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No talks with...

completed, elections will be conducted with full transparency and your own elected representatives will govern here, he said.

Shah said some people often talk about Pakistan but he wanted to know how many villages in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have electricity connections.

We have ensured in the last three years that all villages in Kashmir now have electricity connection, he said.

Coming down heavily on the three political families for the second consecutive day, the home minister alleged that their rule was full of misgovernance, corruption and lack of development.

Mufti and company, Abdullah and sons and the Congress have done nothing for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he alleged.

The Home Minister repeated what he had said at his rally in Rajouri on Tuesday that earlier, power in Jammu and Kashmir was with three families, 87 MLAs and six MPs.

Now 30,000 people, who were elected representatives of panchayat and districts councils, are part of the governance process, he said.

He said the first work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is that democracy has reached the grass root level.

Shah said due to Article 370, there was no reservation for the SCs and STs but after its abrogation, quota benefits could be given to Gujjars, Bakarwal and Pahadis.

Everyone will get their due share under the reservation. There will be no loss of share for anyone, he said.

On Tuesday, Shah announced that ST reservation benefits will be given to the Pahadi community along with Gujjar and Bakarwal communities following a recommendation of the Sharma Commission.

He said that Rs 56,000 crore investment has come to Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years which will give employment opportunities to five lakh people, while just Rs 17,000 crore investment had come since independence.

Today I have come to ask Farooq Abdullah Sahab and Mehbooba Mufti ji to give an account of how much investment has come into Jammu and Kashmir during their rule of 70 years. How many industries had come up? How many factories were set up and how many youths benefited from employment," Shah said.

The Home Minister said the Modi government has given one lakh houses to the poor in Jammu and Kashmir.

He alleged that rampant corruption led to underdevelopment in Jammu and Kashmir and said the Modi government has ensured that every rupee being spent goes to those most deserving.

The Home Minister said, Mehbooba ji and Farooq sahab handed over stones and guns to the youths but Modi ji, by bringing industries to the Valley, has handed over mobiles and laptops to these youths so that they are able to find employment, he said.

He said it was the third day of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir and he was happy to see that development has taken place in the union territory.

Some days back, I read a tweet from Mehbooba Mufti in which she had asked me to give an 'account' of our work.

"Mehbooba Ji, keep your eyes and ears open. You along with Farooq (Abdullah) sahab should see what we have given and compare it with the rule of three families over the last 75 years, he said.

Shah said all states have an Anti-Corruption Bureau except Jammu and Kashmir and alleged that the "three families" were responsible for stalling it.

I wonder why they did not allow it, he said.

Amit Shah said that 42,000 people have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir, and all of them were children of the poor. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants that separatism and terrorism should end and Jammu and Kashmir should remain the paradise of India. He appealed to the people to annihilate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Shah said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not tolerate terrorism at all. Be it the Valley or Jammu, Srinagar or Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the government is bringing all round development work everywhere. He appealed to the people to join the mainstream of the country and empower the process of development and move forward.

He advised people that if someone in their village supports terrorists, then they must be reasoned with and brought back into the mainstream because terror and terrorism cannot benefit Kashmir, only democracy, industrialization, AIIMS, IIM and IIT, can benefit Kashmir.

