

Congress wants to rob rights of Dalits, backward classes through caste census: Adityanath

STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday alleged that Congress wants to rob the rights of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Castes with its caste census.

Addressing a press conference at the state BJP headquarters, Adityanath said the Congress and the INDIA bloc will tear the social fabric of the country with its caste census.

Citing a 2006 speech by then prime minister Manmohan Singh, Adityanath said the Congress leader had said that Muslims had the first right on the country's resources.

"Congress will conduct a survey of people's proper-



ties and then distribute it. They are making the caste census its basis," the chief minister said, claiming that the Congress has expressed such an intention in its manifesto.

"Congress's intention has always been to gain power by any means. They want power at the expense of the country. For this, they will

bring in Talibani tendencies in India that will cause barbaric atrocities of women," he said.

The Congress talks of implementing Muslim Personal Law and Sharia Law after coming back to power, Adityanath said.

"Their (Congress) intentions are not good towards the country. It is trying to

work as per the same old DNA which led to the partition of the country in 1947, due to which the country came in the grip of terrorism, extremism and separatism," he added.

Adityanath claimed that implementing the recommendations of Justice Ranganath Misra commission during the Congress government had adverse consequences.

"Under this, efforts began to take away the reservation rights of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes which were given to members of a specific community.

"The commission had recommended that out of the 27 per cent reservation given to the other backward classes, six per cent

be given to the minority community," he said.

Adityanath also claimed that malicious attempts were made even in the Sachar Committee report "to infiltrate" into the reservation for Dalits and Scheduled Tribes and to forcibly give a part of it to the Muslim community. There was huge opposition to this at that time, he added. The chief minister claimed that in the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked towards all-round development on every front with full accountability and today the country was getting its benefits.

Adityanath also inaugurated the party media centre on the occasion at party headquarters here.

AICC member Rajkumar Chauhan resigns from Cong

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi minister and All India Congress Committee member Rajkumar Chauhan on Wednesday resigned from the party, a day after the meeting of Delhi Congress' disciplinary committee, party officials said.

A party leader said that Chauhan, who was involved in an altercation with AICC Delhi in-charge Deepak Babria on Sunday, submitted his resignation on Wednesday morning.

On Tuesday, Delhi Congress' disciplinary committee held a meeting and left it to the AICC to decide on whether to take any action on complaints against Chauhan.

During a meeting held on Sunday at the residence of AICC Delhi in-charge Babria, a heated argument had erupted between Babria

and Chauhan, sources in the party said.

The disciplinary committee of Delhi Congress, under the chairmanship of Narendra Nath, unanimously decided that the AICC should decide on the complaint against Chauhan.

Chauhan told PTI that he has resigned from the party.

"Babaria called for a meeting and we had gone to his house. When I started speaking in the meeting, Babria asked me to 'get out' and he repeated it four to five times. I was trying to tell him that the candidate, who has been given the ticket (Udit Raj), has been abusing every caste.

"I am a four-time MLA and a three-time minister (in Delhi government). We have done so many development works for Delhi. An outsider was telling me to get out. That's why I was angry and

sent my resignation to DPC chief Arvinder Singh Lovely," Chauhan said.

It was also decided in the disciplinary meeting that the committee will identify those who shouted slogans when the three Congress candidates for the Lok Sabha elections were being introduced to the media at a press conference by the Delhi Congress chief and issue show cause notice to them to maintain discipline in the party.

On Monday, a section of Congress workers also held a protest against the nomination of former BJP MP Udit Raj as the party's Lok Sabha poll candidate from North West Delhi.

The protesters gathered outside the Congress office at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg and raised slogans against "outsiders" fielded by the party in the elections.

SC stays construction of 4 dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana's Yamunanagar district.

A bench of justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Centre, the Haryana government and others while seeking their replies.

The top court noted that the construction of dams will not only be detrimental to wildlife and population in Kalesar but also to the ecosystem and even the purpose for which the dams are proposed would not be achieved.

