Godrej unit was part of an effort to boost FMCG production.

"We are thrilled to be working with Ms. Nisaba, who has laid out an admirable DEI mandate for the facility - at least 50% of the employees will be women, and at least 5% from LGBTQI communities and people

with disabilities," Mr. Rajaa said.

GCPL's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sudhir Sitapati said: "It will serve as a manufacturing hub for a wide range of our renowned brands and products, such as Cinthol, Godrej Expert Rich Crème, Godrej Selfie Shampoo Hair Colour and Goodknight".

Chief Minister unveils logo for Global Investors' Meet 2024

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday unveiled the logo for the upcoming Global Investors' Meet 2024, to be held on January 7 and 8 in Chennai.

The logo is centred around the Tamil letter 'த' which signifies the Tamil language, people and the State.

The logo's colours and aesthetics reflect digital transformation and industrialisation, an urbanised society and rapid industrial growth.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Stalin stressed the need to not only attract investments but also showcase the achievements of the State.

Since the DMK came to power two years ago, the State had attracted 241 investment proposals with a cumulative investment of ₹2,97,196 crore, ensuring job opportunities for 4,15,282 people, he said.



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiling the logo for the Global Investors' Meet 2024 in Chennai on Thursday. R. RAGU

Mr. Stalin said GIM would attract investments of several lakh crore rupees, boost employment opportunities, especially for women, and also help the State march towards the goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

He also urged industry captains to turn into brand ambassadors for the State and help attract investments from leading firms.

Industries Minister

T.R.B. Raaja, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena, Industries secretary S. Krishnan, GIM nodal officer Arun Roy and Guidance MD and CEO V. Vishnu were present.

R. Dinesh, president, Confederation of Indian Industry; Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of TAFE; and representatives from various Consulates were present at the event.

ISRO gears up for soft landing of Chandrayaan-3, releases images

The first image is of the earth as viewed by the Lander Imager camera, taken on July 14 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre; the second is of the moon captured by the Lander Horizontal Velocity camera on board the spacecraft on August 6

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released two images taken by the spacecraft. The first image is of the earth as viewed by the Lander Imager (LI) camera. The photo was taken on July 14, when the Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The second image is of the moon captured by the Lander Horizontal Velocity camera (LHVC) on board the spacecraft on August 6.

ISRO posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter): "Chan-



Rare click: The moon as captured by the Lander Horizontal Velocity camera on August 6, 2023. ISRO

drayaan-3 Mission: Earth viewed by Lander Imager (LI) Camera on the day of the launch, Moon imaged by Lander Horizontal Ve-

locity Camera (LHVC) a day after the Lunar Orbit Insertion."

LI camera was developed by Space Applica-

tions Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and LHV camera by the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, which is based in Bengaluru.

ISRO had earlier released a video of the moon, as viewed by Chandrayaan-3 during Lunar Orbit Insertion, which took place on August 1.

Space situation

Meanwhile, in the run-up to the Chandrayaan-3 lander's soft landing on the moon's surface on August 23, the ISRO has carried out an assessment of the current space situation around the moon.

The space agency stated that the moon and Mars are the most explored and also comparatively more crowded planetary bodies.

It added that India's

Chandrayaan-3 is the latest entry into lunar orbit and more intensified activities around the moon are foreseen in the next few years due to the renewed interest in lunar exploration, heralded by Artemis missions for return to the moon and preparations for colonisation of Mars.

"While the previous missions were essentially aimed at scientific explorations, upcoming ventures will likely involve multiple actors of diverse interests, including those primarily driven by resource utilisation for commercial purposes. A better understanding of the environment is needed to formulate reasonable mitigation practices to avoid close-approach threats in planetary orbits," it said.

MPC holds rates, lifts FY24 inflation forecast to 5.4%; retains growth view

Reserve Bank Governor Das says domestic economic activity is holding up well and is likely to retain its momentum, despite weak external demand; monetary policy panel decided to remain watchful and evaluate the emerging situation

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% even as it raised the projection for retail inflation in the current fiscal year by 30 basis points to 5.4%.

The MPC also decided by a majority of 5 out of 6 members to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth.

"Headline inflation, after reaching a low of 4.3%

Hold extended

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee leaves policy interest rate unchanged for a third straight meeting

- Majority of 5 MPC members opts to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation aligns with the target, while supporting growth

- MPC retains its projection for real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%

- RBI says that with effect from fortnight of Aug. 12, banks to maintain incremental CRR of 10%



in May 2023, rose in June and is expected to surge during July-August led by vegetable prices," observed RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, explaining the MPC's rationale.

"While the vegetable price shock may reverse

quickly, possible El Niño weather conditions along with global food prices need to be watched closely against the backdrop of a skewed south-west monsoon so far. These developments warrant a heightened vigil on the evolving

inflation trajectory.

"The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points undertaken by the MPC is working its way into the economy. Nonetheless, domestic economic activity is holding up well and is likely to retain its momentum, despite weak external demand," Mr. Das added.

The MPC retained its projection for real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%.

The CPI inflation projection for 2023-24, assuming a normal monsoon, was revised upwards to 5.4% from the 5.1% forecast in June, with Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2%.

To address the problem of excess liquidity with banks, the RBI decided

that with effect from the fortnight beginning August 12, scheduled banks would maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.

"This measure is intended to absorb the surplus liquidity generated by various factors including the return of ₹2000 notes to the banking system," Mr. Das said. "This is purely a temporary measure for managing the liquidity overhang. Even after this temporary impounding, there will be adequate liquidity in the system to meet the credit needs of the economy," he added.