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Congress absorbed slave...

only two things - abuse Modi ahead of polls to please the voters and then blame EVMs after voting," said the BJP's top campaigner.

He slammed past Congress governments for "widening" the rift between the rich and the poor in the country and "looting" the funds meant for the welfare of the deprived sections of society.

"A former Congress PM used to say that out of Re 1 sent by the Centre, only 15 paise reaches the poor," Modi said, referring to the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's famous quote from the 1980s.

"In those days, local bodies, state governments and the Centre were ruled by the Congress. The BJP was not in the picture then. So which 'palm' was responsible for siphoning off 85 paise?" he stated in a dig at the Congress's poll symbol.

Targeting the grand old party further, Modi alleged it only believed in 'atkana, latkana aur bhatkana' (stalling, delaying and misleading), and said those who looted the poor in the country were now abusing him for putting an end to corruption.

Speaking at a rally in Kankrej village of Banaskantha district, he maintained the previous Congress governments never showed any interest in bringing the Narmada river water to the parched regions of Gujarat as the party was only interested in doing those works where there was scope for corruption.

The PM accused the Congress of trying to stall the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam and supporting those who delayed the project through litigations, a veiled reference to Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activist Medha Patkar.

"Can the people of Banaskantha forgive those who indulged in this sin of stopping water from coming here? The Congress was responsible for keeping Banaskantha thirsty. They must be punished. I hope you will not forget this during polling," Modi said.

According to him, it was the BJP government which brought the Narmada river water to this parched region.

The PM said his government had pumped in nearly Rs 1 lakh crore to finish as many as 99 water supply schemes which were abandoned across the country during Congress rule.

Without taking names, Modi said those who "looted" poor citizens are now giving him 'gaalis' (abuses) for putting an end to corrupt practices like cancelling nearly four crore fake ration cards.

"Foodgrains meant for the poor were diverted somewhere else. If you rob the poor, Modi will take action. And when such people are caught, they start abusing me," he said.

Modi said the way people took part in voting on December 1 in the first phase covering 89 Assembly seats, he was confident of the BJP victory in Gujarat.

Before addressing the rally, the PM visited the Augarnath Temple in Kankrej and offered prayers.

Speaking at a campaign rally at Sojitra town, the Prime Minister accused the Congress of disowning Sardar Vallabhji Patel, and said it absorbed "slave mentality" after working with the British prior to Independence.

"The Congress has a problem not only with Sardar Patel, but also with the unity of India, because their politics is based on the policy of divide and rule, while Patel believed in uniting everyone. Due to this stark difference, the Congress never considered Sardar Patel as their own," the PM said.

"Congress people had worked with the British for several years (ahead of Independence). As a result, the party absorbed all the bad habits of British, such as this policy of divide and rule and the slave mentality," he added.

The Opposition party's leaders avoid visiting the Statue of Unity, built in memory of Sardar Patel in Narmada district, Modi alleged.

"Just because the statue has been built by Modi, Patel became untouchable for you? I am sure the people of Anand district will punish the Congress for insulting Sardar Patel," the PM added.

The second phase of voting covering 93 Gujarat Assembly seats will take place on December 5. Polling for 89 seats in the first phase concluded on December 1. The votes polled in all the 182 seats will be counted on December 8.

Chauhan posted as...

with additional charge of Administrative Secretary Planning Department.

AC approves regulations...

manage and regulate the established Mandies in J&K and will remove the operational difficulties faced due to non-existing of statutory mechanism as on date. The Board will be headed by the ACS, APD and will have representatives of Mandies and Food Associations as Members as also other official members.

In terms of the new mechanism, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K to declare any CA Store, Cold Store, Ware House with above 3 ton capacity and cooperatives/FPOs/SHGs, Store centers as sub-yards of Mandies for purpose of doing trade on e-Nam platforms and for making e-payments on the e-Nam Portal.

