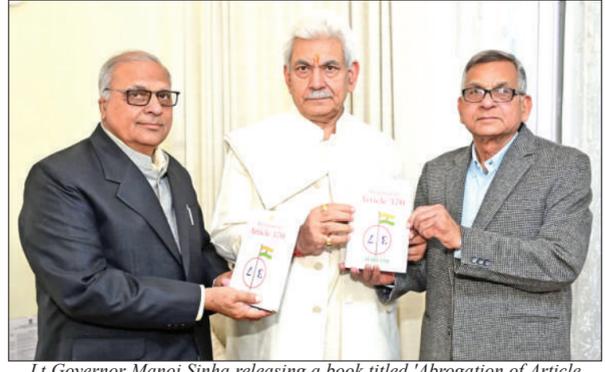


LG releases Prof Hari Om's book on 'Abrogation of Article 370'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday released a book titled 'Abrogation of Article 370-Supreme Court's Landmark Judgement' written by Prof. Hari Om, at Raj Bhawan.

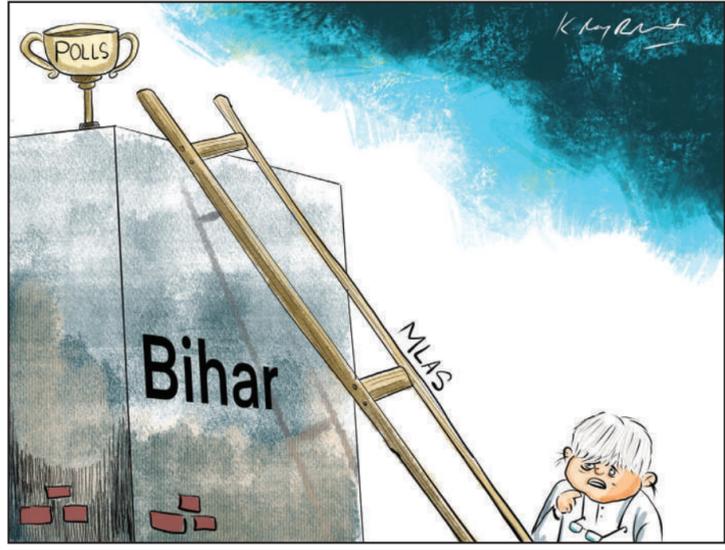
The Lt Governor congratulated the author for his notable work and extended his best wishes.

Meanwhile, according to the author, the book deals with the circumstances leading to the repeal of Article 370, abrogation of illegal and discriminatory Article 35A and reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir State on August 5-6, 2019. It also throws light on the nature of arguments put forth by the protagonists of separate status for Jammu and Kashmir-based on purely religious considerations and flawed federal concept and flawed



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing a book titled 'Abrogation of Article 370-Supreme Court's Landmark Judgement' written by Prof. Hari Om.

concepts of internal sovereignty, counter arguments as put forth by secularism and democracy-and the Narendra Modi Government in the Supreme Court to defend the reform scheme. Besides the nature of arguments advanced by the rabidly anti-integration and intensely pro-integration senior counsels, the book also throws light on the very significant observations Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and other judges of the five-judge constitutional bench made and the pertinent questions they put to both sides - petitioners and respondents. The book in addition, deals with the nature of the Supreme Court's judgement and its long-term impact on the country's polity and the process of national integration. The results would have been disastrous, had the apex court given judgment against the 2019 reforms. The book also throws light on this aspect, Prof Hari Om said.



Sham unveils BJP Office at Marh for Jammu-Reasi Constituency in preparation for LS Polls



Vice President BJP J&K, Sham Lal Sharma and others at newly opened office.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: State Vice President of BJP and former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma, alongside District President Omi Khajuria, unveiled the BJP Office for the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency election office at Karloop (Marh).

This strategic move comes in anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha (LS) Elections in 2024.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the endeavor, Sham Lal

emphasized the significance of these election offices in expanding BJP's presence in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The opening of election offices is seen as an endeavor or by the BJP leadership to expand its outreach in Jammu Kashmir," said Sharma.

"From today onwards, all the activities for the upcoming Parliamentary elections will be coordinated through these offices," he added.

Sham Lal further articulated the party's strong

determination for victory in the upcoming elections, declaring, "We have sounded the bugle for a massive election victory."

He highlighted the inauguration of election offices for five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir, including Udhampur, Srinagar, Baramulla, and the Rajouri-Anantnag seats.

Sharma emphasized the party cadre's relentless efforts to fortify the organization and ensure success in the forthcoming elections.

'400 plus for Modi' is common people's demand: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAUNPUR: "400 plus for Modi" is common people's demand, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said.

It is not only the BJP worker appealing for 400 plus mandate, but the common citizen of India who wants a third term for Narendra Modi to lead India in the Amritkaal, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh was interacting with the media on the sidelines of a meeting with party workers in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.