"Issue notice. We further direct that no steps shall be

taken for construction of dams unless an order is passed by this court," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Gaurav Bansal against the construction of four dams Chikan, Kansli, Khillanwala and Ambawali within Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary as it will have a negative impact on the flora and fauna in the area.

Bansal submitted before the apex court that the National Board for Wild Life has granted permission to construct dams inside the wildlife sanctuary without taking cognisance of the report of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) which says that there is no need of such dams.

"WII has categorically stated in its report namely 'Feasibility Study of Proposed Small Dams in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana' that the proposed dams are under protected area boundary of Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and as such would significantly affect the terrestrial as well as aquatic biodiversity of the protected area," Bansal submitted.

Referring to a letter by the principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden, Haryana, Bansal said he has stated that the proposed dam sites which are located in the notified boundary of the sanctuary will affect the existing pattern of habitat use of various species.

SC collegium recommends appointment of additional HC judge as permanent judge in Chhattisgarh HC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Wednesday recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey for appointment as a permanent judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

According to the resolutions uploaded on the apex court website, the collegium also recommended the names of justices Sachin Singh Rajput and Radhakishan Agrawal for appointment as additional judges of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

Another uploaded resolution said the collegium, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, has

recommended that Additional Judge Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal be appointed as additional judge for a fresh term of one year.

On November 22, 2023, the collegium of the High Court of Chhattisgarh unanimously made the above recommendation for the appointment of Additional Judge Justice Pandey as a permanent judge of that high court and for further extension of the present term of Justice Rajput and Justice Agrawal.

"We have duly taken note of the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Chhattisgarh in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Judge of the Supreme Court who is

conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Chhattisgarh was consulted with a view to ascertain the suitability of one of the above Additional Judges for appointment as permanent Judge and for appointment of the other two as Additional Judges for a fresh term.

"The Committee of two Judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India in terms of the Resolution dated October 26, 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium assessed the judgments of the above Additional Judges," the collegium said.

The collegium scrutinised and evaluated the material placed on record to assess

the merit and suitability of the names above.

"Having considered all aspects of the matter and on an overall consideration of the above proposal, the collegium is of the view that Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey, Additional Judge, is fit and suitable for being appointed as permanent Judge and that Justice Sachin Singh Rajput and Justice Radhakishan Agrawal deserve to be appointed for a fresh term as recommended by the collegium of the High Court," it said.

With regard to Justice Nargal's extension, the collegium said it consulted the judges of the Supreme Court who are conversant with the affairs of the High Court of

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

"A Committee of two judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India in terms of the Resolution dated October 26, 2017, of the Supreme Court Collegium has assessed the judgments of Mr Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal. The Committee has rated the quality of his judgments as 'good'...

"In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Additional Judge, be appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for a fresh term of one year with effect from June 3, 2024," the collegium said.

Delhi zoo to undertake beautification projects



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The National Zoological Park will undertake multiple beautification projects in the upcoming months, Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar said on Wednesday.

"There are numerous ongoing enhancements at the zoo, such as plans to adorn walls and rocks with drawings and paintings,

while pathways will also get seasonal decor. These beautification efforts aim to enhance the zoo's aesthetic appeal and provide visitors with an immersive experience," Kumar told PTI.

Kumar emphasised that the ambitious beautification plan for Delhi's zoo would also prioritize the safety of the animals and the visitors. It includes the cleaning,

plantation, enrichment, and beautification activities, which will be carried out simultaneously in and around the entire zoo infrastructure, he said.

"We are working on beautification projects such as animal enclosures, animal safety measures, the main entrance gate, zoo pathways, selfie point updates, and other amenities," Kumar said.

Sanjeet Kumar previously served as the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests for the Bhubaneswar Circle in Odisha for a year and has now been appointed as the Director of The National Zoological Park.

The National Zoological Park, popularly known as Delhi Zoo, is situated in a 176-acre area under the central government's jurisdiction. It was initiated in the year 1952.