He said that during the rule of three families, the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was merely Rs. 132 crore, while in 2022-23, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi the budget has been increased from Rs. 132 crore to Rs. 1,515 crore. Rs.10 crore have been allotted separately for DDC and PDC. Shah said that five new degree colleges are also being opened in different areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the work of setting up a residential school with 100-bed capacity for Gurjar-Bakarwal girls of Baramulla has also been undertaken by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Government Medical College is also being set up in Baramulla, which will enable the children in the region to become doctors and help them serve the people of Kashmir. He said that only four medical colleges were built in Jammu and Kashmir from 1947 till 2014, whereas from 2014 till 2022 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has built nine new medical colleges and 15 nursing colleges. Whereas earlier only 500 doctors used to pass out of Jammu and Kashmir, now 1,300 doctors will complete their studies and serve the country and Jammu and Kashmir. Shah said that AIIMS, NEET, B.Sc Nursing College and two Cancer Institutes have also been set up in Kashmir. New medical colleges have been set up at Anantnag and Baramulla and two cluster universities have been built in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Shah said that the expressway from Nangal to Baramulla and from Baramulla to Uri has been built at a cost of Rs. 850 crore. A 43-km road has been built connecting Baramulla to Gulmarg at a cost of Rs. 85 crore to help tourists travelling from Gulmarg to Baramulla. He said that over one lakh families are being brought under the ambit of education through a scheme of Rs. 847 crore. Two stadiums have been built in 402 panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir along with one playground in each panchayat. Additionally, two indoor stadiums are also being built at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. Shah said that in the month of September this year, 13 lakh tourists visited Gulmarg. He said that installation of power plants and irrigation projects worth thousands of crores of Rupees will bring prosperity to the valley of Kashmir. In order to improve the rail network, the work on rail link from Udhampur to Baramulla has been initiated. Under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, 119 new roads worth Rs.,3167 crore have been built. The Union Home Minister said that under the Prime Minister's Industrial Package, an investment of Rs. 56,000 crore has come from across the country in Kashmir, which is likely to provide employment to five lakh people.

Earlier, the Union Home also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 240 development projects of about Rs. 2,000 crore in Srinagar.

Amit Shah also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several development projects worth crores of rupees in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir and addressed a public meeting in the region.

He said that the hills of Pir Panjal and Chenab and this region of Kashmir Valley are among the most beautiful areas of the world. The development ushered in Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu and Kashmir is clearly reflected through the happy faces of the people in the region. He said that earlier, the three families who used to rule in the region hardly worked for the development of the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed a huge task of ensuring that democracy reaches every village of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, the meaning of democracy in Kashmir was restricted within the three families, 87 MLAs and 6 MPs, but after August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has connected 30,000 people with democracy by taking it to the level of Panch, Sarpanch, BDC and Zilla Panchayat of the village. Earlier, due to corruption, the money of the poor was being misused, but now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ensuring that the money of the poor will reach the poor. He said, under the rule of three families, only Rs. 15,000 crore investment came in Jammu and Kashmir in 70 years, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, an investment of Rs. 56,000 crore has come in just three years.

Amit Shah pauses...

his favour from the gathering.

After a brief moment, he said the call for prayer has now stopped and asked if he would continue his speech.

"Should I start or not? Say it loudly, should I start," he asked and then went on with his speech.

As Shah arrived at the mammoth rally, "Har har Modi, Har ghar Modi" slogans reverberated the air. The minister walked up to the podium and bowed in acknowledgement to the cheers.

He started his speech that lasted for less than half-an-hour with Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and later walked up to the people and shook hands with them.

Thousands throng rally...

'josh' (enthusiasm) among the people here," Fayaz Khan, a resident of Kupwara

said.

Toufeeq Ahmad, a resident of Karnah, told PTI, "We have so many hopes from the Home Minister's visit. This is the government that does what it says."

He welcomed the announcement on reservation made by Shah in Rajouri and said the people wanted to see it implemented soon.

"Our forefathers struggled for this. The announcement has brought a wave of happiness. But we want the home minister to implement this decision sooner," Ahmad said.

A large number of women were also present at the rally and sought their grievances to be addressed.

Ruksana Bano, a resident of Baramulla, said, "There are many developmental issues which should be addressed on priority. We need proper water supply and electricity. There is price rise and unemployment. Our children need jobs".

Many locals said the rally was arguably among the largest ones held in Baramulla so far.

Shah reviews J&K...

meeting on the security situation in the Union territory. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior officials of the Centre, and officers of the Army, CAPE, J-K Police and the Jammu and Kashmir government attended it.

The minister asked the security forces and the police to pro-actively conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations in order to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir.

