

SC reserves verdict on NC plea

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict on a plea of the National Conference challenging the denial of 'plough' symbol to its candidates for the upcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) polls on September 10.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah concluded hearing arguments on behalf of the lawyers representing Union Territory administration and the political parties, and said the judgement will be pronounced

Narula, Bhardwaj among top IAS officers shifted

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The Centre has appointed senior IAS officers Vumlungmang Vualnam and Neeraj Mittal as new Secretaries in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Telecommunications respectively in a major Secretary-level bureaucratic reshuffle, a Government order stated.

According to the order issued on Thursday, the Prime Minister-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved 1992-

Omar, Mehbooba in Oppn bloc's key Panel

SRINAGAR, Sept 1: Former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been appointed as members of opposition INDIA alliance's key coordination and election strategy Panel.

Omar and Mehbooba have been appointed as members of the combination's coordination and election strategy.

The grouping also constituted four committees- campaigning committee, working group of social media committee, working group of media and

3 DySPs promoted

JAMMU, Sept 1: Department of Home has ordered promotion of three Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) as Superintendents of Police (SPs).

As per an order, the officers who have been promoted are Pardeep Kumar, Syed Majeed Mosavi and Musadiq Majid Basu.

8 JPDCL AEEs transferred

JAMMU, Sept 1: The Government today ordered transfer and posting of eight Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL).

As per an order issued in this context, Nitin Mahajan, posted at ED-II, Sub-Division Gangyal, JPDCL, Jammu, has been transferred and posted at ED-II, SD-I, Gandhi Nagar vice Abdul Rouf Bhat whereas the latter has been posted at ED-I, SD-III, JPDCL Jammu vice

Ex MP gets life term in double murder case

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The Supreme Court today sentenced former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh to life imprisonment for killing two people on the day of polling for Assembly elections in Bihar's Saran district in 1995.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said Singh, a multiple-term former MP from Bihar's Maharajganj, and

PM to launch 'Vishwakarma' Scheme on Sept 17 at 40 locations including J&K

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually launch 'PM Vishwakarma', a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at approximately 40 locations covering all States and Union Territories including Jammu and Kashmir on September 17.

While the Prime Minister will launch the Scheme virtually from New Delhi, Union Ministers and Members of Parliament (MPs) among others will be present at approximately 40 locations to start the scheme physically in presence of senior officers of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry, which will coordinate the scheme having financial outlay of Rs 13,000 crore, official sources told the Excelsior.

In Jammu, the scheme will be launched at Jammu Convention Centre in the presence of Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha member from

Jammu-Poonch constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma besides senior officers of the concerned department.

Name of the Union Minister who will be present for launch of the Scheme at Srinagar is being finalized and the schedule will be announced for the Valley in next couple of days, the sources said.

The Union Cabinet had recently approved Central Sector Scheme 'PM Vishwakarma' to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India.

Financial outlay of Rs 1300 crore has been approved for the scheme for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

A number of workers engaged in traditional skills will be beneficiaries of the Scheme which is being launched countrywide on September 17 including Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Territory, it may be mentioned, has large number of artisans working in different fields who will benefit from the scheme.

As per the sources, the nitty-gritty of the scheme have been

Traditional traders to get Credit Support

worked out by the Union Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and are in the process of being furnished to all State/Union Territory Governments/Administration.

"The scheme will finally come into operation once it is launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17," the sources said.

The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools, sources said.

"It is also aimed at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarma are integrated with the domestic and global value chains," they added.

Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support up to Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.

The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support, as per the sources.

The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across India. Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma.

These trades include Carpenter (Suthar); Boat Maker; Armourer; Blacksmith (Lohar); Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; Locksmith; Goldsmith (Sonar); Potter (Kumhaar); Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver); Stone breaker; Cobbler(Charmkar)/Shoemith/Footwear artisan; Mason (Rajmistri); Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver; Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional); Barber (Naai); Garland maker (Malakaar); Washerman (Dhobi); Tailor (Darzi); and Fishing Net Maker.

'Bandipora's Aragam transformed into first book village'

Dedicated efforts to establish libraries in districts, small towns of J&K: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

GHAZIABAD, Sept 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh today.

In his address, he congratulated the people associated with the Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library on the occasion. He said the Library has been a source of education and intellectual inspiration for the local community, serving all age groups, especially youth.

Speaking on the emergence of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence, Sinha said the libraries will always remain a great source of knowledge.

At the ceremony, the Lt Governor also shared the efforts of the J&K administration to provide the people of J&K access to libraries.

"We have made dedicated efforts to establish libraries in districts like Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and small towns of the UT and develop our libraries as e-learning and counseling centres. Today, 3.5 crore e-books have been made available to our youth through these centres," he added.

Bandipora's Aragam village has been transformed into first book village in the country. Recently, a cultural center with a museum and a library was also dedicated to the Dard-Shin tribal community living along the LoC in Gurez, the Lt Governor said.

He said the digitization of rare Manuscripts is connecting the young generation with the history and cultural heritage of J&K and the country.

On the occasion, Sinha inaugurated a Book Bank established in Harishchandra Tyagi Public



LG Manoj Sinha at an event in Ghazipur on Friday.

Senior Advocates tell SC bench Abrogation of Art 370 not executive decision, Parl taken into confidence

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 that accorded "special status" to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was not made by the political executive alone and Indian Parliament was taken into confidence, the Supreme Court was told today.

