

# Rana assails Advani's assertions, says Art 370 can't be abrogated

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Provincial President, Devender Singh Rana on Saturday assailed the assertions of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Lal Krishan Advani on abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and described it as highly irresponsible act having potential to break the constitutional foundations of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at a function at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan this evening, held in connection with the joining of youth from Bishnah in National Conference, the Provincial President said that this important article of the constitution cannot be abrogated.

Senior leaders including former Minister Babu Ram Paul, former MLCs Th Kashmir Singh, Brij Mohan Sharma, Jugal Mahajan, Dr. Kamal Arora, Ramesh Motan, Rakesh Chib, President All J&K Megh Sudhar Sabha M.R. Bhagat, General Secretary Narinder Bhagat, Amar Nath Bhagat were present on the occasion.

The Provincial President said

## Sahu appeals people to donate for Utrakhand victims

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, who is also the Chairman of the District Red Cross Society, Jammu has appealed general public to donate for the cause of victims of Utrakhand disaster.

The DC said that the State of Utrakhand and its people require our support to rebuild their State and appealed the people to rise to the need of the hour and contribute generously to lessen the sufferings of the people in distress.

All other Executive members of Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu present on the occasion also appealed the generous residents of Jammu to come forward for such a noble cause and donate to Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Jammu.

The donation can be made

the statement of Mr Advani is highly vulnerable and susceptible to creating serious law and order situation in this border State, where inimical forces are already hell bent to destroy the constitutional relations of J&K with India.

He said that Article 370 is an article of faith envisaged by the constitution makers of the country with Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, who was the towering secular leader of Indian sub-continent. He described Article 370 as basic constitutional link which was incorporated in the Indian Constitution in keeping with the aspirations of all sections of society in the State.

Mr Rana said that BJP is habitual of making irrelevant assertions on Article 370 and did not dare even to touch it when in power for six and half rule of National Democratic Alliance. "BJP is parrot and harping on this slogan only during the times of elections to whip up passions", he said and maintained that politically sagacious people of India have always foiled their attempts with the contempt these deserve. He cautioned

BJP that Article 370 is not the only article which gives special status to any State but Article 371 also gives special status to north-east States.

He also reminded Mr Advani about the Common Minimum Programme of NDA formulated in 1996 under the Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and published on 5th June 1996, which inter alia, mentioned that 'respecting Article 370 of the Constitution, as well as wishes of the people, the problems of Jammu and Kashmir may be resolved through giving the people of the State the maximum degree of autonomy'.

Mr Rana also reminded Mr Advani about the constitutional position vis-a-vis dispensing with such provisos saying this requires constitution of a Constituent Assembly that alone can pass a resolution, recommending abrogation of this article.

"This is not even within the purview of Parliament", he said adding that this fact is even known to the senior BJP leader, who is raking up the issue just to hoodwink the public opinion.

## Pre paid Auto Rickshaw booths for pilgrims

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: In connection with the ongoing Shri Amarnath ji Yatra and for the convenience of the pilgrims the Motor Vehicles Department and the Auto Rickshaw Unions today started pre-paid Auto Rickshaw booths at four major points of the city viz. ISBT, Narwal, Bhagwati Nagar, Railway Station Jammu and General Bus Stand Jammu.

These booths were inaugurated by S.S.P traffic, Jammu Manmohan Singh. Those present on the occasion were Arvind Kotwal RTO Jammu, Kuldeep Singh Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma Assistant Regional Transport Officer and other officers of the Motor Vehicles Department and the Traffic Department. The President of Auto Rickshaw Unions Shanti Swaroop and Kuljeet Kumar were also present.

The pre-paid booths have been started where the passengers can hire the vehicles on point to point rates which already stand rationalized by the Motor Vehicles Department and displayed prominently on the pre-paid Auto Rickshaw booths. This is being done with a view that the pilgrims of the city are not overcharged.



Jawans presenting guard of honour to martyr Bhim Singh during his cremation at village Bobiya in Hiranagar on Saturday.

## Mortal remains of ITBP SI consigned to flames

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, June 29: The mortal remains of ITBP Sub Inspector Bhim Singh who laid down his life along with 20 members of rescue team at Kedarnath

in Uttarakhand few days back were consigned to flames with guard of honour at his native village Bobiya in Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua district today.

Hundreds of mourners including the jawans and officers of NDRF Unit led by Major Sanjay Kumar attended the cremation of martyr Bhim Singh who was given a guard of honour by the jawans.

Prominent among those who attended the cremation of this great hero of this border village of Bobiya included D C Kathua, Jitender Kumar Singh, S P Kathua, Mohan Lal, MLA Hiranagar, Durga Dass, MLC, Subash Gupta, ex MLA Girdhari Lal, BJP district president Kathua, Vijay Kumar and NC district president Dyan Chand besides other police and civil officers.

As the lone 12 year old son of Bhim Singh, Lalit Kumar lit the pyre the slogans Bhim Singh Amar Rahey rent the air.

Though the pall of gloom had already descended on the village after hearing news this great soldier had attained martyrdom, the people could not control their sentiments when the coffin carry-

ing the body reached the village for cremation this morning as hundreds of villagers including relatives of Bhim Singh were seen wailing and sobbing.

While paying tributes to Bhim Singh, Major Sanjay Kumar described him a great warrior and a daring-dwell who never caring for his security and safety was ready for the help of people in adversity.

