

J&K witnessed transformation after abrogation of Art 370: Priya Sethi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories, marked a turning point in the region's history.

Despite initial concerns, the decision has not sparked international controversy and has been largely accepted as India's internal matter. This acceptance reflects a shift in global diplomatic perspectives, recognizing India's sovereign right to manage its internal affairs.

This was stated by Priya Sethi, National Executive Member, Prabhari Social Media J&K and former Minister while initiating Booth Jan Samwad Abhiyan at Pargalta and Rehari area of Jammu. Mandal President Bajalta Ajay Sharma, Mandal President Amphalla, Raman Sharma, Ex Corporator Akshaya, Sharma, Sarpanch Darshana Devi, Main speaker Karan Sat Sharma, Anil Angral , Suresh Salgotra, Chakshu Kapoor and others were present during the programme.

The former minister emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the J&K administration has implemented a series of strate-



Former Minister, Priya Sethi addressing gathering during Booth Jan Samwad Abhiyan.

gic initiatives that have transformed the region. These initiatives have significantly reduced violence, fostered development opportunities, dismantled discriminatory provisions, strengthened grassroot democracy, improved quality of life, and ensured fair representation.

She highlighted the remarkable transformation witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

She emphasized the significant decline in terrorist activities, with recruitment

rates plummeting by an impressive 80%. This decline is a testament to the government's resolute efforts to curb terrorism and establish peace in the region, she added.

Furthermore, J&K has witnessed a phenomenal surge in investment, with a staggering 300% increase since 2019, Priya Sethi said, adding that this surge is a direct consequence of the improved security situation and the government's initiatives to promote economic growth. The influx of investment has fueled job

creation, infrastructure development, and overall economic prosperity, she added. Priya Sethi asserted that tourism, a vital sector for J&K's economy, has also experienced a remarkable revival. Tourist arrivals have doubled since 2019, indicating a renewed confidence in the region's safety and appeal. This growth in tourism has not only generated revenue but also showcased J&K's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty to the world, she added.

"The government's commitment to J&K's development is further evident in the initiation of infrastructure projects worth over Rs. 1 lakh crore since 2019. These projects encompass the construction of roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and other essential infrastructure, laying the foundation for sustainable growth and improved living standards," she added.

The senior BJP leader asserted that abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent strategic initiatives have undoubtedly set J&K on a transformative journey. The region is poised for a brighter future, characterized by peace, prosperity, and integration with the rest of India, she added.

Samvidhan Diwas Pledge observed at DPL, various Police establishments

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JAMMU: Samvidhan Diwas Pledges were observed at various Police establishments throughout the District Jammu to celebrate Constitution Day by Jammu Police.

SSP Jammu Dr Vinod Kumar administered the pledge of 'Constitution Day' to the Jawans and officers of District Police Line Jammu.

SSP Jammu, while administering pledge, said that the main objective of organizing such programme and administering the oath is to inspire one and all to become best performers as citizens of the country, strengthen unity, respect those who protect the country, celebrate our heritage, remove any trace of colonial mindset and make India developed and



SSP Jammu Dr Vinod Kumar administering the pledge of 'Constitution Day'.

self-reliant. Dr Vinod encouraged each and every police official to individually and collectively make a pledge at their respective units and make this Constitution Day, the driving force for good governance.

SSP Jammu said that as a part of "Constitution

Day", various Police stations/Police establishments of District Jammu observed pledges as a nationwide campaign.

Also various SDFOs/SHOs/ ICPs took pledges in the areas under their respective units to encourage the sense of pride as a part of national campaign.

Information Dept Jammu celebrates 'Constitution Day'



Joint Director, Jammu, Atul Gupta reading out the preamble to the Constitution of India and administering pledge to the Officers/Officials of DIPR, Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To mark the celebration of "Constitution Day", the preamble reading ceremony was held here on Sunday at Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu. The reading of the preamble and the pledge administration was attended by all the staff members. Joint Director, Jammu, Atul Gupta read out the preamble to the Constitution of India and administered pledged to

the Officers/Officials of DIPR, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, he said constitution day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26 in 1949. "it is celebrated to uphold the spirit of the document which makes the largest democracy function and the Preamble to the Constitution is a reflection of the core constitutional values that embody the

Constitution' he added.

