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We have decided to repeal three farm laws: PM

Farm union welcomes Govt's decision

STATE TIMES NEWS
 NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, which were at the centre of protests by farmers for the past year.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti, the prime minister said the three laws were for the benefit of farmers but "we couldn't convince a section of farmers despite best efforts".

The goal of the three farm laws was to empower farmers, especially small farmers, he said, adding He the three farm laws will be repealed in the coming Winter session of Parliament.

The agriculture budget has risen by five times with over Rs 1.25 lakh crore being spent annually, Modi said.

He also highlighted his gov't measures to benefit small farmers.

"I have experienced farmers' difficulties, challenges from very

close quarters in my five decades of public life," the prime minister said.

The day of announcement, coincided with Guru Nanak Jayanti which marks the birth anniversary of the one of the most revered Sikh gurus.

From Ghazipur border of Delhi-Uttar Pradesh to Singhu border of Delhi-Haryana, people were seen distributing sweets, 'jalebis' at protest sites.

TV channels and news portals also aired visuals, showing men carrying sweets in baskets, and distributing it to people at protest sites.

On Guru Nanak Jayanti, the Sikh community, every year celebrates the occasion with great reverence and festivities. Gurudwaras and public buildings and houses are lit up to mark the occasion.

Many farmers have been protesting and encamped at Delhi's borders since late November 2020 with a demand that the Farmers' Produce Trade



and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guar-

antee MSP for crops.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiyan Kisan Union's (BKU) Ugrahan faction has welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to repeal the three contentious farm laws.

"It is a good move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gurupurab," Joginder Singh Ugrahan, the leader of BKU's Ugrahan faction, told PTI.

On the prime minister's appeal to protesting farmers to return to their homes, Ugrahan said, "Farmers' unions will sit together and decide the future course of action."

BKU(Ugrahan) is the largest among the all protesting farmers unions and are protesting at the Tikri border. Ugrahan faction of the BKU has sizeable presence across Punjab.

Various farmers unions have been protesting at the borders of the national capital since last year to demand repeal of three farm laws.

Amit Shah welcomes PM's decision

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "statesman-like" decision to repeal the three farm laws, and said it reflects that there is no other thought except the welfare of each and every Indian for the PM.

"PM @narendramodi's announcement relating to the farm laws is a welcome and statesmanlike move. As the Prime Minister pointed out in his address, the Government of India will keep serving our farmers and always support them in their endeavours," he tweeted. The home minister said what is unique about the prime minister's announcement is that he picked the special day of Gurupurab to make this announcement. "It also shows there is no other thought except the welfare of each and every Indian for him. He has shown remarkable statesmanship," he said.



Chugh hails PM's gesture on farm laws

CHANDIGARH: BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has demonstrated exceptional magnanimity by announcing to repeal the three agriculture laws.

Welcoming the prime minister's announcement Chugh said it would go a long way in removing misunderstandings in the mind of farmers. He said the prime minister has always made sincere efforts to improve the plight of farmers as a result he launched a number of farmers welfare schemes which have benefitted farmers in a big way. In future also the prime minister will work hard to help them.



India-China ties going through a 'bad patch': Jaishankar

AGENCY
 SINGAPORE: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday that India and China are going through a "particularly bad patch" in their ties because Beijing has taken a set of actions in violation of agreements for which it still doesn't have a "credible explanation" and it is for the Chinese leadership to answer where they want to take the bilateral relationship.

India has told China that progress in the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh was essential for the restoration of peace and tranquillity and that it is the basis for the development of

overall bilateral ties.

During his previous meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe on September 16, Jaishankar emphasised that the two sides should work towards early resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols.

"I don't think the Chinese have any doubt on where we stand on our relationship and what's not gone right with it. I've been meeting my counterpart Wang Yi a number of times. As you

Farms Bills: Had repeal come earlier, many lives may have been saved, says Azad

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Stating that none will criticise the Centre's decision to repeal the Farm Laws, Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday, however, said had the step been taken earlier, many innocent lives lost during protests, due to harsh weather conditions and Covid-19, could have been saved.

Taking a jibe, Azad said the instance will also help BJP to remember in future, that first there should be a comprehensive study on any "anti-people" bill before taking any decision.

"The issue was raised and discussed on several occasions in Parliament, almost all political parties were on



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad briefing media in Jammu on Friday.

the same page demanding revocation of farmers bill but the government decision is bit late," Azad told media here on Friday.

"No doubt elections have played a major role but still had the same decision come much earlier it could have saved many lives lost during protests and other reasons," said Azad, adding the decision nevertheless is definitely welcomed by one and all.

Azad said, "Announcement has been made, parliament session begins November-end and I am sure the laws will be withdrawn in one week."

On dropping his name from the Disciplinary Committee

by the AICC, Azad said, "I have headed many committees in my more-than-three-decades-long political career and was member of one such committee for a decade."

"This is not a committee that meets often but once or twice in a year or more than that," said the Congress leader.

On revocation of Art 370 and 35A, he said that nobody was in its favour but let us see what's next.

On his recent frequent visits to Jammu and Kashmir and people wanting him to fight the assembly elections, Azad said, "What

India to soon manufacture 90 pc of defence products it needs: Rajnath

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JHANSI (UP): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India will soon be manufacturing 90 per cent of the defence products it needs within the country and by 2024-2025, it will also export such products worth USD 5 billion.

"Earlier, 65-70 per cent defence products were imported. Now, as we head for 'aatmanirbhara' (self-reliance), 65 per cent of defence products are made in India. We were known as an importer (of defence equipment) earlier, now we are exporting those to 70 countries," he said while

Strike disrupts normal life in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS
 SRINAGAR: Normal life was affected in the Kashmir valley on Friday due to a strike called by the Hurriyat Conference to express solidarity with the families of the civilians killed in the Hyderpora encounter earlier this week, officials said. Most of the shops, fuel stations and other business establishments in Srinagar were shut, the officials said.

