

Constitution makers' vision has been guiding our Republic: Prez

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: The President said the country is proud of the fact that the members of that assembly represented all regions and communities of India and that they included 15 women too.

Founders of the Constitution gave us a map and moral framework, the task of "walking that path remains our responsibility", President Droupadi Murmu said in her address to the nation on

"Their vision, as enshrined in the Constitution, has been continuously guiding our Republic. During this period, India has been transformed from a largely poor and illiterate nation into a confident nation marching on the world stage," she said.

realise Gandhiji's ideal of 'Sarvodaya', the upliftment of all. Yet, the progress we have made on all fronts is encouraging," she said.

The President said such a vast and diverse multitude of people coming together as one nation remains unprecedented.

"We did so with a belief that we are, after all, one; that we are all Indians. We have succeeded as a democratic republic because so many creeds and so many languages have not divided us, they have only united us. That is the essence of India," she said.

Murmu said that essence was at the heart of the Constitution, which has withstood the test of time.

"The Constitution that started governing the life of the Republic was the outcome of the Freedom Struggle. The national movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was as much about winning Independence as about rediscovering our own ideals," she said.

Those decades of struggle and sacrifice "helped us win freedom" not only from colonial rule but also from the imposed values and narrow world-views, she said.

"Revolutionaries and reformers joined hands with visionaries and idealists to help us learn about our age-old values of peace, brotherhood and equality."

"Those who shaped the modern Indian mind also welcomed progressive ideas from abroad, following the Vedic advice... 'Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions'. A long and profound thought process culminated in our Constitution," she said. (PTI)

"While Babasaheb Ambedkar and others gave us a map and a moral framework, the task of walking that path remains our responsibility. We have largely remained true to their expectations, and yet we realise that much remains to be done to

the Constitution, has been continuously guiding our Republic. During this period, India has been transformed from a largely poor and illiterate nation into a confident nation marching on the world stage," she said.

The President said the transformation would not have been possible but for the "collective wisdom of the Constitution makers" guiding our path.

"The nation will always remain grateful to Dr B R Ambedkar, who headed the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, and thus had a critical part in giving it the final shape. On this day, we should also remember the role of jurist B N Rau, who had prepared the initial draft, and other experts and officers who helped in making of the Constitution," she



President Droupadi Murmu addressing the nation on the eve of the 74th Republic Day, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

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She said the founding document is inspired by the humanistic philosophy of the oldest living civilisation in the world as well as new ideas that emerged in more recent history.

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SAD objects to different yardsticks of J&K Admn to deal with MPs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) J&K unit has expressed its serious concern over the discriminatory attitude and different yardsticks of J&K Administration to deal with elected Members of Parliament (MPs) of India, saying while Rahul Gandhi entered J&K without any hindrance but on the other hand Simranjeet Singh Maan was not allowed to enter the Union Territory.

Addressing a press conference at Press Club Jammu, senior lead-



Leaders of SAD (Amritsar) J&K during a press conference at Press Club, Jammu.

ers of SAD (Amritsar) J&K including its president Narinder Singh Khalsa, Inderjit Singh, Ram Singh, Balbir Singh, Amanjeet Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Harasind Singh, Tavinderpal Singh and Chanan Singh said that present J&K Administration seems against Sikh community as it had not allowed our Party president and also an elected MP Simranjeet Singh Maan to enter J&K.

Leaders said that under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of

India, every citizen and political party has the constitutional right to enter J&K and to speak for the fundamental and democratic rights of the people of J&K. Not allowing senior Sikh leader and MP Simranjeet Singh Maan to enter J&K is grave injustice and discrimination with not only minority Sikh community of J&K but also with entire Sikh community worldwide.

SAD leaders alleged that by such discriminatory steps and selected approach, J&K Government is itself alienating our young generation and present rulers should not forget the sacrifices of Sikh community for the sake of independence of India and this entire region.