The Joint Director said the day is marked to create awareness of the importance of the Indian constitution among the citizens of India.

on this day the country adopted the Constitution to eradicate social evils and dispense equal justice to all sections of the country.

Deputy Director Information (PR), Dr. Vikas Sharma besides other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

Rajesh inaugurates PGCIL "Anubhuti-2023" Intra - Regional Cultural Meet

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Enthralling performances by the employees of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), Northern Region Transmission system-II and their family members from different parts of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, HP, Punjab & Haryana in colorful dresses marked the annual Intra-Regional cultural festival titled "Anubhuti-2023" organized by PGCIL, Northern Region -II.

The cultural festival and traditional Handicrafts Exhibition was held at SD college Auditorium Chandigarh on the evening of 25th November,2023.

Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director , PGCIL NRTS-II was the Chief Guest, who inaugurated the cultural meet. Sangita Kumar, Patron Shrishti Mahila Samiti, Northern Region-II inaugurated the Handicrafts Exhibition



PGCIL employees, officials during celebration of Intra-Regional cultural festival "Anubhuti-2023".

by lighting the traditional lamp in presence of large number of guests, PGCIL employees and families.

The cultural festival encompassing talent from four Northern States swayed the audience to the beats of colorful music and emotions in the various performances moved them emotionally.

It was a major event for the employees and their family members as amateur talent of the Region gathered to high-

light their cultural traditions. The cultural programmes were show-cased on hot burning issues like gender equality, environment, National Integration, Conservation of water , drug abuse and violence against women, Dowry system, etc. All the items in the programme, successfully managed to depict their themes from Naya Arambh by artists of Abdullahpur Substation, Rab Rakha by Kaithal Substation, Aaj ka Ravan by Kartarpur

Substation, Pariyavaran ki Raksha Karen by artists of Kishenpur substation, electric Circus by Kashmir group, Kaun Sahi Kaun Galat by the team of Chandigarh, Maa by Nalagarh Substation, Vaytha Dharti Maa ki by Patiala substation , Bhagat Singh ko Janam Din ki Shubhkamnaie by Malerkotla Substation, Shrawan Kumar by the artists of Moga substation, Yak Tales by the debutant Team from Ladakh , Ghar Gum Hai by

artists of Hamirpur to Chetawani by the troupe of Regional Office Jammu, all the items managed to spell bound the audience as they performed like thorough professionals.

Besides these a traditional Handicrafts Exhibition comprising crafts, arts, & fine arts, was displayed which had been made by the employees of PGCIL and their families.

At the end of function winners as well as participants of cultural function were presented trophies & mementos by the Chief Guest and in Handicrafts Exhibition the participants whose items were selected as the first, second & third were also given away prizes by the chief guest and other dignitaries.

Vinod P Baxla, General Manager(HR), NRTS-II delivered the welcome address whereas A.H Khan Sr. GM(Punjab & Haryana) presented the vote of thanks.

PSC Assistant Engineer aspirants of PDD rue diversion, utlisation of Direct recruitment quota since 2018

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: PSC Assistant Engineer aspirants of J&K on Sunday held a meeting here which was joined by aspirants from Srinagar as well, wherein they discussed the constant diversion of the Direct Recruitment quota at the level of Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer since 2018. They observed that there is a deliberate attempt to keep in-charge promotions continuing at the level of Assistant Engineers, hindering the opportunities for direct recruits in the Power Development Department and its unbundled corporations. The aspirants expressed their dissatisfaction

with the fact that, since 2018, there has been no recruitment of Junior Engineers and Assistant Engineers in the Power Development Department and its unbundled corporations. Instead, the department has been promoting in-service candidates, having promoted 290 Junior Engineers since 2018 on an in-charge basis, without adhering to the Gazetted service recruitment Rules, 1978, read with SRO 297 of 2003, they said.

