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PM to have 20 engagements in Indonesia

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have around 20 engagements during his nearly 45 hours of stay in Bali, Indonesia where he will attend the G20 summit, official sources said.

PM Modi, who will leave for the Indonesian city tomorrow, will hold bilateral meetings with around 10 world leaders and will also attend a community event to connect with Indian diaspora in Indonesia, the sources said.

The Prime Minister will have a "hectic and productive" visit to Bali, an official source

Punjab tightens gun regulations

CHANDIGARH, Nov 13: The Punjab Government today banned the public display of firearms, including on social media, and songs allegedly promoting gun culture and violence, as it tightened regulations after facing flak from the Opposition over the law and order situation.

The State Government also directed a review of arms licences within the next three months, with no new licence to be issued during the period, and surprise checks, according to an official order.

A complete ban should be imposed on carrying and displaying weapons at public gatherings, religious places, wed-

EC warns media on exit polls

SHIMLA, Nov 13: Election Commission has warned media organisations not to breach its order banning exit polls in connection with Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat assembly elections.

Chief Electoral Officer of Himachal Pradesh Manish Garg took to twitter to caution the media houses not to violate the restriction. He said as per Section 126A of RP Act 1951, ECI has prohibited conduct of any exit poll & publishing or publicising by print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner, result of any exit poll of Assembly elections of HP.

He said restrictions continue

Snowfall likely in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Nov 13: Weatherman today forecast light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches and some places in plains in Kashmir as temperatures dipped in the region.

"Weather is likely to turn cloudy as the day progresses today. From tonight (November 13) - November 15th, the weather is expected to be generally cloudy," a Meteorological Department official said here.

"Light to moderate rain/snow is expected over higher reaches at most places. Some places in the plains may receive 1-2 inches of snow on November 14," he said.

Drones from Pak border more than doubled in 2022: DG BSF

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: this cross-border illegal activity that is rearing its head over the last few years, he said on Saturday.

"The BSF has been at the receiving end of the drone menace for quite some time... The versatility of the drone, which is very well known, has been posing problems to us with nefarious elements having found new uses of the drone due to its anonymity and quick flight at sufficient height bypassing the frontiers," he said.

The DG said this while briefing Union Home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who was chairing an event to inaugurate the forensic lab through a webinar session.

LG presents J&K's Saffron to PM as gift of gratitude from people

Sinha meets Modi, Rajnath; briefs them on raising farmers income, agri exports

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Nov 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and briefed them on development and security scenario of Jammu and Kashmir besides efforts being made for raising farmers income.

The Office of LG J&K said the Lieutenant Governor also briefed the Prime Minister about raising farmers' income and time-bound implementation of reforms to boost agriculture exports.

"Briefed the Prime Minister about recommenda-

*Development works, security scenario also discussed

reforms to boost agriculture exports, creation of modern infrastructure and value chains," the Office of LG J&K said in another tweet.

The Lieutenant Governor is also reported to have briefed the Prime Minister about development works going on in Jammu and Kashmir besides security scenario in the Union Territory especially in the Valley.

Later, Manoj Sinha also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and reportedly apprised him about situation prevailing along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, anti-militancy operations in the Valley and other aspects of the situation.

A tweet by the Raksha Mantri Office (RMO) India said: "The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha called on Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi today".

Last month, the Defence Minister had visited Kashmir and reviewed security situation in the Union Territory as well as Line of Control with Army



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha presenting J&K's Saffron to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Sunday. Another pic on page 4.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

He presented a basket of Saffron grown in Jammu and Kashmir to the Prime Minister.

"A special gift of gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from people of Jammu and Kashmir. In ancient Indian tradition, Saffron is referred as 'Bahukam'. As harvest festivity draws near, symbol of joy and light GI tagged exquisite and enchanting produce is ready to be delivered globally." Office of LG J&K tweeted tagging the photograph of Sinha presenting bouquet of Saffron to Modi.

tions of Apex Committee on holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors for raising farmers' income and time-bound implementation of

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) India tweeted: "Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

From 4 pc for OSCs, OBC reservation to significantly go up in J&K

*Areas for inclusion of Paharis as STs identified

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 13: Grant of reservation under Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to Kashmiri Sikhs and Pandits, who stayed put in the Valley during 32 years of turmoil is under consideration after receiving representations from their representatives while exact percentage to be granted to the OBCs and Paharis is likely to be worked out very shortly as Justice GD Sharma Commission for Socially Backward Classes which recommended reservations has reportedly not mentioned percentage and left it to the Government.

Official sources told the Excelsior that Justice Sharma

Commission received representations from Kashmiri Sikhs and Kashmiri Pandits, who stayed in the Valley during over three decades of militancy braving all odds, for grant of OBC status and reservation.

