

India becoming fully capable to meet challenges: PM

NEW DELHI, Oct 31:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted today that India is becoming fully capable of meeting any internal or external challenge and called for unity among its citizens, saying that only a united country can move forward and attain its goals.

In a message to the country on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 146th birth anniversary, which is commemorated as National Unity Day in tribute to his success in merging various parts of the country into the Union, Modi said inspired by India's first Home Minister's ideals the country's capabilities and resolve are now unprecedented on every front; be it land, water, air or space.

The Prime Minister was equally emphatic in his call for unity.

"We have to keep in mind that as every person sitting in a boat has to care about it, we too can move forward only when we are united. Only then the country will be able to attain its goals," he said.

Modi also cited Patel's quote "By common endeavour we can raise the country to a new greatness, while a lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities" to assert that a collective effort is more relevant in this "azadi ka amrit kaal", a reference to his Government's multi-dimensional drive to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, than it is in building free India.

"This is a time for an unprecedented pace for development and achieving difficult goals. This 'amrit kaal' is for building an India for Patel's dreams," the Prime Minister said.

Noting that Patel wanted India to be capable, inclusive, sensitive, alert, humble and developed, and always prioritised national interest, Modi said, "Today, deriving inspiration from him, the country is becoming fully capable of meeting any external and internal challenges."

His Government, Modi said, has given priority to the ideals that preserve national unity and asserted that every part of the country, be it Jammu and Kashmir, northeast or any remote Himalayan village, is now advancing on the path of progress with construction of modern infrastructure reducing geographical and cultural distance among its citizens.

If people have to think hundreds of times before travelling to a distant part of the country, then it will not help matters but if this becomes easy, then it brings people closer and boosts national unity, the Prime Minister said.

Patel dedicated his life to 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat' (one India, great India), Modi said and added that a "mahayagya" is on to unify the country socially, economically and constitutionally to strengthen this spirit.

India's first deputy Prime Minister saw the country as a living organism and envisioned "one India" in which everybody got same opportunities, Modi said, noting that every section and faith of the society would join Patel's programmes.

When "one India" is spoken about today, it should be an India where women should have many opportunities, where Dalits, the deprived, tribals and every citizen feel equal and where there is no discrimination in housing, electricity and water facilities

with everyone having the same rights.

"This is what the country is doing now. New targets are being set regularly in this direction. This is happening because 'sabka prayas' (everyone's effort) is now behind the country's every resolve," he said.

Modi cited India's fight against COVID-19 as an example of 'sabka prayas', and asserted that the same spirit should be the basis for boosting development and building a self-reliant India. In this context, he also mentioned the launch of "PM Gati Shakti Master Plan", which has brought various Government departments on one platform to boost infra development.

"India has become an attractive destination of investment due to many reforms carried out in the last few years," he said.

Anything is possible if the society's power joins the Government's strength, he said, adding that it is, therefore, imperative that our every action should be marked by consideration for wider national goals.

Students can consider sector specific innovations when they choose their stream of study while people should keep the goal of self-reliance in mind during their purchase, he said.

Similarly, industry, farmers and cooperative institutions can keep the goals of the country in mind while making their choices, he added.

Modi said India is not just a geographical unit but is a nation of high ideals, civilisational and cultural values and that this landmass where 130 crore Indians live is an integral part of our soul, dreams and aspirations.

Paying tribute to Patel, Modi said he lives not only in history but also in the hearts of the countrymen. (PTI)



DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan kickstarting road work on Sunday.

Development of rural areas top on agenda: Bharat Bhushan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi today kick started the work of road from Gajansoo to Nai Bastee.

This road will be constructed under NABARD scheme with an estimated cost of Rs 1.80 crore. The DDC Chairman also kick started the blacktopping work of road from village Garhi to Ram Mandir, Domana with an estimated cost of Rs 36 lakh.

While addressing the gathering comprising prominent citizens and people of the area, the DDC Chairman assured the people that he would work tirelessly and leave no stone unturned in providing the best road connectivity to the people.

The DDC Chairman said that development of rural areas is the main concern of BJP Government at the Centre and its main focus is on the connectivity of rural areas with permanent roads. He said that very soon all the inner roads of rural areas will be macadamized and connected with each other.

