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LG calls upon...

to continue their quest to learn new skills.

"In today's era of rapid change, when new technological advancements are taking place every day, only one skill will be relevant in the future and that is - Lifelong Learning Skill," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the primary and secondary education is an interesting phase of positive change in a student's life. He said, this is the time when knowledge and influence around affects his mind and body.

Whatever a child learns in this impressionable age stays for long years. It is during this period when a child develops instincts to make decisions and the sense of understanding between good and bad, right and wrong. Our focus should be to develop primary and secondary education as per the needs of the modern world, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor gave seven resolutions to the educational institutions across the UT of J&K to adopt new technologies in education, focus on both knowledge and values and to stimulate students' intellectual capacity.

"The first resolution is to make the digital learning system interactive and encourage children to actively participate in the learning process. We must focus on one-to-one mentoring instead of information delivery, and offer field experience to students outside the classroom.

Teachers must share their life experiences with the students, encourage them for data interpretation and problem solving, and provide them with the freedom to explore new ideas. Our focus should also be on project-based learning so that children develop the ability to use their skills in different situations.

The seventh resolution is to ensure regular training and capacity building of teachers and provide them the opportunity to learn new things continuously," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further impressed upon the youth to imbibe the ideals of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

National Education Policy 2020 is a great opportunity for you. Kindle the curiosity within you and discover new frontiers in real life through independent thinking, creativity and problem solving, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students who excelled in academics and diverse fields. He also released the latest edition of school magazine.

Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Harpreet Singh, Chairman, Jammu Sanskriti School; Rohini Aima, Principal of the school, teachers, students and parents were present.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, heads of various institutions and senior officials of Civil and Police Administration were also present on the occasion.

Navyug tunnel should...

the objective of facilitating their return was also stated by Dr Singh," Abdullah said enlisting the Jammu and Kashmir specific measures taken during the Singh-headed UPA government's tenure.

Abdullah said besides holding roundtables to address issues of Jammu and Kashmir, former prime minister Singh also appointed interlocutors who held dialogue with the stakeholders here.

The chief minister said the former prime minister believed in working for the people without speaking about it.

"He would never speak... It does not matter who takes credit (for four laning of the highway), it was Dr Singh who prepared the ground for it," he added.

Monitors restoration process...

other senior officers, were present during the meeting.

At the outset, the Chief Minister sought feedback from MLAs across party lines regarding the restoration measures in their respective constituencies.

Discussions centered on snow clearance operations, the restoration of power and water supply and the provision of other essential services and supplies.

The Chief Minister also held one-on-one discussions with Deputy Commissioners of the Kashmir Valley and snow-affected districts of Jammu Division.

The DCs provided updates on the current situation and detailed the measures taken to restore normalcy, particularly in challenging weather conditions.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged officers to remain sensitive and responsive to public grievances, directing them to identify gaps in service delivery and take immediate corrective actions.

He emphasized the need to minimize hardships faced by the common people and praised the dedication of the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and employees who have been working tirelessly in adverse climatic conditions.

Looking ahead, the Chief Minister called for enhanced preparedness in light of the snowfall forecast for the following week.

He instructed officials to improve action plans based on lessons learnt from recent weather events.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need to prioritize snow clearance on link roads, inner lanes, and bylanes to ensure accessibility for residents.

He directed the Jal Shakti Department (PHE) to address water supply issues promptly and enhance the deployment of water tankers in affected areas.

CM Omar Abdullah instructed Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and concerned departments to implement measures to prevent waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Stressing the importance of smooth traffic movement on the National Highway, the Chief Minister called for enhanced coordination between the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Traffic Police, and District Administrations.

Chief Minister stressed the importance of continuous monitoring and synergy among various departments to avoid any inconvenience to the public.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and other senior civil administration officials also participated in the meeting virtually.

India not 'lucky'...

"We also face challenges on the internal front. In the backdrop of this, we can't sit quiet, unconcerned. Our enemies, whether internal or external, remain active always. In these circumstances, we must keep a close eye on their activities and take appropriate and timely effective steps against them," he told the Armymen.

To make Bharat a developed and self-reliant country by 2017, the role of the Army is very crucial, said the defence minister.

".. as the country's defence minister, I would like to tell you that we should be alert always. This patch of time, though often referred to as peacetime, struck me deeply when I arrived and witnessed the discipline and dedication with which you are undergoing training. Your regimen is no less than that of a war," he told the gathering.

"To maintain such a level of discipline, dedication and firm conviction are needed," he added.

Singh said he was impressed by the cleanliness at the Army establishments and cantonments across the country.

