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LS passes two...

Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said that with the scrapping of Article 370, the BJP government has sent out a message that India is one, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

On the demand of an opposition member for the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, he said that the BJP is concerned about the people of the Union territory.

The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order of 1989 to create separate lists for Scheduled Tribes for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Govt committed to...

the youth and residents of Billawar and adjoining areas on the momentous occasion. He commended the Atomic North for its commitment to creating large job opportunities and fostering technological innovation in the region.

"Atomic North is a leading IT services company with offices in India, Canada, USA, United Kingdom and its expansion in rural J&K is a testimony of government's commitment to revive the economy of villages," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor suggested the Atomic North management to skill and reskill the youth of Billawar and nearby areas and give them preference in recruitment so that the local talents can be utilised and this venture gives new impetus to rural transformation.

In 1st Phase, Atomic North will start BPO operation with 100 executives. More than 90 per cent are local youth. In the next phase, the Company will build a data center, a Network Operations Center and a Security Operations Center which will provide employment to 1500 youth and further drive economic growth.

The Lt Governor said the State-of-the-Art facility, equipped with cutting-edge technology and innovative facilities, is poised to give new momentum to the capacity building of young talent pool of Jammu Kashmir.

The initiative aligns with the vision of J&K Administration to empower local communities and promoting sustainable growth in the IT-enabled services sector, he further added.

"I am confident that Atomic North's venture will put customer service at the heart of the company, and reduce the physical distance in today's globalised world. It will inspire the other IT companies to set up their businesses in hinterland to create rural technology hubs in J&K", the Lt Governor said.

Sanjeev Sapolia, Managing Director, and Arun Prakash CEO, Atomic North Private Limited, reaffirmed the commitment of Atomic North to supporting economic growth in rural areas and contributing to the overall development of the region. They also expressed gratitude to the UT Administration for the support and cooperation. Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua; Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua and senior officers, prominent citizens and youth in large number were present.

Delhi court allows...

persons arrested in J-K. Riyaz, who retired from the Indian Army on January 31, 2023, was involved in hatching a conspiracy along with others in receiving arms and ammunition from across the LoC by the terrorist handlers, police said.

He has been arrested under appropriate sections of law and the Jammu and Kashmir Police officials have been informed for further necessary action at their end, the Delhi Police said.

Saturation of Govt...

benefited from Modi's guarantee after this Yatra," he said. During the meeting, the Prime Minister inaugurated the campus of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Cuncolim, National Institute of Water Sports at Dona Paula and Waste Management Facility at Curohorem.

He also laid foundation stones for a ropeway project between Panaji and Reis Magos fort and a 100 MLD water treatment plant at Xelpem in South Goa.

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant were present at the event.

Speaking further, Modi said his government has so far allotted pucca (concrete) homes to four crore households and more will get permanent roof over their heads. "Our guarantee is that we will give permanent homes to two crore more families. If you have any family who lives in a shanty, tell them Modiji has given guarantee that even your house will be permanent (pucca)," he said, adding an announcement about this was made in the February 1 Union Budget.

The PM pointed out that the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme has been extended to cover ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Anganwadi (child care centre) workers.

Modi said the fishing sector is also under his government's focus. He said financial assistance being given to fishermen by the government will be increased which will help them to get more resources and facilities.

"This will boost seafood exports. Lakhs of new employment opportunities can be created in the fisheries sector itself," the Prime Minister said.

Insurance cover (for accidental death or permanent disability) has been increased for fishermen from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh while subsidy has been provided to modernise their canoes, he said.

Modi maintained the BJP's "double engine government" (same party in power at the Centre and also in a state) is making record investment in infrastructure.

"You can see how rapidly road, rail and airport networks are expanding now. A sum of Rs 11 lakh crore has been earmarked in the (recent) budget....10 years ago less than Rs 2 lakh crore was spent on infrastructure," he said.

The PM stated that infrastructure creation generates employments for a large number of people. Creation of infrastructure like new roads, bridges, railway routes, airports, educational institutes will give a new pace to development of the country.

He said tourism, a key source of revenue and jobs for local residents, is getting renewed attention from the government.

"There was no vision for tourism (before 2014). Due to lack of good airports and adequate number of roads and trains, good tourism spots were left in isolation," he stated.

Referring to Goa, Modi said the coastal state gives the feel of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" (One India, Great India) as it is a favourite destination for lakhs of foreign and domestic tourists.

In his speech, Modi remembered legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who had her roots in Goa, on her death anniversary (February 6).

The PM pointed out that this year there would be exposition of sacred relics of St Francis Xavier in Goa and added this decennial event "gives us the message of peace".

