

Will take Vajpayee's path on Kashmir: PM

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called embracing the people and “not going down the path of bullets and abuses” as the way forward in resolving problems in Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s vision of “insaniyat, (humanity), jamhoriyat (democracy), and Kashmiriyat (inclusive Kashmiri culture),” for the state. Modi called the path Vajpayee showed to end Kashmir’s problems the right one and said the government would follow the same approach.

“We want to walk down the same path. Vajpayee ji had said insaniyat, Kashmiriyat and jamhoriyat were the three guiding points to be followed for the balanced development of the state, whether it is Ladakh, Kashmir

valley or the Jammu region,” Modi said in his speech. He said Vajpayee’s vision for peace would go a long way in meeting aspirations of the state’s people.

Modi said local bodies elections would be held soon in the state, which is under the governor’s rule since Bharatiya Janata Party withdrew support from the People’s Democratic Party-led coalition government in June. The elections were scheduled to be held in January. But they were deferred after the coalition government told the Centre the situation was not conducive. Panchayat polls were last held in the state in 2011. Urban local body elections have not been held for eight years.

Modi said the left-wing extremism had been restricted to 90 districts, compared to 126 earlier. He attributed it to the sustained efforts of the forces and

new development schemes.

 pressreader

PressReader.com +1 604 278 46

ORIGINAL COPY - ORIGINAL COPY - ORIGINAL COPY - ORIGINAL COPY - ORIGINAL COPY