

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Modi receives Nigeria's...

"We give high priority to our strategic partnership with Nigeria...I am confident that a new chapter in our ties will begin following our talks," the prime minister said.

Modi also described the around 60,000-strong Indian expatriate community as a key pillar of India-Nigeria relations and thanked Tinubu for ensuring their welfare.

The prime minister also announced that India is sending 20 tonnes of relief supplies for Nigerian people hit by last month's floods. He also referred to the African Union becoming a permanent member of the G20 at the India-hosted summit of the grouping last year and described it as a significant outcome.

Before the delegation-level talks, Modi and Tinubu held one-on-one meeting at the Presidential Villa.

The prime minister was also accorded a ceremonial welcome.

Both sides are likely to ink a number of agreements following the delegation-level talks.

Modi is in Nigeria as part of a three-nation tour. From Abuja, he will travel to Brazil to attend the G20 summit. His last destination will be Guyana.

The India-Nigeria ties were elevated to the status of a "strategic partnership" during then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the African nation in October 2007.

Nigeria has been a close partner of India for over six decades.

New Delhi established its diplomatic House in Lagos in November 1958, two years before Nigeria became independent in 1960. The presence of a large Indian expatriate community of about 60,000, the largest in West Africa, adds value to the importance of the long-standing relationship between the two countries. There are more than 200 Indian companies who have invested about USD 27 billion in all important manufacturing sectors and these companies are the second largest employers after the federal government, according to Indian officials.

India has emerged as a development partner of Nigeria on two fronts -- by offering developmental assistance through concessional loans (USD 100 million) and by offering capacity-building training programmes.

Man with 45...

The arrest marks a significant step in the ongoing efforts of the Sopore Police to bring wanted criminals to justice, the officer added.

About 40,000 aspirants...

has been tremendous. It is heartening to see such enthusiasm and passion to join the Indian Army. We are committed to providing a fair and transparent selection process," an officer of the Territorial Army said.

He said around 4,000 candidates have cleared the ground test and will participate in the medical examination.

The locals lauded the army for organizing the recruitment drive in the border district.

"This is a significant step towards addressing unemployment in the border areas and instilling a sense of pride and patriotism among the youth," said Syed Imtiaz Kazmi, a prominent citizen of Surankote.

The officials said the event was conducted with strict adherence to safety protocols, ensuring that the large gathering was managed smoothly.

The recruitment process is expected to continue for the next three days, they said, adding this recruitment rally marks yet another milestone in the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to strengthen its bond with people, providing new opportunities for the youth in the region that has historically faced challenges related to employment and development.

Many young aspirants expressed hope of securing a place in the prestigious armed forces, with dreams of serving the nation and supporting their families.

Mohd Asad, a local resident of Poonch, said that he joined the rally for the first time.

"I am ready to serve the nation by joining the army," he added.

Another aspirant Mohd Iqbal from Haveli area of Poonch thanked the army for providing them an opportunity to serve the nation. A defence spokesman said the army is also conducting a 10-day recruitment rally for soldier general duty and soldier clerk and tradesmen at Dugga for the domiciles of Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts from November 11.

The rally is witnessing an overwhelming response with over 12,000 enthusiastic youths eager to serve the nation, he said, adding with determination in their eyes and patriotism in their hearts, these young individuals are taking their first step towards a glorious journey.

The rally is offering opportunities for young individuals to showcase their skills and contribute to the nation's defense, the spokesman said. He said the army and the civil administration have joined hands to ensure the smooth conduct of this rally. The army also expects this rally to be a grand success and enable the youth of the region to earn the honour to serve their motherland as "sons of soil", the spokesman said.

Truth coming out...

train that was carrying a large number of pilgrims returning from Ayodhya, claims were also made about it being an accident. More than 50 passengers were killed in the fire, which was followed by communal riots in Gujarat.

An enquiry panel constituted by former railway minister Lalu Prasad, a member of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre, had supported the accident theory. However, many accused chargesheeted for setting the train on fire were convicted by courts, which validated the state police's assertion.

Omar Govt focuses...

including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

During discussions with Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister successfully negotiated the additional power supply at normal rates, avoiding the higher emergency rates that typically accompany such arrangements.

The additional electricity supply is expected to significantly mitigate the ongoing power crisis in both Kashmir and Jammu regions, where demand surges during winters and summers, respectively.

The National Conference-led government also adopted a political resolution advocating for the restoration of statehood and special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

This resolution, introduced by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, emphasizes the importance of constitutional guarantees that protect the identity and rights of the local population.

It urges the Central government to engage in dialogue with elected representatives to restore these provisions, ensuring that any restoration process upholds national unity while addressing the aspirations of the people.

As part of his commitment to improving public service, Chief Minister Abdullah transformed his official residence in Srinagar into a public redressal and welfare office to streamline the handling of citizen complaints with a dedicated team of senior officials overseeing the process.