Asserting that overall development of every nook and corner

Art 370 deprived people of rights in last 70 years: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Oct 31: Article 370 stilled the development process in Jammu and Kashmir and deprived people of their rights in the last over 70 years.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta during two-day Halo Bol Conclave 2021 held at Poonch.

Decrying Pt Jawaharlal Nehru for doing blunders in past especially with regard to Kashmir, Kavinder said Nehru not given J&K in the hands of Sheikh Abdullah things would have been totally different with region leading in the country as far as development and progress are concerned. He said that few dynast families devastated J&K in whatever way they could without paying any heed towards people's miseries. "Corruption and nepotism used to rule the roost during NC, Congress and PDP's regimes as these parties seldom care of people and their problems", he said adding that these dynast politicians abetted corruption and nepotism to the hilt.

Kavinder said that terrorism is not the outcome of abrogation of Article 370 but it was this Article of Constitution that brought in terrorism into J&K. He said that BJP will be remembered for its historic step to

remove Article 370 in the times to come and people of J&K will remain grateful to the party for accomplishing this near impossible task of freeing up the region from the clutches of this contentious provision of Constitution.

The senior BJP leader said that IIT, IIM, AIIMS, artificial lake and so many other projects are near completion just because of Modi Government's farsighted policies and people should support the Government to ensure that unprecedented development initiatives taken up by the Government can be completed in time. He said that Article 370 removal gave justice to West Pakistan refugees, Safaikaramcharis and Gorkhas. He said that under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi more

than 600 terrorists have been neutralized after August 5, 2019 till date, buildings are being named after martyrs to enthuse patriotism, Government is mulling to give political reservation to Paharis after so many years of discrimination by successive Governments.

The senior BJP leader said that unprecedented development is the slogan of BJP and soon trains will chug in Rajouri and Poonch districts. He criticized previous regimes for neglecting Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Jahangir Mir Ex Chairman Legislative Council, Former MLA Surankote Akram, DDC Chairperson Baramulla Safina Beig, former Minister, Ch Zulfikar Ali and journalist, Sohail Qazmi were also part of this conclave.



Mahant Rohit Shastri's book being released on Sunday.

Mahant Rohit Shastri's book

'Nagdevata Ki Mahima' released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: On behalf of Sri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, a book titled 'Nagdevatas Ki Mahima', was released, here today.

The book, written by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, was jointly released by former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, Mayor JMC Chandher Mohan Gupta, Vice-Chancellors of Mata Vaishno Devi University, SKUAST Jammu and others. The program was organised by social activist Ankush Sharma

According to Rohit Shastri, this book will remove many misconceptions related to the deities, particularly Nagdevata besides playing an unprecedented role in the protection of snakes.

In his address, Sham Lal Sharma said that Mahant Rohit Shastri has done a great job by promoting Devvani Sanskrit language and Indian culture and hence playing vital role in the upliftment of the society.

Professor R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor SMVDU said that snakes have never caused undue trouble or fear to mankind. Prof J P Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, said that since time immemorial, the existence of serpents is associated with deities in one way or the other.

Mayor Chandher Mohan Gupta said that divine serpents are worshipped in Sanatan Dharma. Former DGP Dr S P Vaid said that since time immemorial in our culture, the snake has been

depicted as a dynamic symbol of spiritual faith and belief.

Shakti Pathak, Director Special Security Force Raj Bhavan, J&K, hoped that this book will make a phenomenal contribution to the protection of snakes. Prof Madan Mohan Jha, Director Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, lauded contribution of Mahant Rohit Shastri in promoting Sanskrit language.

On the occasion, some intellectuals and prominent personalities were honoured for their excellent work in the society. They included DDC member Kewal Krishna Sharma, DDC member Pinky Devi, DDC Rakesh Sharma, BDC member Aarti Devi, Sarpanch Rajdev Singh, Councillor Anita Devi, President Awardee Sanjeev Sharma, Professor Mohapatra, Acharya Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay, Dr Arun Sharma, Dr Vikas Pada, Dr Anil Mehta, Dr Sanjay Sharma, Dr Bharat Bhushan, Dr Ankush Sharma, Dr Narinder Sharma, Brijesh Singh, Sant Kumar, Nishikant, Khushwinder Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Surinder Sharma, Rohit Jandyal, Shammi Choudhary, Lalit Khajuria, Sant Kumar, Amit Ajawat, Nareesh Sharma, Vikas Bhagat, Karan Singh Chib, Jagdev Singh Chib, Ravinder Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Shushil Ratan, Acharya Pawan Raina, Vikram Singh Jamwal, Manmohan Singh, Rakesh Singh, Uttam Sharma and Rajesh Langar.