"Representations of both Kashmiri Sikhs and Pandits, who didn't migrate from the Valley, are under active consideration and a decision is expected soon. Their hopes got revived after the Government included West Pakistani refugees in the list of Other Social Castes along with 14 other communities," sources said, adding the order of OSC reservation for more communities was withdrawn as the Government is going to give reservation to OBCs and castes getting reservation under OSC

will become part of OBCs.

As term of Justice Sharma Commission is till March 2023, it can take a call on representations submitted by Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs, sources said.

As far as percentage of reservation to be granted to OBCs, sources said, the Commission is silent on it in the absence of census or caste census but it was expected to go up from four percent to which the OSCs were entitled at present. However, the Government has to take all pros and cons into account before taking a call on percentage.

The Government of India gives 27 percent reservation to OBCs. Several States have fixed reservation to OBCs as per their

population though most of States have kept it at 27 percent.

"Jammu and Kashmir too has significant population of OBCs and their reservation could be around 15 percent," sources said but added that a final call has to be taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

There has been long pending demand from the OBCs for grant of reservation to them in Jammu and Kashmir on the ground that they are getting reservation at national level as well as majority of other States and Union Territories but were denied the same in J&K.

Sources said the Government has finally taken a

'Our soldiers proved this time & again'

Anyone casting evil eye on India being given befitting reply: Rajnath

CHANDIGARH, Nov 13: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today asserted that safeguarding national interests is the main focus of the BJP-led government and anyone casting an evil eye on India is now given a befitting reply.

"India is no longer weak. We believe in peace," Singh said, adding that a befitting reply is now given if anyone tries to harm us.

Our soldiers have proved this time and again, Singh said referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and 2019 Balakot airstrikes.

He also mentioned about the bravery shown by soldiers dur-

ing the Galwan Valley standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

Singh was addressing a gathering after unveiling the statue of legendary warrior Prithviraj Chauhan in Haryana's Jhajjar. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and State BJP chief O P Dhankar were also present.

He said to get rid of the colonial mindset, the Narendra Modi Government has taken a number of initiatives, including a new Indian Navy ensign inspired from Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji, abolition of around 1,500 obsolete British-era laws, renaming of Rajpath as Kartavya Path and installation of a grand statue of Netaji Subhas

Chandra Bose at India Gate.

More than 1,500 archaic laws dating back to the British rule, whose relevance was completely over, have been abolished. There are many such laws for which we are preparing a scheme, he said.

We will scrap these too, the minister said.

Without naming the Congress, Singh also attacked the grand old party for creating a needless controversy over the presence of a lotus image on the G20 logo, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

The Congress has accused

'Cong-NC deliberately neglected hilly regions'

Discernible change in Kashmir; days of strikes, stone pelting are gone: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat
RAMBAN, Nov 13: Justifying that there is a discernible change in the ground situation in Kashmir valley, Union Minister in PMO with Independent Charge of

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that gone are the days when strikes were held in Kashmir, on the call of Pakistan or separatist organisations during the visit of a Minister from Delhi.

Talking to reporters on the

sidelines of a BJYM rally here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said recently Home Minister, Amit Shah visited J&K and held three mammoth public rallies in which the slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' rent the air. This is for the first time that there was no strike in Kashmir on the visit of Union Minister which shows that the ground situation has changed for better in the Valley.

He, while expressing concern over the selective killings by militants in Kashmir, said they (militants) are under constant pressure of the security forces and are now on run. They, however, hit the soft targets in desperation, he added.

Admitting that there can be



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a BJYM rally at Ramban on Sunday. -Excelsior/Parvez

of tourists visited Kashmir valley and there are no incidents of stone pelting reported from anywhere in Kashmir. This marks a change in the ground situation in Kashmir, he added.

In response to a question about the holding of Assembly

55 couples tie knot in Srinagar mass marriage

Suhail Bhat
SRINAGAR, Nov 13: A modest mass wedding in Srinagar today saw the union of up to 55 disadvantaged couples from various areas of Kashmir.

The Jaffri Council, a social organization, organized the ceremony at the Amar Singh Club in Srinagar in cooperation with the Gujarat-based NGO JU Kulsum Taleem Kendra.

The group has organized 495 weddings for disadvantaged and orphaned girls since it started organizing similar events in the Valley in 2015.

"In conjunction with the JU Kulsum Taleem Kendra, we organized this large wedding for these poor and orphan girls. Since we began our campaign in 2015, this marriage has been one of the largest, with 55 couples exchanging vows today. We would like to continue in the future," president of the Council, Ghulam Rasool Chakan said, adding that those who spend Rs 30-50 lakhs on weddings should volunteer in their community and assist underprivileged girls.

The Council said to have assisted 38 couples from economically disadvantaged sectors in getting married in 2015. In 2016, 70 couples got married,



Fifty five couples tie knot in a mass wedding at Amar Singh Club in Srinagar on Sunday. - Excelsior/Shakeel

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