



ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PM reaches out: Upgrade for J&K staff, elections soon, UT status is temporary

Urges J&K youth to take up leadership roles, asks industry to invest in region

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

REACHING OUT to the people of Jammu and Kashmir after his government revoked the state's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday asked the youth of J&K to step forward and take up its political leadership. He said elections will soon be held in the new Union Territory and people will have the opportunity to elect their MLAs and Chief Minister in the manner they did earlier.

In an address to the nation, the Prime Minister said J&K government employees will be offered the benefits available to government employees in Union Territories across the country. He showered special praise on the J&K Police which, he said, had been at the forefront of the fight

against terror.

Underlining that Article 370 had brought no benefit to the state but had only fomented separatism, terrorism, dynasty and corruption, Modi said it is now "part of history" and an era of development will start in J&K. He urged the industry, including the film industry, to invest in the region and provide job opportunities to the youth.

He said once normalcy is restored in Kashmir and the Union Territory is on the path of development, it could be granted full statehood again. He said Ladakh will, however, remain a Union Territory.

Acknowledging the hardship being faced by the people of J&K in view of steps taken to maintain order, Modi said it is the people there who are fighting elements trying to create trouble in the Valley.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to the nation on Thursday. ANI

Decades of dynasty have deprived leadership opportunities to youth of Jammu and Kashmir... A new era has begun in J&K and Ladakh. Now all citizens have same rights and duties"

— NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

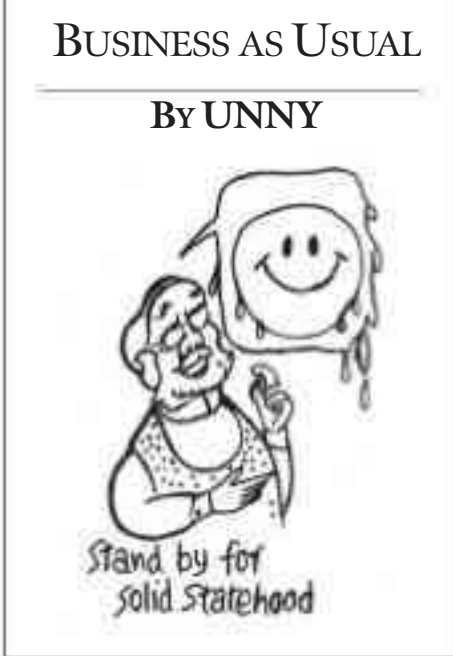
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Brings 2014, 2019 election themes to table: Focus on growth and opportunity

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THERE WERE no references to Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat, Kashmiriyat," a phrase whose spirit Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself invoked in 2017 and 2018. But on Thursday, in his address to the nation after the passage of the Bill to split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, Modi used the commonplace — daily life and work — to make his larger point.

Referring to hope, aspiration and opportunity, he told the people of J&K that withdrawing the state's special status was not about claiming territory but an instrument for their development and prosperity.



In a bid to assure them that the move was not aimed at ruling the state from distant Delhi, he called for duly elected

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INTERVIEW: GOVERNOR'S ADVISOR

'Some easing for Friday prayers, call on Eid will be taken Sunday'

SHUBHAJIT ROY
& DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

FIVE DAYS into the lockdown in the Valley in the wake of revoking J&K's special status and its downgrade into a Union Territory, top officials have said the situation should ease in a few days to allow easing of restrictions.

Responding to questions from *The Indian Express*, K Vijay Kumar, Advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Governor and former CRPF chief, said that there will be "some relaxation" for Friday prayers and a call on security for Eid will be taken on Sunday.

Excerpts of the interview:

This is Day 5 of the security lockdown in the Valley. Have there been protests, instances of people taking to the streets? How are security personnel enforcing prohibitory orders?

No large scale protests have taken place. There have been a few instances of stone-pelting, mostly restricted to areas around Srinagar city. The forces have been given flexibility to impose prohibitory orders with minimum force and maximum compassion.

