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rule on December 19, 2018 and its extension on July 3, 2019. The petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the validity of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that divided the erstwhile state into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were referred to the Constitution bench in 2019. The arguments in the matter had commenced on August 2. During the hearing, the apex court had asked who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no constituent Assembly, the concurrence of which is required before taking such a step, exists there. The top court had also asked how can a provision (Article 370), which was specifically mentioned as temporary in the Constitution, become permanent after the tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent Assembly came to an end in 1957. Some of the petitioners opposing the repeal of Article 370 had argued that the provision could not have been abrogated as the term of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent Assembly ended in 1957 after it drafted the erstwhile state's Constitution. With the constituent Assembly having become extinct, Article 370 acquired a permanent status, they had said. The Centre had argued that there was no "constitutional fraud" in annulling the provision that accorded the special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Adequate arrangements made...

districts over the last two weeks, said. Asked if orders invoking section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) on the misuse of social media were related to the Supreme Court's expected judgment, he said there have been several incidents of some elements trying to provoke people. "There have been several posts recently, in which there were attempts to provoke people. Action has been taken against such elements in the past and action will be taken in the future as well," he added. The authorities here have issued guidelines for social media users under CrPC section 144 to curb the spread of contents that are communally sensitive or promote terrorism and secessionism. "The guidelines aim to provide clarity on actions citizens should take when encountering content related to terrorism, secessionism, threats, intimidation or communally-sensitive material on social media platforms," the circular, issued by police in several districts, read. According to the guidelines, the citizens have been asked to contribute to maintaining a safe online environment and promptly report any suspicious activity. "If you receive a message containing objectionable content, then report it immediately to the nearest police station or police post with a screenshot and detailed information," the guidelines read. The users have been advised to "recall messages promptly" in case they accidentally share inappropriate content.

Future belongs to...

persistence, imagination and courage to learn from failure are rare qualities of youth, which influences the society and opens the door of new possibilities in developmental journey, he said. The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the winners under various categories including Painting, Poetry, Declamation, Photography and Culture. He commended the endeavour to integrate five youth centric programmes for this year's Yuva Utsav inspired by Panch Pran of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At Yuva Utsav, the Lt Governor motivated the youth to rededicate themselves towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat. On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the winners and jury members of the Yuva Utsav. Nisar Ahmed, Director Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh presented a detailed report on the competitions held in connection with Yuva Utsav across the UT. Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Anand Jain, IGP Jammu; Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; senior officials, prominent personalities, youth and people in large number were present.

Congress looted nation..

in an arrogant alliance, he said. Similarly, in Delhi and Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress do 'Noora Kushti' while in Delhi, senior leaders of Congress and AAP party embrace. This is an agenda of this alliance to fool the people, he said, adding that the compatriots will democratically reject this arrogant alliance in 2024, he added.

Modi to launch...

contribute ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047," it said, adding that the workshops will be a key step towards initiating the process of engaging youngsters to share their ideas and suggestions for making India a developed country by 2047.

CS takes on...

the imminent completion of the Railway line in the district and briefed the Chief Secretary about the Sawalakote Hydroelectric project, a monumental initiative currently undergoing environmental impact assessment. Shifting the focus to social indicators, the Chief Secretary was briefed on efforts to enhance girl child education in the Ramban district. The ongoing Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, with substantial participation from youth and women. He was assured that the team of District Administration Ramban aims to saturate all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the district by December 2025. On addressing the road safety concerns, the Chief Secretary directed the SSP Traffic, Ramban to intensify the surveillance and laid stress on displaying zero-tolerance towards repeated traffic violators. Additionally, he urged the National Highway Project Director to focus on critical spots causing traffic bottlenecks during peak season. Emphasizing the need for addressing drug addiction the Chief Secretary directed the SSP Ramban to maintain a close vigil on such illicit trade for its effective control. Earlier on the day the Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive tour of District Udhampur, focusing on the works going on holy Devika River and construction of Government Medical College (GMC) here. The Chief Secretary inspected Devika Ghat, inspected the prestigious Devika project in toto and conducted a site visit of the operational Sewage Treatment Plant-II and beautification of Devika Ghat. The Chief Secretary also conducted inspection of various sections of the Government Medical College and Associated Hospital. He assessed the recent specialised surgeries performed in the institution along with the position of the existing staff strength in the hospital. Accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sh. Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ms. Saloni Rai, the Chief Secretary visited the construction sites of the 200-bedded teaching district hospital, the makeshift building of GMC Udhampur. During his visit Dulloo directed the Principal GMC Udhampur to ensure quality service, minimize referral cases, and to create a conducive environment for the students undergoing training here. The Chief Secretary also inquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics, and facilities at the Associated Hospital of the medical college. He inspected various sections, including classrooms and labs to take assessment of facilities provided there. Interacting with the staff, he received briefings on lab tests, procedures, equipment availability of CT scan, and surgical procedures done in the hospital.

