

03 J&K witnessing phenomenal expansion of education: Sinha

03 LS passes landmark Examination Bill by Dr Jitendra; seeks safeguards for youth, children

10 Dhas, Saharan fifty give India two-wicket win over SA, place in U19 WC final

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LS passes two Bills to modify lists of SCs, STs in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed two Bills to modify the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir to include among others the Pahari Ethnic Group in the list of STs in the Union Territory.

Both the Bills will now be sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, adds Valmiki community as a synonym of Chura, Balmiki, Bhangi, and Mehtar communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order of 1956, which lists the castes deemed to be Scheduled Castes in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar said there is equality in Jammu and Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state.

The minister said earlier dispensations only used Scheduled Caste people as their vote-bank.

He also clarified that his government was not closing pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for SC students.

The Lok Sabha also passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to add four communities -- Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group -- to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Historic day for J&K: LG

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday termed as "historic" the passing of Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli & Gadda Brahmin.

"A historic day for Jammu and Kashmir. Lok Sabha has cleared the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin, fulfilling the long pending demand of these communities," the Lt Governor said in a statement.

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has ensured inclusion of these communities in the Scheduled Tribes list, and it will have no impact on the current level of reservations available to Gujjars, Bakarwals and other tribes. They will continue to get reservations like before, Sinha said.

"After the bill is cleared in the Rajya Sabha, the UT administration will issue necessary notifications ensuring that the people included in the existing list of Scheduled Tribes continue to get the same level of reservation," he said.

Sinha also appealed to people and community elders to counter any "misinformation being spread" by miscreants on the level of reservation to the communities.

"I reiterate that the inclusion of new communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes will not impact the current level of reservations available to the existing Scheduled Tribe communities such as Gujjars and Bakarwals," Sinha said.

Inaugurates Atomic North Private Ltd's Complex Govt committed to facilitate on-ground implementation of industrial investments in J&K: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
BILLAWAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reiterated the resolve of the Jammu and Kashmir Administration to facilitate the on-ground implementation of industrial investments in the Union Territory.

Inaugurating the new office Complex of the Atomic North Private Limited at Durang Village, Billawar, Kathua, the Lieutenant Governor assured every support from the administration for the setting up of new ventures of IT and IT-enabled services sector companies in the Union Territory. The Lt Governor congratulated the IT Services Company.

LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after inaugurating Atomic North Private Ltd's Complex at Durang Village, Billawar, Kathua.

Excise Deptt invites prospective bidders for pre-bid meeting of JKEL-2 vends

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Excise Department has invited the prospective bidders for pre-bid meeting of JKEL-2 vends to be held at Excise and Taxation Training Institute (ETTI), Nagrota on February 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

An official communiqué received in this regard reads, "In consonance with J&K Excise Policy 2024-25, bid document for e-auction of 305 JKEL-2 vends has been issued by the Excise Department J&K. The allotment of JKEL-2 vends commonly known as Wine Shops is being conducted in a completely transparent and secure mode through J&K Bank using <https://jkexcisedept.auctiontiger.net-portal/>."

The Excise Department requests all the prospective bidders to attend the pre-bid meeting on scheduled date, time and venue. Further, for the convenience of bidders, not stationed at

Saturation of Govt welfare schemes is 'real secularism, social justice': Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS
PANAJI: Attaining saturation of central government-sponsored welfare schemes in states by ensuring that all eligible individuals receive their benefits is "real secularism and social justice", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

When there is saturation of welfare schemes, differences between people disappear, Modi said while addressing the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa' public meeting in Margao town of South Goa.

The Prime Minister congratulated the BJP government in Goa for attaining 100 per cent saturation in central government's flagship schemes.

"Amongst the main schemes of the central government, in several schemes, Goa has attained 100 per cent saturation," he said.

"When there is saturation of schemes, differences between people end. Every beneficiary gets the entire benefit.... people don't have to pay bribe to get their rights," Modi said.

"Saturation (of welfare scheme where all beneficiaries get the facilities) is real secularism and social justice. Saturation is Modi's guarantee to Goa and the country," he asserted.

The PM said to attain this goal, the central government conducted 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'. "Those who were away from the government schemes also

Delhi court allows J&K Police transit remand of LeT member'

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday granted transit remand of an alleged member of Lashkar-e-Taiba module to the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Riyaz Ahmad Rather from J-K's Kupwara district, a retired army man who allegedly played an instrumental role in receiving arms and ammunition from across the Line of Control (LoC), was arrested by the Delhi Police on Sunday from New Delhi railway station.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Anuj Kumar Singh granted transit remand of Riyaz on an application moved by the J-K Police, claiming that he was required to be taken to the Union territory for investigation in the case.

Police claimed that the accused was a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba module operating in J-K's Kupwara district and said he was required to be confronted with other accused

Advani made invaluable contribution to India's cultural heritage, politics: Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met BJP veteran L K Advani and congratulated him for getting the Bharat Ratna, saying the former deputy prime minister has made invaluable contribution to the country's cultural heritage, politics and progress. On February 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Advani will be conferred Bharat Ratna.

Krishna Advani today after the announcement of him getting Bharat Ratna and congratulated him. Advani has made invaluable contribution to the country's cultural heritage, politics and progress. The work done by him is a source of inspiration for all of us. By deciding to give Bharat Ratna to "Met respected Shri Lal

LS nod to bill for OBC quota in local bodies in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, with the government asserting that important changes have taken place in the Union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Replying to a brief debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill-2024, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have started enjoying the fruits of development ushered in by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Currently, there is no provision

JKBOSE student tagging directions, 180 schools in dilemma Century old school in Baramulla faces closure

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a distressing turn of events, the recent denial of Registration Return Forms (RRFs) by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) to private schools has led to shock and despair among parents and students alike. At the centre of this storm is the Saint Joseph's School in Baramulla, with a century-old legacy in North Kashmir.

The school is on the verge of closure as authorities have refused to register the students from this school for board examinations in absence of land lease documents.

The school has asked the parents of students in Classes 9, 10, 11, and 12 to "to come out of the situation" and decide on the future of their children in view of the refusal by the Board of School Education to register their wards for examinations.

The school, which was established in 1905, is operating on state land in Baramulla district. "St. Joseph's School



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