They said that political leaders Rahul Gandhi (MP) and Simranjeet Singh Maan (MP) enjoy the same fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India but by prohibiting Simranjeet Singh Maan, the present Government has itself created the impression that there is false normalcy in J&K and selected approach is being adopted to deal with Sikh leaders like Simranjeet Singh Maan.

Sikh leaders of SAD (Amritsar) J&K unit disclosed that very soon they are going to challenge this injustice and discrimination in High Court of J&K.



MD Vikas Rathore and others during launching of Royal Enfield Super Meteor at Reliance Motors Jammu on Wednesday.

Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650 launched

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: The Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650 was launched today at Royal Enfield Showroom Reliance Motors by MD Vikas Rathore and ASM Sales, Jatinder Thakur, here.

The Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650 is the brand's new flagship and arrives in seven color options across the line-up. The model made its global debut at EICMA last year and is now available in India. The aggressive price tag makes it only marginally more expensive than the interceptor 650 but with a plethora of improvements in terms of fit and finish, build quality, performance and more.

The deliveries of the new Super Meteor 650 will begin on February 1 in India.

Managing Director of Reliance Motors, Vikas Rathore

said, "The Super Meteor 650 is an evolution of all our focus and efforts in the middleweight segment over the years, and is a thoroughbred, retro cruiser in every sense.

"Its design language, geometry, form-factor and the gorgeous 650cc twin engine make it the most stunning, accessible and capable cruiser in the category," he said.

We have enhanced the refinement levels of this motorcycle and you can feel it in its smooth throttle response across the range. The motorcycle has confidence inspiring stability, takes corners well and feels planted at highway speeds, he said.

"We believe the Super Meteor will expand the market for cruisers around the world and take the Royal Enfield twin platform a notch higher," asserted Rathore.



ADGP, Security, Dr S D Singh reviewing the security arrangements at Jammu on Wednesday.

ADG reviews security arrangements for R' Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Security, J&K, Dr S. D. Singh Jammwal chaired a meeting of officers of Police, Army, CAPF and the civil administration at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Srinagar to finalize the arrangements for Republic Day celebrations-2023.

He also reviewed security arrangements for Bharat Jodo Yatra and G20 event.

Addressing the meeting ADGP directed the officers to make necessary security arrangements in connection with Republic Day celebrations 2023. He stressed on proper and intensive foot patrolling, surveillance of the area in and around Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium. He directed for conducting Anti-Sabotage Check etc at the place of venue and stressed for placing necessary and comprehensive security plans.

Similar briefings were also given by the Additional DGP Security, J&K in a meeting of officers held at M.A Stadium, Jammu.

With reference to the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the ADGP emphasized upon the officers that the security for the Yatra shall be taken care of

in coordination with all sister agencies and stakeholders. He further stressed that the Nodal Officers from all Security/Police agencies for the purpose shall coordinate the arrangements as per guidelines.

Meanwhile, ADGP also reviewed security arrangements with regard to the G20 event in a meeting held at Central Pool Kashmir. SSP Security, Kashmir presented a power point presentation with regard to the preparations and planning of security for such a high profile event.

Cong has history of murdering democracy in J&K :Sunil Sethi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Congress has always killed democracy in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947, sometimes itself and sometimes through its political stooges who have now joined Rahul Gandhi in his hatred Yatra. Congress has no faith in institutions of democracy which was clear from very first elections in 1951 when it engineered unopposed victory for its then political stooge Sheikh Abdullah who won 73 of 75 seats unopposed as nomination papers of other parties were rejected illegally.

In a hard hitting statement on political credentials and political non belief in democracy of Congress, Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief spokesperson, Sunil Sethi said that all Constitutional frauds including Article 370 and 35 A were result of this game plan of deceit of Congress where voice of people was suppressed.

He said subsequent elections also are known to everyone to be non reflective of will of people and political leadership was thrust upon people without their consent. How National Conference (NC) and Congress had won elections is known to everyone, he added.

