

Curse is lifted; J&K, Ladakh to witness multi-faceted growth: Raina

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Curse has been lifted and all the three regions including Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will witness multi-faceted growth and will march ahead with strength and confidence on path of peace and development, claimed BJP State President Ravinder Raina.

He was addressing a jubilant gathering in a massively attended public meeting organized at Kunjwani area under Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency, Jammu.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta along with MLC Vikram Randhawa and District



BNP State President Ravinder Raina along with newly joined members at Jammu.

President & Chairman JMC Baldev Singh Billawaria also addressed the meeting.

Raina, while addressing the meeting, said that with the abrogation of Article 370, a long standing Curse has finished from the

region. He blamed Article 370 and Article 35(a) for the lack of progress in various developmental and basic projects undertaken in the region. He said that while many old defunct & non-desirable laws will be done away with, after 31st

October, and the region is set to explore new lease of life granted after seven decades. Gupta said that now, with the abrogation of Article 370, there is one Constitution and one flag in whole India. He said that with the bold step, BJP has worked towards the true unification of the Nation in letter and spirit.

Vikram Randhawa, in his address, embarked upon the achievements of BJP leadership and said that such strong and bold decisions can only be taken by a strong Nationalist government at the Centre. Many prominent social and political personalities

also joined BJP on the occasion. Social Worker & Prominent Businessman Dr Krishan Lal Thapa along with Mohan Lal Thapa, Shala Kumar, Mukesh Kattal, Surinder Kumar, Bajinder Kumar, Baldev Raj Kumar, Om Parkash Verma, H.K Koul, Sandeep Sharma, Surinder Singh and many others joined the ranks of BJP during the meeting.

President Satwari Mandal Harbans Choudhary, Councillor JMC Raj Kumar, Dalbir Singh, Kashmir Singh and other BJP leaders were among the senior party leaders present in the meeting.

CEO SMVD Shrine Board meets Governor

Malik announces one week's additional salary for sanitation staff as special reward

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, met Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board, at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday.

The Chairman of the Shrine Board complimented the CEO and all employees of the Board, particularly the sanitation staff, for providing cleanliness and hygienic facilities to the pilgrims and bringing recognition to the Board at the national level. As an encouragement to the dedicated team of sanitation staff, the Governor announced one week's additional salary for the sanitation staff as a special



Governor Satya Pal Malik interacting with Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board, Simrandeep Singh at Srinagar.

one-time incentive. He hoped that this will further motivate them to continue to strive for bringing all round excellence in providing best facilities and services to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine.

It is pertinent to mention that the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of

Drinking Water and Sanitation, adjudged Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine as the Best Swachh Iconic Place in the country and the CEO of the Shrine Board received the award from the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at a function held in New Delhi on 6th of this month.

Namgyal calls on Indian Ambassador to South Korea

STATE TIMES NEWS

SEOUL: Member of Parliament of Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal called on Sripriya Ranganathan, Ambassador of India to Republic Korea and discussed about the promotion and explores the quality of tourism in Ladakh.

They had decided to organize the Ladakh Trade and Tourism Fair (LTF) in Korea, learn the Korean Language and other difference course for youth of Ladakh to promote the tourism in Ladakh.

Ranganathan said "We have plan for promoting tourist and economic link between South Korea and Ladakh.

A real step towards Ladakh's rapid development now that Article 370 and 35A are no longer holding our people back.

Special J&K SLBC recommends extension in repayment of loans by 90 days

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Special SLBC convened by J&K Bank, Convener J&K SLBC, was held today at Srinagar to address difficulties faced by the borrowers and the banks due to disruption in business in the J&K state since August 2019.

The meeting was presided over by Chief Secretary J&K Government, B V R Subrahmanyam and attended by Financial Commissioner (Finance) Dr Arun Kumar Melita, Principal Secretary (Housing and Urban Development) Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary (Planning and Development) Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary (Industries and Commerce) N.K Choudhary, Chairman and Managing Director J&K Bank (Convener J&K SLBC) R.K Chhibber, Deputy Secretary A.K Dogra; Regional Director Reserve Bank of India, Thomas Mathew and General Manager



Chief Secretary, B.V.R Subrahmanyam chairing a meeting.

State Bank of India, Binod Kumar Mishra.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, banks operating in the state notably SBI, PNB, Allahabad Bank, HDFC, Axis, J&K Gramen Bank, EDB, Cooperative Banks, etc, Lead District Managers, line departments, were also present.

SLBC after reviewing the overall situation in the J&K State recommended extension of repayment period by up to ninety days besides relaxation in income recognition and asset

classification norms for favourable consideration of Reserve Bank of India in addition SLBC noted the Master Circular of RBI on Relief Measures by Banks in Areas affected by Natural Calamities and also recommended the same for its applicability in the light of current situation in J&K State.

SLBC also sought the applicability of the special dispensation to all banks operating in J&K including Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks in the meeting.