"Your dedication to work inspires me. I can say that the most appealing thing is your devotion towards work and sense of responsibility. It is inspiring to all of us," Singh said.

Earlier, Singh along with the Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi paid floral tributes at the memorial of Dr B R Ambedkar at Mhow.

The memorial of Ambedkar, the chief architect of India's Constitution, has been built at his birthplace in the Kali Paltan area of Mhow cantonment.

Plane bursts into...

firefighters, police officers, soldiers and other officials were also sent to the site, according to the fire agency and transport ministry.

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, apparently with its landing gear still closed, overrunning the runway and colliding head-on with a concrete wall on the outskirts of the facility, triggering an explosion. Other local TV stations aired footage showing thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remaining recognisable among the wreckage. Lee said that workers were looking into various possibilities about what caused the crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds, Lee said.

Transport Ministry officials later said their early assessment of communication records show the airport control tower issued a bird strike warning to the plane shortly before it intended to land and gave its pilot permission to land in a different area. The pilot sent out a distress signal shortly before the plane overshot the end of the runway and skidded across a buffer zone before hitting the wall, the officials said.

Senior Transport Ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers have retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of the plane's black box, which will be exam-

ined by government experts investigating the cause of the crash and fire. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until January 1, the ministry said.

Thailand's prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed deep condolences to the families of those affected by the accident in a post on social platform X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance immediately.

Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Airports of Thailand, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of abnormal conditions with the aircraft or on the runway.

Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident."

In a televised news conference, Kim E-bae, Jeju Air's president, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologized to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the incident. Kim said the company hadn't identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular checkups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident.

Family members wailed as officials announced the names of some victims at a lounge in the Muan airport.

Boeing said in a statement on X it was in contact with Jeju Air and is ready to support the company in dealing with the crash.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones, and our thoughts remain with the passengers and crew," Boeing said.

The incident came as South Korea is embroiled into a huge political crisis triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's stunning imposition of martial law and ensuing impeachment. Last Friday, South Korean lawmakers impeached acting President Han Duck-soo and suspended his duties, leading Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok to take over.

Choi, who traveled to the site in Muan, called for officials to employ all available resources to find the missing and identify the victims as soon as possible. The government declared Muan a special disaster zone to provide assistance to the families of victims and designated a weeklong national mourning period through Saturday.

Yoon's office said his chief secretary, Chung Jin-suk, presided over an emergency meeting between senior presidential staff to discuss the crash and reported the details to Choi. Yoon expressed condolences to the victims in a Facebook posting.

The Muan crash is one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. The last time South Korea suffered a large-scale air disaster was in 1997, when a Korean Airline plane crashed in Guam, killing 228 people on board. In 2013, an Asiana Airlines plane crash-landed in San Francisco, killing three and injuring approximately 200.

Sunday's accident was also one of the worst landing mishaps since a July 2007 crash that killed all 187 people on board and 12 others on the ground when an Airbus A320 slid off a slick airstrip in Sao Paulo and collided with a nearby building, according to data compiled by the Plight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit group aimed at improving air safety. In 2010, 158 people died when an Air India Express aircraft overshot a runway in Mangalore, India, and plummeted into a gorge before erupting into flames, according to the safety foundation. World leaders expressed their sympathies as South Korea dealt with the tragedy.

During his Angelus prayer in Rome's St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said he joins in "prayer for the survivors and the dead." Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he was "deeply saddened by the loss of many precious lives" in a message released through Tokyo's Foreign Ministry. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that "each life lost is an immeasurable tragedy" and that he extends his "heartfelt condolences" on behalf of Ukrainian people and himself.

Constitution stood every...

and upload their videos leading to its preamble, he said.

His government, Modi said, has launched yearlong activities since the Constitution Day on November 26.

Opposition parties, especially the Congress, have accused his government of weakening the Constitution, a charge vehemently denied by the ruling BJP.

Modi has constantly highlighted his government's efforts to strengthen constitutional values and spirit and has, in turn, accused the main opposition Congress of subverting the country's guiding document whenever it was in power.

The Prime Minister said India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in February next year which will be a global platform for its creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation.

Comparing the WAVES to global events like the World Economic Forum in Davos, Modi said the leaders from the media and entertainment industry as well as creative minds from across the globe will gather in Delhi for the Summit being held from February 5-9.

"This Summit is an important step towards making India a hub of global content creation," he said.

The prime minister emphasized the pivotal role of young creators in the preparations for WAVES, reflecting the dynamic spirit of India's creative community.

