

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**J&K Assembly elections...**

six additional assembly seats to the Jammu division and one to Kashmir would come into effect from May 20.

According to the orders of the Delimitation Commission, set up under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the Union Territory will have 90 assembly constituencies -- 43 in the Jammu division and 47 in Kashmir -- with nine of them being reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

The erstwhile state had 87 seats -- 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and four in Ladakh. During its reorganisation, Ladakh was declared a separate union territory without a legislature.

The three-member delimitation panel was headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired judge of the Supreme Court. Then chief election commissioner Sushil Chandra (now retired) and Jammu and Kashmir Election Commissioner K K Sharma were its two ex-officio members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir leaders on June 24 last year, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

Earlier, the Defence Minister inaugurated the Himalayan Museum at Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports in Pahalgam resort of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, who is on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review the security preparedness, also inaugurated the Colonel K S Mall Boulder Climbing Wall, an official spokesperson said.

During his visit, the minister participated in the executive council and general body meeting of the premier mountaineering institute of the country, the spokesperson said.

Singh was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The minister on Thursday visited forward areas in Baramulla district of north Kashmir where he addresses the jawans. He was also briefed about the security situation in the valley.

Foreign conspiracy behind...

said no country can progress if its population is divided in communities.

In Jammu and Kashmir, our neighbouring country is playing an important role in sowing the seeds of hatred. From 1947-48 tribal raids, till the recent targeted killings (by terrorists in Kashmir), there is a foreign conspiracy behind this, he said.

Without naming Pakistan, the defence minister said the neighbouring country is not happy with India marching ahead despite various challenges.

We have to thwart this conspiracy and the people of Jammu and Kashmir need to build their future with their own hands, he said.

Our government has taken the pledge of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir problem when it first came to power in 2014 when I was the home minister. The work is going on at a fast speed under the new home minister (Amit Shah), he added.

Stating that the twin Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have a major role in new India, he said the BJP-led government took a number of steps for the welfare of the displaced people, whether they are West Pakistani refugees, Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) residents or Chamb migrants.

There was no honest move to resettle 5,674 refugee families of West Pakistan but our government provided them Rs 5.5 lakh per family for their one-time settlement and similarly.

The package was extended to PoJK displaced persons and Chamb refugees who were also provided Rs 5.5 lakh per family. A package of Rs 2,000 crore was given to Kashmiri migrant pandits to create transit accommodations and jobs for them besides increasing their monthly relief, he said.

Singh said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the pain of displaced people and we will not allow another displacement of any community, whether Hindus or Muslims or Christians, from any part of the UT. I assure you that we will not allow forced migration of anyone.

Referring to PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan, he said Pakistan has no locus standi on these areas. Had it been so, its constitution never mentioned it while as our constitution says that PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan are part of India and both the houses of our parliament have passed a unanimous resolution in this regard.

Paying rich tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh and other Dogra rulers who extended the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir, he said they have a dream after making Jammu and Kashmir part of India and therefore every section of the society had to come forward and take a pledge to fulfill their dream which will be a great tribute

to them.

LG salutes bravery...

the first time. He did not bogged down despite suffering personal family loss and after acquiring Kashmir in 1846, the history of Jammu and Kashmir is known as a new history.

Friends, for 70 years after independence, we have heard the difficulties and problems of a very large section in Jammu and Kashmir, which was largely burdened by separatism, corruption and rule of a limited number of families. On 5th August 2019, the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi got us rid of that mismanagement and all kinds of helplessness in Jammu and Kashmir.

Friends, this is Jammu and Kashmir where 8-9 thousand projects were completed in a year by spending thousands of crores before 2019. We have completed 51,000 projects in the last financial year. This is the result of a fear-free, corruption-free system.

By eliminating separatism, destroying the ecosystem of terrorism, today the administration is making every effort to fulfill the hopes and dreams of the common citizen. Jammu and Kashmir used to be at 13th and 14th place in terms of road construction in the country. Today we are at third place in the whole country. Earlier, in Jammu and Kashmir, 6 km of road was built daily, whereas today 20 km of road is being constructed every day. In 70 years, investment of only 15 thousand crore came in Jammu and Kashmir, but in just one year we have been able to bring investment of 51 thousand crore rupees.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister, one lakh crore rupees are being spent on road and tunnel infrastructure. Today the farmer of Jammu and Kashmir is selling his fruits and vegetables not only in Delhi but also in markets of Dubai. The aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been linked with the aspirations of the country.

Friends, this is the change that is visible to all and I am sure that the future generations will remember how much hardwork was done in taking the crown jewel of the country to the pinnacle of development.

I once again convey my best wishes to all of you on the 200th coronation day of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the pride of Jammu and Kashmir and the whole of India", the Lieutenant Governor added.

Dogra rulers introduced...

up at Srinagar and Prince of Wales College at Jammu that were set up by the Dogra Rulers and set the foundation of many later reforms in the education sector.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, giving importance to the foundational sector like health, the Maharaja set up two special hospitals namely SMGS hospital and SMH hospital in Jammu & Srinagar respectively, at a time when only such health care facility in whole of North India was available in Amritsar and all the patients had to go there for treatment.