Modi said people from all communities live together in Goa in peace and harmony which is an example of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

On the occasion, the PM dedicated projects worth Rs 13,000 crore which are mainly in education and tourism sectors. He also handed more than 1,900 appointment letters of government jobs to newly inducted recruits.

Modi said the BJP's mantra is 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' (together with all, development for all).

"Some groups played politics of hatred but Goa has replied to such groups by electing a BJP government in the state time and again," he said.

The PM said Goa's BJP government has developed a model of good governance.

"The way Goa is marching ahead is significant. Goans are now counted as one of the most happy people," he said.

The PM said the central government is encouraging eco-tourism in the coastal state.

"That will benefit local people. When tourists go to villages, more opportunities of employment would be created," he said.

Modi said the Centre is also promoting Goa as a conference and convention tourism destination.

"I attended India Energy Week (being held in Goa). The state also hosted G20 meetings, world table tennis championship, FIFA football tournament (U-17 World Cup), National Games and other events. Due to this, Goa has got international recognition," the PM maintained. He said the central government is promoting Goa as an education hub.

"Educational institutes here have become dream institutes for students. These institutes will prepare youths for new challenges," the PM said. Modi said everyone should join hands for fast paced development of Goa. "I have full faith that every family in the state will have better living with Modi's guarantee," he added.

Excise Dept invites...

Jammu, online facility is available at <https://meet.google.com/drt-judj-ygy> for their participation in the meeting. The expert teams from Excise Department and J&K Bank will be available at the venue for clearing the doubts of the prospective bidders.

The department in close coordination with J&K Bank has also conducted training programme at the Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota from 5th to 6th February 2024 with an aim to familiarise and sensitize the prospective bidders with procedure and criteria for bidding and to clear their queries about e-auction procedure, eligibility, mode of allotment, requisite documents, participation/EMD and Minimum Reserve Bid Price etc. Additionally, a departmental helpline number has also been set up (0191-4064440) to resolve the doubts of the prospective bidders.

Pertinently, the Finance Department has notified the J&K Excise Policy 2024-2025 vide SO 58 dated February 1, 2024 wherein many initiatives have been taken to increase revenue and regulation of liquor trade on one hand and introduction of new initiatives under Ease of Doing Business.

JKBOSE student tagging...

in Baramulla was established in 1905 on land leased from the government. In 2018, before the lease expired, the school management sought renewal from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite submitting all necessary documents and recommendations, the renewal file has been pending with the Divisional Commissioner since April 2022. Although the school received a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Revenue Department, efforts to renew affiliation and register students have been futile, causing distress among students and parents due to the inconvenience caused by SO 177," a notice from the school stated.

"Despite appeals to various authorities, including the Principal Secretary of Revenue, Principal Secretary of School Education, and Chairman of BOSE, no action has been taken. Even after the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor's

office in December 2023, no progress has been made. In light of this situation, the school management has decided to inform parents of affected students about the circumstances, aiming to find a solution to ensure a peaceful and promising future for the students," it added. The school management claimed that it had approached the office of the Lieutenant Governor for intervention but no relief was granted.

Meanwhile, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) has expressed its concern and disappointment over the development and raised serious concerns over what they deem as a grave injustice.

"This decision is not just bureaucratic, it is deeply emotional. It disrupts the lives of countless families and shatters the dreams of our children," President Private Schools Association said.

"The future of our children is in jeopardy due to the continuation of these insensitive decisions," he said, adding that the students are unable to register for upcoming exams from their respective schools due to closure of RRF, putting their academic progression risk.

He said that the impact of this decision is much greater than that of individual students. "This is a threat to the existence of numerous private schools, threatening the livelihoods of teachers and school staff," he added.

While the efforts of the J&K High Court in directing authorities to comply with its orders are appreciated, the President said that the continued non-implementation raises serious concerns about the administration's commitment to the rule of law and citizen welfare.

He urged intervention from the Lieutenant Governor's office to reverse this decision and ensure the smooth functioning of private education in Kashmir.

LS nod to...

for reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bill seeks to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir and bring consistency in the local body laws of the Union territory with the provisions of the Constitution.

"With this, justice will be ensured to the citizens of Other Backward Classes of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after 75 years of independence," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

In his reply to the discussion on the bill in the Lok Sabha, Rai said he made no reference to the opposition demand for the government to spell out a time frame for holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the restoration of statehood.

Rai said the opposition members, participating in the debate, were resorting to a drama of supporting the bill granting reservation to OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir and were raising other issues.

