

# ‘Don’t bother about numbers’: PM Modi to oppn ahead of new Parliament session

Agency  
New Delhi June 17,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday assured the opposition that their ‘every word’ will be taken seriously by the government despite the NDA’s numerical advantage in Parliament. The Prime Minister was speaking outside Parliament moments before the beginning of the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha.

“The role of an opposition and an active opposition is important in a Parliamentary democracy. The opposition need not bother about their numbers. Whatever numbers opposition parties may have got from the people, we will take their every word seriously. I hope they speak actively and participate in house proceedings,” said the Prime Minister.

The BJP led NDA has 353 MPs in the lower house of Parliament that has a total strength of 545. The BJP alone has 303 MPs, while the second largest party in the house, the Congress has 52 MPs.

Further stressing on the need to work with the opposition, the PM said, “When we come to Parliament, we should forget ‘Paksh’ (The Treasury) and ‘Vipaksh’ (The Opposition). We should think about issues



with a ‘Nishpaksh’ (objective) spirit and work in the larger interest of the nation.

“My experience also suggests that when Parliament functions smoothly, we are able to fulfil numerous aspirations of the people of India,” he said. Prime Minister’s outreach is a continuation from yesterday’s all-party meeting where he requested floor leaders of various political parties to keep their differences aside to avoid disruptions in proceedings.

“We are for the people... We cannot win hearts by disrupting the functioning of Parliament. All parties must

keep political differences aside and commit themselves to tireless work for the nation’s progress,” the Prime Minister said while chairing the meeting at the Parliament complex ahead of the Budget session on Sunday.

The session, which will conclude on July 26, will see the tabling of the Triple Talaq bill and a legislation to allow the voluntary use of Aadhaar as an identity proof for opening bank accounts and getting mobile phone connections. Opposition has demanded that issues like farm distress, unemployment and drought crisis be taken up for discussions in the first

session.

The Union Budget will be presented on July 5. The fresh bill to ban instant triple talaq will be introduced in Parliament to replace an ordinance issued in February. Under the proposed law, instant triple talaq will be illegal and attract a jail term of three years. The previous bill had not cleared the Rajya Sabha hurdle and lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

The first two days of the Budget session is likely to be devoted to oath-taking by members of the 17th Lok Sabha, administered by protem speaker Virendra Kumar.

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## First session of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

At the all-party meeting, the Congress raised with the government issues of unemployment, farmers distress, drought, and press freedom, while also calling for early conduct of Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Opposition parties demanded discussion on all such issues in Parliament, with the Congress asserting that it is still a ‘fight of ideologies’. Prime Minister Modi, defence minister Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress lawmakers Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, K Suresh, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah and TMC leader Derek O’Brien were present at the meeting. The BJP also held its parliamentary party meet here Sunday with Prime Minister

Modi assuring Indians that his government will be at the forefront of facilitating legislation that manifests the spirit of ‘sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas’. A day before the first session of the newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha, a meeting of the NDA was also held.

The government had promulgated as many as 10 ordinances for the session which ends on 26 July and will have 30 sittings. The first two days of the session will be used for administering oath of office to all Lok Sabha MPs. The oath will be administered by protem speaker Virendra Kumar. The speaker will be elected on 19 June and the next day the president will address a joint sitting of both Houses. The budget will be introduced

on 5 July. Among the bills that will be introduced, the one on triple talaq could be a contentious one between the government and the Opposition.

Addressing the media after the all-party meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi said the prime minister urged leaders of all parties to ‘introspect whether members of Parliament are able to fulfil people’s aspirations as their representatives and the manner in which last two years of the 16th Lok Sabha were wasted’.

An all-party meeting is a customary procedure before the beginning of every session of Parliament to ensure its smooth functioning. Joshi said the government has requested all parties, especially the Opposition, for

their cooperation for the smooth functioning of both Houses of Parliament.

In order to build esprit de corps, Modi has invited presidents of all those parties who have an MP either in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha for a meeting on 19 June. The meeting has been called to discuss the ‘one nation, one election’ issue, celebrations of 75 years of India’s Independence in 2022 and 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary this year, he said.

It will be followed by a dinner meeting with all MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 20 June to freely interact and exchange views with the government, Joshi said, adding that these two novel initiatives would go a long way in building team spirit among all parliamentarians.

## Sport News

### Virat Kohli walks off despite being given not out, replays prove him wrong - Watch

Agency  
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Virat Kohli was batting at 77 during the ICC World Cup encounter between India and Pakistan on Sunday and it looked like the Indian cricket team skipper was headed towards another brilliant ODI century. However, he lashed wildly at a bouncer from Mohammad Amir in the 48th over and the Pakistan fielders all went up in appeal.

The umpire was not moved by the appeals but Kohli decided to walk back as he was sure that he had nicked the ball. It is not common for batsmen to just walk against the umpire’s decision but Kohli seemed convinced.

However, the replays supported the umpires’ decision and showed that there was a huge gap between bat and ball. Even Kohli was spotted watching the replays from the dressing room and MS Dhoni was also spotted swinging Kohli’s bat in the dressing room, possibly



testing for any kind of noise from the handle.