It's strange that Congress and Gupkar Gang is talking about democracy when they have killed democracy by their conduct, he

Rahul's love, sympathy for J&K fake, he maintains silence on terrorist strikes: Chib

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Hitting out hard on Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) and Rahul Gandhi, the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) on Wednesday said that the Congress leader is misled by the people surrounding him about facts and ground situation in J&K.

While speaking in a meeting,

Cong hobnobbed with anti-nationals to barter national interests: Sham

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: BJP today said, 'Congress party responsible for all ills plaguing J&K, should apologize to people and nation'

Former Minister and State vice president BJP, Sham Lal Sharma reminded Congress party of all sins it committed in Jammu and Kashmir, which have been responsible for all ills plaguing the Union Territory.

Sharma, while reacting to the so-called Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) being taken up by the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, said the party always hobnobbed with anti-national forces in Jammu and Kashmir and bartered the national interests for political gains.

"In November 1986, former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi and the National Conference (NC) president, Farooq Abdullah signed an accord that reinstated the latter as Chief Minister. The large rigging in March 1987 elections, conducted only four months after the swearing-in of

the Chief Minister, Farooq Abdullah, was a watershed moment in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. It forced the people to pick up guns and led to the creation of Syed Salahuddin, the head of the terrorist group Hizbul Mujahideen." Sharma recalled while ridiculing Rahul Gandhi's remarks "to open a Mohabbat Ki Dukan (shop of love) in a bazaar of Nafrat (market of hate)".

The former Minister said the Congress party, which has been making baseless allegations against BJP, resorted to brutal murder of democracy in 1987 as it formed the basis of all problems being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir since then.

"Lakhs of innocent Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) were driven away by the armed terrorists from Kashmir Valley because the Congress party hobnobbed with the National Conference (NC). The selective targeting of Kashmir Hindus began while Rajiv Gandhi was heading a Congress Government at the Centre and Farooq Abdullah in J&K. Thousands of people have

lost their lives due to turmoil created in 1987. Congress has, however, remained unapologetic to the worst carnage of Independent India," the senior BJP leader said.

Sharma also recalled that the then Governor, Jagmohan had been handling the situation quite effectively but the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, who was the opposition leader at that time, humiliated him and did not allow his administration to work smoothly.

"During the former Prime Minister, V.P. Singh-led Government, the first all party delegation led by then Deputy Prime Minister, Devi Lal visited Srinagar on March 9, 1990. The delegation included the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders. Jammu and Kashmir was under Governor's rule. Jagmohan, who had served earlier as the Governor, was sent to bring the situation under control by then Home Minister, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. Unfortunately, the Congress conspired against him the BJP leader said.



Tourists enjoying 'National Tourism Day' at Patnitop.

'National Tourism Day' celebrated at Patnitop

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Under the close supervision of Secretary to Government, Tourism Department J&K, Sarmad Hafeez, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, in close collaboration with Patnitop Development Authority, today organized a 'Snow Celebratory One Day Event' in Patnitop and Sanasar to mark the celebration of 'National Tourism Day'.

The event was attended by tourists visiting Patnitop to enjoy the snowfall season and they merrily participated in all activities organized on this occasion especially Tug-of-War, fun skiing, snow rafting, ATV rides and other recreational snow activities. The tourists also made Snow Man and appreciated the organisation of such events during the snowfall season at Patnitop and Sanasar.

Speaking on the occasion, Sher Singh, CEO Patnitop Development Authority said that the tourists were enjoying the snowfall season to the fullest at Kud, Patnitop, NathaTop and Sanasar. The Department of Tourism, J&K shall continue organizing more events for the tourists at Patnitop and Sanasar

area this year as well.