"The terror eco-system comprising elements that aid, abet and sustain the terrorist-separatist campaign to the detriment of the well-being of the common man requires to be completely dismantled," Shah said.

He appreciated the efforts of the security agencies and the UT administration for keeping the streets free from violence and significantly restoring the rule of law.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign during the Independence Day celebrations saw unprecedented enthusiasm, the minister said.

The Union home minister called for the security grid to be further strengthened. He also reviewed the working of the security grid and the progress made on various items on the agenda in the previous meetings to reduce incidents of terrorism and the stranglehold of the separatist networks.

Cases registered under the UAPA were also reviewed, and it was stressed that investigation should be timely and effective.

Agencies concerned should work on improving capacities to ensure quality investigation, the home minister said.

Four terrorists killed...

Poterwaal Shopian. The injured person was immediately evacuated to the hospital by police where he succumbed to his injuries.

Quoting officials, a national news agency reported that the cop has been arrested.

Shah visits Chatti...

They said immediately after the function ended, Shah visited Rainawari area of the city and paid obeisance at the Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi.

He was accompanied LG Manoj Sinha and some BJP leaders.

The Union Home Minister also interacted with the devotees, the officials added.

Dussehra celebrated with...

Lord Hanuman, a great devotee of Lord Rama.

Before taking out of the Rath Yatra, traditional pooja was performed at Raghunath temple by Trustee Ranvijay Singh and president of the Trust Ajay Gandotra, wherein members of Trust's Advisory Committee and other prominent dignitaries besides devotees participated in large numbers.

It is pertinent to mention that the tradition of holding special Pooja on the occasion of Vijay Dashmi is over 150 years old and the same continued without any break since the inception of Dharmarth Trust.

After performing prayer, Ranvijay asserted that people should adopt good virtues from the great epics of Indian culture and lead their lives in such a manner that the same help in the development of the society and mankind as Hindu culture possessed treasures of knowledge and acted as beacon of light to show the right path to the people to have a meaningful life.

Ranvijay Singh also urged the young generation to associate themselves with the rich culture of the land as there is an immense knowledge base hidden in the same which can help create iconic personalities in the Indian sub-continent as was the case in the past. He said that the reason behind the erosion of society is disassociation of people from the roots and therefore it is imperative to once again come under the realms of religion and live exemplary lives helping India to feel proud of its population for showing the right direction to the entire world.

At Parade Ground, Ranvijay Singh joined stage with former Member Parliament Jugal Kishore, Swami Dinesh Bharti Maharaj, former Minister Priya Sethi, JMC Commissioner Rahul Yadav, Mahant Rameshwar Dass, Ajay Gandotra, President J&K Dharmarth Trust and many other dignitaries.

The authorities had made elaborate security arrangements at Parade and other parts of the city where from the Rath Yatra passed to avert any untoward incident.

A big contingent of police and security forces was deployed right from Ranbireswar Chowk to Parade to ensure fool proof security of the people attending the function.

Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust also celebrated Dussehra Festival in Dussehra Ground Gandhi Nagar with great pomp and show.

Former Dy. Chief Minister J&K, Kavinder Gupta was the Special Guest and Gulchain Singh Charak Former Minister and President of the Trust presided over the function.

This Festival marks the end of Durga Puja and reminds of the victory of Rama over Ravana.

Prominent amongst others who participated in Dussehra function include S. C Rekhi, Deepak Gupta, Prithvi Raj Vaid, Harish Malhotra, Kapil Slathia, Parshant Sharma, P.C Gupta, Lt. Gen Rakesh Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Ashok Khajuria and Sandeep Singh.

Besides the Trustees/Special Invitees hundreds of other devotees participated.

The programme culminated at 6.30 PM by igniting effigies of Ravana, Kumbkaran and Megnath besides Lanka.

Amit Shah visits...

Sheikh's graveyard and prayed for the departed soul, the officials said.