Article 370: BJP..

issues of BJP's agenda and had been consistently included in its election manifestos. Omar Abdullah on Sunday said his party will continue its fight for the restoration of the rights of people through peaceful means as laid down in the Constitution. "The Supreme Court has to give its verdict, let it do. If we had to disturb the situation, we would have done it after 2019. "However, we said it then and we reiterate it now that our fight will be peaceful and as per the Constitution, taking the help of the law to protect our rights and preserve our identity. What is wrong in it? Don't we have a right to say this in a democracy? Can't we raise objections in a democracy? If others can talk, why not us?" Omar said at a party convention at Rafiabad in Baramulla district. "The Supreme Court has not passed a verdict yet. How do you know what is the verdict? Maybe it is in our favour! Then what is the need to call my party colleagues to police stations.. "Allah willing, if the verdict goes against them (BJP), what will you do if they start writing against it on Facebook?" he asked. Abdullah said there was no justification to put curbs on National Conference leaders as they have always been votaries of peace. "We had knocked at the door of the Supreme Court in the hope of getting justice and that sentiment persists even today," he said. DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said only two institutions that can return articles 370 and 35A to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - Parliament and the Supreme Court. "The Supreme Court bench is non-partisan and we hope that it will give a decision in favour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he told reporters here. Azad, who floated the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) after parting ways with the Congress, said he cannot foresee Parliament reversing the decisions taken on August 5, 2019 as it would require a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha.

Azad said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their religion or ethnicity, have an emotional attachment to the special provisions of the Constitution that were repealed four years ago. "It is important that these (provisions) are restored for securing our present and future," he said. BJP's J-K unit chief Ravinder Raina said the apex court has heard both sides through a transparent process. "We are confident that it will no longer remain a political issue after the Supreme Court verdict. We are all citizens of this democratic country and everyone should respect and accept whatever the decision the honourable Supreme Court takes. "Our judiciary is the greatest. There should be no politics on the verdict," Raina said. Meanwhile, prominent columnist Prof Hari Om took jibe on senior valley leaders over their reactions. "+Frustrated and defeated Mehbooba Mufti warns Supreme Court, saying if it rejects Article 370 and Article 35A and supports creation out of the erstwhile J&K State Union Territory of J&K and UT of Ladakh, it will be a verdict "against India and J&K" and it will only promote "BJP's agenda" and jeopardize "national interests". Mehbooba Mufti says the "PDP is not optimistic about (Article 370) case outcome". On the other hand, Omar Abdullah has said that he and other "mainstream leaders in Kashmir" could be arrested or put under house arrest anytime from now or before SC pronounces its verdict. "What Mufti and Omar said speaks for itself and, hence no comment," states Prof Hari Om.

Corruption has no...

vision with passion in a mission mode, the results are bound to be rewarding. Our Bharat is witnessing these results at all levels, be it in villages, semi-urban areas, urban areas or metros. The impact is being felt all around," Dhankhar said. He told the students that as they step out of the institute, a receptive ecosystem awaits them. "You will step out into Bharat to contribute to a rise which has never been seen before. You will be able to play a critical role because the government has opened new vistas for you," the Vice President said. "The amendments in the Mines and Minerals Development Regulation Act have been made keeping your contributions in mind. They make available new opportunities for you. The role of the state has been rationalised to the extent of fiscal direction," he said. Earlier in the day, Dhankhar addressed the platinum jubilee celebration of XLRI in Jamshedpur, where he said that the country was charting its course to reclaim its glory as "Viswaguru" (world leader) and it is going to be the third largest economy by the end of this decade. The Vice President landed at Ranchi's Birsas Munda Airport in the afternoon and was welcomed by Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The Jharkhand governor also accompanied him to the programmes at XLRI Jamshedpur and IIT-ISM Dhanbad.

