

PM's speech disappointing, fight against corruption a sham: Cong

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NEW DELHI: The Congress called PM Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech "most disappointing" on Tuesday and asked him to acknowledge the failure of his government to deliver on its promises to the people after three years of ruling the country.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma hit out at Modi for making tall claims on the implementation of GST.

"For seven years, he as the Gujarat chief minister and the BJP in opposition had stalled GST in Parliament," Sharma said.

He also attacked Modi for comparing the incident in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur where over 60 children died in a state-run hos-

pital with other natural calamities "in a very trivial manner".

Sharma said the Prime Minister talked about the surgical strike which had taken place almost a year ago and since then ceasefire violations and attacks from across the border were repeatedly taking place in the restive state. "The situation there has been allowed to drift and deteriorate ... Kashmir is a matter of national concern," he said.

On Modi's claims about his government's fight against corruption, Sharma questioned the delay in the appointment of Lokpal. Sharma said Modi's promise of curbing black money "remains a sham" and that his government has "promoted black money hoarding" and promoted "crony capitalism".

VALLEY WARY

Kashmiri leaders saw cautious hope in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach on Tuesday, but the common people appeared to be much less impressed.

Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq welcomed the Prime Minister's comment.

"Welcome @narendramodi also believes 'Goli&gaali will not help resolve Kashmir' if insaniyat & insaaf replace them Resolution can become a Reality," he tweeted.

However, residents of Kashmir said Prime Minister's statement would have some weight when "atrocities" on people would stop. "There is a curfew in whole valley and you are talking of love. What love?", a social media wrote.