As the long-winded debate on the issue continued, the five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was also told by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for intervenor Ashwini Upadhyay, that the word 'recommendation' in Article 370 meant that the assent of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir was not necessary for abrogation.

"The abrogation of the provision was not an executive decision and that the entirety of Parliament which included Members of Parliament (MPs) of Jammu and Kashmir had been taken into confidence," the senior lawyer said.

While framing the Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir, its constituent assembly did not enjoy the same freedom which the constituent assembly of India did, he said, while attempting to draw a distinction between the two constituent assemblies.

Referring to Article 370(3), Dwivedi said, "The word 'recommendation' under Article 370(3) means that the assent of the Constituent Assembly was not necessary to abrogate Article 370."

"Article 370 (3) says notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this Article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

The bench, also comprising

'Seat sharing to be concluded at earliest' INDIA resolves to fight LS polls together 'as far as possible'

MUMBAI, Sept 1:

Opposition block INDIA today resolved to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls together "as far as possible", asserting seat-sharing arrangements in States will be concluded at the earliest in a "collaborative spirit of give-and-take". It also exuded confidence that the new front would easily defeat the BJP.

Meeting against the backdrop of speculation in certain political circles about early polls and formation of a panel to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election', the opposition bloc leaders set up a 14-member coordination committee that will act as the highest decision-making body of the alliance and initiate work on seat sharing.

Sources said the body has been asked to work out a seat sharing formula by September end, a suggestion that was given during informal talks between the leaders.

The opposition leaders vowed to finalise seat sharing in

INDIA Alliance leaders at a photo session on the sidelines of their meeting in Mumbai on Friday.(UNI)

An accommodative spirit with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claiming at a joint news conference that the alliance represents 60 per cent of the population and if it takes on the BJP unitedly, it will easily defeat the ruling party.

As many as 63 representatives from 28 political parties took part in the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) alliance at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Mumbai.

In a resolution passed at the meeting, the INDIA bloc said, "We, the INDIA parties, hereby resolve to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together as far as possible. Seat-sharing arrangements in different states will be initiated immediately and concluded at the earliest in a collaborative spirit of give-and-take."

It also resolved to organize public rallies at the earliest in different parts of the country on issues of public concern and importance.

The resolution said the INDIA parties will coordinate their communications and media strategies and campaigns with the theme 'Judega Bharat, Jeetega India' in different



Term of 10 Assemblies to end before 2024 elections Kovind-headed committee to explore 'One Nation, One Poll' possibility

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The Government has constituted a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of "One Nation, One Election", opening the possibility of Lok Sabha polls being advanced so that they could be held with a string of state assembly contests.

Sources said today that Kovind will explore the feasibility of the exercise and the mechanism to see as to how the country can go back to having simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls, as was the case till 1967.

He is expected to speak to experts and may also consult leaders of different political parties, they said.

The Government's decision comes a day after it decided to call a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps.

Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary for the idea of simultaneous polls, which include those at local bodies, citing financial burden caused by almost continuous election cycle and jolt to development work during the polling period.

Kovind too had echoed Modi's view and expressed his support to the idea after becoming President in 2017.

Addressing Parliament, he had said in 2018, "Frequent elections not only impose a huge burden on human resources but also impede the development process due to the promulgation of the model code of conduct."

Like Modi, he had called for a sustained debate and expressed hope that all political parties arrive at a consensus on this issue.

With the Modi Government approaching end of its second term, there is a view in its top echelon that it can no longer let the issue drag on and needs to move decisively to underscore its purposefulness after debating on the topic for years.

With the ruling BJP under Modi always animated by grander themes and big ticket ideas to rally popular support, the issue will also suit the party politically and catch the opposition off-guard, leaders in the party believe.

The terms of at least 10 State

Were running terror modules while sitting across border 8 militants operating from Pak/PoJK charge sheeted in NIA Court Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: Doda Police today produced charge sheet against eight militants hailing from the district but now operating from Pakistan and PoJK under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in designated Fast Track NIA Court Doda.

Cases under UAPA have been registered against the militants in various Police Stations of Doda district for running terror modules even while sitting in Pakistan and PoJK to keep the militancy alive and lead to bloodshed of the people in the region at the behest of their Pakistan-based mentors.

SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom told the Excelsior that after completion of investigation in all respects and collecting sufficient evidence against the militants, the charge sheet was filed against them under Section 299 CrPC in the Fast Track NIA Court Doda for judicial determination.

"The militants operating from Pakistan and PoJK were in constant touch with local youth of Doda to join terrorism and carry out subversive activities to keep militancy alive in the district," Qayoom said.



'Chakka Jam' by transporters hits normal life in Jammu

*** Indefinite strike suspended on Div Com's assurance**

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Sept 1: 'Chakka Jam' strike across Jammu City and outskirts today affected normal life while transporters took out massive protest rally towards the office of National Highway Authority of India (NHIA) and blocked highway for more than two hours, but the shops and business establishments remained opened.

All the private/public transport vehicles including buses, trucks, tankers, mini-buses,

Transporters and others taking out protest rally in Jammu during 'Chakka Jam' strike on Friday. - Excelsior/Rakesh

in the Government offices and schools besides other educational institutions remained thin in



Transporters and others taking out protest rally in Jammu during 'Chakka Jam' strike on Friday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

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