

BJP observed Dark Day to mark 43 anniversary of emergency

Agency
New Delhi, June 26,

To mark the 43rd anniversary of the Emergency imposed by former prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is observing "black day" on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an event in Mumbai and express gratitude towards those who fought against the Emergency in 1975 and propagate the vitality of conserving the democratic values. Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis and state BJP chief Raosaheb Danve too will attend the event.

Modi has been a bitter critic of the former prime minister's move to impose Emergency. In his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" in 2017, Modi had referred to the Emergency, saying "such a black night cannot be forgotten". He said it was essential to remember the incidents which caused harm to democracy and learn from them.

Senior party leaders and union ministers will also hold press conferences and address seminars and hall meeting programmes across the country on Tuesday to mark the 'black day'. Prakash Javadekar, Smriti Irani, JP Nadda, Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr Mahesh Sharma will also hold press briefings.

While Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a press meet in Pune, Smriti Irani will brief the media in Odisha. In Madhya Pradesh Ananth Kumar will hold a press conference whereas in Rajasthan it will be on Prakash Javadekar to talk to the mediapersons about the "dark period" and its repercussions. MoS K Alphons will talk in Tamil Nadu and BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra will speak in Hyderabad. General (Retd.) VK Singh will also hold a press meet in Andhra Pradesh and Jitendra Singh addresses the media in Assam

to mark the "black day".

According to *The Indian Express*, BJP national spokesperson Anil Baluni said that press conferences and seminars will be organised at around 22 places across the country to make the youth aware about how the Congress had murdered democracy by imposing Emergency. Baluni said that such mass awareness was needed so that no one could dare impose Emergency in the future. He said that the idea is to highlight how Emergency was the darkest period of independent India.

On Monday, BJP chief Amit Shah attacked the Congress party for imposing the Emergency. In a series of tweets Shah said that on this day, "democracy was murdered by the Congress party merely to maintain power".

In his tweet, Shah also paid tribute to those who fought against the Emergency and said countless number of people were put behind bars as they suffered atrocities for over 21 months.

Earlier on Monday, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the second part of his three part-series titled 'The Emergency Revisited' recalled the 'tyranny' faced by the people faced during the emergency period. Drawing parallels between Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Jaitley said that both had turned democracy into dictatorship. But, Jaitley wrote that unlike Hitler, Gandhi went a step ahead by endeavouring to transform India into a "dynastic democracy".

On Tuesday, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP observed 'Save Democracy Day' to mark the "darkest period in the history of the country". BJP national general secretary Anil Jain addressed a programme at the party office in Jammu. Former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta also presided over a meeting to recall and denounce the dark days of

emergency.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi also wrote in a blog that the Emergency was the "biggest blot" on the Indian democracy and said that a chapter on it should be included in the textbooks to educate the younger generation about the "atrocities" committed during that period.

In a blog titled 'The 1975 Emergency - A dirty deceit against democracy', posted on his Facebook page, Naqvi said people of the country fought for democratic values, constitutional rights and succeeded in protecting democracy and the Constitution by removing the Congress party from power. The Emergency was a 21-month period between 25 June, 1975 and 21 March, 1977, officially issued by the then president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed under Article 352 of the Constitution due to "internal disturbances" which in turn, gave the then prime minister the authority to rule by decree with civil liberties being curbed.

Gandhi imposed Emergency after the Supreme Court found her election to the Lok Sabha 'null and void'. Following the apex court's announcement, protests erupted in the country. The government then stated threat to national security and declared Emergency.

During this period, several citizens and politicians including opposition leaders like Vijayaraje Scindia, Jaiprakash Narayan, Moraji Desai, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were arrested without any trial as fundamental rights had been suspended and media was also censored.

Fresh elections were called after the Emergency ended in 1977 and Congress lost by a huge margin, resulting in the Janata Party's Moraji Desai becoming the first non-Congress prime minister.

Heads of 11 banks to appear before Parliamentary Panel to appraise on bad loan, fraud cases

Agency
New Delhi, June 26,

Heads of 11 state-owned banks will appraise a parliamentary committee about the problems of mounting bad loans and increasing fraud cases on Tuesday, sources said. They will be appearing before the Standing Committee on Finance, headed by veteran Congress leader M Veerappa Moily, which is looking into 'Banking Sector in India-Issues, Challenges and the

Way Forward, including Non-Performing Assets/ Stressed Assets in Banks/Financial Institutions'.