"The diversion of the direct recruitment quota at the level of Assistant Engineer has led to a situation where in-place direct recruits are at a bare minimum, and a deliberate attempt is

being made to favor in-service candidates," they said and argued that the non-referral of posts to recruitment agencies at the Assistant Engineer level has caused permanent damage to the prospects of direct recruits, as per the principles laid down in the Supreme Court Judgment of Suraj Prakash Gupta. They highlighted specific instances where the direct recruitment quota has not been filled, leading to potential issues with inter-se seniority for future recruits. The aspirants emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of the Suraj Prakash Gupta judgment and restoring seniority positions for direct

recruits. In conclusion, they appealed to the Lt. Governor and Principal Secretary PDD to ensure that before further promotions of in-service Junior Engineer candidates, the complete recruitment of the Direct Recruitment Quota at the levels of Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers is carried out.

The aspirants also requested that seniority positions be restored in line with the guiding principles of the Suraj Prakash Gupta judgment. The mentioned the possibility of legal measures if the department continues to keep the direct recruitment quota unfilled.

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JAMMU: In the spirit of service to the community and solidarity, the 2 J&K Girls Battalion NCC Commemorated the 75th NCC Raising Day by organizing a Blood Donation Camp under the aegis of NCC Group Headquarters, Jammu.

The NCC day marks the establishment of the National Cadet Corps, a premier youth organization that instills discipline, leadership, and a sense of responsibility among the cadets. In line with the ethos of NCC, the 2 J&K Girls Battalion has gone beyond the call of duty to serve the society in a unique way.

The Blood Donation Camp, held at Govt. Medical College, Jammu witnessed a remarkable turnout of 50 NCC girl and boy cadets.

The event exemplified the spirit of selfless service that the NCC instills in its cadets. The NCC Group Headquarters Jammu orchestrated the event seamlessly by extending its full support to the initiative. Officiating Group Commander Colonel Shajan Thomas commended the cadets for their proactive approach to community service. "The NCC is not just



A volunteer donating blood during a drive.

about drills and parades; it's about instilling a sense of duty towards the nation and humanity.

Colonel Muneesh Jasrotia, Commanding Officer 2 J&K Girls Battalion, reiterated the battalion's commitment towards community service and Nation building. "On this auspicious occasion of NCC Day, our focus goes beyond

the parade ground. We believe in actively contributing to the well-being of our society."

Dr Akhtar, HOD at GMC Jammu, educated everyone regarding the importance of blood donation and how it can make a difference in someone's life. All cadets were full of JOSH on being a part of such a noble cause.

LIC celebrates Constitution Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: LIC celebrated Constitution Day-Samvidhan Divas on 26th November, 2023. In the spirit of celebration, Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC of India administered the pledge of Preamble to all employees of the Corporation through virtual mode.

Employees from all the offices of the Corporation joined for taking the pledge.

"We at LIC of India, celebrate the spirit and values of freedom and democracy enshrined in our Constitution," Siddhartha Mohanty said.

Sadhotra pays homage to Martyr Joginder Kumar, says Duggar Land proud of Warriors

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Paying homage to Indo Tibetan Border Police Jawan Joginder Kumar for his supreme sacrifice in a Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh, former Minister and National Conference Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Sunday said his valour has made Duggar Land proud by scripting another chapter of bravery.

Participating in the Tenth Day ceremony of Martyr Joginder Kumar in his native village Abtal Katalan in Samba, Sadhotra said the

Jammu region has written with golden letters sagas of valour from times immemorial with warriors laying their lives with a sense of pride in call of their duties. "The brave give their today for our safe and secured tomorrow", Sadhotra said, adding that the sacrifices of the heroes in defending the integrity and sovereignty of the nation will not go waste. The indebted nation has all along been bowing their heads with respect and deep esteem for the sacrifices made by warriors, he said, adding that martyrs will continue to inspire generations

for serving the nation in whatever capacity they can.

Sadhotra said the martyrdom of brave-hearts reminds the crucial need of working towards peace and striving for shaping a better future for humanity. The biggest tribute to great heroes is to create a world wherein people live in peace and harmony.