Public transport was largely off the roads, but private cars and auto rickshaws were seen plying in some areas of the city, they said.

The officials said similar reports of the strike being observed were received from other areas of the valley.

The effect of the strike was accentuated by the public holiday on account of Gurupurab, they added.

The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had given the strike call.

"Hurriyat Conference regrets that as most peoples' leadership and political activists are either in jails

COVID inspection teams to be constituted in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir UT Government on Friday reviewed the preventive efforts of the District Administrations against surge in Covid cases.

During the series of meetings of Covid Task Force, DCs and SPs, a comprehensive review was taken to assess the public health response system being implemented by the administrations at district level.

District Administrations were directed to adopt systematic and innovative means for effective clinical management measures in a planned manner.

Vaccination, increased targeted testing, intensive con-

JK reports 193 new COVID cases, Ladakh 18

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday reported 193 new COVID cases-- 23 from Jammu division and 170 from Kashmir division-- thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 335016.

Moreover, 105 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 18 from Jammu Division and 87 from Kashmir Division, officials said. They said that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24 hours.

The officials informed that 34,365 doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours bringing the cumulative number of doses administered across J&K to 1,60,91,367. According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 335016 positive cases, 1669 are Active Positive (262 in Jammu Division and 1407 in Kashmir

measures will remain core focus areas to contain the virus.

Divisional Commissioners were directed to constitute Covid inspection teams at the Divisional and District levels for conducting random inspections of various public places and health institutions. The officials were instructed to take strict measures for ensuring the social gathering limit is rigorously followed.

The meeting also discussed the preparatory measures to be taken in view of future health emergencies including training of paramedical staff, stocking of essential drugs, conducting the audit of

Austria to enter lockdown, bring in mandatory vaccinations

AGENCY
 BERLIN: Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg said Friday that the country will go into a national lockdown to contain a fourth wave of coronavirus cases.

Schallenberg said the lockdown will start Monday and initially last for 10 days. Most stores will close, and cultural events will be cancelled.

He initially said said all students would have to go back into home schooling.

Wolfgang Mueckstein, the country's health minister, later said that kindergartens and schools would remain

open for those who needed to go there but all parents were asked to keep their children at home if possible.

Starting on Feb. 1, the country will also make vaccinations mandatory, public broadcaster ORF reported.

We do not want a fifth wave, Schallenberg said, according to ORF. Not do we want a sixth or seventh wave.

Austria had initially introduced a national lockdown only for the unvaccinated that started Monday, but as virus cases continued to skyrocket the government said it had no choice but to extend it to everyone.

This is very painful,

Schallenberg said.

The national lockdown will initially last for 10 days, then the effects will be assessed and if virus cases have not gone down sufficiently, it can be extended to a maximum of 20 days.

Austria's intensive care doctors welcomed the government's decision.

"The record infection figures that we have now experienced day after day will only be reflected in normal and intensive care units with a time lag. It really is high time for a full stop, Walter Hasibeder, the president of the Society

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
 Max: 25.3°C Min: 10.8°C

Humidity
 Max: 83 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)
 Max: 13.1°C Min: -1.4°C

Humidity
 Max: 91 Min: 76

Sunset: 17:30 Hours
 Sunrise: 07:06 Hours

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Gurpurab, the 552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, was celebrated with religious fervour in Jammu on Friday with hundreds thronging several Gurudwaras to pay obeisance.

Attired in colourful dresses, members of the Sikh community, including women and children, thronged Gurudwaras and other religious places since this morning to offer special prayers.

On the auspicious occasion, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar and prayed for sustained peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of all.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji placed the service of the people as first and foremost duty of human beings. The

divine Guru believed and propagated selfless service as a priceless virtue. Every single word of his teachings is as relevant today as it was 500 years ago, he added.

The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji are showing way to the entire humanity for the last 500 years, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor said that following the timeless message of Guru Ji's teachings every man should serve the needy with complete dedication and devotion. The new generations must imbibe the great learnings propagated by Guru Nanak Ji to understand the purpose of human life and have a fulfilling life journey.

Saying that our ancestors considered religion as the basis of life, the Lt Governor observed that religion always connects and does not exclude. The Gurus had made countless sacrifices to pro-



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar.

tect this idea of the religion, he added.

"It is the duty of all of us to imbibe Guru Nanak Dev Ji's mantra of contentment and human service in one's own life and spread it to the masses", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for promoting selfless service as a national duty by making an action plan based on the teachings of revered Sikh Gurus. He said that it is a matter of happiness that Kartarpur Corridor has been opened before the Prakash Parv.

Lauding the efforts of Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir during Covid, the Lt Governor said that they have actively served humanity with the blessings of the Gurus. "The work done by the Sikh community to provide food and ration to the people during Covid is an inspiration for the whole country", he added.

Noting that many programs are being organized in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Lt Governor underscored the need to spread the vision of Guru Nanak Dev Ji to every nook and corner of the

society.

Extending greetings on the auspicious occasion, the Lt Governor appealed to all to follow the path of truth, honesty, selfless service and devotion to god shown by Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

A large number of devotees across state paid obeisance on the occasion of Gurpurab at Nanak Nagar, Digiana, Rehari, Talab Tilo, Gole Gujral, Gandhi Nagar, R S Pura Gurudwaras and Gurudwara Bibi Chand Kour Samadh, situated in the heart of the city.

The Gurudwaras had been illuminated and devotees started pouring in since last night. Community kitchens or 'Langars' were organised at Gurudwaras.

This year Nagar Kirtan processions were not taken out by the Sikh community because of COVID-19 pandemic.