Top officials of IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Dena Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Bank of Maharashtra, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank and Allahabad Bank, will make presentations before the panel and respond to queries on June 26, said sources. The banking sector is grappling with rising non-

performing assets (NPAs), which touched Rs 8.99 trillion (Rs 8.99 lakh crore) or 10.11 per cent of total advances at December-end 2017.

Of the total gross NPAs, the public sector banks accounted for Rs 7.77 trillion (Rs 7.77 lakh crore).

The rising number of frauds has become a serious cause for concern.

The number of frauds reported by banks increased from 4,693 in financial year 2015-16 to 5,904 in 2017-18. The fraud amount at end-

March 2018 was Rs 323.61 billion (Rs 32,361.27 crore), up from Rs 186.98 billion (Rs 18,698.8 crore) at the end of 2015-16.

Earlier this month, RBI Governor Urjit Patel had replied to host of questions asked by the committee members. Patel, sources had said, was asked about bad loans, bank frauds, cash crunch and other issues. They also said he assured the panel members that steps were being taken to strengthen the banking system.

India most dangerous country for women with sexual violence rife

Courtesy- Thomson Reuters Foundation
LONDON, June 26,

India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a poll of global experts released on Tuesday.

War-torn Afghanistan and Syria ranked second and third in the Thomson Reuters Foundation survey of about 550 experts on women's issues, followed by Somalia and Saudi Arabia.

The only Western nation in the top 10 was the United States, which ranked joint third when respondents were asked where women were most at risk of sexual violence, harassment and being coerced into sex. The poll was a repeat of a survey in 2011 that found experts saw Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, India, and Somalia as the most dangerous countries for women.

Experts said India moving to the top of poll showed not enough was being done to tackle the danger women faced, more than five years after the rape and murder of

a student on a bus in Delhi made violence against women a national priority.

"India has shown utter disregard and disrespect for women ... rape, marital rapes, sexual assault and harassment, female infanticide has gone unabated," said Manjunath Gangadhara, an official at the Karnataka state government.

"The (world's) fastest growing economy and leader in space and technology is shamed for violence committed against women." Government data shows reported cases of crime against women rose by 83 percent between 2007 and 2016, when there were four cases of rape reported every hour.

The survey asked respondents which five of the 193 United Nations member states they thought were most dangerous for women and which country was worst in terms of healthcare, economic resources, cultural or traditional practices, sexual violence and harassment, non-sexual violence and human trafficking.

Respondents also ranked India the most dangerous country for women in terms

of human trafficking, including sex slavery and domestic servitude, and for customary practices such as forced marriage, stoning and female infanticide.

India's Ministry of Women and Child Development declined to comment on the survey results.

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Afghanistan fared worst in four of the seven questions, with concerns over healthcare and conflict-related violence. Kimberly Otis, director of advancement at Women for Afghan Women, said women and girls faced severe gender-based violence, abuse, illiteracy, poverty, and other human rights offences.

"The ongoing war and conflict are getting worse in Afghanistan, which puts the lives of women and girls at increasing risk," said U.S.-based Otis, a survey participant.

Afghanistan's Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz said the deteriorating security situation was making life difficult for women, with large parts of the country still in the control of Taliban fighters after nearly 17 years of war. "Nowadays, suicide bombings and armed conflict is the third (highest) cause of deaths and disability in Afghanistan," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview in London.

"Instead of focusing (spending) on maternal health, on nutritional status, we spend it on trauma." The impact of a seven-year war drove Syria into third place in the survey, amid concerns over access to healthcare and both sexual and non-sexual violence.

"There are so many dangers for girls and women," said Maria Al Abdeh, executive director of Women Now For Development, which supports women's centres in Syria.

"There is sexual violence by government forces. Domestic violence and child marriage are increasing and more women are dying in childbirth. The tragedy is nowhere near an end." Somalia, where more than two decades of war has fuelled a culture of violence and weakened institutions meant to uphold the law, was again named as one of the five most dangerous countries for women.

Saudi Arabia ranked fifth, with women's rights experts saying there had been some progress in recent years, but

the recent arrests of female activists ahead of the lifting of a ban on women driving showed much more needed to be done.