Sheikh, working as a Special Police Officer (SPO) in the Jammu and Kashmir Police, laid down his life while fighting three foreign terrorists of Jaish-e-Muhammad in an encounter at Najibhat Crossing in Kreeri.

DG Prisons H...

"No terror angle has emerged during investigation of the case of murder of H K Lohia. Interrogation of the accused is in progress. His disclosures are being corroborated with field investigation," the ADGP Mukesh Singh said in a brief statement.

The body of the slain officer was handed over to his family this morning for last rites after completion of legal and medical formalities. Later, a coffin carrying the mortal remains of the officer and wrapped in the Tricolour, was taken to District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu, where a wreath laying ceremony was held to pay homage to him.

Senior police officers, his batch mates, civil officers, businessmen, prominent citizens and media persons turned up and offered tributes to



Family members and relatives paying tributes to DG Prisons H.K Lohia.

the departed officer. Hundreds of people also joined them in paying their last respects.

His family members including wife Madhu Lohia, daughter and son were present at the wreath laying ceremony, which witnessed emotional scenes as many of his relatives broke down. "It is a very unfortunate incident as we have lost a dynamic and courageous officer. His departure is a big loss for the J&K police and the nation as a whole and the void left by him is impossible to be fulfilled," many said during the wreath laying ceremony.

After the wreath laying ceremony, the mortal remains of the officer were taken to the Jogi gate crematorium. The body was consigned to the flames amid gun salutes.

Bhagwat calls for...

for the next 30 years. However, what will happen to India after 50 years? Will we have enough food to feed the population? he added.

Bhagwat raised concerns over India's huge population.

"Our country has a huge population this is a reality. Nowadays there are two kinds of evaluation done on population. Populations require resources, if it keeps growing it becomes a big burden, perhaps an unbearable burden," he said.

Therefore, with the perspective of population control, plans are made. There is another dimension in which population is considered an asset. Focus is on appropriate training and maximum usage, Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief said scare-mongering was being done by some people that there was a danger to minorities, but asserted this was neither the nature of the Sangh nor of Hindus.

"The Sangh resolves to stand on the side of brotherhood, amity and peace, Bhagwat said at the Dussehra rally.

Raising concerns over inequality, he said "unless temples, water sources and cremation grounds are open to all Hindus, till such time the talk of equality will be a mere pipe dream".

There should be no recurrence of Udaipur and Amravati incidents (where a tailor and a pharmacist were killed after they support suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma), Bhagwat said, adding a particular community as a whole should not be taken as the root cause for it.

The RSS chief the concept of "Hindu Rashtra" is being taken seriously.

"Now, when the Sangh is receiving the affection and confidence of people and also has become strong, the concept of Hindu Rashtra is being taken seriously," he said. "Many people agree with the concept, but are opposed to the word 'Hindu' and they prefer to use other words. We don't have any issue with that. For the clarity of concept - we will keep emphasising the word Hindu for ourselves," he said.

He laid emphasis on women's empowerment and said a society cannot progress without women.

We must empower our women. Society cannot progress without women. Our prestige and credibility increased in the world. In the past, we put some restrictions on women although culturally we call them our mother out of respect. However, after the invasions that went on for decades, we legitimised those restrictions, he said.

Bhagwat said "horrific and grisly incidents" occurred in Udaipur and some other places recently which stunned the society made most of the people sad and angry.

After the Udaipur incident, few prominent persons from within the Muslim society voiced their protest against it. "This manner of protest should not be an isolated phenomenon within the Muslim society rather it should become the nature of their large sections," he said.

"Whatever be the extent of provocation, protests always have to be within the boundaries of laws and the Constitution. Our society should come together, not fall apart or quarrel," said Bhagwat.

Bhagwat said "The devotion to Bharat, the shining ideals of our ancestors and the great Sanskriti of our country, these are the three pillars which light up and pave our path on which we have to travel together with love and affection. This is our self-hood and Rashtra Dharma." The Sangh works to develop the entire society as an organised force. This work is Hindu Sangathan work because the above mentioned thought is called as the thought of Hindu nation and it is so, he said.