He expressed pride in the enthusiasm of the country's youth and their contribution to the burgeoning creator economy, a key driver as India advances toward becoming a five trillion dollar economy.

"Whether you are a young creator or an established artist, associated with Bollywood or regional cinema, a professional from the TV industry, an expert in animation, gaming, or an innovator in entertainment technology, I encourage you to be a part of the WAVES Summit," Modi said.

He urged all stakeholders in the entertainment and creative industries to actively participate in the WAVES.

"The WAVES Summit is poised to serve as a global platform for India's creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation," Modi said.

The Summit will also highlight India's advancements in animation, gaming, entertainment technology, and regional and mainstream cinema, he added.

Modi also paid heartfelt tributes to ace director Raj Kapoor and singer Mohammed Rafi on their 100th birth anniversaries.

Raj Kapoor's role in showcasing India's soft power through his timeless films and Mohammed Rafi's mesmerizing voice that continues to resonate with all generations, he said.

Modi also recalled Akkineni Nageswara Rao's contributions in elevating Telugu cinema while reflecting the Indian traditions.

He also honored Tapan Sinha's socially conscious films that inspired unity and awareness.

Modi said these legends not only shaped the golden era of Indian cinema but also strengthened India's cultural heritage, leaving behind an everlasting legacy for generations to admire and draw inspiration from.

Jammu-Srinagar Highway...

being cleared, he added. J-K Traffic Police said in an advisory, "Passenger traffic is plying on the highway. Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, as overtaking may cause congestion."

It also advised commuters to drive cautiously, as the road is slippery between Banihal and Qazigund.

The Mughal Road, which serves as an alternative link to the Kashmir Valley from Jammu region's Poonch district, remained shut due to snow accumulation, officials said.

Similarly, the Sinthan Pass in Kishtwar has been closed for vehicular traffic due to heavy snowfall.

In addition, the Sonamarg-Kargil inter-UT road and the Bhaderwah-Chamba inter-state road are also closed owing to heavy snowfall.

Efforts are underway to clear these roads and make them trafficable, officials said.

Air traffic to and fro the Srinagar International Airport was also restored a day after heavy snowfall forced cancellation of all flights to the Kashmir valley.

"The flights to Srinagar have resumed and we expect normal operations," an official of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) told PTI.

He said the flight operations had to be suspended on Saturday following heavy snowfall since Friday evening.

"The runways were cleared and all safety checks done before the flight operations were resumed," the official added.

Kashmir witnessed the first major snowfall of the season on Friday evening and it continued till Saturday.

Besides affecting the flight operations, the snowfall also forced a closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, while train services were also suspended.

However, the highway has been cleared now and passenger vehicles are being allowed to ply but motorists have been advised to follow lane discipline.

Army stands alert...

threat. Army officials have reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation. Stringent measures, including advanced surveillance and strategic deployments, are in place to counter any untoward incidents during the New Year celebrations.

Local residents have expressed confidence in the Army's efforts and hope for a

peaceful and secure start to the coming year.

AEE suspended for...

had been reprimanded multiple times for his casual approach and failure to perform his duties. He has now been attached to the 24X7 Emergency Control Room at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Doda till further orders.

To ensure smooth operations, Mukesh Kumar, Assistant Executive Engineer PWD, Doda, and Umar Jan, Assistant Engineer PWD, Bhagwal, have been directed to oversee the responsibilities of the PMGSY Sub Divisions in addition to their own duties.

This decisive action underscores the administration's commitment to maintaining accountability and ensuring timely public service delivery in adverse weather conditions.

Ramban Police provide relief to stranded passengers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In a compassionate move to support passengers stranded due to heavy snowfall along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Ramban Police organized a langar (community kitchen) to provide hot meals and essential supplies to the stranded passengers. The severe weather conditions, which began a few days back, led to significant congestion on NH-44, leaving approximately 600 to 700 passengers stranded.



Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the local police set up temporary arrangements to ensure that those stuck on the highway were cared for. Officers and volunteers worked tirelessly to distribute food, biscuits, and tea, ensuring that no passenger remained hungry or cold.

Senior police officers led the initiative, personally overseeing the Langar and interacting with the stranded passengers to reassure them of a safe passage. The community response was overwhelmingly positive, with passengers expressing deep gratitude for the timely and humane intervention.

In addition to immediate relief efforts, the Ramban Police have prioritized communication with local residents and travelers, providing updates and advice on safe travel routes. Travelers have been advised to monitor weather and traffic advisories, and helpline numbers (01998-262248 and 01998-268384) remain active for further assistance.