Abdullah has pledged to personally engage with the public on designated days, reinforcing a responsive governance model.

In a significant policy shift, the Abdullah government also announced that the academic sessions for students up to Class 9 in Jammu and Kashmir will revert to the November-December timeline, replacing the previously adopted March session following persistent requests from parents and students, particularly in the winter zones of the region.

It has announced a relaxation in the upper age limit for open merit candidates appearing for the Combined Competitive Exams.

The age limit has been raised from 30 to 35 years, while the upper age limit for reserved category candidates is now set at 37 years and for persons with physical disabilities at 38 years. This change was formalised in an order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir government within this month.

The ruling National Conference party hailed this measure as a fulfilment of another election promise.

The party had committed to enacting the Jammu and Kashmir Youth Employment Generation Act within the first three months of forming the government. This act aims to create sustainable employment opportunities for the youth, ensure the filling of all vacancies in government departments within 180 days, and establish a solid policy for future employment generation.

In a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Abdullah discussed strategies for enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's financial health, emphasising the need for increased local revenue generation to reduce dependence on central funding. The discussions, described as "very positive" by officials, highlighted the importance of attracting investment in tourism, agriculture, and horticulture sectors to create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth.

Abdullah's outreach in the national capital comes ahead of the National Conference-led government's first budget presentation after six years of Central rule. The chief minister also raised concerns about the difficult fiscal situation in Jammu and Kashmir, requesting additional Central assistance of Rs 6,000 crore to address budgetary gaps for the 2024-25 fiscal.

The National Conference, having secured a notable comeback by winning 42 out of 90 assembly seats in the region's recent elections, has set a promising tone for governance in Jammu and Kashmir as it enters this new chapter with a renewed focus on the welfare of its citizens, the functionary said.

Omar-led Govt...

the troubled region, highlighting that India is a country rich in diversity, with each region boasting its own unique culture, language and set of challenges that require localised solutions.

"Jammu and Kashmir, in particular, is a region with a diverse culture, and the 'Darbar Move' was established to promote unity in diversity. The primary objective of this traditional annual move was not only to bring together two regions but also to enhance trade and community relations," the NC chief said.

Abdullah expressed his disappointment that the BJP viewed this tradition as a "hindrance to their agenda", leading to its discontinuation. However, he stressed the importance of reviving this practice to bridge divisions, a goal that the Omar Abdullah-led NC government was actively pursuing. He assured that the government would focus on not only promoting development but also fostering unity among the people. Abdullah emphasized the significance of embracing diversity and working towards unity in the progress and harmony of J-K.

India successfully test...

missiles can even fly at the speed of more than 15 mach.

At present, Russia and China are way ahead in developing hypersonic missiles, while the United States is in the process of developing a range of such weapons under an ambitious programme.

Several other countries, including France, Germany, Australia, Japan, Iran and Israel, are also pursuing projects to develop hypersonic-missile systems. Hypersonic missiles are considered highly manoeuvrable and agile as they can change course mid-way. Ballistic missiles, which can also fly at Mach 5, have limited manoeuvrability in view of their predetermined trajectories.

Singh congratulated the DRDO, the armed forces and the industry for the "stupendous" achievement.

The defence ministry said the missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains.

"The flight data obtained from down range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with high degree of accuracy," it said.

This missile has been indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex, Hyderabad, along with various other DRDO laboratories and industry partners.

Jhiri Mela 2024...

everyone to join this grand celebration of tradition, spirituality, and heritage, as the Jhiri Mela 2024 promises more enriching experiences in the days ahead.

Sitharaman responds to...

challenges involved, but it's just a heartfelt request."

Sitharaman also said, "I recognise and appreciate your concern."

Karra visits residence of Romesh Motton, condoles his death

STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday visited the residence of prominent Congress leader Romesh Motton in Dablehar R S Pura and offered condolences to the family.



JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra during visit to residence of prominent Congress leader Romesh Motton.

Motton had expired a few days back. He was a senior politician and had contested unsuccessfully for assembly elections twice from RS Pura (Reserve) on Congress ticket in 1996 & later too and secured a high number of votes .

Karra shared the grief of family members and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Later he visited border check post at Suchetgarh & witnessed the rush of tourists at the time of retreat ceremony at the spot of border tourism. He enquired about the facilities at the tourism point and benefits to the local farmers.

He spoke to farmers and other local people and enquired about the problems faced by them in border belt. He assured them that their issues of bunkers, power, pump sets and tractor sub-

sidy & loan issues have been kept in Congress manifesto and would be dealt with by coalition government in due time.

Later he also held interactions with party workers at the residences of Bhushan Lal Dogra (Ex- VC SC Board) & Congress candidate in Suchetgarh and Ch Sarwan.

PCC Chief was accompanied by JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma Ex MLC, Jahangir Mir Ex Dy Chairman Legislative Council, Ved Mahajan Ex- MLC, DDC T S Tony, Shashi Sharma, Amrit Bali, Jatinder Bhagat and Ch Sarwan.