In the last two terms Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader today, his word is heard with respect and awe by Heads of State across the world and because of him India's stature has grown and India's word is being taken seriously at the high table in all international fora, said Dr Jitendra.

PM Modi's out-of-the-box decisions have given a push



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a public meeting at Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh on Friday.

economy and during PM Modi's 3rd term, India will be the world's 3rd largest economy, marching on to become the No.1 economy by 2047," he said. During Financial Year 2023-24, Indian economy grew at 6 percent plus for the third successive year even as the global economy struggles to grow at around 3 percent. We are the third-largest fintech economy in the world after the USA and the UK, he said.

Dr Jitendra said, India has the 3rd largest Start-up

Ecosystem globally and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns.

"From just about 350 StartUps in the year 2014, StartUps in India grew over 300 times in over nine years. After PM Modi gave the clarion call 'StartUp India, Stand Up India' from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address and rolled out the special StartUp scheme in 2016, today we have over 1.30,000 Startups, besides more than 110 Unicorns," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, PM Modi unleashed India's Space research by opening up the hitherto conservative and secluded sector: India has literally reached for the moon and beyond with the twin feats of Charyaan-3 and Aditya L1 solar mission in the last year alone. Within a short span of just about four years, the number of Space Startups has gone up from a mere single digit to over

three digits.

Dr Jitendra said, in the Global Innovation Index we ranked 81 in 2014, we have jumped 41 places, today we are No. 40 in the world.

"India of 2024 is ready to take a giant leap, backed by its scientific acumen and technological prowess," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized the need to effectively convey to the common masses, particularly youth and women, the enormous development that has taken place in this constituency in the last 10 years under the patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Therefore, the common citizen believes that India can become the world's leading economy under the leadership of PM Modi because of the outreach he commands across the world and the common people also feel confident under the Government headed by Narendra Modi," he said.

Congress is architect of tragedies in Kashmir: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday said that Congress is an architect and perpetrator of tragedies in Kashmir and is responsible for separatism in the Valley that left trail of destruction and devastation, tragedies and miseries for nearly three decades", Devender Rana said in an interaction with deputations during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar here along with Prof. Kulbushan Mohtra.

He said the BJP cleared the mess of nearly seven decades in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 by repealing Article 370, granting special status, making it integral with the nation emotionally and in totality.

As if the follies and erroneous moves of the Congress leader-



Senior BJP leader Devender Rana listening to public issues.

ship were not enough, they remained hand in glove to provide moral support to the enemies of the people and promoted stone-pelting and Bandh culture to further their political interests. Once out of power corridors, the stone-pelting era came to an end and paved way for participation of the people in supplementing the efforts of the Prime Minister on bringing the Valley on the track, which is

He referred to the launch of various projects and schemes, saying this will transform this part of the country economically.

He said the industrial and health infra, startups and self help groups besides road work have witnessed special impetus during the past four years. Obviously, the massive development taking place in a peaceful atmosphere is an eyecore for the Congress in particular that has based its politics on the miseries of the people.

He said equitable share in the funds allocation to all the regions and the sub-regions remains a hallmark of the planning strategy of the double engine government, so as to fulfill the aspirations of every segment of the society. This is something that was unheard of during the earlier dispensations.

Devender Rana said, for the first time the element of discrimination and appeasement have been overtaken by fair-play in the governance in true

spirit of the Prime Minister's cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Priyas. As a result of focused attention, every pocket of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing discernible transformation, he said, and referred to changing landscape both in urban and rural areas due to sustained efforts, as per vision of the BJP leadership.

He exuded confidence that Jammu and Kashmir is going to be a key player in India's growth story with the people of the Union Territory giving lasting peace a big chance. Peace and tranquility are crucially important for development of any place across the world and this fact is being acknowledged by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which is why they have rejected the cult of violence and culture of instability, he added.

Rana listened to the public grievances and assured that these will be pursued at appropriate quarters for redressal.

yielding dividends now in terms of Kashmir emerging as the top spot for holiday and filmmakers, nature lovers and sportspersons. The people of J&K in general and the Valley in particular have developed huge stakes with peace, he said, adding that this has positively impacted the economy of the entire Union Territory.

Rana said Jammu and Kashmir is close to the heart of the present National Leadership, who has been endeavouring for the socio-economic upliftment of the Union Territory in a big way.

LIC presents Rs 2,441 cr dividend cheque to Sitharaman



Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC of India presented the Dividend cheque to Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister.

STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC of India, on Friday presented the cheque of Rs. 2441,44,91,124 being Interim Dividend to Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister.

Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Financial

Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI, M P Tangirala, Additional Secretary, Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI were present along with J.P.S Bajaj, Zonal Manager (I/C), Northern Zone were also present on this occasion. Further, Nirmala Sitharaman, Union

Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister also virtually inaugurated 'LIC International Business Centre' at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

This strategic move is aligned with LIC's commitment to providing world-class insurance and financial services on a global scale.