Joint Director Tourism Jammu Sunaina S Mehta visited that about 6.50 lakh tourists visited Patnitop in 2022 and about 0.45 lakh tourists visited Patnitop during January 2023, till date. "We are hopeful that Patnitop will host more tourists in the year 2023" she said and added that the Directorate of Tourism Jammu was organizing a multitude of events in Patnitop, Baderwah and other upbeat and offbeat tourist destinations. It is coming up with the Bani-Basohli Festival, Shivkhori Festival and Aksini Bhaderkashi Festival at Baderwah in February 2023.

The fun skiing, zorbing and snow rafting activities were flagged off jointly by CEO PDA, Sher Singh and Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism Jammu. The activities continued for the entire day at Patnitop and at Sanasar wherein Snowman making and other recreational snow games were enjoyed by visiting tourists.

Among others present on the occasion were Jyoti Koul, Tourist Officer Udhampur, Amarpal Singh and officials of the Tourism Department.

CAT reprimands YSS

51 officials granted study leave without approval

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has rapped the department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) on allowing its employees for higher studies of at least 51 officials without having any approval from the competent authority for sanctioning study leave in their favour.

The Division Bench of Anand Mathur and D S Mishra has quashed the order of the YSS whereby the department allowed its various employees for pursuing higher studies without any approval from the competent authority.

The bench after having perusal of the order under challenge said by issuing the impugned order, the authorities have overlooked the gross indiscipline on the part of its employees in pursuing the higher studies.

The bench said that they were supposed to be on duty and accepted their salaries during this period and in pursuing higher studies knowing fully well that they do not have approval of the competent authority for sanction of study leave.

"The inconsistent stand taken by the respondent-department in dealing with similar cases is also not appreciated. The impugned order is obviously a cover up of the indiscipline on the part of the private respondents and is in fact a boon being offered to them in terms of seniority and other service benefits which would accrue on account of the impugned order," reads the judgment.

The CAT concluded by quashing and setting aside the impugned order with the direction to the Commissioner Secretary YSS to ensure that the seniority of the applicants and others is prepared and finalized strictly as per rules

and regulations on the subject, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

The aggrieved employees submitted that as per the Order, the Government passed an order regarding adjustment of Lecturers in Physical Education and sanction was accorded to the placement of 192 posts of Physical Education Lecturers in the higher secondary schools and the department had annexed the list of selected candidates but the private respondents have wrongly mentioned this selection list as seniority list.

They submit that ignoring the guidelines of the RDA, the department issued Government order No. 46-Edu (YSS) of 2019 dated 09.07.2019 that ex post facto sanction is accorded to the grant of promotion in favor of the Physical Education Teachers and Physical Education Masters (PET/PEM) for pursuing higher qualification in relaxation of Rule 73 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Leave Rules 1975, recovery of salary amount from PETs and PEMs for that period.

They pursued higher studies without proper permission. Even after issuance of the impugned order, there is no clarity provided by the respondent department as to on which grounds or through which mechanism will the officials who possess valid certificates and degrees be promoted to the next higher post on substantial basis. There is no seniority list in the department except the one circulated by the department in 2016.

The Committee formulated for the omission and commission found a procedural lapse by the officers who had granted permission in respect of 51 officials. These officials have also drawn their salaries which were not due to them as per the study leave rules prevalent at that time.

JKBOSE still uses offline mode for verification of class 10, 12 certificates

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: While the Government is boasting about making the services online across the Union Territory, the J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is still using the offline mode for the conduct of verification of class 10 and 12 certificates.

Not only that, the candidates who are intending to get their certificates verified, have to follow a cumbersome process, apart from paying a hefty fee to get the same done. The fee ranges from Rs 700-750 for the verification of the certificates and the same comes with the added hardship of waiting endlessly.

"The Government is indeed making services available online, but we fail to understand why they have not ensured to make the process of verification online which could have saved a lot of time," one of the candidates told Excelsior, adding that they also have to pay hefty fee apart from following the process entirely on their own.

