

National news

Special status to J&K offered nothing but separatism: PM Modi on Article 370

Agency
New Delhi Aug 9,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, a new era has begun for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with the revocation of Article 370.

Addressing the nation last evening, the Prime Minister said, as a nation, the country has taken a historic decision.

The Prime Minister said, when some things are there forever, it is presumed that they will never change or go away and Article 370 was something similar.

Mr. Modi said, region's special status offered it nothing but separatism, terrorism, corruption and family rule, while giving a handle to Pakistan to push its divisive agenda.

The Prime Minister said, decades of dynastic politics in Jammu and Kashmir deprived the youth of the opportunity to lead from the front. He said, now the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will lead the development and take it to a new height.

Mr Modi said, in the new system, it will be the priority of the central government that the employees of the state, the Jammu and Kashmir police, get equal facilities at par with

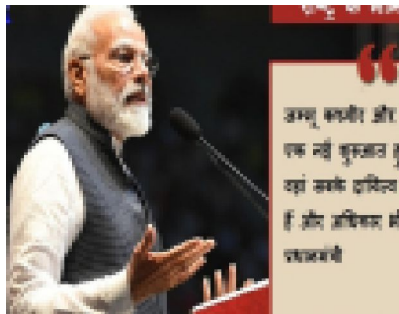
the employees of the other Union Territories and the police.

Mr. Modi also said, his government respects objections of those who are opposed to the decision and was working to address them. He, however, asked them to put national interests supreme and help the government in giving Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh a new direction.

The Prime Minister remembered several bravehearts from Jammu and Kashmir who sacrificed their lives for the region, saying they all wanted peace and prosperity in the Valley and we have to realise their dreams. Describing Jammu and Kashmir as the crown of India, Mr. Modi said many police and defence personnel from the region and other parts of the country had sacrificed their lives for its peace and prosperity.

Mr Modi said, as panchayat elections were conducted with transparency, in the same way Assembly elections will also be held.

Mr Modi said, after the formation of the Union Territory, the development of the people of Ladakh, is the special responsibility of the Central government. He said,



it is time that people of Ladakh benefit from the region's rich biodiversity, while its medicinal plants and herbs get global recognition.

Mr. Modi said, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have the potential to become the biggest tourist destination in the world. He said, there was a time when Kashmir was the favourite destination of several Bollywood filmmakers.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that in the near future even international films will be shot there.

Prime Minister Modi said, his government will work sincerely for a "Naya Jammu Kashmir and Naya Ladakh".

He said, the patriotic people of Jammu and Kashmir have stood up against terrorism and separatism, and that his government will work towards fulfilling their aspirations.

Mr. Modi also complimented the security forces for maintaining peace in the Valley and said people of Jammu & Kashmir will be able to celebrate Eid without any difficulties.

The Prime Minister assured that the government is ensuring they don't face any difficulties in celebrating Eid on 12th August.

International News

Over 5 lakh Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh

Agency
Myanmar Aug 9,

More than 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the UNHCR.

In a statement issued today, the UNHCR said the bio-metric, fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and UNHCR to all verified refugees over the age of 12. These cards will help in

establishing and safeguarding the right of Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar.

The current registration exercise began in June 2018 and it is scheduled to be completed during the last quarter of the current year. UNHCR's Bio-metric Identity Management System (BIMS) captures bio-metric data, including fingerprints and iris scans, which secure each refugee's unique identity as

well as other important information such as family links.

According to UNHCR, Bangladesh has more than 9 lakh Rohingya refugees out of which close to 7 lakh 50 thousand refugees arrived after August 2017 fleeing Rakhine province of Myanmar amid violence and military crackdown. Bangladesh claims to have 11 lakh Rohingya refugees in the country.

India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources

Agency
Bangladesh Aug 9,

India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.

After the Secretary-level meeting in Dhaka yesterday, both the countries also agreed to prepare a

framework for interim water-sharing agreement for eight rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta. Both the countries also discussed issues related to pollution of trans boundary rivers.

The Secretary-level meeting was held after a gap of more than 8 years. It is an important step in enhancing bilateral cooperation in the water resources sector between India and Bangladesh.

Water Resources Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh led the Indian delegation in the talks while the Bangladesh side was led by his counterpart Kabir Bin Anwar. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-basin is the second largest hydraulic region in the world.

Within this basin, fifty-four rivers cross the border between upstream India and downstream Bangladesh.

Sport News

Mary Kom, Sarita Devi and Neeraj spearhead Indian challenge at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships

By a Correspondent
New Delhi, August 9,

India Open gold medalists, Sarita Devi (60kg), Neeraj (57kg) and Jamuna Boro (54kg) find themselves among 10 women boxers selected to represent India at the three-day trials for the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships came to an end at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Thursday. Six-time world champion Mary Kom (51kg) and World Championships bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) have already confirmed their places in the squad due to their consistent performances in the last few months.

Manipur's Sarita Devi, a world champion in 2006, confirmed yet another trip to the prestigious tournament to be held in Russia in October when she dominated last year's World Championships bronze medalist Simranjit Kaurin (60kg). Simranjit had been in good form of late as validated by her gold from the Indonesia President's Cup last month and a flawless win over Parveen at the trials. But in the final, she went down to the highly motivated Sarita Devi, who won her eighth medal from the Asian Championships this year.