Director, Horticulture (Planning and Marketing), J&K will be the sole Authority to issue unified licenses for carrying out trade in any Mandi in the UT of J&K. It has a provision to allow outside J&K traders to do trade on the e-Nam with the growers and traders of J&K. For this purpose, the Director, Horticulture (Planning and Marketing), is allowed to recognize the licenses issued by the outside APMCs as valid licenses for doing trade on e-Nam portal on mutual understanding basis with other States/UTs.

5 arrested for...

posing as terrorists, officials said here on Friday.

Acting on complaints from several areas of Kargil district, police constituted a special team to arrest them, they said.

A special mobile checkpoint was also set up at Yaripora to catch the five, they said.

Those arrested have been identified as Nazir Mushtaq Malik, Khalid Hussain Deedad, Rizwan Ahmad Deedad, Karman Ahmad Deedad and Abrar Ahmad Teadwa.

The vehicle used in the commission of the crimes has also been seized, they said.

Besides, two toy guns, one toy pistol, two cutters, five mobile phones and

CRIME REPORT

Man found dead in mysterious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A person died in suspicious conditions in Chatta area. Police has registered a case in this regard and started further action.

As per reports, relatives of Gurdayal, son of Annat Ram, resident of Hakkal Morh, on finding him lying unconscious in house, shifted him to hospital, where he was declared as brought dead by doctors. On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and took body into custody. A case has been registered for further investigation.

Four die in mishaps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Four persons died in road mishaps in different areas of Jammu on Friday.

According to information, Irfan Ahmed, son of Mohd Yusuf, resident of Banihal got hit by a vehicle in Tikri area, due to which he got injured. He was admitted to hospital for treatment, but he died during the treatment. Moreover, one Raj Kumar, son of Gyan Chand, resident of Bari Brahmana also got hit by a vehicle and shifted to hospital for treatment. He also died during treatment.

Meanwhile, one Rattan Lal, son of Navu Ram, resident of Balay Da Bagh was also hit by a vehicle, due to which he got

injured. He was shifted to hospital for treatment but doctors declared him as brought dead.

Another person, namely Dharam Dutt, son of Bansi Lal, resident of R S Pura also died in Gangyal after getting hit by a vehicle. Police has registered all cases and started investigation.

Woman found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A woman was found hanging in her house in Canal road area.

According to information, one Sheetal Rani, wife of Raj Kumar, resident of Company Bagh was found hanging in house by her relatives. She was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment, but was declared as brought dead by doctors. Police is investigating the matter.

Thieves decamp with Rs 7 lakh from shop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A theft was reported in a shop at Super Bazar area under City Police Station.

According to information, a complaint was lodged with Police by owner of shop stating that when he came to open shop in morning like other days, he found that shutter locks were broken. On going inside, he found that thieves decamped with Rs 7 lakh from the shop. Police has registered a case and started further action.

Two nabbed with 275 Kg poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Police has recovered 275 Kg poppy straw from a

truck and arrested two accused on Friday. As per details, during routine checking on National Highway, Ramban police recovered 275 Kg poppy straw from a truck, hidden in apple boxes. The driver and other accused, identified as Tanveer Ahmed and Sahil Nazir, residents of Sopore were arrested on the spot and a case was registered against them under relevant sections of law.

HC grants bail...

the petitioner. The Special Judge, Anti Corruption, Jammu deemed the stage of the investigation warranting no bail to the petitioner without attending the case from the perspective as to whether with respect to the commission of offence alleged in the FIR no. 02/2022, there was any purpose for the continuing custody of the petitioner by the arresting authority.

Court further observed that a successful prosecution of a criminal case in a court of law is based upon quality of police investigation with respect to the facts and circumstances of the case attending the commission of offences and not by length of continuing custody of a suspect or an accused during the course of investigation. An investigation authority is bound to show and demonstrate on factual basis as to how if an accused is admitted to bail in a case before finalization of police investigation and consequent presentation of police report under section 173 Cr. P.C, 1973, the investigation work is likely to suffer hurdles/obstacles to the prejudice of taking the investigation to the truth of the matter. Just by sound effects of expressions that the bail granted will jeopardize/undermine investigation may not suffice to deny bail to an accused under custody at the hands of the Police.

