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J&K Assembly elections possibly by year-end: Rajnath



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flanked by LG Manoj Sinha during 200th Raj Tilak celebrations of Maharaja Gulab Singh in Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the first indication of a timeline for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir since it was downgraded to a Union Territory, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said there is a possibility of holding the polls "by this year-end".

Addressing a function here

to celebrate the 200th year of the coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the defence minister said the delimitation exercise has been completed following which the number of seats has gone up to 90 with Kashmir having 47 seats and Jammu 43.

Rajnath Singh, who is on a two-day visit to the Union

Territory, said, "By this year-end, there is a possibility of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir."

The indication of a timeline comes two days after the Election Commission initiated the revision of electoral rolls in the union territory and prepare the draft rolls by August 31.

Foreign conspiracy behind communal tension, target killings in J&K

JAMMU: There is a foreign conspiracy behind the recent communal tension and target killings by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday, asserting that the central government will not allow another forced migration of any community from any part of the Union Territory.

He said Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) along with Gilgit-Baltistan are illegally under the occupation of Pakistan which surprisingly is making a claim on the land despite knowing the fact that it was part of the empire of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of Dogra rule.

There are some forces in Jammu and Kashmir who have always tried to harm the social fabric and encouraged radicalisation. Recently, the attempts to fan communal hatred increased...the communal tension in Bhaderwah town (Doda district) is against our culture, the minister said addressing a function to celebrate 200th year of coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh here.

Singh, who reached Jammu on the second-leg of his two-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir,

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According to the officials, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey carried out a review and directed the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer to map the redrawn assembly constituencies.

During the revision exer-

cise, citizens would be given opportunities to enrol, delete and change their particulars in the electoral rolls.

Last month, the Central government issued a notification saying the orders of the Delimitation Commission which redrew electoral constituencies and provided

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LG salutes bravery, benevolence of Maharaja Gulab Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday saluted the bravery, strength, benevolence and spiritual light of Maharaja Gulab Singh, saying he was undoubtedly one of the greatest warriors of his time, having a special place in every Indian heart.

Greeting the people on his 200th coronation ceremony of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the Lieutenant Governor said that there have been very few kings in pre partition India who are not known by the boundaries of their kingdom but because of the vastness of their personality.

"In the 18th century, there were many kings and

Maharajas, but in the 19th century, Maharaja Gulab Singh was the only great personality who started his life as a soldier and conquered large states with his strength and determination.

Whenever one gets to read the example of bravery and dedication in history, then there will definitely be mention of Maharaja Gulab Singh who shines on the top in the list of mighty warriors.

Jammu and Kashmir is proud to have a towering personality like Maharaja Gulab Singh. Due to the Mahalwari system of the East India Company, there was an outcry in that period from the North East Province, Central India, Punjab to the

Ganges Valley. At such a time, Maharaja Gulab Singh had made Jammu the pivot of new kingdoms by establishing the Dogra Dynasty with his indomitable personality.

When Maharaja Ranjit Singh crowned Maharaja Gulab Singh, two things happened. On the one hand, bravery was rewarded and secondly, Maharaja Ranjit Singh had found a way to get rid of quarrels between small states and jagirs.

Maharaja Gulab Singh established order in Jammu and was successful in taking the border of undivided India to the boundary of the former Soviet Republic for

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Dogra rulers introduced futuristic reforms, discovered universal talents: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: While speaking at a programme to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the coronation of the first Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh here today Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that out of about 565 princely States in India, what distinguished the Dogra rulers was their vision to introduce several futuristic reforms and their knack to discover talent which later

earned universal acclaim.

The Minister pointed out that he was personally delighted in contributing to the setting up of the first-ever statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at the gateway entry point of Jammu & Kashmir in Lakhanpur, which happens to be part of his Lok Sabha Constituency.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Dogra rulers established a justice driven governance model which created some of

the best practices that are applicable even today.

Looking ahead of their times, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Dogra rulers set up the first two Degree Colleges in Jammu & Kashmir at a time when the only degree college awarding graduation degree in the whole of North India was at Lahore and was known as Government Degree College Lahore, he said. SP College was set

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Corporator Ward-53 in ACB net, arrested along with husband while accepting bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested Jyoti Devi, Corporator, Ward No 53 of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) along with her husband Sham Lal, while accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 from a contractor for issuing Mulba Clearance Certificate.

As per an official spokesperson, the ACB received a written complaint with the complainant stating that he is a contractor by profession and was allotted work for upgradation of open area along main road near Mastermind Classes by Pre-cast of paver tiles and upgradation of open area along main road near Easy Day at Ward No 53, Trikuta Nagar,



BJP Corporator, Jyoti Devi & her husband Sham Lal.

Jammu.

The complainant further stated after completing work, for getting final payment, he approached the Corporator, Ward No 53, Jyoti Devi of BJP for issuance of necessary Mulba Clearance Certificate. But she demanded Rs 10,000 as bribe for issuance of the same and asked com-

plainant to contact her husband for payment of bribe," the official said.