Fresh from claiming the gold at the Umakhanov Memorial International just last week, Haryana pugilist Neeraj continued her winning streak by edging Asian Championships bronze medalist Manisha Moun to secure the 57kg berth. The ever-improving Neeraj had even conquered the India Open gold back in May. Manisha's gritty upset win over the World Championships silver medalist Sonia Chahal a day earlier was not enough for her to withstand the barrage of punches from the



young Neeraj.

In 75kg, Asian Championships gold medalist Pooja Rani failed to assert her supremacy even after a series of strong performances that saw her bagging the bronze from the Umakhanov Memorial International and subsequently dashing the hopes of India Open champion Bhagyabati Kachari in her opening bout at the trials.

The experienced boxer was beaten by Saweety Boora, a gold medalist from the same tournament a year before, who had started the trials with an effortless win over Pooja. In 48kg, Strandja Cup silver medalist Manju Rani gave a display of her immense talent

once again when she overpowered Indonesia President's Cup gold medalist Monika. While Manju Rani had outpunched Kalavani to reach the final, Monika had pummeled Neetu into submission.

The 64kg also witnessed an upset when Assam's 2017 world youth champion Ankushita Boro was blanked by Madhya Pradesh girl Manju Bomboriya in a scintillating performance.

This weight category turned out to be highly competitive with two exciting semi-finals. Ankushita needed to work hard to see off Lalita in an evenly-matched bout while Manju thwarted a comeback from Strandja Cup bronze medalist Pwila Basumatary.

Indonesia President's Cup gold medalist Jamuna Boro had to dig deep to stave off a stiff resistance from Shiksha and book her 54kg World Championships ticket. Shiksha had earlier stunned the Cologne Boxing World Cup gold medalist Meena Kumari in a gruelling encounter to reach the final.

In 81kg, Chandigarh's Nandini outlasted Lalfakmawi while



Kavita Chahal emerged triumphant over Neha Yadav in +81kg. Earlier, Lalfakmawi had prevailed over Jigyasa in 81kg and Neha had blitzed past Anaswara in +81kg.

The World Championships will take place in Ulan Ude, Russia from October 3-13, 2019.

The Squad:
Manju Rani (48kg)
Mary Kom (51kg)
Jamuna Boro (54kg)
Neeraj (57kg)
Sarita Devi (60kg)
Manju Bomboriya (64kg)
Lovlina Borgohain (69kg)
Saweety Boora (75kg)
Nandini (81kg)
Kavita Chahal (+81kg)

After 5-day lockdown, curbs ease in Kashmir for Friday prayers ahead of Eid

Agency
Srinagar Aug 9,

Restrictions in the Kashmir Valley were eased after five days of security lockdown to allow people to offer Friday prayers. PTI has reported, quoting officials. Thousands of security personnel remain positioned across the Valley to watch out for any trouble following the Centre's decision to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories and scrap Articles 370 and 35-A that gave special status to the state and its permanent residents, special privileges.

No Friday congregation, however, will be allowed at the historic Jama Masjid in Srinagar.

A video tweeted by ANI, showed people queuing up outside banks on Friday but the movement of the people remained thin, while a few shops mostly selling vegetables and medicines opened.

On Monday, the government moved to end special status to Jammu and Kashmir and turn the state into two union territories - J&K with a legislature and Ladakh

without an assembly. By Tuesday, both Houses of Parliament had passed the changes.

The move reportedly comes after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval directed authorities to ensure that no person in the Valley was harassed. The officials, according to PTI, clarified that people will be allowed to offer prayers in mosques in their locality.

The government officials will reach out to people in every "nook and corner" of each district to ensure that the locals have adequate supply of various commodities ahead of Eid al-Adha, news agency ANI reported, quoting Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Zone Basheer Ahmad Khan on Friday.

"With regard to supplies of various commodities in view of the forthcoming Eid festival, instead of people coming out to shops, departments will reach out to the public to every nook and corner of each district," Khan said.

Giving details about Haj pilgrimage, he added, "Haj pilgrimage is about to culminate in a few days. Details of pilgrims who are

coming back will be conveyed by State Haj Office Department to concerned Deputy Commissioners who will issue passes in respect of those pilgrims and to their families."

Vulnerable areas are being monitored closely, said Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur Piyush Singla adding that "Section 144 is still imposed, but with some exceptions in certain areas. Security plan is in place. Markets are also open from 11 AM to 5 PM".

Many regional political leaders, including former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, remain in custody as the government tries to avoid protests or rallies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special address to the nation on Thursday, said that people will "not face difficulties" celebrating Eid and also assured the people of the region that the situation will normalise soon. He also hinted at the possibility of Jammu and Kashmir regaining statehood under more conducive conditions. "A new age has dawned on Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury detained at Srinagar airport

Agency
J.k Aug 9,

Jammu and Kashmir is on high alert today though restrictions will be lifted in the Valley to allow people to offer Friday prayers in local mosques. However, they won't be allowed to congregate at Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid.

The Kashmir valley has been under lockdown since Sunday

midnight, a day before the government moved to divide the state into two Union Territories and also scrapped Articles that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The President okayed the move soon after both houses of Parliament passed it.

The Centre is monitoring the situation and on Thursday, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval reviewed the situation in a meeting held in the Police

Control Room of the J&K Police.

On Thursday evening, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation saying, "Article 370 has not given anything except separatism, corruption, terrorism and family rule." He assured people "that things will return to normal. People there are convincing those who disagree with the move, trying to ensure that there is no trouble in Eid celebrations."

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