Bhagwat said the way India recently helped crisis-hit Sri Lanka and New Delhi's stand during the Ukraine-Russia conflict showed the country was being heard at the global level and that it was gradually becoming self-reliant on the national security front. "The way we helped Sri Lanka, and our stand during the Ukraine-Russia conflict shows that we are being heard. We are becoming more and more self-reliant on national security front as well, the RSS chief said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during in his address on the inauguration of the newly christened Kartavya Path' (a stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Delhi), gave a description of modern India's future based on economic, technological and cultural foundations.

"The government is to be commended for its clear enunciations. However, it is required that we all perform our responsibilities in word and deed in this direction," he said.

He said India's economy is returning to normalcy post-COVID-19 and world economists are predicting it will grow further. "After negotiating through the calamity of corona, our economy is inching towards the pre-pandemic levels," the RSS chief said. "In sports also our players are making the country proud, he noted.

Some corporators taking...

the @JmuKmrPolice Crime Branch and @SrinagarPolice has also taken cognizance," Mattoo said

He said the matter has been officially brought to the notice of the administration, seeking removal of the elected representative from a position of authority immediately, pending the final outcome of the investigation.

"Multiple witness statements have been recorded in the presence of Commissioner SMC, Srinagar Police officials and representatives of investigative agencies over the last two weeks. Documents and details sought from SMC have been promptly submitted to @JKACB - as sought," he said.

The Mayor said a symbiotic eco-system that has thrived on corruption, forgery and extortion is trying to distract attention from the investigation.

"That won't happen. There will be absolutely no compromise on corruption. The law will take its toll!" he said.

Mattoo said he would prefer the dissolution of the corporation and fresh elections than suppress the scam. "And let this be a one-time, LOUD and CLEAR message to those two-bit, humpen elements trying to pressurize me into suppressing this scam it is FAR better for me to seek the dissolution of SMC and fresh elections than to compromise with corruption and extortion," he said. Mattoo, however, did not name any corporator. The elections to the SMC are due next year.

IGNOU students meet MP Jugal, demand establishment of Exam Center in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) from Digiana and adjoining areas met Member Parliament (MP) Jammu Poonch Constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma and demanded establishment of exam center at Sant Mela Singh College of Education, Digiana Ashram.

Jugal Kishore assured them for early redressal of their demand and also sent a letter to Registrar, Students Evaluation Division, IGNOU Maidan Garhi, New Delhi for the same.

In his letter, Jugal said, "The students from Digiana and adjoining areas approached me regarding establishment of Examination Center at Sant Mela Singh College of Education Digiana Ashram Jammu as they informed me that this center is much convenient for them and they can easily approach the same without travelling. They also informed me that this Center is adjoining to the roadside and local transport is also available for nearby area students."

In view of their demand which seems to be quite genuine, Jugal urged Registrar, Students Evaluation Division, to establish IGNOU examination center at Sant Mela Singh College of Education for students' convenience.

Sikh family kidnapping in California: Person of interest in custody, 4 victims still missing

■ AGENCY

LOS ANGELES: A 48-year-old man considered a person of interest in the kidnapping of a four-member Sikh family, including an 8-month-old child, in the US state of California has been taken into custody and is in critical condition after he tried to kill himself, authorities said, even as the victims are still missing.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur; Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California, on Monday.

The family was identified as 8-month-old Arohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh. A vehicle owned by one of the family members was found on fire late Monday, which led law enforcement to determine that the four had been kidnapped. According to a news release, detectives received information Tuesday morning that one of the victim's bank cards was used at an ATM in Atwater in Merced County. Investigators obtained the surveillance photo of a subject making a bank transaction where the person is similar in appearance to the surveillance photo from the original kidnapping scene, the Merced County Sheriff's Office statement says. Before law enforcement involvement, the suspect identified as Jesus Manuel Salgado attempted to take his own life, and is currently in custody, receiving medical attention and in critical condition.