These steps are expected to provide the much needed relief to the borrowers as well as the banks operating in the state and

will help them tide over the difficulties arising due to the current situation. However these recommendations put forward by the SLBC are subject to the approval by the Reserve Bank of India.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Chairman and MD, J&K Bank R.K Chhibber appraised the house about the circumstances in which banks are operating in the state and briefed the meeting about the steps needed to address the regulatory concerns.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks proposed by J&K Bank President (SLBC/Govt. Business) Sunil Gupta.

Initiate probe against Kamal Nath for anti-Sikh riots: SUF

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sikh United Front (SUF) J&K urged upon the Central Government to initiate probe against senior Congress leader and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath who was accused of Anti-Sikh Riot case.

In a meeting held here on Tuesday, Sudershan Singh Wazir, Chairman SUF, while hailing decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs for reopening seven anti-Sikh riot cases, said that Kamal Nath was also an accused in one of the seven cases bearing no 601/84, regarding which the Ministry has ordered Special Investigation Team (SIT) for holding probe.

Wazir further alleged that Kamal Nath is guilty of provoking a mob at Gurdwara Rakabganj Sahib, where two Sikhs were burnt alive.

The representatives of various Sikh organizations who participated in the meeting included Darbinder Singh, President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Mohinder Singh Kala, President Vegetable and Fruit Association J&K, Narinder Singh Raina, Advinder SAD, Surjeet Singh Kuekoo- President Sikh Naujawan Sabha; Harpreet

Singh Chotu, President Youth Akali Dal J&K; Hapreet Singh Lucky, President AISSF; Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K; Gurmeet Kour, General Secretary Istri Akali Dal J&K, Raja Singh, Sarpanch and Member DGPC Jammu, Ravinder Singh, Sarpanch, Charanjeet Singh SDM Retd, Prof Yudveer Singh, Corporator; Mannohan Singh, Chairman Singh Sabha Gol Gujral, Rasbir Singh, Kulwant Singh, Kuldeep Singh Malik, Tejpal Singh, Surinder Singh Dutt and Kultar Singh.

Chairperson JKSCPCR pays surprise visit to SMGS Hospital



Chairperson, JKSCPCR, Vasundhara Pathak Masoodi taking stock of facilities being provided to patients at SMGS Hospital, Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson, J&K State Commission for Protection of Women & Child Rights (JKSCPCR), Vasundhara Pathak Masoodi today paid a surprise visit to SMGS Hospital to take stock of the facilities being provided to the expectant mothers, mothers and neonates.

During her visit, the Chairperson inspected various wards, units and sections of the hospital and issued on-the-spot directions to the hospital man-

agement for maintaining hygienic environment in and around the hospital premises. She stressed on the need for launching mass awareness campaigns to sensitize the people particularly the attendants about the importance of cleanliness in the health institutions.

While interacting with the patients and attendants there, Vasundhara Masoodi enquired about their well being and healthcare facilities being provided to them. She also directed the concerned for ensuring

availability of all required medical facilities for the early recovery of patients.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson also convened a meeting of concerned officers and sought a detailed report on the existing and required medicos, paramedicos and other supporting staff position for the smooth functioning of the hospital. The chair was informed that there is adequate stock of life saving drugs in the hospital.

She said that the issue of providing proper ventilation, centrally air conditioning and construction of Sarai for attendants at hospital to be taken up with the concerned so that the rush of attendants in the hospital corridor is contained.

Taking strong notice of unclean condition of Sulabh toilets in the hospital, Vasundhara Masoodi raised her concern on the need to engage more manpower for maintaining these toilets. She further asked the hospital management for scientific disposal of the dirty linen and refuse of the hospital.

J&K Re-organisation puts Govt employees in quandary: Harsh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Urging upon the government to clear the air with the regard to allocation of in-service employees of the state amongst the two Union Territories as well as the conditions of service in the successor UTs, Harsh Dev Singh, JKNNP Chairman and former Minister said that uncertainty continued to haunt the government employees of J&K.

Harsh said that there were certain disturbing and offensive clauses which had created alarm amongst the civil servants. He said that sub Sec (1) of Sec 89 unambiguously stated that those serving in the existing state of J&K on 'substantive' basis shall continue to serve in the resulting UTs from the appointed date 'provisionally'.

Expressing dismay over the extremely vexatious clause in the J&K Re-organization Act, Singh questioned as to how a 'substantive' service could be converted into 'provisional' service merely on the division of State. He said that the intention behind the said clause was re-enforced by virtue of a further provision in Sec 91 which provided that competent authority could discontinue the services of any employee or abolish the post or office from the appointed date i.e., October 31, 2019.

Quoting the proviso to Sec 91, Singh said that it unambiguously stated "provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent a competent authority, on and from the appointed day, from passing in relation to such person any order affecting the continuance in such post or office".

He further pointed towards the unbridled powers conferred by Sec 90 upon the Lt Governor who was vested with the powers to change the conditions of service of a government employee.

