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Our Govt strengthening Constitution, Cong repeatedly mutilated it after tasting blood: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of repeatedly mutilating the Constitution, having "tasted blood" in its "greed" for power, as he asserted that his government's policies and decisions since 2014 have been aimed at boosting India's strength and unity in line with the vision of the Constitution.

Replying to a two-day discussion in the Lok Sabha on "The glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India", he claimed that destroying the spirit of the Constitution is in the veins of the Congress, while his government holds its sacredness and integrity paramount.

With the opposition INDIA bloc running a campaign against his government for its alleged bid to weaken and change the Constitution, Modi put up a stout defence of his commitment to the



country's founding document.

He said leaders like him and many others coming from ordinary families could never have reached where they did but for the strength of the Constitution, as he underlined his long adherence to its values.

"Our Constitution is the basis of our unity," he said, emphasising that unity is the

biggest requirement to achieve the goal of India becoming a developed country by 2047.

He wrapped up his over 110-minute speech proposing 11 resolutions aimed at shaping India's future, including upholding existing reservations for marginalised sections and ruling out any religion-based quota.

He said the Constituent

Among Modi's 11 resolutions: Upholding existing reservations, no to religion-based quota

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday proposed 11 resolutions which include upholding existing reservations for marginalised sections but strongly opposing any religion-based quota.

Replying to a two-day debate in Lok Sabha on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India', Modi said the Constituent Assembly had decided against religion-based reservations after a thorough discussion, and alleged the Congress is now promising it to appease its vote bank.

The 11 resolutions proposed by Modi towards the end of his over 110-minute speech also included a call for an end to dynastic politics, promoting meritocracy over nepotism in governance and a pledge for having zero tolerance to corruption.

The Prime Minister said these resolutions are aimed at shaping India's future.

But Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav termed the 11 resolutions "hollow and fake promises."

"Today, we heard resolution of 11 'jumlas'. Doubling the income of farmers was jumla,

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Assembly had taken a considered decision against religion-based reservation, but the Congress has been pushing for it to appease its vote

bank, an apparent reference to Muslims. The 11 resolutions included a call for ending dynastic politics,

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Subsidised helicopter service approved for Jammu-Mendhar route

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development for the people of the Mendhar sector in Poonch district, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has accorded approval to a new subsidized helicopter route connecting Jammu-Poonch-Mendhar with an additional option of Jammu-Mendhar-Jammu route.

An official communication from the MHA states, "The proposal of the UT of J&K to operate the Subsidized Helicopter services on new route of Jammu-Poonch-Mendhar with additional option of Jammu-Mendhar-Jammu has been examined

in consultation with IFD and this Department has no objection for aforesaid route."

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been advised to claim the subsidy from the MHA within the approved budget allocation.

This decision follows a proposal submitted by Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, J&K, Mohammad Aijaz Asad for connecting remote area of Mendhar directly with the winter capital Jammu.

In a statement, Aijaz Asad stated that the

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SMVDSB completes 'Shubhra Bhawan' near Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

▶▶ LG to inaugurate facility on Dec 18 ◀◀

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Shubhra Bhawan', a state-of-the-art multi-utility complex with top-notch amenities to pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, will be dedicated to public next week, an official said on Saturday.

The newly constructed facility, spans 18,000 square feet and completed at a cost of Rs 6.50 crore, is all set to be inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata



Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), on December 18, the official said.

Located at Banganga about half a kilometer from Darshani Deodi, the conven-

tional route of the holy pilgrimage, the Shubhra Bhawan is the latest addition to the shrine board's ongoing efforts to enhance the comfort and convenience of devotees visiting the revered shrine.

It offers a comprehensive range of amenities, including a spacious 200-capacity waiting lounge, a mothers' room, a centralized information and registration centre, souvenir shop, refreshment kiosks, Bank and Water ATMs and 18 modern residential quarters for the

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L K Advani admitted in ICU, condition stable

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani has been admitted in the



ICU of Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals here.


"LK Advani ji, former deputy prime minister of India, has been admitted to the ICU of Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals for medical management and investigations," the hospital said in a statement.