About the verification of the certificates, the concerned departments send the request for

the verification of certificates along with a cover letter to JKBOSE. Upon receiving that, the concerned candidates have to deposit the necessary fee which sets the process in motion.

The candidates, while saying that it gets hectic for them to follow the process, asked that when there is an option available, why don't the authorities put it to use for making the process hassle-free? "Having entirely online would have made a great difference," the candidates said.

On the other hand, the JKBOSE authorities do not seem to be in the mood for starting the online facility for the same anytime soon.

"We may start the online verification in future, but right now, there are no plans for the same; however, the certificates which would be issued from session 2023, for those, the process would remain online," the officials said.

The officials, however, maintained that even the offline process, which is currently the only mode for the certificate verification, is hassle-free and that the candidates have to just deposit the required fee to set the process in motion.

Mirchi movie night for movie 'Pathaan' organized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: 98.3 Mirchi organized a 'Mirchi movie night for the newly released movie Pathaan', presented by Ruchika Makeovers by Geetanjali salon, driven by Wheelocity Skoda and Prince Khajuria and Jay Sharma from Chanderbhaga Advertising Agency.

The felicitation ceremony was hosted by Mirchi's RJ Chaitanya, RJ Rohit and RJ Tani with an interactive chat session during the interval, as all three of them made the audi-



Contestants of 'Mirchi event' posing with organisers at Jammu on Wednesday.

ence laugh their hearts out and made the event, even more, memorable.

The Associate Vice President of 98.3 Mirchi Sumit Kakkar extended his warm greetings to the filmy audience for always showing keen interest in participating in Mirchi's entertaining and informative activities. MMN- Mirchi Movie night went with full zeal just because of Jammu's movie enthusiasts!

He also talked about his brand's never-ending passion of giving Mirchi listeners something to always look forward to and thus shall always stay loyal to this passion and thanked everyone present there.

Channi Himmat, Mudassar Nabi Sheikh, Rajiv Khajuria and Munish Khajuria from Wheelocity Skoda and Prince Khajuria and Jay Sharma from Chanderbhaga Advertising Agency.

The felicitation ceremony was hosted by Mirchi's RJ Chaitanya, RJ Rohit and RJ Tani with an interactive chat session during the interval, as all three of them made the audi-



DAP general secretary, R.S Chib addressing a meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

DAP general secretary, R.S Chib said that only two leaders expelled by DAP chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad had joined Congress.

"However, one who holds the constituency later re-joined DAP and the two remaining have no political constituency," Chib maintained adding: "Love and respect for Ghulam Nabi Azad have brought hundreds of political leaders, workers from Congress to DAP after the same was formed and rattled Congress at the core.

Govt freezes AUs' boundries

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered freezing of boundaries of all administrative units in the Union Territory till completion of census 2021.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (iv) of rule 8 of the Census Rules, 1990 and in supersession of all notification issued in this behalf, the

Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby freezes the boundaries of Districts/Tehsils, Municipalities, Towns, Revenue villages and other Administrative units in the whole Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir w.e.f 1st July, 2023 till completion of Census 2021", read a notification issued by the Planning Department in this regard.

Five APD officials shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Government today ordered transfers and postings of five officers/officials of Agriculture Production Department (APD) with immediate effect.

As per the order, Naresh Kumar (AEO, Mahore Dharmari, Reasi) has been transferred and posted as SCA CAD Sarore, Rakesh Khajuria (AAI Surankote) as SCA ASCO CAD Supwal and Vandhana Kotwal (AEO Bhalwal) as Research Assistant in Soil Testing Laboratory, Jammu.

Further, Vishal Dutt Sharma (AEO Samroli Sub Division, Udhampur) has been transferred and posted as SCA in Office of ASCO, RRD CAD Jammu while Ashish Kumar Kotwal (SCA Thathri Doda) has been transferred and posted as Apiculture Development Assistant, DCTC, Baderwah.