"I wish to make one thing clear, no matter how much you go around in circles, but in Jammu and Kashmir wherever you go you will only hear 'Modi, Modi' and the development ushered in by Modi," the minister said.

Earlier, opposition members in the Lok Sabha urged the government to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

Participating in the debate, Hasnain Masoodi of the National Conference (NC) demanded that the polls in the Union territory be held soon.

He said the central government should have decided on the polls before the Supreme Court had to intervene in the matter.

The top court had a few months back asked the Election Commission to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September this year.

Masoodi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Monday said his government would take big decisions. Polls in the Union territory should be held before other big ticket decisions are taken, Masoodi said.

Minister of State for Home Ajay Misra intervened to point out that local bodies' elections were held in the erstwhile state.

Participating in the debate, TMC leader Saugata Roy also referred to the Supreme Court observation and pitched for early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

On August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was made a Union territory with a provision for a legislative assembly after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state.

Supriya Sule of the NCP demanded a timeline and "not a vague" answer from the government on holding assembly polls and giving statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said while the Election Commission will decide on the date, the government could at least give a tentative timeline for holding the democratic exercise.

BJP member from Jammu and Kashmir Jugal Kishore Sharma said the bill would ensure justice to OBCs.

Chinta Anuradha of the YSRCP said this was a progressive legislation and would help streamline the election process in the local bodies, including panchayats.

Shiv Sena member Pratap Jadhav, Navneet Rana (Ind), Kaushalendra Kumar (JD-U), Ramesh Bidhuri (BJP), Veeraswamy Kalanidhi (DMK), N K Premchandran (RSP), Ve Vaithilingam and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (both Congress) also participated in the debate.

Advani made invaluable...

respected Advani, Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi has honoured his tireless struggles and contribution," Shah said in a post in Hindi on 'X'.

BJP president J P Nadda also accompanied Shah in his visit to Advani's residence.

Mohanji receives honorary degree from Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University Udaipur

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Mohanji Foundation founder, mentor, and spiritual leader, Mohanji, received an honorary degree from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

This esteemed acknowledgment, which is only the fourth of its kind in the history of this university, highlights Mohanji's outstanding contribution to humanity.

Mohanji donned the ceremonial doctorate gown and stood shoulder to shoulder with graduating students in a symbolic depiction of shared academic achievement in a ceremony that combined tradition with modern meaning.

The visual extravaganza, filled with the customary academic garb, gave the event an extremely solemn air.

Interestingly, Mohanji's responsibility went beyond just accepting the award; he



Mohanji Foundation founder, mentor, and spiritual leader, Mohanji receiving honorary degree.

was also given the distinction of giving out diplomas to other graduates. This unplanned but very meaningful act amplified the event's significance by highlighting the interdependence of knowledge and wisdom.

Together with his committed team, Mohanji also experienced the warmth of the famous Rajasthani #hospitality and enjoyed the region's well-known cuisine.

To mark the beginning of the event, dignitaries on the stage lit the lamp to Saraswati, Goddess of

Knowledge and Arts.

Officials, such as Prof. B.P. Sharma (UNESCO MGIEP), Sanjay Singhal (Chairman Secure Meters), Rahul Agarwal (Chairman Pacific University), Aman Agarwal (Executive Director Pacific University), Sharad Kothari (CEO Pacific University), Hemant Kothari (Dean Pacific University), and Prof. K. K. Dave (President of Ceremony) were welcomed one by one and given mementos of welcome. Mohanji's spouse, Devi Mohan, was also called on

the stage and honored. In his speech, Mohanji focused on the bright future of India's youth and emphasized three essential values for a successful career: self-acceptance, thankfulness, and doing what is right for the larger good. His remarks resonated with the graduating students and provided valuable guidance for their future careers.

Despite the fact that this was Mohanji's first trip to Udaipur, he stated that it would most definitely not be his last "as we are now family".

Extending our gratitude to the university and all those involved, including Himanshu Gupta, Avinash Kothari, Rishi Trivedi, Kushal, Prajakt Melag and Kalpana Mewara. We look forward to witnessing all the wondrous ways in which Mohanji's wisdom and leadership will contribute to shaping of a brighter future for humanity.

Maharashtra tops medal tally in KIWG, Pushes Karnataka to second

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Maharashtra topped the medal tally, pipping Karnataka to second spot as the first part of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) concluded here on Tuesday.

Maharashtra won 20 medals, six of them gold. Karnataka too finished with an identical number of gold but their total medal count was just eight.

Hosts Ladakh, who won a pair of historic Khelo India gold medals in speed skating, finished third with 13 medals.