"He is under the care of Dr Vinit Suri and is currently stable," it added.

Suri is a senior consultant in the neurology department. The hospital, however, did not disclose any information on the reason for his hospitalisation.

A source said the 96-year-old was brought to the hospital about two days ago.

He had been admitted to the same hospital earlier this year.



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.5°C Min: 3.6°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 9.4°C Min: -4.6°C

Humidity
Max: 83 Min: 44

Sunset : 17:32 Hours
Sunrise : 07:25 Hours

Implement strict measures to prevent unauthorized extraction, transportation of minerals: Dy CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: While emphasizing the urgent need to curb illegal mining in the region, the Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday directed the officials to implement strict measures to prevent unauthorised extraction and transportation of minerals.

The Deputy Chief Minister was chairing a high level review meeting of the Mining Department (Kashmir Division) today at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

MLAs Anantnag West, Majid Larni, Sonawari, Hilal Lone and Chanapora Mushtaq Guru were also

present in the meeting

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner/Secretary Mining Department; Director, Geology and Mining, J&K; Special Secretary, Mining Department; Joint Director, Geology and Mining (Kashmir) and all District Mineral Officers (DMOs) of Kashmir division.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for increased vigilance through deployment of modern technology, such as GPS-enabled vehicles, CCTV surveillance at mining sites besides drone monitoring. He

asked the officials to conduct frequent and surprise inspection of mining sites to detect and deter illegal activities.

He emphasised the need for accurate and real time data entry on the e-market web portal to ensure all quantities extracted are properly accounted for. He stressed the importance of close collaboration between the Mining Department and law enforcement agencies to take swift action against illegal miners and transporters.

"Department should launch awareness campaigns in local communities to

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Night temperature dips in most parts of Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature dropped in most places in Kashmir on Saturday, with the Met office forecasting a cold wave in several places in the valley during the next three days.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius -- more than two notches lower than the previous night.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.6 degrees Celsius -- up two degrees from the night before.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 8.4

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Pak-based terrorist among 7 chargesheeted in two terror-related cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seven people, including a Pakistan-based terrorist, were chargesheeted by police in two separate militancy-related cases in the Doda district, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The chargesheets were filed against the accused in the NIA court in Doda on Friday, Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Sandeep Mehta said, reaffirming the resolve of police to maintain peace and security by taking "decisive action" against those involved in unlawful activities and ensuring that perpetrators face justice.

NIA files chargesheet against man nabbed in terror attack case in Reasi

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a person in a case related to a terrorist attack in June in Reasi district on a bus returning from Shiv Khori carrying pilgrims.

Nine people were killed and 41 pilgrims injured when terrorists opened fire on the bus near Jhandi Morh in Ransoo area of the district on June 9. The bus veered off the road following the attack and plunged into a gorge.

In its chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court, Jammu, the agency charged Hakam Khan alias 'Hakim Din' under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the federal

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The officer said all the seven accused have "covertly or overtly" supported the terrorist groups in the hilly district by providing them food and other logistic things.

The first case,

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Special teams reach Jammu to assist in probe over 7 mysterious deaths in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special teams of experts from three premier health institutions have reached here from different parts of the country to help in the ongoing investigations into the recent death of seven persons belonging to two families in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a senior doctor said on Saturday.

Seven persons -- a man and his four children, and two other siblings of another couple -- died in Badhaal village in Kotranka in two separate incidents on December 8 and 12 with the officials suspecting food poisoning as the cause of their mysterious deaths.

"Our preliminary investigation points to viral infection but more work needs to be

done to reach the conclusion (on the cause of the deaths). Team of experts from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, PGI Chandigarh and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, have arrived here to assist in the investigations," Government Medical College (GMC) Principal Dr Ashutosh Gupta told reporters here.

He said some more time is required to finalize whether the deaths were caused by a virus outbreak or some toxins.

Dr Gupta, however, said things are totally under control and there is no need to panic.

"A combined team of experts has been formed to carry forward the

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