Will there be relaxation of orders restricting public movement for Friday prayers and Eid on Monday?

Some relaxation will be permitted for Friday prayers. As for Eid, we will take a final call on Sunday. We would like to encourage people to celebrate Eid in the proper spirit while ensuring minimum disruption to public order.

What happens to a family in case of a medical emergency? With communication networks down, how can they call a doctor or an ambulance?

All medical emergencies are being given all possible assistance and facilitation. In many instances, security forces have used their own vehicles to ferry citizens in need of medical aid.

Most shops are shut and people are unable to reach ATMs, how do people buy provisions?

People are being allowed to move around to get essential



K Vijay Kumar

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EXPRESS NETWORK



GROUNDWORK BEGAN IN FIRST TERM: RAJNATH
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supplies. A few shops open in each locality in the evening and that is being permitted provided no crowds gather. Arrangements are being made to ensure adequate stocks of essential commodities. These will be distributed with the assistance of the security forces.

Are travel permits area-specific or do they allow people to travel from one town to another? How long do you think will this restriction be in place?

The passes are given for specific purposes and are not area-specific or route-specific. We would like to restore freedom of movement as soon as possible. It will be done in a phased manner.

When can one expect the phone lines to be restored?

Phone lines are being restored for essential services in a phased manner. In times of emergency people can approach security forces for connecting with their near and dear ones.

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On the ground at Jammu border with Valley: Protests, hope



Security forces in Kargil on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

ARUN SHARMA
BULFIAZ (POONCH), AUGUST 8

WITH EID, Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day around the corner, and a curfew in place along with curbs on cellular services and mobile Internet, life in the Pir Panjal region adjoining Kashmir Valley is in limbo.

Eid falls on August 12-13 and Raksha Bandhan on August 15, and residents are not sure whether the curbs will be lifted by then. More so, because additional forces have been deployed amid reports of protests in the border districts of Rajouri and

Poonch against the removal of special status and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

On Wednesday, security reinforcements were sent to Saj village after protesters blocked the Rajouri-Thanamandi road in the area. On Tuesday, two policemen and a DySP were injured at Bulfiaz in Poonch as protesters from near Mughal Road resorted to stone-pelting. On the same day, police resorted to lathicharge to disperse protesters in Poonch's Surankote town.

Traditionally, calls for protests from separatists in the Valley have not received much support

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The Samjhauta Express at Attari station, in Amritsar district, on Thursday. Rana Simranjit Singh

India's measured response to Pak: Review decision to downgrade ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

A DAY after Pakistan decided to downgrade diplomatic relations and suspend bilateral trade with India which revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi Thursday struck a measured tone and urged Islamabad to review its decision.

Underlining that revoking the special status of J&K and its

bifurcation into two Union Territories is "entirely the internal affair of India", the Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said: "The Constitution of India was, is and will always be a sovereign matter. Seeking to interfere in that jurisdiction by invoking an alarmist vision of the region will never succeed."

Islamabad, meanwhile, said that it will stop running the Samjhauta Express train service. Pakistan's Railway

Minister Sheikh Rasheed announced the suspension of the service. But Pakistan said it will continue work on the Kartarpur corridor.

Sources said Delhi, while pointing out Pakistan's motives to the international community, wants to convey a more reasonable approach towards Islamabad.

Responding to Pakistan's retaliatory measures, India said

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Backs bifurcation of state

PDP and NC leaders, Singh, in his statement, said these two parties cannot be dismissed as "anti-national". Demanding their release, he said

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Finance in talks with FPIs to provide relief from surcharge

SUNNY VERMA &
AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THE GOVERNMENT could move to review rules relating to Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) impacted by the surcharge on income tax imposed on the super rich this Budget. Discussions with FPIs are currently underway and there are indications that investors impacted by the

move could be extended some relief from the levy.