Justice Rahul Bharti while granting bail to DYSP, observed that FIR relates to the trap case for demand and acceptance of bribe which is carried out in the presence of police officials of the anti corruption as well as the public servants solicited as shadow and independent witnesses, the investigation of the case is not supposed to last long for asking continuing custody of the petitioner. In view of this, this Court sees no reason to deny bail to the petitioner in the present case.

Chief Secretary bids...

Kansal said that he has an emotional connection to J&K and has fond memories with everyone here and is overwhelmed by the affection he has received.

He said that he has received out of way cooperation and support from everyone, officers, staff and people alike in J&K.

He added that as he is moving out of J&K, he is hoping that he would always be there to support whatever way he can.

Recalling their service stint with Rohit Kansal, several administrative secretaries recollect the role he had played during their initial period of services in J&K. They credited the success of flagship programmes like Back to Village and My Town My Pride to Rohit Kansal.

HC upholds order...

estimate was prepared by the CPWD which was approved by the competent authority of the University by according administrative approval for an amount of Rs.11,84,87,000 vide its letter dated 14.01.2013. On receipt of administrative approval and expenditure sanction from the University, the petitioner who was posted as Executive Engineer at the relevant time with CPWD, Srinagar, prepared the estimate of the work and the same was processed in the office of the Chief Engineer, Central Zone, Jammu, for accord of technical sanction of the competent authority. After the technical sanction by the Chief Engineer, NIT, regarding construction of boundary wall was approved for an amount of Rs.11,47,51,471 and the tenders were invited. The tender of M/s Sheikh Sons was accepted being the lowest one and an intimation in this regard was given by the petitioner to the contractor M/s Sheikh Sons informing him that his bid for an amount of Rs.9,38,81,717 had been accepted and approved by the Chief Engineer.

According to the prosecution case, the petitioner remained posted as Executive Engineer, CPWD, from 16.07.2012 to 06.12.2013 and he had signed the contract agreement with accused Sheikh Nayem Ahmad. It was revealed that the work of construction of boundary wall around the land of the Central University at Ganderbal was allotted to M/s Sheikh Sons Prop. Sheikh Mohammad Yaqoob but instead of said person, the contract was signed by accused Sheikh Nayem Ahmad. According to the prosecution case, the petitioner and other co-accused were in a criminal conspiracy in the execution of the sub-standard work and thereby they caused wrongful loss to the Government exchequer and wrongful gain to the M/s Sheikh Sons.

885 Kg poppy...

Kashmir were arrested and the truck has been seized, they said.

ANTF is investigating further links after the registration of the case. More arrests are expected, they said.

Anti Narcotic Task Force has appealed to the general public to share information regarding such drug dealers so that appropriate legal actions are taken against them and this menace is uprooted from our society.

BJP nominates new...

of Pahari Zila (Basohli) District; Arun Gupta as President of Udhampur District; Rajeshwar Kumar as President of Ramban District; Vijay Mohan Thakur as President of Doda District; Chuni Lal Shah as President of Kishtwar District; Chand Ji Bhat as President of Kashmir Displaced District; Nazir Ahmed Ganai as President of Anantnag District; Zubair Ahmed Ganai as President of Kulgam District; Mohd. Latif Bhat as President of Pulwama District; Mohd. Yousuf Bhat as President of Shopian District; Ashok Bhat as President of Srinagar District; Sameer Ahmed Shah as President of Budgam District; Mohd. Amin Shah as President of Ganderbal District; G. M. Sofi as President of Baramulla District; Abdul Rehman Lone as President of Kupwara District; and Naseer Ahmed Lone as President of Bandipora District.



Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta presenting a gift to Principal Secretary HED Rohit Kansal.

US designates 4...

said. As part of its relentless efforts to ensure that terrorists do not use Afghanistan as a platform for international terrorism, the US is committed to using its full set of counterterrorism tools to counter the threat posed by terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan, including AQIS and TTP, he said in a statement.