KVK Reasi promotes lemon grass farming in monkey-prone areas

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Reasi, under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Jammu (SKUAST-J), is promoting lemon grass farming in areas of Reasi district severely affected by the monkey menace. The initiative is generating significant interest among local farmers due to the crop's resilience to animal damage and its high demand in various industries.



KVK Reasi guiding students on lemongrass farming.

Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi, explained that certain regions in Reasi face a serious monkey problem, and lemon grass offers a viable solution since it is not harmed by monkeys or other animals. He highlighted that lemon grass is a multicut,

perennial aromatic grass with numerous benefits, including ecological, medicinal, agricultural, nutritional, and economic advantages. The plant has a strong lemon-like fragrance due to its high citral content, which is in demand for use in perfumes, cosmetics, herbal teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and as an insect repellent.

Lemon grass farming also holds immense potential for enhancing farmers' incomes and providing employment. It is a hardy crop that, once planted, remains in the field for over five years. Under rainfed conditions, farmers can expect up to three harvests in the first year and 3-4 harvests in subsequent years, depending on management practices. This makes it an

attractive option for farmers, particularly in fallow lands where other crops might not be feasible.

KVK Reasi is supporting farmers with scientific cultivation techniques and emphasizing a cluster approach, where multiple farmers can cultivate lemon grass together to increase the scale of production. Dr. Lal also stressed the importance of value addition in lemon grass oil, which could further enhance farmers' income. He emphasized that, if grown commercially, lemon grass can provide a sustainable livelihood for farmers in the region.

This initiative is expected to be a boon for farmers in monkey-prone areas, offering them a reliable and profitable agricultural alternative.

Khatana dismisses Article 370 debate, urges focus on development



MP Gulam Ali Khatana interacting with deputation members.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament Gulam Ali Khatana on Sunday termed the ongoing debate on Article 370 as irrelevant, calling it a settled and irreversible decision of Parliament. Speaking with deputations at his residence, Khatana criticized opposition parties, including the National Conference, PDP, and Congress, for fixating on the past. "Article 370 is his-

tory now. Instead of fulfilling their promises of development, these parties are backtracking and misleading people," he said. The MP emphasized that the abrogation of Article 370 was a historic and unanimous decision by Parliament, reflecting the nation's collective will. He accused opposition parties of using the issue to distract from critical governance and development challenges, urging citizens to pri-

STATE TIMES NEWS

Khatana, who recently returned to Jammu after participating in a series of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meetings on Waqf Amendment Bills across New Delhi and other states, interacted with several deputations.

He assured them that their concerns would be raised with the appropriate authorities for resolution.

During his visits in different areas, the MP actively engaged with the community, attending various social and religious gatherings.

On Sunday, he spent time with religious leaders at the Narwal Pain Masjid in Satwari and later visited Batala Bathindi to offer condolences and prayers for a departed soul.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 26 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police team of Police Post Sidhra has foiled one bovine smuggling attempt in which 26 bovines were rescued from a vehicle bearing registration number No. JK01AP/1871at Bajalta Morh Sidhra.

The driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot after taking advantage of the darkness. 26 bovines were rescued and vehicle seized.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 301/2024 under sections 223/BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered in Police Station Nagrota.

Army conducts medical patrol for Mathiyani residents



STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI : Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with, the Awam, in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army organized a medical patrol at Mathiyani, Rajouri.

Man held with 70 LPG cylinders

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police took strong actions against illegal hoarding of LPG cylinders in Chinore area.

Acting on credible information, ICPP Chinore, successfully apprehended A z a y e d Ahmed alias Rinku, son of the late P a r v a i z Ahmed, a resident of N a r d a n i Malpur. The accused was found in possession of 70 illegally stored LPG cylinders, more than the storing capacity in violation of the E s s e n t i a l Commodities Act, 1955.

In this regard, a case has been registered under FIR No. 264/24, invoking Section 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act in PS Domana. This decisive action underscores the police's ongoing efforts to curb illegal hoarding and safeguard public welfare.

Deepika stars again as India cruise to semis with 3-0 win over Japan

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJGIR: Defending champions India stormed into the semifinals of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy with an unbeaten record, defeating Japan 3-0 here on Sunday.

Continuing her stellar form, star striker Deepika netted a quickfire brace from penalty corners in the final quarter to seal the victory, following vice-captain Navneet Kaur's opener in the 37th minute. With this win, India topped the league stage with maximum 15 points from five matches, ahead of Olympic silver medallists China (12 points). India will take on fourth-placed Japan in the semifinal on Tuesday, while China will play third-placed Malaysia in the other last-four game. Deepika, the tournament's leading scorer, now boasts 10 goals, including four field goals, five penalty corners, and one penalty stroke, underscoring her dominance.