Sources said that since the surcharge imposed in the Budget is applicable only on FPIs registered as trusts and not as companies, one of the proposals under discussion entails their conversion into companies being made tax-neutral so that they do not attract the incidence of capital gains tax. Other options to dilute the impact of the levy, cited as the

primary reason behind the outflow of funds from Indian financial markets since the Budget was presented on July 5, are also under discussion.

A final view on the surcharge issue will be taken after the Ministry of Finance wraps up consultations with the FPIs. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet financial market participants Friday to hear their views on the Budget

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E. Sentiment revival crucial

THE GOVERNMENT'S investor outreach is aimed at a revival of flagging investment sentiment. Any breakthrough on the surcharge could inject positive momentum in equity markets that have seen fund outflows since the Budget.

Gender gap in AIIMS OPD: Four lakh women missing in 2016, say researchers

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

AS MANY as 4 lakh women patients have gone "missing" in 2016 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

An analysis by experts at AIIMS, Indian Statistical Institute, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and others has concluded that in 2016, of the patients from Delhi,

Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who visited the country's premier medical institute, there were 4,02,722 missing female patients. These four states contribute to 90% of the OPD (outpatient) load at AIIMS.

The researchers arrived at this number by analysing the sex ratio of patients from these states and comparing it with the population-level sex ratios in those states.

For example, of the total 23.77 lakh outpatient visits,

excluding obstetrics and gynaecology patients — since this is exclusively female — the overall sex ratio was 1.69 male to one female visit. Sex ratios, adjusted for age and hospital department, increased with distance.

The ratio was 1.41 for Delhi, where the facility is located; 1.70 for Haryana, an adjoining state; 1.98 for Uttar Pradesh, a state further away; and 2.37 for Bihar, the state farthest from Delhi.

The sex ratios had a U-shaped

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EXPLAINED



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ANCHOR

SAMPAD PATNAIK
SATAPADA, AUGUST 8

FISHERMAN SURENDRA Parida has netted many a fish, but can't find a way to shake off a loan shark.

Parida had borrowed Rs 2.5 lakh at 3 per cent monthly interest from a local money lender to repair his boat, gear and house in Puri's Satapada district that were damaged by Cyclone Fani in May. The 55-year-old mentally works out his monthly interest outgo, and

slaps his forehead in dismay when he realises it is Rs 7,500.

"My monthly income before Fani was around Rs 12,000," he said. "We were always poor, but now we may have to roam naked," he said, referring to his family of wife and their 16-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter.

Puri's district administration says 10,027 fishermen have been provided "a total Rs 5,69,55,565" for buying new equipment, but Parida said he got nothing. "Starting this month, I have to pay the interest, but I haven't started earning yet. I went to the maha-

jan (moneylender) again and he has agreed to receive a part of the interest payment by buying my daily catch for Rs 10 less a kilo than the market price (Rs 50)," he said. Hundreds of fishermen in Satapada panchayat will have a similar story to share, he said.

A report prepared by the Odisha government and international bodies such as the UN, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which was released Tuesday, said the state needs Rs 29,315 crore for relief and rehabilitation efforts. It said housing, power, telecommuni-



Farmers in Puri whose fields have been flooded with Chilika's brackish water

cations, agriculture, livestock and fisheries took the full brunt of Fani's wrecking ball.

The Centre has so far released around Rs 789 crore for relief works and Rs 613 crore as its share towards State Disaster Response Fund, according to Odisha State Disaster Management Authority. And the state's relief-centric cash hand-outs don't address the livelihood needs of the affected.

Satapada's tourist boating association in Bankjala village lost 105 of the 125 boats used to ferry tourists. "We have to buy sal

logs" to build boats that match government specification, said Krutibas Das, a boat owner.

"Every boat owner has a debt of around Rs 2 lakh with the moneylenders in nearby districts. We don't have workers to build boats but the loan interest piles up every day. Also, tourists are scarce in this off-season," he said.

Puri Collector Balwant Singh said, "Owners of tourist boats will be provided assistance under Mudra scheme and the margin money will be given by HUDCO (Housing and Urban

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