At the same time, Nation has to stand united for defeating the scourge of terror and violence that has emerged a biggest challenge to the global community.

National Conference Additional General

Secretary said at this hour of grief and pride the solidarity reflects the sense of gratitude towards the martyrs, which is in consonance with the great heritage and legacy of the Duggar Land that has always stood like a rock behind heroes of the nation.

He also expressed solidarity with the family of the martyr and appreciated their resilience in braving their loss with grace and pride.

"We salute the martyrdom of Martyr Joginder Kumar and bow before the courage of the family and the brave residents

of the village", Sadhotra added.

The Former Minister Sadhotra was accompanied by Satwant Kour Dogra, Provincial President Women Wing, Ayub Malik, Provincial Secretary and Joint Secretaries of the Province Surjit Singh Manhas, Ankush Abrol, Ghar Singh Chib and also District Presidents Raghubir Singh Manhas, Soudagar Gupta, Sham Narayan Mehta, (Zonal Central Leaders) Dr Vikas Sharma, Mohinder Singh, Chander Udhay Singh and Ashwani Charak.

College on Wheels:Day-8

J&K students' contingent visits Goa Shipyard, INS Hansa

STATE TIMES NEWS

GOA: In a groundbreaking initiative, the contingent of girl students of various universities and colleges from across Jammu and Kashmir, currently on two-week College on Wheels journey, on Sunday visited the renowned Naval Air Base INS Hansa and the prestigious Goa Shipyard Ltd, as part of enriching educational journey.

At INS Hansa, the students received in-depth insights into the naval air base's operations, exploring cutting-edge equipment and getting an up-close look at fighter planes stationed at the Air Base, including the Dornier 228. The engaging

session enabled the students to interact with officials who answered their queries in detail.

"The visit to INS Hansa was a transformative experience for our students. Witnessing the advanced technology and interacting with naval top brass served as a source of inspiration, opening new avenues for their aspirations," said Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu, who also visited the Naval Air Base along with other officials from the University of Kashmir.

Prof. Umesh Rai expressed his gratitude to Lt. Cdr Manjeet Arya and the authorities for facilitat-



VC JU Prof Umesh Rai with J&K contingent during visit to Naval Air Base INS Hansa.

ing the visit of the contingent of College on wheels to the high profile Naval Air Base.

Prof. Rai also presented a memento to Lt. Cdr Arya, on the occasion.

The first-hand experience extended to the functioning of the Dornier 228 and other warplanes enriched

the students with valuable insights into the intricacies of aviation technology.

The empowering journey aims at broadening the horizons for the students, fostering a spirit of curiosity and motivation to explore diverse career paths. Later, the contingent received a warm reception at Goa

Shipyard Ltd., where they were provided with detailed insights into the shipyard's operations. Authorities at the Shipyard showcased the advanced technologies employed in shipbuilding and highlighted its contributions to the maritime sector. Interacting with the students and the Shipyard

authorities, Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai said that the idea of this journey is to connect education with the societal and National challenges. He said that the visit to such places of National importance is a life-time opportunity to the students visiting the College on wheels. He also expressed his gratitude to the authorities to the Goa Shipyard Ltd. Dean Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir Prof Khurshid A Bhat, who was also present on the occasion, lauded the initiative, saying this will add to the knowledge of the students. He hoped the visit will enable them to see the

places of historic importance in the metropolitan cities.

He also appreciated the constant monitoring of the journey by Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai.

The visit was coordinated by Dr. Gunest Sudan, Nodal officer -III.

The contingent comprises of 780 students alongwith mentors and the administrative staff from the University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Cluster University of Jammu, Cluster University of Kashmir, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri, Islamic University

of Science and Technology, Avantipora, affiliated colleges of JU and KU, Delhi University and Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), New Delhi.

The "Gyanodaya Express- College on Wheels", aligned with the visionary National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeking to propel a shift from job seekers to job creators, fostering a culture of idea incubation, innovation, and skill development, was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Mr Manoj Sinha from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station, Katra in Jammu and Kashmir on November 19.