The match commentators were of the opinion that there was some sort of creaking noise from his bat and as a result, Kohli was convinced that he had nicked it. However, Kohli’s decision stood and that resulted in India not having a satisfactory to their innings. Pakistan made a comeback in the final few overs as India managed only 38 runs in the final five overs. Vijay Shankar (15 off 15 balls) struggled with his timing,

failing to read Amir’s cutters. Earlier, Rohit Sharma hit his second hundred in three innings to leave bitter rivals Pakistan needing to make World Cup history. Sharma’s 140 was the centrepiece of India’s 336 for five at Old Trafford as they looked to make it seven wins out of seven against Pakistan at the World Cup. The most any side have made batting second to win a World Cup match is Ireland’s 329 for seven against England at Bangalore in 2011.

## ICC World Cup: India beat Pakistan by 89 runs

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In the ICC Cricket World Cup, brilliant knocks from Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli before the magnificent spells by the bowling unit guided India to beat Pakistan by 89 runs by Duckworth-Lewis method at the Old Trafford in Manchester last night. Chasing a stiff target of 337 runs, Pakistan faced an early hiccup. The rain interrupted the match after

35 overs. However, after almost 50 minutes, the match was curtailed to 40 overs and the run-chase was adjusted to 302 runs based on the Duckworth-Lewis (DLS) method. Earlier, put into bat first, India made 336 for five in 50 overs riding on Rohit Sharma’s 140 run off 113 balls and skipper Virat Kohli’s 77 off 65 balls. Rohit Sharma has been adjudged Man of the Match for his brilliant knock. For India, Vijay Shankar, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep

Yadav took 2 wickets each. The Indian captain became the fastest player to make 11,000 ODI runs in his 222nd innings. Kohli’s milestone smashed master-blast Sachin Tendulkar’s record which he had completed in his 276th innings.

With this win, India’s head-to-head record against Pakistan in World Cup matches now sits at 7-0. Today, Bangladesh will take on West Indies at Taunton at 3 PM Indian Time.

## ‘Raring to go’ - Virat Kohli names Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s replacement

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For India it was a routine game, they were asked to bat first, were cautious at the beginning, built a platform, chugged along in the middle phase and then erupted in the death overs. And then their bowlers took over, the fast bowlers kept things tight in the beginning, spinners wrestled control and the fielders combined to strangle the opposition. It was as per the script and Kohli’s boys were absolutely clinical in their win against Pakistan. However, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, India’s premier bowler, had to leave the field with a suspect hamstring

injury and while his absence was not felt, India will have to manage without him in the next few games. Giving an update on his injury, skipper Kohli said that the seam bowler should be back at ‘some stage during the tournament’.

He also added that they have a ready replacement in Mohammed Shami and that he is ‘raring to go’. “Slight niggle for Bhuv, he slipped on one of the footmarks,” Kohli said at the presentation ceremony. “He’s out for two, maybe three games, but he should come back for us at some stage during this tournament.” Kumar took five wickets in India’s first two matches and

his injury is likely to facilitate the selection of fellow right-hand quick Mohammed Shami who is yet to play a match in the tournament.

Kohli said Kumar was “important” to the team and that Shami was “raring to go”. The team later said Kumar, whose ability to swing the ball makes him an asset in English conditions, could not take any further part in the match owing to tightness in his left hamstring.

India have already lost opener Shikhar Dhawan to a hand injury though they remain hopeful the southpaw will be fit before the June 30 match against hosts England.

## Bhuvneshwar Kumar ruled out of at least next two World Cup games

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Pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been ruled out of India’s, at least, next two World Cup games after developing a niggle in his left hamstring during the clash against Pakistan at

Manchester. The paceman walked off the field without completing his third over and India skipper Virat Kohli confirmed that he will be replaced by Mohammed Shami in the following games. India’s next three games are against Afghanistan on

22nd June, West Indies on June 27 and England on June 30.

It is second big jolt for India as opener Shikhar Dhawan has already been ruled out of a few games due to a thumb injury, sustain during the match against Australia.

## A R Organises Security Meet And Community Service

IGAR (South)  
Imphal June 17,

Tulihal and Mantripukhri Battalions of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised Security meet and Community service on Yesterday.

With an aim to sensitise the local populace regarding the existing security situation in the area, Nambol Company Operating Base (COB) of Tulihal Battalion and Koirengei Company Operating Base of Mantripukhri Battalion conducted security meets in their respective COBs in which locals of the area were updated on current situation existing in the area of responsibility. There was also an interaction carried out on necessary measures required to be undertaken for maintaining a strict vigil against illicit activities in the area, future action plan in respect of civic action projects, recruitment in Assam



Rifles and Indian Army and career counseling for youth. The attendees were also sensitised regarding the increased snake bite cases during summers and assistance provided by Assam Rifles for snake bite victims. The security forum was attended by the Meira Paibis, Ex-servicemen, Ward Councilors along with representatives of local youth clubs.

Yaingangpokpi Company Operating Base of Mantripukhri Battalion organised community service

well as identify with their local customs and traditions. The event commenced with offering of prayers followed by an interaction with the villagers. The interaction proved to be of immense significance as over 145 locals willingly shared their various issues of concern.

The villagers expressed their gratitude towards Assam Rifles for connecting with them and extending their support to the villagers. Tea and refreshments were provided to the villagers after culmination of the interactive meets at the respective locations.

## A R Observes Pre-Yoga Day Programme

IGAR (South)  
Imphal June 17,

As a precursor to International Yoga Day, yoga was done by troops of Gammom Company Operating Base (COB) Shangshak Battalion Assam

Rifles of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South). A strength of 60 people including 35 locals living nearby the COB participated in the observation. Refreshments were catered for all after the Yoga programme.