

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Parliament

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ದಿನಾಂಕ : 7/2/20 DATE

PM blasts opposition to CAA, warns it may create anarchy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dug deep into history to make his case for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), while slamming the Opposition for stoking fears among Muslims, warning that refusal to accept laws enacted by Parliament could lead to anarchy.

From Jawaharlal Nehru to Lal Bahadur Shastri, Modi quoted a number of Congress stalwarts to argue that the party was indulging in opportunism. Quoting from correspondence between Nehru and former Assam chief minister Gopinath Bardoloi, Modi said the former drew a clear distinction between Hindu refugees and Muslim mi-

grants from East Pakistan. "Nehru wrote to the CM from his own party to explain that Hindu refugees and Muslim migrants needed to be treated differently. Did Nehru want a Hindu Rashtra?" he quipped.

Referring to the Nehru-Liaquat pact, Modi asked why only religious minorities in Pakistan was mentioned in it.

In the Rajya Sabha, Modi read out excerpts from the speeches of Shastri and Ram Manohar Lohia to stress that leaders across party lines wanted religious minorities of Pakistan treated with empathy. He alleged that the Opposition was spreading rumours because of their rout in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, adding protests were being manufactured even for a normal administrative exercise like NPR and Census.

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'Valley's identity buried in 1990s'

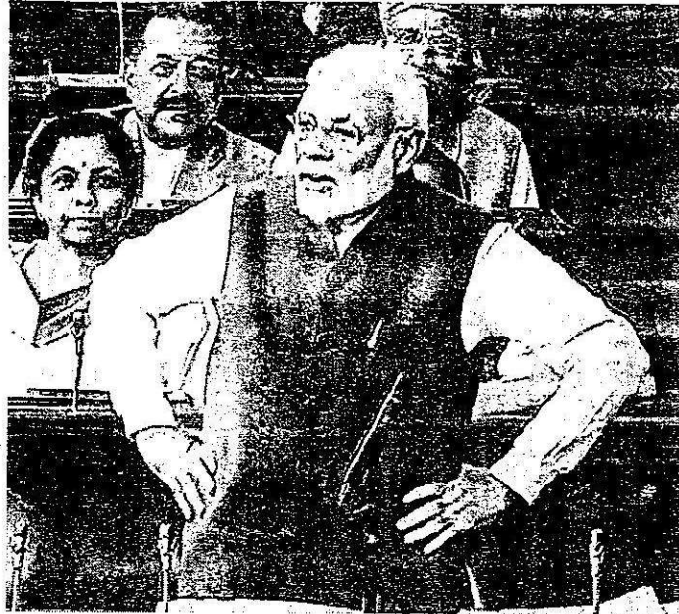
PM raises K-issue in upper & lower House; slams ex J&K CMs' statements as unacceptable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS several J&K leaders continue to be in detention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said that statements made by former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir following abrogation of Article 370 are not acceptable to the Centre. While referring to the exodus of Pandits from the Valley, the PM said that the identity of Kashmir was buried on January 19, 1990.

Replying to a debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha, PM Modi also slammed the state leadership of Jammu and Kashmir, criticising former CMs Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for their remarks post the abrogation of Article 370.

"There have been statements made by former CMs of J&K that are not acceptable. These are leaders who don't trust Kashmiri people that's why they used such language, but we trusted Kashmiris and abrogated article 370," the PM said in a marathon speech. "Who made Kashmir only about land grabbing? Who made Kashmir's identity only about bombs and guns? Can anyone forget that dark night of Janu-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday | PTI

ary?... Kashmiri identity is closely linked with harmony." Targeting the Congress, he said that those who are talking about respect for the Constitution never even implemented it in J&K for so many decades.

In the Rajya Sabha, PM said for the first time in decades, people of J&K are getting benefits of reservation and there

were block development council polls and anti-corruption bureau was set up. "It was (J&K Reorganisation Act) discussed in the House and it was voted. August 5, 2019 turned out to be a blood day for those propagating terrorism and separatism. Now, several central schemes and packages are being implemented," he said



Who made Kashmir only about land grabbing? Who made Kashmir's identity only about bombs and guns?... In reality, Kashmiri identity is closely linked with harmony

Narendra Modi, PM

'Let's work to make India USD 5-trn economy'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday underlined the need for working together to make India a USD 5 trillion economy, while stressing that the government has been able to maintain macro-economic stability amid tough global environment.

In the Lok Sabha, he also exhorted all the members to give suggestions on ways to take advantage of opportunities thrown up by the current global economic situation. "There is no question of thinking small. Pessimism and gloom do not help us. We talk about a USD 5-trillion economy. Yes, the aim is ambitious but we have to think big and think ahead," he said.

He said that the Centre is taking to keep the fiscal deficit and price rise in check.

"There is also macro-economic stability," he said, adding that all members should give suggestions on improving economy.

As several members spoke about the impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the government's constant changes, the PM said frequent changes were a reflection of the federal structure of the country and showed the government is willing to improve the law.

PM takes 'tubelight' jibe at Rahul Gandhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's remark in Delhi campaign that the youth will beat the PM with sticks in six months over unemployment, Narendra Modi vowed to increase "Surya Namaskars to immune his back". The PM came down hard on Rahul without naming him.

Singling out the Congress for his attack, the PM first aimed at Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, the leader of the main Opposi-

tion party, with friendly banter. Choudhary was interrupting Modi as he began to reply on the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the address of President Ram Nath Kovind at the joint session of Parliament.

Patting an MoS for sports for the "Fit India" campaign, he said Choudhary has been practicing fitness, with gym exercise while speaking in the House. "One Congress leader has said that the youth will beat



me with six months. It's good that they have given six months time for me to prepare and I will increase my Surya Namaskar to strengthen my back," said Modi attacking Rahul.

Rahul, who had been listening, tried to clarify his speech, but wasn't heard amid the din. Modi trained his gun at Gandhi and said "I've been speaking for 30 minutes, but the current has now reached; some tube lights work like this".