SC Morcha takes up lady officer's sexual harassment case with NCSC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: A deputation of senior leaders of BJP SC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir led by its president Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat met member National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India Subhash Ramnath Pardi and took up lady officer's sexual harassment case besides various other issues of SC communities in the UT.



BJP SC Morcha deputation during meeting with NCSC member in Delhi.

The deputation also discussed issues like widow pension, handicapped persons pension, marriage financial assistance to the poor daughters in details and other important issues.

Krishan Kumar Digra, vice president of BJP SC Morcha J&K, while speaking in the meeting, informed the Member of the National Commission for SC, in presence of Addl Dy Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Rannish Gupta, SP HQ, Jammu, present on the occasion that the SC, ST people are facing a lot of problems and the administration of the UT tak-

ing least interest to give social justice to the deprived section of society.

Digra brought in the notice of the administration and other that recent sexual harassment case of Scheduled Caste woman, working in Department of Fisheries. She is very efficient officer. She narrated her story to an employee working in the same department. She complained many times to the higher authority in the Deptt but no action against the accused. The higher officers paid no attention to the problem of SC woman officer. Even matter was reported to police but no action has been taken.

Digra presented her case, called her and ensured her presence before the Member SC Commission. It was prayed to the Chairman, National Commission for SC, Govt of India Chairperson Women Commission Govt of India, the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Govt of India, to issue appropriate directions so that proper punishment could be given to the wrong doer and justice is done with the victim officer (Assistant Director).

Digra also appealed to the Commission that a sub office of the SC Commission be opened in Jammu as Backward Classes Commission in Jammu.

Teachers & Masters Association highlights demands

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 31: Monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teacher/Master Association (JKTMA) was here today under the chairmanship of State President Rakesh Singh to discuss the burning issues of Teachers and Masters, particularly the Circular 10-Edu, dated 21/09/2021, which has created chaotic situation among teaching community.

While speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Singh expressed his resentment against the said order and alleged that the same was issued on 21/09/2021 giving its retrospective effect from 31/12/2021 which cannot be justified as the order should have effect from the date of its publication. He urged LG Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in the matter.

"Many Teachers who are already enrolled in the Distance Courses after 31/12/2020 are denied permission to appear in examination by the concerned authorities which has bred resentment among the teaching community," he said and demanded modification in the said order by re-considering the date of 31/12/2021 as 21/09/2021.

Singh also warned against

issuing any transfer policy in favour of Grade 2 and Grade 3 Teachers as their engagement is school specific under SSA by the Village Education Committee (VEC) and there transfer will create messy and chaotic situation in the department besides snatching Right to Education from the hilly area students for whom these categories of teachers were engaged at that time under SSA Scheme.

Rakesh Singh also demanded to remove the pay anomaly of Teachers of 2009 batch which was created due to implementation of Seventh Pay commission. He also demanded to create three cadre of Teachers in the JKUT PRT, TGT and PGT by assigning them classes 1st to 5th and 6th to 10th and 11th to 12th respectively and also revision of grades accordingly as in other Union Territories besides creation of separate Directorates for these three Sections.

Singh raised the issue of Distance mode degrees holders in PG Science stream and appealed to Principal Secretary School Education B K Singh to exclude all such degree holders from the seniority list of PG Teachers of Science.

Expedite compensation for hailstorm-hit farmers: Tony

Excelsior Correspondent

SUCHETGARH, Oct 31: DDC Member Suchetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony today reiterated demand of compensating hailstorm hit farmers of Suchetgarh belt without any delay.

He raised the issue while inaugurating blacktopping work of the road leading to Badyal Qazian to Satraiyan in Suchetgarh.