Referring to the knack of discovering talent, Dr Jitendra Singh gave citing striking examples he said, hardly anybody in Jammu knows that "Mint", the popular mouth freshener and throat soother tablet, was discovered by the scientist who was in turn the discovery of Maharaja Hari Singh. He went on to explain that Sir Ram Nath Chopra got superannuated in Calcutta in early 1940s and immediately thereafter the Maharaja brought him to Jammu and set up a Drug research Lab. The same Sir Chopra later brought the Mint medicinal plants from Japan and cultivated it in Jammu, conducted trials and somewhere in 1950s gifted Mint tablet to the world.

Similarly, Dr Jitendra Singh regretted that even Dogra protagonists have forgotten the name of luminary Prof Satish Dhawan who was born in J&K in the year 1920 and during his young age he was groomed for science education which later took him to Bangalore where along with Vikram Sarabhai he set up ISRO and the department of Space.

Today, the world discusses India's Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan space missions which are actually programmes initiated by Satish Dhawan.

Thirdly, Dr Jitendra Singh cited the example of Malike Pukhar the famous singer of the Indian sub continent who had herself acknowledged during her lifetime that when she was hardly 14 years of age the Maharaja had identified her talent and arranged for regular music sittings for her.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the next 25 years are being called the 'Amrit kaal' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and today J&K is all set to become a developed region.

History is witness that the achievements and developments of present and future in the region have their foundations in the progressive governance of the Dogra Rulers.

Selection process by IAF under Agnipath scheme to begin on June 24: IAF Chief**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The selection process by the Indian Air Force for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme will start from June 24, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Friday.

He also said that raising the upper age limit to 23 for induction under the Agnipath scheme for the year 2022 would permit a larger section of youths to enrol under the new model of recruitment.

Several parts of the country witnessed widespread protests over the newly announced scheme that provides for a short-term tenure of four years while 25 per cent of the recruits will be retained for regular service of around 15 years.

"The government has

IT Deptt seizes cash after raids on Kashmiri shawl making group

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department has seized over Rs 46 lakh in cash after it recently raided the premises of a "leading" Pashmina and Kashmiri shawl manufacturer in Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Friday.

The raids were launched on June 15 at 15 premises in Srinagar and Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir and the national capital.

"A preliminary analysis of the seized documents indicates that a substantial portion of sales has been made in cash which has not been found recorded in the regular books of account," the CBDT said in a statement.

The board is the administrative body for the Income Tax department.

The business group, manufacturer and seller of pashmina, jamawar and other variety of Kashmiri shawls, resorted to "large-scale" tax evasion through "under-value-

recently come out with the 'Agnipath' scheme for enrolment in the armed forces. The age bracket for the scheme is 17-and-a-half to 21 years. I am pleased to inform that the upper age limit for the first induction has been increased to 23 years," Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said.

"This change would permit a larger section of the youth to enrol Agniveer. The selection process for the Air Force will start from June 24," he said.

The government on

Thursday night increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022.

Unveiling the scheme on

Tuesday, the government said youths between the

ages of 17 and-a-half and 21

years would be inducted for a four-year tenure while 25 per cent of them will be subsequently inducted for regular service.

The youths to be recruited under the new scheme would be called 'Agniveer'.

After the scheme was

rolled out, the Army said it

would ensure an enhanced

youthful profile of the force

and result in a "reduction in

the average age from 32 to

26 years over a period of

time.

The three service chiefs

have also strongly backed

the scheme and said it was

unveiled after over two years

of deliberations.

Military officials said with

the infusion of technology

and revamping of the training

programme, the armed

forces would ensure that the

personnel inducted under the scheme have the same skill sets which are required to meet the operational challenges.

The monthly salary of an 'Agniveer' in the first year of employment would be Rs 30,000 and the in-hand amount would be Rs 21,000 as Rs 9,000 would go to a corpus with an equal contribution from the government.

Subsequently, the monthly salary in the second, third and fourth year will be Rs 33,000, Rs 36,500 and Rs 40,000. Each 'Agniveer' will get an amount of Rs 11.71 lakh as 'Seva Nidhi Package' and it will be exempted from income tax.

The four-year tenure under the new scheme will include around two-and-a-half months to six months of training periods.

The four-year tenure under the new scheme will start the training of new recruits under the Agnipath scheme by December.

The officials said the

Army has set its target of

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Curfew relaxed for 4 hours in Bhaderwah**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHADERWAH: Curfew was relaxed for four hours in Bhaderwah town of Doda as the Friday prayers concluded peacefully across the district amid additional deployment of forces to maintain law and order, officials said.

The curfew in Bhaderwah town was imposed on June 9 following communal tension in the wake of protests over the controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad by now-removed BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and some social posts by local right wing activists in her support.

The curfew was relaxed from 3 pm to 7 pm, shortly after the Friday prayers, the officials said.

On Thursday, the curfew was relaxed twice for a total of five hours in the town - from 9 am to 12 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm - and the relaxation period ended peacefully without any untoward incident.

Assuring full cooperation to the administration, Anjuman-e-Islamia sought the arrest of all those behind fanning communal hatred.

"People from only one community were arrested or detained so far but those belonging to other communities, who provoked the people through social media posts, have been let off. One among them has sought an anticipatory bail," an office-bearer of the religious group said.

Meanwhile, in Jammu district, too, policemen were deployed in strength outside mosques with a direction to not allow any street protest after the Friday prayers, officials said. Protests were witnessed in different parts of the city, including Gujjar Nagar, Talab Khatikan and Bathinda over the past week against the remarks on the Prophet.

A lookout notice was also pasted at the house of an accused who is evading arrest despite raids at several places in Bhaderwah, the officials said.

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