Founded in September 2014, AQIS is an Islamist militant organisation that aims to fight the governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh in order to establish an Islamic state.

TTP, commonly known as the Pakistani Taliban, is an umbrella organisation of various Islamist armed militant groups operating along the Afghan Pakistani border. Formed in 2007, the group shares a common ideology with the Afghan Taliban and assisted them in the 2001 2001 war.

Amarinder, Jakhar made...

induction into the BJP as there had been no formal announcement so far since he quit the Congress. In a tweet, Shergill thanked the BJP leadership for his appointment.

In other appointments, former BJP presidents of Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh Madan Kaushik and Vishnu Deo Sai Rana as well as Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Manoranjan Kalia and Amanjot Kaur Ramoowalia, all three from Punjab, were made special invitees to the national executive, the party said.

Singh, a two-term Punjab chief minister, had joined the BJP in September along with many of his supporters. He also tweeted his thanks to the party leadership. Jakhar, a former Lok Sabha MP, had joined the party in May.

With two of the three new national executive members hailing from Punjab and three of the five special invitees as well, the BJP's decision underscores its effort to boost its presence in the border state where the political scene has been in a churn with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) coming to power while traditionally strong parties such as the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Congress in decline. Shergill also hails from Punjab.

The BJP's efforts to emerge as a big force in the state during the last assembly polls were largely in vain against the AAP's sweep as it could win only two seats in the 117-member assembly.

Every form of...

themselves and their families," he said. The CJI said the Indian experiment with universal adult franchise contradicts all myths against it.

"It was believed that only a few had the wisdom to vote. Our experience tells us that even the most vulnerable have the political consciousness to choose the leader they want," he said.

"Therefore, we must reject every form of elite understanding of the democratic process which we keep hearing constantly that only the educated are better decision-makers," the CJI said.

He said the elite perception that only the educated or a few individuals should have the right to vote shows contempt and distrust towards democracy.

Speaking about Dr L M Singhvi, the CJI said he was an astute jurist, a fierce parliamentarian, a prolific writer and an encyclopedia of knowledge on Indian history and culture.

During his lecture, Justice Chandrachud said reservation of seats for women and marginalised social groups in 'panchayats' has given them the power to shape their own destinies, and it is a "silent revolution" ushered in by universal adult franchise.

He said universal adult franchise helped establish a sense of belonging and responsibility among citizens as equal stakeholders in the country's progress.

"This sense of belonging and faith in democracy is best captured by the life of late Shri Shyam Saran Negi, the first voter of independent India in 1951, who recently passed away on 5th November, 2022 just three days after voting for 34th time in the Uttarakhand state assembly elections," he said.

The CJI said the citizens' ability to participate in electoral democracy and promote good governance was also enhanced through the tool of Right to Information.

"The actual realisation of one's vote is to continuously participate in democracy in everyday life, to ask questions from the elected representatives and to keep the state accountable," he said. Referring to the historical context to understand universal adult franchise, Justice Chandrachud said the demand for equal voting rights and to become a part of the political process emerged from the marginalised communities across the world. He said when negotiations to give rights to Indians and to draft their Constitution were happening in the 20th century, Babasaheb Ambedkar led a strong demand that conception of a free India cannot happen without giving universal adult franchise. The CJI said marginalised communities had to struggle every inch to claim equal rights and therefore, the idea of universal adult franchise is not just a political idea but is social at its core.

"The Preamble of the Constitution beginning with the words 'We the People' made it abundantly clear that the will of people of India was the source of sovereign authority and that India was to be constituted as a sovereign secular democratic republic," he said.

He said right from the very first elections in independent India, Indian citizens have demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm in participating in the electoral process.

"Several constitutional commentators had believed that India will not be able to survive as a constitutional democracy. But the Indian citizens have proved such thoughts to be wrong," the CJI said.

He said one aspect which we must emphasise is the participation in the electoral process by those communities who initially did not have the right to vote but were granted the right by the Constitution.