The DDC member said that vagaries of weather has caused immense loss to the tiller community and J&K administration has the welfare state has the responsibility to adequately compensate those who have been hit hard by the natural calamity. He said that the proposed tractor rally has been postponed after the assurance given by the Advisor Farooq Khan.

Tony said that loss to farmers is colossal for paddy being the main crop of the rice bowl of J&K. He said that dilly dallying policy of the Government in releasing the compensation will not be tolerated and demanded that Government should give

Bureaucratic anarchy hampering Govt schemes: Apni Party

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Apni Party General Secretary Vikram Malhotra has accused bureaucratic anarchy for hampering the dissemination of Government schemes at the ground level.

Malhotra was speaking at the Diwali Milan function organized for the active workers of Jammu East constituency. In this Diwali Milan, people from different walks of life participated.

"People are frustrated with present dispensation and yearning for elections and political setup which can redress the issues being faced by the common masses," he said.

He further said that the elections are the only solution which should be held at the earliest and restoration of statehood.

He, however, said that some elements in J&K do not want elections as they have no concern

with the suffering of the people.

"Common man is suffering as the bureaucracy is unreachable and the woes of people are increasing day by day. The basic amenities are lacking despite claims of the Government turning Jammu into a Smart City," he said.

He said that Jammu East Assembly is a glaring example of negligence and deliberate selective approach in developmental activities. Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion included Senior Vice President, Women Wing Apni Party Jammu, Jyoti Vaid, Provincial President Jammu, Apni Trade Union, Raj Kumar Sharma, Margaret Sisters, Sunita Swahney, Shaqat Khokhar, Sapna Gill, Deepak Kumar, Sushant Gupta, Rani Devi, Antim Rathore, Ajay Sawhney, Saroop Singh, Sanjay Malhotra, Vijay Malhotra, Jugal Kishore, and others.

Somdutt Bakhori, whose birth centenary is being celebrated by the literary world globally, has been one of the pioneers of Hindi movement in Mauritius. He had the equal hold over poetry, prose and playwriting.

Balwant Thakur addresses at World Hindi Secretariat

Excelsior Correspondent

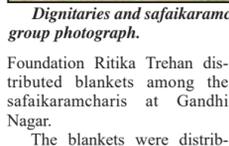
PORT LOUIS (MAURITIUS), Oct 31: Balwant Thakur, the Director of Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture High Commission of India Mauritius today addressed 25 nations as chief guest on a platform of World Hindi Secretariat in the centenary celebrations of prolific Mauritian Hindi writer Somdutt Bakhori.

Prominent Hindi scholars from across the globe participated in this historic literary symposia. While addressing 25 nations globally, Balwant Thakur said that we all need to take pride in the fact that Hindi is the third most spoken

Dy Mayor, Chairman Subhadra Foundation distribute blankets to safaikaramcharis

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Deputy Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation Advocate Purnima Sharma and Chairman Subhadra Trehan distributed blankets



to safaikaramcharis, who are corona warriors as they worked continuously during the pandemic and lockdowns.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor said that today she along with the Chairman Subhadra Foundation Ritika Trehan distributed blankets

to safaikaramcharis at Gandhi Nagar. The blankets were distributed as a Diwali gift to encourage safaikaramcharis for their effortless and consistent service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Power project workers suspend work

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Oct 31: To get their issue redressed, the workers of power project suspended construction work of Pakal Dul Hydro Power Project, here.

As per reports, a large number of workers engaged in the construction work of Pakal Dul Hydro Power Project assembled at the project site and held protest yesterday. They raised slogans against the AFCON authorities for ignoring the local workers and hiring the workers from outside District Kishtwar.

"The company is hiring the workers from outside District Kishtwar, which is great injustice with the local workers. At the time of sanctioning the power project, it was assured by the authorities that locals workers

SKIMS probe finds video of Pak victory celebrations by its students fake

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The SKIMS internal probe that was set into motion after the videos which allegedly showed its students cheering after Pakistan's victory against India has concluded that neither its students were part of it, nor were its premises used for the same.

The officials in the know-how of the developments told Excelsior that Director SKIMS, Soura Dr A.G. Ahangar had constituted a 5-member probe panel in order to investigate the matter internally while as the panel was directed to come up with its findings which were then to be submitted to the higher-ups.