The second part of the KIWG is scheduled in Gulmarg, J&K from February 21-25. Gulmarg

will host four sports disciplines.

On Tuesday, more than 3,000 fans braved icy conditions to watch the two ice-hockey finals. Army won the men's title 3-1 after a shootout, while ITBP clinched the women's gold, defeating Ladakh 4-0.

In the men's final, Army opened the scoring in the ninth minute of the second period through Tsewang Dorjay. Mohammed Ismail equalised for ITBP soon after.

At the end of the third period, the scoreline stood 1-1. Two periods of extra time did not produce a result. In the shootout, Army scored twice

to settle the issue.

"Our rivalry with ITBP has been going on for a long time, and today's match was the hardest in the series. We knew it would be exciting, but we were surprised by the huge crowd and the support from the public. We know we could have played better, but we're still happy that we came out on top in the end," said Stanzin Phandey, the Army captain. ITBP women's team captain Tashi Dolker said after the win, "It feels like a historic moment." In the ice-skating competition, 32-year-old Shruti Kotwal of Maharashtra, who trains and competes in the US and was participating in KIWG for

the first time, comfortably

won both the long-track events (500m and 1000m) in the above-17 years category clocking 1:00.56 and 1:49.25 seconds, respectively. Shruti holds the national record in the 500m event with a timing of 41.97 seconds. After hosts Ladakh won the women's short track 1600m relay gold, the long track Ladakh skaters -- Padma Angmo, Insha Fatima and Tasmia Shamim -- made a clean sweep of medals in the under-17 1000m race.

Maharashtra added three long-track skating gold to catch up with Karnataka's six gold and overtake them on cumulative medal count.

IPS Pandey posted as DIG Central Kashmir Range

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday posted recently repatriated IPS Rajiv Omprakash Pande as DIG Central Kashmir Range (CKR).

"It is ordered that Rajiv Omprakash Pande, IPS (AGMUT:2010), upon repatriation to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is posted as DIG, Central Kashmir Range, against an available vacancy, relieving Altaf Ahmad Khan, IPS of the additional charge of the said post," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, J&K.

16 people injured as bus overturns in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sixteen people were injured when a bus skidded off a road and overturned in border area of Jammu district on Tuesday, officials said.

A bus was on its way from Arnia to Jammu when the accident happened at Kalyana area, they said. Locals and police rushed to the spot to rescue passengers, they said, adding that 16 of them were injured and were hospitalised.

Jammu-Srinagar NH closed for repair works

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: Authorities on Tuesday suspended traffic along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway to undertake repair works at several places in Ramban district, officials said. Repairs were necessitated after snowfall and heavy rains last Thursday rendered the arterial road severely damaged at several places between Nashri and Banihal, the officials said. They said several earth movers were pressed into the service by the agencies concerned at the affected portions, including Kishwtari Pather, Sher Bibi, Nachlana, Hingini, Shalgadi, Mehar, Cafeteria Morh and Dalwas, where the rain-triggered landslides had reduced the road to single lane.

28th Infantry Brigade remembers 1948 martyr L/Hav Deputy Lal



Army officers, prominent citizens and ex-servicemen during the ceremony at Sunderbani.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: The 28th Infantry Brigade of Army on Tuesday remembered the 1948 martyr L/Hav Deputy Lal Vir Chakra awardee and named CSD canteen of Brigade at Sunderbani after him.

The 28th Infantry Army Brigade Sunderbani organised a ceremony to remember the first Vir Chakra awardee of the area, who martyred in Nowshera/Rajouri sector on June 1948.

besides a commendation of the first Field Martial of the Independent Indian, General K M Kariappa. Brigade Commander Kapil Taneja was the Chief guest on the occasion, which was attended by NOK and other family members.

The martyr's was bachelor and only 27 years of age and the gallantry award posthumously, was presented to his younger brother Hav Radha Krishan by then Sadr-e-Riyasat Dr Karan Singh on 26th 1950. Expressing gratitude to the army brigade for remembering the martyr, on behalf of the family, martyr's nephew Ravinder Sharma Ex-MLC said that such an act of honoring it's martyrs by the army inspires the next generations.

He said that his entire family

will remain always loyal and dedicated and indebted towards army and the nation.

Several army officers, prominent citizens and ex-servicemen attended the ceremony.

NOTICE

I, Shan Bala, D/o Dharam Chand R/o Lamman Tehsil Sunderbani, District Rajouri have lost my Graduation Degree under Roll No. 5670545 & Registration No. 8435BC03 (Degree No. 10506 & Session 2009). Now I am applying duplicate of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days.