He said NDRF has lost a courageous and valiant soldier as he always played a leading role in the rescue and relief operation during natural calamities where ever he was deputed.

The mourners on the occasion made a scathing dig at the State Government as no Minister, legislator or Government officer was present at Jammu Airport yesterday to receive his body.

They alleged that Chief Minister and ministers even are sympathetic to surrendered militants but they did not bother to receive a warrior who laid down his life in rescue operations nor had they any word of sympathy for the bereaved family not to speak of announcing any award for him posthumously.

## Notorious criminal held with 'desi katta', live cartridges

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Police today arrested a notorious criminal along with country made pistol "desi katta" and four live cartridges from Satwari area of the winter capital.

A police spokesman said that, on specific inputs, police party from Satwari Police Station laid a naka and intercepted a persons moving under suspicious circumstance late last night.

During frisking, police recovered country made pistol "desi katta" and four live cartridges from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Vikas Machotra alias Sonu Cheer, son of Tilak Raj of Nai Basti, he added.

A case under FIR number 107/13 under Section 3/25 Arms Act has been registered at Satwari Police Station and investigation started.

Police party led by Probationer DySP Sharik Khan and PSI Sandeep Charak made the arrest under the supervision of SP South Rajeshwar Singh, SDPO SS Sambyal and SSP Jammu Atul Gool.

# Union Minister makes 5-announcements to strengthen CSIR-IITM Scientists are born in schools: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today underlined the need of catching students as young as possible to ignite desire of pursuing high goals of science and technology in them. He said this can be done at the school level by creating scientific temperament and providing ample opportunity to boys and girls at the elementary education level.

"You cannot make scientists of repute at the university level but these are born in schools", he said and called for giving children free hand to experiment and discover by themselves the secrets of science at the early stage of their life. He said his proposal for science museums at Srinagar and Jammu is to provide an open field for the boys and girls to get in touch with various aspects of science at their young age and discover the 'scientists' within them.

Addressing the gathering before rededicating CSIR-IITM Lab to Nation with Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Jaipal Reddy here, the Chief Minister said that the rich potential of bio-technology and IT fields could not be harnessed owing to the long period of disturbance in the State.

Omar Abdullah said that IITM Branch Srinagar was shattered during the period of disturbance. "Its functioning came to stand still, scientists and teachers left the institution and security forces stayed here", he said, adding that with the rooting of normality, IITM Srinagar started breathing again.

The Chief Minister said that he was keen to restore the Institution to its full functioning and developing as an Institute of repute and fame. He lauded the support provided by the Union Government and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in rejuvenating the Centre back to normal functioning and upgrading.

Highlighting the importance of CSIR-IITM Centre in the holistic development of a State like Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah said that the potential of Valley as an aromatic and medicinal plants production area, besides the State's vast bio-diversity, are the best resources for economic betterment and job generation for youth. He said leather industry has promising future in the Valley as this part of the country is on the top of the list of mutton consuming States and there is huge abundance of sheep and goat skin available to manufacture leather goods. He said this is the area which could provide substantial jobs to the locals.

The Chief Minister said that his Government has focused to utilize science to address socio-economic and unemployment issues.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Jaipal Reddy laying foundation stone of Research Scholars Hostel at IITM, Srinagar on Saturday.

He said CSIR-IITM can prove an important Centre of research for the State in this direction.

In his speech Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Jaipal Reddy made five announcements to upgrade and strengthen the CSIR-IITM in the State. He announced Central support for two Bio-Technological Parks, World Class Value Addition Centre for Aroma, State-of-the-art Leather Centre, Science Museum and Academy of Scientific Research.

Jaipal Reddy lauded Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for his keen interest in developing science temperament in the students of the State and utilizing intervention of Science and Technology to seek welfare and development of the State. He assured the support of his Ministry to the State in its endeavour.

Minister of State for Science and Technology Feroz Ahmad Khan said that in recognition of the importance of science and research in the development process, the State Government led by Omar Abdullah has flagged this sector as a focused area.

He hoped that CSIR-IITM will help the State to produce trained scientific manpower of a very high quality which could directly find placement across the country and also help the State in addressing various socio-economic issues through scientific research.

Director General CSIR, Prof.

Samir K. Brahmachari announced upgradation of CSIR-IITM Branch Srinagar as a full-fledged Centre and said that from today it should be recognized as CSIR-IITM Centre Srinagar. He asked the Director CSIR-IITM, Dr. Ram Vishwakarma to be In-Charge of both the Srinagar and Jammu Centres.

He said on the behest of Omar Abdullah CSIR is conducting research at its seven centres to utilize bio-mass of Dal Lake for producing diesel, energy and fertilizers.

He said that on the intervention of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah CSIR-IITM was able to procure Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) equipment for the CSIR-IITM Centre which would be installed here soon.

In his elaborative speech the Director CSIR-IITM, Dr. Ram Vishwakarma presented resume of the new initiatives of CSIR-IITM has initiated in the State and said that CSIR-IITM is behind India attaining No. 1 position in mint production and its marketing.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister also laid foundation of Hostel and rededicated Dr. Akhter Hussain Lab and Col. Sir. N. Chopra IITM Centre to the Nation. They also inspected various research units, leather centre and laboratories in the Institute and interacted with research scholars, students and faculty members.

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