On receiving complaint, allegations were verified and consequently, FIR 10/2022 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 and 120-B of IPC was registered at Police Station ACB-Jammu, the official said. "A trap team was constituted which caught accused Sham Lal, husband of Corporator, Ward No 53 Jyoti Devi, red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 on behalf of his wife. The couple was taken into custody on the spot and searches were carried out at their house," he said, adding that further investigation is going on.

According to sources, there are

already a number of complaints against Corporator Jyoti Devi and her husband Sham Lal. The residents of Trikuta Nagar allege that the couple used to demand money for works related to construction even from the ward residents, who voted and supported Jyoti Devi in the Municipal elections.

"This time her husband harassed a contractor, who approached the Anti Corruption Bureau. On the name of JMC officers, the couple was creating troubles for this contractor," said the residents of JMC Ward No: 53, "demanding strict action against the couple and sought the intervention of LG Manoj Sinha to order an inquiry so that the

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One-way traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar NH

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: One-way traffic resumed on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway after remaining suspended for most part of the day following a massive landslide near Banihal on Friday, officials said.

The landslide struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Romepadi around 11 am during the ongoing four-laning project, they said.

After a hectic day-long road clearance operation by the agency concerned, the one-way traffic was

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Anti-Agnipath protests: Several detained for attempting to block highways in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Several youths were detained on Friday as they took to streets in Jammu and Kashmir and tried blocking highways to protest against the newly launched Agnipath military recruitment scheme, an official said.

The unhappy army aspirants demonstrated in Jammu, Kathua and Rajouri districts of the state.

Police resorted to lathicharge and detained several protesters after they became violent and indulged in stone pelting at Kunjwani Chowk on Jammu-Pathankot



Aspirants staging protest against Agnipath Recruitment Scheme in Jammu.

Highway in the outskirts of Jammu.

Accusing police of high-handedness, one of the protesters named Rahul Sharma

said that the aspirants had just started assembling when police resorted to lathicharge without any provocation.

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Can arsonists be Agniveers; identify them, stop all facilities to their families



JAMMU: Why double standards in tackling the law breakers? The government can't be seen acting against the stone pelters belonging to the minority community by rolling out bulldozers, apart from other provisions of law, and remain mute spectators or lenient towards similarly placed arsonists and stone throwing youth belonging to the majority community. By discriminating against the two sets of offenders, the government is seen sending a wrong message. To cause deterrent and to bring the law breakers on the same radar, the criminals and the violent protesters should be treated the same way. This will save the government from

getting criticized over Raj Dharm.

In the backdrop of the recent and now-routine spate of stone pelting after the Friday prayers, India woke up to a new spree of violence, arson, stone pelting, vandalisation of the public transports and trains, all in protest against the launch of Agnipath Scheme. Aggrieved over the scheme, the aspiring Agniveers set a new code of discipline, nation service and patriotism by putting India on fire. It was free for all to burn trains and vandalise the government properties. Ironically, this happened when the governments were preparing for the new Friday episode of stone pelting-for whatever reason. For the nation breakers, it is okay to burn and vandalise, no matter the contours of the issue. Thus far it had been the members of a particular community indulging in Intifada-the Palestine type of protests by use of

stones and bricks, but now it is all and sundry with the majority of them belonging to the majority community.

For the stone-throwing incidents from near the mosques, the Adityanath Yogi government had introduced the effective and deterrent rolling of bulldozers. This had a positive impact on the psyche of the law-breakers, as the masterminds and the active actors saw their illegally constructed houses and the other properties getting razed to ground. Why the same methodology shouldn't be adopted and effectively practiced against the Agnipath protesters. They deserve no concession or compassion. They must suffer for what they commit.

Apart from the rolling out of bulldozers against the illegal houses of the, arsonists, stone pelters and vandalizers besides their perpetrators, there should be other stringent meas-

ures to deter those trying to Talibanise India with culture of violence becoming a norm rather than an exception. Of course, many of them might be having legally constructed properties but there can be other deterrent ways to tackle this new crop of rioters, whichever community they belong to. The government must seriously consider to name and shame the actors involved in such heinous acts by publishing authenticated photos and video footages for the people to know the anti-national and anti-social elements, who under the garb of the one or the other pretext, take the entire nation to ransom by talking law into their hands. The government should immediately get into action and start putting their act together, rather ferociously. In the first instance all the government utility services like rations, LPG,

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NOTIFICATION

PROBATIONARY OFFICERS -

(i) Preliminary Examination Result
(ii) Mains Examination Notification

Pursuant to Notification No : JKB/HRD/Rectt/2021-580 Dated 27-10-2021, the result of Probationary Officers Preliminary Examination has been made available on Banks website @ <https://www.jkbank.com> by IBPS Mumbai.

Candidates can check/download their result on Bank's Website under careers link.

It is further notified that On-line PO Mains Examination has been scheduled on 30th June 2022. The call letters for qualified candidates shall be available on Bank's website @ <https://www.jkbank.com> under careers link from 18th June-2022.

Ref No: JKB/HR-Rectt-2022-1155
Dated: 17-06-2022.

DIP/J-1306-P/22

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