Modi Govt following footsteps of Father of the Nation: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Mahatma Gandhi envisioned a "strong, prosperous and clean" India and the Modi government is following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation and rolling schemes based on his ideas, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday. The defence minister made the remarks after inaugurating a 10-feet tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi near Rajghat in the national capital. "Gandhiji was a great freedom fighter who envisioned a strong, prosperous and clean India. Our government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation," he said. "Schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and Swachh Bharat are based on his ideas," he said. Mahatma Gandhi continues to live in the heart of every Indian, he said. Singh also recalled the contributions of Gandhi and other leaders such as Babasaheb B R Ambedkar and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, saying they worked for the upliftment of the marginalised sections with patriotism and commitment. "These great people are the guiding light for our government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is built on their dreams," he said. "Our ideology is of peace, social harmony, unity, and bringing about a change based on development," he added. Singh said that due importance is being given to the marginalised sections by the government, stating that they are now making a mark in almost every sector. He described the marginalised sections as the largest aspirational class of the country, stressing on the need to do away with the 'houn' being used to identify them.

Three men drown in river in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Three men on board an earth mover drowned in a river in Reasi district, police said on Sunday. The heavy vehicle belonging to a stone crusher was crossing a river near Sungri village of Chassana when it got submerged around 9 pm on Saturday, Station House Officer of local police station Inspector Suman Singh said. He said the bodies of Nitish Kumar (22), Hoshiyar Singh (25) and Rajinder Kumar (27) were recovered by the rescuers and handed over to their families after completion of legal formalities for last rites.

Three arrested for drug peddling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Three people were arrested here on Sunday on the charge of peddling drugs and 21 grams of heroin was seized from them, police said. Their car was intercepted by police near the Shastri Nagar area and on being searched, heroin was found, a police spokesman said. He said they were booked and are being questioned to bust the forward and backward linkages of their drug supply chain.

CB files charge sheet against Director of Gujarat-based company for fraud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch has filed a charge sheet against the director of Gujarat-based Armada Bazar Private Limited for allegedly cheating two investors of Rs 3 crore, the agency said on Sunday. The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch (Jammu) filed the charge sheet in court against Parshuram Rajnetbhai Pal -- a resident of Ahmedabad in Gujarat -- for hatching a criminal conspiracy and cheating two locals after luring them to invest Rs 3 crore in the company, it said in a statement. The case stems from a written complaint lodged by two locals -- Sanna Gandogra and Sanjay Kumar Gupta -- claiming that they were approached by Armada Bazar Private Limited to make a refundable investment in the company, the Crime Branch said. The company claimed to be in the business of authorised products and services having grocery and daily utility items. An agreement was signed between the parties under which the accused would pay Rs 12 lakh per 36 months to the complainants and 4 per cent of the net monthly billing of the "mart". In their complaint, the victims alleged that the accused paid Rs 12 lakh for two months and stopped paying the remainder. The accused later openly refused to return the victims' money and threatened to eliminate them and their family members if they filed a case, the statement said. The preliminary Crime Branch verification after a complaint was received found the allegations to be prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case. The investigators gathered all material evidence, recorded the statements of the complainants and witnesses and established the offences under sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code against Pal, it said. The Crime Branch said further investigation is underway to identify the other accused.

VBSY: IEC van traverses across Panchayats of Budhal, Budhal New Blocks in Rajouri District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS RAJOURI: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra IEC Van on Sunday traversed across Panchayats across Budhal Block and block Budhal New in Rajouri District. The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van traveled through the Panchayats of Sokar, Panihad, Kewal Tarran, and Phalni Panchayats in the Budhal Block and Budhal New areas of Rajouri District. The primary objective of the yatra was to disseminate vital information and create awareness about different government schemes, ensuring that every deserving individual or community is informed and included. A key aspect of the yatra is to facilitate direct interaction between the government and the beneficiaries. By sharing personal stories and experiences, this program provides a platform for individuals to voice their needs, concerns, and aspirations. This two-way communication not only helps the government gain a better understanding of the ground realities but also enables the identification and enrollment of potential beneficiaries based on the information gathered during the yatra. The Viksit Bharat Yatra focuses on a range of schemes targeted at both urban and rural areas. In urban areas, the yatra highlights schemes such as PM