Div Com chairs Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board meeting



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, who is also the Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, on Friday chaired the meeting of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board and reviewed the arrangements for Maha Shivratri Mela to be organized being held at the Shrine. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi (VC SSKSB), Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai, SSP Reasi, Mohita Sharma, officers of SSKSB, PDD, PWD, besides members of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Professor Chander Mouli Raina, Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner sought the details of the development of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine and proposed works for the same.

The Div Com was apprised on the comparative figures of the number of devotees arrived in the previous years, activities proposed for development of the Shrine, details of developmental works which are under execution via a PowerPoint presentation. The Div Com was also apprised on the new initiatives by SSKSB for providing better facilities to yatrias and the proposed activities for forthcoming MahaShivratri Mela.

Reviewing the arrangements for the MahaShivratri Mela, the Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioner Reasi and SSP Reasi for providing the best facilities for a memorable spiritual experience for the devotees at the Shrine.

He further asked CEO SMVDU for extending support and assistance to the SSKSB by providing wide publicity to the Maha Shivratri Mela through flex and video messages at Katra. SSP Reasi was directed to start comprehensive planning for security arrangements and queue management during the Mela on the auspicious festival of MahaShivratri.

Directions were also issued to rope in all stakeholders to make best arrangements for the devotees and smooth conduct of the MahaShivratri Mela at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, Ransoo, Reasi.

400 MW power shortages in Kashmir, consumers worried

MASROOR AHMAD
SRINAGAR: Despite the end of the harsh winter, the Kashmir Valley is still facing power crises, with metered and non-metered areas subjected to unscheduled cuts. As a result, consumers are worried, demanding a new schedule of electricity for spring season and the month of Ramadhan. Amid frequent power outages and trouble cuts across the Valley, Kashmir Power Developed Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has said that it is facing power shortage of about 400 Megawatts (MWs). A top official of KPDCL said that the DISCOM was facing a dearth of power. Asked about the long duration power curtailments and unscheduled power cuts, the official said that there was a huge power shortage in Kashmir. "As of now, sufficient power is not available with us. Currently, KPDCL is reeling under shortage of electricity", he added.

The official said, "There is a shortage of nearly 300-400 Megawatts. In view of the power shortage, there may be some areas in Kashmir which would be facing distress cuts and unscheduled outage." Earlier this week, the Power Development Department had said that it sorted the power outage matter which its consumers were facing from past weeks. Besides, it also informed that it was revising the load curtailment programme to minimise distress power cuts. A senior KPDCL official said that despite the shortage in the availability of power, they are trying to streamline the supply and steps are afoot to improve the situation. "We are at it. Hopefully supply will be better ahead of the fast-moving month of Ramadhan," he said, and refused to elaborate further.

The PDD Higher officials had said that the



department was focusing on streamlining the high loss making feeders where AT&C losses are high because of the power theft. He said, "We are trying to make some restrictions out there to minimise the losses. We have some feeders where the losses are very high and in those areas will have some extra power curtailments." About the unscheduled power cuts in some metered areas, officials said, "We have even detected the losses in metered areas too and issued strict actions to the concerned officials to look into it. Losses in metered areas are not acceptable at all." About the unscheduled power cuts and extra curtailments in almost majority of the areas in Kashmir, officials had informed that due to the recent snowfall, the electricity load has increased. "Power demand has increased post snowfall. Our supply position remains the same," he said.

When asked about any change in the power generation, they added that it has not changed. "The power procurement from the centre and the local power generation remains the same", he added.

J&K Bank shines at MSME Banking Excellence Awards-2023

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Adding another feather of excellence to its cap, J&K Bank won the 'Best MSME Bank' Award last night at MSME Banking Excellence Awards (2023) - an event organized by the Delhi-based Chamber of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CIMSME).

The Bank also received the Second Best Award for Promoting Government Schemes under 'Private Bank' category in the country.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash received the prestigious award at the hands of the Justice Deepak Verma in presence of President (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta and the Bank's General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen at a high profile event held on Thursday evening in New Delhi.

Dedicating both the awards to the commitment of Bank staff, MD & CEO said, "I feel proud to attribute this achievement to the



MD & CEO Baldev Prakash receiving prestigious award from Justice Deepak Verma in presence of President CIMSME Mukesh Mohan Gupta and others.

entire J&K Bank Family, whose ever-growing commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth continues to be acknowledged and appreciated at prestigious forums like these in the country. These awards will further boost our motivation to continue our mission of empowering MSMEs and broadening the socio-economic development across our operational geographies."

Highlighting the Bank's contribution towards encouraging inclusive growth in the MSME sector, MD & CEO said, "In terms of contribution towards

MSME sector, our numbers speak louder than our words. We have always been on the forefront of creating employment opportunities in the sector and have robust numbers to encourage the MSME growth in the country."

"As of now, J&K Bank has over 3.61 lac accounts in MSME segment with an exposure of over Rs 19,000 Crore, out of which 75000 MSME units are led by women that involve the funding amount of over Rs 2000 Crore", he added.

Notably, the Bank had earned the 'Best MSME Bank' Award last year also.