Punjab Police ADGP Gurinder Singh Dhillon takes VRS



STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Senior IPS officer Gurinder Singh Dhillon on Wednesday said that he has opted for voluntary retirement after putting 34 years in service.

Though speculation was rife that he may foray into politics, Dhillon told PTI that he has not thought of joining politics yet.

"I have not thought of anything like that or discussed it yet," he said

when asked whether he will join politics.

Dhillon was currently serving as the Additional Director General of Police (law and order) in the Punjab Police.

"I have taken VRS from my Police service. I am feeling unaged. Let's see where wind of destiny pollinates me," he wrote in a post on X earlier.

Dhillon, a 1997-batch IPS officer, started his career as the deputy superintendent of police in Jalandhar. He served at various positions in intelligence, anti-drug special task force, bureau of investigation and other wings.

Dhillon hails from Mulianwal village in Gurdaspur district and is presently settled in Patiala.

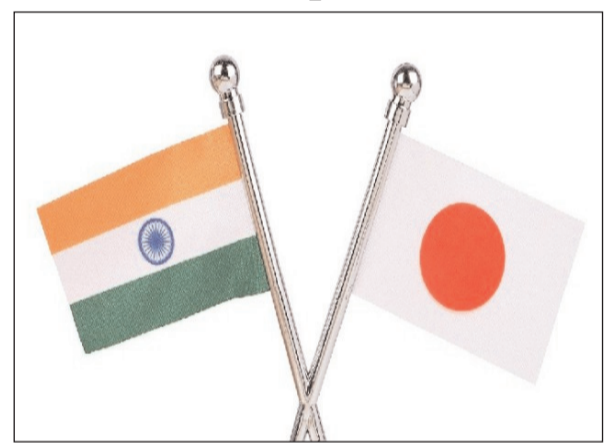
India, Japan discuss developments in areas of disarmament, non-proliferation

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Top officials of India and Japan on Wednesday exchanged views on developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation relating to nuclear, chemical and biological domains.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the 10th Round of India-Japan Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control was held in Tokyo.

"The two sides exchanged views on developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation relating to nuclear, chemical and biological domains, outer space security, non-prolif-



eration issues, conventional weapons and export control," the ministry said in a statement. The Indian delegation was led by Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, while the Japanese delegation was led by Katsuro Kitagawa, Director General for Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Science Department, it added.

PM slams Cong on Pitroda's 'inheritance tax' remark; says its 'dangerous intentions' coming to fore

STATE TIMES NEWS

AMBIKAPUR (CHHATTISGARH): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked the Congress over its leader Sam Pitroda's "inheritance tax" remark, saying that the grand old party's "dangerous intentions" of snatching the assets and rights of people have come to the fore.

The Congress will loot and equally distribute people's earnings and properties, he claimed while addressing an election rally in Ambikapur, the headquarter of Surguja district, in Chhattisgarh.

"The dangerous intentions of Congress are coming to forth one by one and now it says it will impose inheritance tax. The advisor of 'shehzada' of the 'shahi parivar', who was also the advisor to the shehzada's father, said that more tax should be imposed on the middle class and those who earn by toiling hard," Modi said, apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi and Pitroda.

"He (the advisor) said this publicly. Now they (Congress) have gone a step further and Congress is saying it will impose inheri-

tax. It will impose tax on the assets inherited by people from their parents. Now, the 'panja' (Congress poll symbol) will snatch the assets from your children," he said without taking any name.

Modi was apparently referring to a statement made by Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda at Chicago on the inheritance tax law.

The PM said the Congress' mantra is "loot of Congress zindagi ke sath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi".

"Till you are alive, Congress will impose more tax and after your life ends, it will impose the burden of inheritance tax on you. They (Congress) want to snatch your assets and rights of your children," the PM added.

Congress does not want that common Indians give their property to their children. From values to culture, our country is not a consumerist country. We believe in accumulation, enrichment and preservation, he said.