Svanidhi, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Start-up India/Stand-up India, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM (Urban), PM eBus Sewa, AMRUT, PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana, Ujjala Yojana, Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment Infrastructure, Khelo India, RCS:UDAN, Vande Bharat Trains, and Amrit Bharat Station scheme. In rural areas, the focus is on schemes such as Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC, PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM, and SVAMITVA. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp

Ex-CMO Dr Basant Kumar dies, cremation tomorrow

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Dr Basant Kumar Sharma Ex-CMO & former president of Junior Doctors Association (JDA) died of sudden cardiac arrest at his residence at Kotli Shah Doula, RS Pura on Sunday. Cremation shall take part at his native village tomorrow at 4pm. Brother of prominent Congress leader & sarpanch Badri Nath Sharma, Dr Basant Kumar Sharma served in different positions and retired as Chief Medical Officer, Reasi. He was 66 a survived by his wife, a daughter and son. He was a student leader and was president of JDA in his times and well known in social circles due to his hon-



esty and integrity and spirit of service. JKPC Senior Vice President Ravinder Sharma has deeply condoled the sad demise of Dr Basant Kumar Sharma and shared the grief of the family on behalf of entire leadership, rank and file of the party and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Basic Life Support training imparted to volunteers at PHC Assar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS DODA: A one day Basic Life Support (BLS) training was imparted to Al Kher Foundation volunteers here at Primary Health Centre Assar under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and the supervision of Dr. Hamid Zargar, Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Nasir Masood Indrabi, a senior Master Trainer, conducted the training session, imparting cutting-edge medical emergency techniques to the volunteers. The focus was on equipping volunteers to handle different emergencies, covering essential aspects such as resuscitation, CPR, airway management, basic first aid, immobilization of fracture areas, and the proper shifting of patients during emergencies. Live demonstrations were incorporated to enhance participants' understanding and practical skills. The initiative aimed to enhance the emergency response capabilities of Al Kher Foundation volunteers, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle a range of critical situations. The training not only emphasized theoretical knowledge but also provided hands-on experience through live demonstrations, contributing to a more comprehensive and effective learning experience. The successful execution of the training reflects the collaborative efforts of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hamid Zargar and the expertise of Master Trainer Dr. Nasir Masood Indrabi. Their commitment towards community well-being and proactive approach in empowering volunteers plays a crucial role in building a resilient and responsive local healthcare network.

GMC Udhampur successfully performs total hip replacement in Ankylosing Spondylitis patient

■ STATE TIMES NEWS UDHAMPUR: In a significant medical achievement, the orthopedic team at Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur successfully performed a Total Hip Replacement (THR) surgery on a patient diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis. Ankylosing Spondylitis is a chronic inflammatory arthritis that affects the spine and large joints, posing unique challenges in orthopedic surgeries. However, the highly skilled team at GMC Udhampur, led by Dr. Balvinder Singh, a consultant orthopaedic joint replacement and arthroscopic surgeon, along with Dr. Qazi Waris (Asst. Proff. Orthopaedics), Dr. Manmeet (Sr. Resident), Dr. Kunal (dnb resident), and Rajinder Gupta (Theater assistant), successfully completed the surgery. The surgery was performed under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, making it free of cost for the patient. Total hip replacement can be a costly



surgery, often exceeding 4 to 5 lakhs in private hospitals. However, this

scheme allows access to advanced medical treatments like this one, regardless of financial constraints. Dr. Balvinder Singh expressed his gratitude to the administrative secretary of Health & Medical Education, J&K, Bhupinder Kumar, stating that "With active support of Kumar, the healthcare delivery in J&K has seen a tremendous rise in its quality." The surgery was also conducted under the supervision of Dr. Mritunjay, Principal GMC Udhampur, Dr. B.L. Chaudary, Medical Superintendent GMC Udhampur, and Dr. Anil Gupta, HOD Orthopaedics GMC Udhampur. This successful surgery marks a significant milestone in GMC Udhampur's commitment to providing advanced medical treatments, even for complex cases like those involving Ankylosing Spondylitis. The patient is currently in stable condition and was able to walk within 24 hours after surgery, showcasing the skill and expertise of the medical team.