"One of the worst laws that prevent women from having equal opportunities is guardianship - because every woman is subjected to a male guardian. She cannot get a passport, cannot travel, sometimes she cannot work," said Ahlam Akram, founder of BASIRA (British Arabs Supporting Universal Women's Rights) in the UK.

"We need to completely obliterate this system. I think change is coming, but it takes time." Experts said the surprise addition of the United States in the top 10 most dangerous countries for women came down to the #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns against sexual harassment and violence that have dominated headlines for months.

"People want to think income means you're protected from misogyny, and sadly that's not the case," said Cindy Southworth, executive vice president of the Washington-based National Network to End Domestic Violence.

"We are going to look back and see this as a very powerful tipping point ... We're blowing the lid off and saying '#Metoo and Time's Up'." Rounding out the top 10 most dangerous countries for women were Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen and Nigeria.

India, Libya and Myanmar were considered the world's most dangerous nations for women exploited by human traffickers in a global crime worth an estimated \$150 billion a year.

"In many countries the simple fact of being female creates a heightened risk of becoming a victim of slavery," said Nick Grono, chief executive of the Freedom Fund, the first private donor fund dedicated to ending slavery.

The poll of 548 people was conducted online, by phone and in person between March 26 and May 4 with an even spread across Europe, Africa, the Americas, South East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.

Respondents included aid professionals, academics, healthcare staff, non-government organisation workers, policy-makers, development specialists and social commentators.

One Day Food Processing Conclave Held

IT News
Imphal, June 26,

A One day Food Processing Conclave under the theme 'Awareness and UP-gradation of technology and promotion of Kishan Sampada Yojana' was held at Hotel Classic Grande, Chingmeirong, Imphal on Monday. The Conclave was jointly organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India and Indian Chamber of Commerce with the support of Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur.

The occasion was graced by Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti, Minister of State, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India as Chief Guest. While addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest said that the main objective of the Government is to increase the income of farmers double times. Every farmers in every state should not be left behind, especially Manipur since the state has a rich soil. The Food Processing Ministry has been progressing in the last few years, there are many schemes such as Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Kishan Sampada Scheme, Backward power



linkage, though it is difficult to earmark 50 acres of land for Food Park at some places in every state, the Ministry has proposed through Cabinet for small units after proper identification and if Food Park cannot be set up in 12 acres of land, the same land can use to set up a Cold Chain that deals directly with the farmers.

The Chief Guest also declared that the Ministry is providing 35% subsidy for Meghalaya region and 75% for Manipur of that only 25% will be borne by the beneficiaries. Stressing that there are certain factors like willingness of the government, condition of the industry, water, electricity etc are to be

provided by the government and also stated that the state being the gateway to Asian Highway, the Ministry is ready to provide and assist in making the Kishan Sampada Yojana a success.

Speaking as Guest of Honour, Th. Bishwajit Singh, Minister (Trade, Commerce & Industries) said the state is moving forward in every field. Though the state is small as compared to others, it has a good climatic condition, fertile land, water and natural resources especially in agriculture and horticulture areas. Unfortunately, the food products have to be imported from neighbouring country due

to the lack of means of preservation of food products and also due to the lack of adequate marketing facilities in the state, perishable products goes wasted. He further states that if the state has Cold Chains, 40% of food can be saved from wasting which can be sold in markets benefitting the farmers and to enable the entrepreneurs to sell their products on-line, the Minister request the Ministry to reduce the loan compound interest of the Entrepreneurs.

The conclave was organized to promote and uplift the food processing industries in the state and also to encourage home food processing units.

The state has a fertile soil leading to surplus production, however with lack of cold chain facility surplus production goes wasted. The government of India has taken a number of strategies and initiatives to encourage investment in food processing units.

The function was also attended by Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary, Manipur, as Special Guest, Shri P. Vaiphei, Principal Secretary (Trade, Commerce & Industries), Government of Manipur, Shri. C. Arthur Worchuiyo, Director, Trade, Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur, Ms. Madhuparna Bhowmick, Additional Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Later, in the technical session, Dr. C.A. Srinivassamurthy, Director of Research, CAU, Manipur, Dr. Danie Shalie, IIT Kharagpur, Mr. Y. Raj Kumar, AGM, NABARD, Manipur, Mr. SK Singits, United Bank of India and Mr. Thangjam Joykumar Singh, Managing Director, Thangjam Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd. presented papers on New Scheme PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana as a Resource Persons.