"Today, our nature and environment is protected

because of these values. Our old parents, grandparents keep their small ornaments safe thinking that it will be worn by their grandchildren during their wedding. The people of my country are fond of living life by taking loans. People are hard-working and spend as per their needs and have a tendency to accumulate," he said.

The Congress is going to attack strongly on the fundamental values and culture of India. The reason why they have given this statement yesterday is that this thinking of theirs is very old, he said.

"Why did a storm trigger in their camp (Congress). When I said that Urban Naxals and Urban Maoists have taken over the Congress, they felt that they should say something to appease America. When Modi made the allegations, they were pretending to turn towards the other side in a bid to balance. But they want to loot your property and snatch the rights of your children. Do you accept it?" he asked and the people replied in the negative. The PM said that till

the Congress was in power in the country, people's money was being looted, but after the BJP government was formed, people's money is being spent on them.

"The Congress's eyes are not only on your reservation, but also on your earnings, your houses, shops and farms. The 'shehzada' of Congress (apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi) says they will conduct an X-ray of the property of every house, cupboard and every family in the country. The little wealth and jewellery that our mothers and sisters have, Congress will also get them examined. In Surguja, our tribals wear tribal ornaments and and mangalsutra. Congress will snatch all this from you and they say that they will equally distribute them," he said.

"Do you know to whom they will distribute it after looting it from you? Will you allow me to commit this sin?" Modi asked.

Meanwhile, early in the morning, Sam Pitroda in a series of posts on his 'X' handle said his statement was twisted by the "Godi media" to divert the atten-

tion from the lies the PM was spreading about Congress manifesto.

"It is unfortunate that what I said as an individual on inheritance tax in the US is twisted by Godi media to divert attention from what lies PM is spreading about Congress manifesto. PM's comments Mangal Sutra & gold snatching is simply unreal," he said.

"I mentioned US inheritance tax in the US only as an example in my normal conversation on TV. Can I not mention facts? I said these are the kind of issues people will have to discuss and debate. This has nothing to do with policy of any party including congress," he said.

"Who said 55% will be taken away? Who said something like this should be done in India? Why is BJP and media in panic?," Pitroda added.

Meanwhile, the Congress distanced itself from Pitroda's "inheritance tax" remarks, saying sensationalising them are attempts at diverting attention from PM Modi's "malicious" poll campaign.

Modi Govt's decade of achievements surpasses Congress's 60-year legacy: Ajatshatru Urges people of Jammu to support PM Modi's dream of 'Viksit Bharat'



Senior BJP leader, Ajatshatru talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ajatshatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former minister said what the BJP-led government did for the country in the past 10 years, the Congress could not do in 60 years of its rule.

Addressing media persons here on Wednesday, the former minister said that for over 60 years, the Congress Party neglected the aspirations and development needs of the people particularly the youth and women of Jammu & Kashmir.

While, generations were denied the opportunities and advancements that should have been their birthright, he said.

The senior BJP leader

underscored the remarkable progress and development achieved by Bharat under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in just ten years.

He highlighted Modi government's significant achievements across various sectors, citing milestones in economic growth, infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

The senior BJP leader said today, India stands third in GDP, a testament to the robust economic policies implemented under BJP rule. The initiation of military aircraft manufacturing within India signifies a monu-

mental leap in self-reliance and technological advancement.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Modi, Jammu & Kashmir has also undergone a remarkable transformation.

From infrastructure to education, from healthcare to employment opportunities, every sector has witnessed unprecedented growth and progress," he added.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that the time has come for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to step forward and extend their unwavering support to PM Modi's visionary agenda of 'Viksit Bharat'.

He called upon them, particularly the vibrant youth and empowered women, to step forward and ensure maximum participation in the upcoming second phase of Lok Sabha polls on April 26, 2024.

He urged the people of Jammu region to contribute towards building a prosperous and inclusive India by casting their vote in support of BJP candidate.