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STATE TIMES

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Day not far when people of J&K will elect own local Govt: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said preparations for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have begun and the day is not far when the people of the Union territory will elect its own government and also get its statehood back.

In his first visit to the valley after becoming the prime minister for the third time, Modi laid foundation stone and inaugurated 84 developmental projects worth Rs 1,500 crore in Srinagar and addressed the 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' event at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

Taking note of the recent terror incidents in Jammu region, he gave a stern warning to those who carried out the attacks saying they will be given a befitting reply.

He complimented the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the record turnout in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections and breaking the record of 35 years and said the day is not far when "you will elect your own representative through your vote".

"You deserve to be felicitated for it ... now time has come that people of Jammu and Kashmir elect its own government through your votes. For that, preparations are being made for holding assembly elections," he said.

Modi said the statehood of the Jammu and Kashmir will also be restored.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha and Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) Prataprao Jadhav were present on the occasion.

"I have come to express my thanks for your efforts for keeping the flag of democra-



PM Narendra Modi at the 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' event at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar on Thursday.

cy high", he added.

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects in J&K worth more than Rs 1,500 crores encompassing the sectors of road, water supply, and infrastructure in higher education.

He also launched **Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP)** worth Rs 1,800 crores. Modi also initiated

handing out employment letters to 200 fresh government recruits.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister went round an exhibition and interacted with young achievers of the Union Territory.

The Prime Minister expressed excitement about his visit to Jammu and Kashmir and mentioned two specific reasons for it. He said, "Firstly, today's event is related to the inauguration and foundation stone laying

of developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir and secondly, this is the first meeting with the people of Jammu and Kashmir after the Lok Sabha elections."

"The transformation in Jammu & Kashmir is a result of the work done by the government in the last 10 years", Prime Minister Modi said.

Pointing out that the women and people from lower income backgrounds in the region were deprived of their rights, the Prime

Minister said that the present government worked towards bringing opportunities and restoring their rights by adopting the mantra of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the refugees migrating from Pakistan, people from the Valmiki community and families of Safai Karamcharis got their voting rights for the first time. He also mentioned fulfilling the long-pending wish of the Valmiki community to be included in the SC category, reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly for the SC community, and inclusion of the Paddari tribe, Pahariya caste, Gadda Brahman and Koli community in the SC category. He also underlined that OBC reservation has been made applicable in the Panchayat, Nagar Palika and Nagar Nigam elections.

Throwing light on the power of the Constitution of India and its significance in letter and spirit, the Prime Minister underlined that it enshrines the rights of the 140 crore citizens of India and provides opportunities to become a partner in nation-building.

PM Modi also lamented the non-acceptance of the Constitution of India and the neglect shown towards Jammu & Kashmir since independence. "I am delighted that today, we are living the Constitution of India. Through the Constitution, we are finding new ways to change the face of Kashmir for good", the Prime Minister said with pride.

"The Constitution of India has finally been adopted by Jammu & Kashmir in the true sense", PM Modi exclaimed, "The walls of Article 370 have been brought down."

Multifaceted strategies led to notable advancements in youth entrepreneurship across J&K in 4 years: LG

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that multifaceted strategies during the past four years have led to notable advancements in youth entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir.

"More than 40,000 youth were employed in the government service over the past four years", the Lieutenant Governor said while speaking at 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' programme, addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Lieutenant Governor said under the guidance of the Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir administration is empowering youth with skills for Viksit Bharat. Today, higher education institutions and government agencies are providing them with the necessary resources, opportunities, and support to realize their full potential and contribute to nation building, he added.

"In the pursuit of building a bright and empowered future for our young generation, the UT administration has undertaken a series of ambitious initiatives focused on skill development, innovation, research and providing them all necessary support to build start-ups", the Lieutenant Governor said.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for gracing the inaugural ceremony of 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' and dedicating a host of projects in critical sectors like Water, Roadways, Health, Agriculture etc.

"We are working with dedication to unlock the potential of our youth so that they can contribute towards inclusive growth and prosperity of J&K Union Territory", the LG said.



LG Manoj Sinha welcoming PM Narendra Modi at Srinagar on Thursday.

Referring to the developments that have taken place in Kashmir in the last 10 years, the Prime Minister said that the world is witness to the recent changes in the Kashmir valley. It continues to praise the people of the valley for their hospitality during the G20 Summit. He said that the organization of a global event like the G20 Summit in the valley has made the people of Kashmir proud. Seeing children continue to play at Lal Chowk till late in the evening fills

every Indian's heart with joy. Similarly, the bustling markets of the valley light up everyone's face. Recalling the sports car show held near Dal Lake in March this year, Shri Modi said the whole world watched that program, which stands as a testimony to the progress in the valley. He mentioned how tourism in Kashmir has become the talk of the town, adding that tomorrow's International Yoga Day programme will attract even more tourists here.

Quoting Lieutenant Governor Sinha, the Prime Minister said that the figure of over 2 crores tourists visiting the valley is record-breaking and contributes significantly to the local economy. "I am devoted myself with full dedication and honesty to ensure that a way out of the past generation's miseries may be found. We are making all possible effort to remove all distances whether of the heart or of Delhi

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Akhnour bus accident: DySP Traffic Rural Jammu suspended

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Home Department of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday placed Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic Rural Jammu Satish Kumar under suspension for dereliction of duties.

The move comes in the backdrop of an accident which took place in Akhnour on May 30 this year. Pending inquiry, DySP Satish Kumar, during the suspension period, shall remain attached with Police Headquarter Jammu, the order adds.