Municipal and Local Bodies Pensioners Association highlights pensioner issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Municipal and Local Bodies Pensioners Association Jammu Province was held on Sunday under the leadership of B.S Jamwal, Advocate, to address the pressing issues faced by pensioners. The meeting focused on the implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations, ensuring parity with Central Government employees, and the timely release of Dearness Allowance (DA), as per the directives issued by the Central Government.

The Association members expressed deep concern over the pending pension cases, which remain stuck in bureaucratic red tape, causing considerable hardship for retirees.

Many pensioners have been waiting for long periods without resolution, and the Association called for immediate action to clear these backlogs.

It was pointed out that the Municipal and Local Bodies employees play a crucial role in the functioning of the state government and that the suffering of these retirees needs to be addressed on a priority basis.

The members of the Association also urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for the timely disbursement of pensions, particularly through agencies like the J&K Bank and the Treasury.

Delays in the disbursement process were identified as one of the major hurdles that pensioners are facing.

Furthermore, the Association highlighted the importance of accommodation for the Municipal and Urban Local Bodies Pensioners Association within the city of Jammu, to facilitate the smooth discussion and resolution of these burning issues.

The provision of a dedicated space for these discussions would allow pensioners to meet and strategize solutions for their ongoing concerns.

The meeting also discussed the long-standing issue of enhancement of Medical Allowance, which has become a significant point of contention for pensioners. The Association reiterated its demand for an increase in the allowance to help retirees cope with rising healthcare costs.

In conclusion, BS Jamwal expressed hope that the issues would be resolved under the leadership of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, especially as the Chief Minister holds the portfolio of the Urban and Housing Department.

Others present were Indu Bhushan, Bharat Bhushan, Tarsen Lal, Mela Ram, Attar Singh, J.R Sharma, K.G Khajuria, Shiv Kumar Singh Jamwal, Sirinder Singh Jamwal, Kalidass, Yoginder Singh Jamwal, Ram Rattan Sharma, Shiv Pal Singh Anil Singh and R.C Bhatti.

The President thanked all the participants for their cooperation and assured them that the Association would continue to push for the swift resolution of these issues.

Members remain hopeful that the Jammu and Kashmir Government will act promptly to address the pensioners' grievances and ensure a better future for those who have served the state.

Govt has decided to allocate space for Manmohan Singh's memorial: Nadda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday said the Centre has decided to allocate space for Manmohan Singh's memorial and informed his family about it, as he accused the Congress of indulging in "cheap politics" over the former prime minister's cremation.

The BJP chief's reaction came after the Congress accused the Centre of insulting Singh, the country's first Sikh prime minister, by performing his last rites at Nigamodh Ghat instead of a designated spot that could be turned into his memorial.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the BJP-led Centre had "totally insulted" Singh, a great son of Mother India and the first prime minister from the Sikh community, by performing his last rites at Nigamodh Ghat.

Reacting sharply, Nadda said, "It's very unfortunate that former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and incumbent Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge are not refraining from playing politics even over the former prime minister's sad demise."

"No amount of condemnation is enough for such cheap thinking of the Congress. The Congress, which never gave real respect to Manmohan Singh when he was alive, is now playing politics in the name of his respect," he added.

The Union minister said the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi had allocated space for Singh's memorial and also informed his family about it.

"Yet, the Congress is spreading lies," he said.

"Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and other Congress leaders should refrain from indulging in such cheap politics," Nadda said.

The BJP chief alleged that the Congress "tarnished and degraded" the position of the prime minister by placing Sonia Gandhi as "super prime minister" over Singh.

"Not just this. The way Rahul Gandhi insulted Manmohan Singh by tearing an ordinance, there is no other example of this," he added.

"The same Congress is today playing politics over the death of Manmohan Singh," the BJP chief said, alleging that the Gandhi family had not given respect to anyone except itself. Nadda charged that the Gandhi family did not do justice to Singh or any other leader -- be them from the Congress or other parties -- citing the examples of BR Ambedkar, India's first president Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, former prime ministers Lal Bahadur Shastri, PV Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ex-president Pranab Mukherjee and Sitaram Kesri.

"The Gandhi family has always insulted all other big leaders (than those part of the family)," the BJP chief said.

He alleged that Sonia Gandhi had rejected the request for setting up a monument to Rao. "His (Rao's) body was not even given a place in the Congress office. The Congress did not want his last rites to be held in Delhi. His funeral was held in Hyderabad. It was Modi who established the memorial to Rao in 2015 and honoured him with the Bharat Ratna," Nadda said.