He said that as per Sec 89 of the J&K Re-organization Act, the power "to determine the successor Union Territory to which each employee of the existing state shall be finally allotted for service" has been vested in the Lt Governor. He further pointed out that the Lt Governor was required to issue the said order of allocation of Union Territories amongst the employees immediately upon the division of state into the said two UTs. He said that the government was required under Sec 89 (2) to seek options from the government employees with regard to their preferences for either of the two UTs which though were not binding upon the government.

"The government however had failed to initiate any process for seeking such options from the govt employees despite very little time having been left for the proposed transition which was to take effect from October 31, 2019," he lamented. And though the Lt Governor of UT of J&K had been conferred with additional powers to depute officers from one UT to the other; the requirement of taking options from the service employees could not have been dispensed with as per the provisions of the aforesaid Act, said, adding that non-initiation of action in the regard had also created apprehensions which too needed to be dispelled.

40 bikes, 20 light vehicles reach Zaskar from Manali crossing new route



Reception accorded to bikers at Zaskar as they reached Padum.

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: For the first time in the history as many as 40 bikers of Rohtang Rider along with 20 light motor vehicles reached Padum Zaskar from Manali on Monday after crossing a new route connecting Zaskar in Ladakh with Himachal Pradesh.

Sub Divisional Administration and local people of Zaskar accorded a rousing reception as they were thrilled to see the otherwise landlocked region of Ladakh getting connected by road from Manali.

The alternative road con-

nectivity from Himachal Pradesh was a demand of the people for decades and it is expected to benefit the people of the region as it will boost the economy of Zaskar and Kargil in different ways.

The bikers and light motor vehicles will reportedly return to Himachal via Leh after cross Kargil on 11th September.

"I personally intervened and facilitated to make this a success and we extended grand welcome to the team," Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil told STATE TIMES.

Union Territory status to J&K will end discrimination



Shilpa, a resident of Jammu exuded confidence that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will resolve the unemployment crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. She asserted that the successive governments had miserably failed to generate employment opportunities in J&K due to which some of the youth were indulging in anti-social activities. "The successive governments in J&K gave step-motherly treatment to the Jammu people and never projected their problems before concerned quarters at the Centre. The scrapping of Article 370 was need of the hour", she said adding it will change the destiny of nationalists residing in Jammu and Kashmir. She expressed gratitude to the Modi government for giving them freedom in real sense and hoped the people of Jammu region will get their due share soon.



Ragini Sharma, a scholar of University of Jammu, termed the abrogation of Article 370 as a boon for youth of J&K and Ladakh. She asserted that earlier, the future of J&K's youth was bleak but after this historic move of Modi-led NDA Government at the Centre a new hope has rekindled among the youngsters that they shall now have bright prospects in the two new Union Territories. She said that after scrapping of this controversial Article, a new era of development will be seen in Jammu. She said that Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to other regions by the successive governments. She mentioned that all married women of Jammu and Kashmir would also get their due share, which they were denied earlier. J&K being a Union Territory has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, she anticipated.

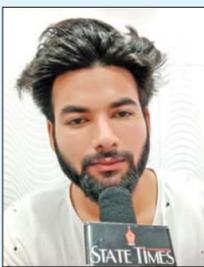
The youth of the Jammu region is elated over reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Apart from ending psychological barriers, the move is going to end the sense of discrimination and deprivation among Jammuites, especially after revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. The youth are confident that ample avenues of employment would be available to them with influx of investment and setting up of industries, as also big businesses.



Satvir Singh, a businessman termed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as correction of historical blunder. He said that the correction was done by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi who believes in action rather than words. He said the successive governments had kept masses in dark over the issue and always misused the provisions of Articles 370 and 35A to hide their misdeeds. He said while a better part of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the abrogation of Article 370, certain persons with malafide intentions are still trying to vitiate the atmosphere by misguiding the gullible population. He hoped that with the re-organisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country. He expressed gratitude to Modi government for ensuring freedom to people in real sense and hoped that Jammu region will get its due share soon.

Sangrezi, a student said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will bring new avenues and employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He said people are wholeheartedly supporting the Narendra Modi government for its nationalist policies and hoped that after acquiring the Union Territory status, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will not have to move out as whole lot of businesses and industries will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively.

He said the obstacles in the way of their growth have been removed and the youth are all set to get benefitted by opportunities knocking at their doors. He asserted that the Central Government should initiate necessary steps for development of Jammu region.



Jitendra Kumar said that Article 370 had deprived the residents of J&K of various rights as citizens of India but with removal of this controversial Article, people can now enjoy all rights like other people across the country. He maintained that entire country has witnessed huge development since independence but people in J&K were deprived of the same due to Article 370. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as huge development will take place in J&K", Kumar said, adding that unemployed youth of Jammu will also get employment avenues after re-organisation of the erstwhile state. He urged Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to resolve unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