Heat wave abates in north India

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The intense heatwave prevailing in north India since June 7 abated on Thursday under the influence of a western disturbance affecting the region, though hospitals continued to report heat-related fatalities among patients admitted over the last few days.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 39.0°C Min: 23.5°C

Humidity
Max: 50 Min: 19

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 27.0°C Min: 13.7°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 47

Sunset : 19:41 Hours
Sunrise : 05:22 Hours

SC upholds tax on foreign income over a business-backed challenge

STATE TIMES NEWS

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a tax on foreign income over a challenge backed by business and anti-regulatory interests, declining their invitation to weigh in on a broader, never-enacted tax on wealth.

The justices left in place a provision of a 2017 tax law that is expected to generate USD 340 billion, mainly from the foreign subsidiaries of domestic corporations that parked money abroad to shield it from US taxes.

The law, passed by a Republican Congress and

signed by then-President Donald Trump, includes a provision that applies to companies that are owned by Americans but do their business in foreign countries. It imposes a one-time tax on investors' shares of profits that have not been passed along to them, to offset other tax benefits.

But the larger significance of the ruling is what it didn't do. The case attracted outside attention because some groups allied with the Washington couple who brought the case argued that the challenged provision is similar to a wealth tax, which

would apply not to the incomes of the very richest Americans but to their assets, like stock holdings, that now get taxed only when they are sold.

The court ruled in the case of Charles and Kathleen Moore, of Redmond, Washington. They challenged a USD 15,000 tax bill based on Charles Moore's investment in an Indian company, arguing that the tax violates the 16th Amendment.

Ratified in 1913, the amendment allows the federal government to impose an income tax on Americans.

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Delhi court grants bail to Kejriwal

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Niyay Bindu granted the relief to the AAP leader on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh. The court also declined the ED's request to stay the order for 48 hours.

The judge passed the order after hearing arguments advanced by the prosecution and the defence counsel on Kejriwal's application for regular bail. The court had on Wednesday extended the judicial custody of Kejriwal in the case till July 3.

CBI registers FIR in UGC-NET paper leak case

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The CBI registered an FIR into the UGC-NET paper leak case on Thursday against unidentified persons on a reference from the Union Education Ministry, officials said.

The UGC-NET, 2024, exam for the selection of junior research fellows, assistant professors and PhD scholars was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 18 in two shifts across the country.

The next day, the University Grants Commission received inputs from the National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit of the Indian Cyber Crime

Coordination Centre (I4C) that the paper was available on the darknet and was allegedly being sold for Rs 5-6 lakh on messaging platforms, sources said.

They said the CBI will work in close coordination with the I4C while initiating its own darknet exploration softwares and systems to nail down the perpetrators.

According to the complaint from the Education Ministry, the inputs from I4C, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, "prima-facie indicate that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised", officials said. "To ensure the highest level of transparency and

sanctity of the examination process, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has decided to cancel the aforesaid examination and to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a thorough investigation in the matter," the reference note from the Secretary, Education Ministry, K Sanjay Murthy said. The reference note is now part of the FIR. The facts of the complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offences punishable under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code against unknown accused, the FIR stated.

Railways conducts trial run on world's highest arch rail bridge in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Indian Railways on Thursday successfully conducted a trial run of a eight-coach MEMU train on the world's highest railway bridge -- Chenab Bridge -- in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the start of rail service on the route from Reasi to Baramulla in Kashmir.

"After an extensive inspection of the newly constructed Chenab Bridge by senior officers from Railway Board, Northern Railway and Konkan Railway, a trial run was conducted on a 46-km-long electrified line section between Sangaldan in Ramban district and Reasi at a speed of 40 kmph," the Railway Ministry said in a statement.



"It was successfully carried out starting at 12:35 pm from Sangaldan and reaching Reasi at 2:05 pm. On the way it passes through nine tunnels with a combined

length of 40.787 km and longest tunnel T-44 of 11.13 km," it added.

According to the ministry, it was the first ever full train that crossed over the iconic

bridge between Dugga and Bakkal stations across the Chenab river, which is the world's highest arch railway bridge.

The stations -- Reasi,

Bakkal, Dugga and Sawlakote -- are situated in Reasi district of J&K.

"The electrification work on this section has been executed with state-of-the-art technology, ROCS (Rigid Overhead Conductor System) at 25 kV, for the first time on railways," the ministry said.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, including the 48.1-km-long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2024.

Phase I of the project, covering the 118 km long Qazigund-Baramulla section, was inaugurated in October 2009 under

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Baramulla encounter: Slain terrorists associated with LeT

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army on Thursday said the two terrorists killed in an encounter with security forces in Baramulla district were Pakistani and associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"The killed terrorists have been identified as Usman and Umar, both of Pakistan origin and associated with LeT," Commander 7 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Brigadier Deepak Mohan, told reporters in Rafiabab.

Two terrorists were killed and two security personnel injured in the encounter that broke out on Wednesday in Baramulla district of north Kashmir.

The forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Watergam area of Baramulla in the morning on

information about the presence of terrorists there, which then turned into an encounter when the terrorists opened fire at the security personnel.

The Brigadier said Usman has been active in the Kashmir Valley since 2020.

Significant quantities of weapons and ammunition have been recovered after the operation, the army officer said.

He said over the past few weeks there has been constant information on the movement of a terrorist group in the Sopore-Rafiabab area of Baramulla District.

On Wednesday, specific intelligence was received through JKP that two terrorists were held

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