It was told that after thorough analysis of the videos that surfaced on the social media platforms soon after Pakistan victory over India in the T-20 cricket match, the panel concluded that the people shown cheering in the videos do not belong to the institution and at the same time has put it on record that the premises shown in the videos are not of the SKIMS.

"Soon after the incident came to the fore, the panel of senior faculty members was formed and they were tasked to ascertain whether the students from SKIMS were actually part of the celebrations and submit its findings within 48 hours," officials said.

Officials further said that after thorough analysis, the

probe panel has given a "clean chit" to the students of the SKIMS who were termed to have taken part in the celebrations, against which an FIR also stands registered. "At the same time, it has also been stated that the SKIMS premises were not used for the same," officials said.

Earlier, two videos had surfaced which were alleged to have come from GMC, Srinagar and SKIMS, while the SKIMS has probed the matter and is all set to submit the report to the Government, it could not be confirmed whether the GMC had also started an internal probe in the matter or not.

Officials said that the building that has been shown in the video is not of the SKIMS. "There are stark differences and also the faces of the people which we were able to see did not resemble any of the students currently enrolled at SKIMS; these are main points that have been made in the report," the officials said.

It is also to be noted here that the police have already filed two separate FIRs into the matter at Police Station Soura and Karan Nagar. With regard to the video that allegedly surfaced from SKIMS, police have registered an FIR under Section 13 UAPA, 105 A, and 505 IPC, however, the police station Karan Nagar is already investigating the matter of the video that has allegedly surfaced from GMC Srinagar.

Lecturers demand online portal for Board fee

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: A meeting of All J&K Plus Two Lecturer's Forum was held under the chairmanship of R S Sathia (Chief Patron) through virtual mode. The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Ghar Singh (general secretary) under the supervision of Pardeep Singh Rakwal (provincial president). Various Principals, Lecturers and Tehsil Heads from different districts of Jammu Province attended the meeting.

In the meeting, light was thrown on different issues of the Plus two fraternity including ACP, implementation of transfer policy in fair manner, release of charge allowance in favour of Principals, provision of accommodation for Principals, lecturers posted in other districts, filling up of posts of Principals and lecturers lying vacant for many years, repatriation of lecturers posted in remote areas after one year of service, induction of college quota in favour of Plus two lecturers, non-vocational status in favour of all

the Principals and lecturers who are officially engaged during vacations.

The main demand highlighted during the meeting was opening up of online portal of JK BOSE for the submission of all the Board fee including RR and examination fee. It was also suggested that 90 percent of Board fee of the previous year class 10, 11 and 12 students be refunded as the exam were not conducted offline.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Parveen Akhter (Principal), Yash Pal (Principal), RG Dogra (Principal), Charu Anand (Principal), Jyoti Prakash (Principal), Dr Ashok Kumar (Vice President), Dr Sushma (Female Vice President), Mulkh Raj (Tehsil Head Akhnore), Sohan Singh Chib (Tehsil Head R S Pura), Kamal Kishore Bhagat, Irfan Qureshi, Salim Shah, Renu Langeh, Ashok Kumar (Tehsil Billawar), Dalbir Singh Jamwal, Jai Karan, Mukesh, Shamsheer Singh Dr. Jyoti Patil, Ifat Shah and Ravinder Singh etc.

Girl attempts suicide, family says harassment by SPO's son is cause

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 31: A young girl attempt suicide by consuming some poisonous substance under mysterious circumstances at her residence in Latti, here today

According to Police, Kamlesh Devi (18), daughter of Charan Dass, resident of Latti, consumed some poisonous substance at her residence. The family members rushed her to District Hospital Udhampur where she was referred to GMC Hospital Jammu because of her critical condition.

Family members of the girl alleged that she attempted suicide because of the harassment meted

out to her by son of a Special Police Officer (SPO), who was pressurizing her for marriage. They claimed that Aamir Malik, son of Farooq (SPO), resident of Latti, was forcibly pressurizing her for marriage and a complaint in this was also lodged at Police Station Latti, but no action was taken against the accused.

However, according to Police, no such complaint of alleged harassment was ever lodged by family of the girl. "We have registered the case for further investigation and as per the preliminary inquiry, families of girl as well as the accused boy were against marriage of the two, said Police.