

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

BJP sweeps polls...

BJP managed to stave off anti-incumbency in a shot in the arm for four-time chief minister Shivrāj Singh Chauhan and dashing the hopes of a resurgent Congress helmed by veteran and former CM Kamal Nath.

Winning 141 seats and leading in 24, the BJP got a simple majority and could get two-thirds majority in a House of 230. Congress bagged 45 and was leading in 19.

Suspense also mounted as to who will be the BJP's chief minister in any of the three Hindi heartland states.

Clouds of gulf, shouts of Jai Shri Ram, joyful jigs and crackers were the sights and sounds of celebration in BJP offices with party workers and leaders unanimous in attributing the win to Modi's "guarantees".

"The election results show people accept Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee of delivering on guarantees," BJP leader and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Modi turned on the heat on the Congress over its poll guarantees by projecting himself as a leader who has delivered on the promises made by him to help the common man meet his aspirations. "Modi Yaani Har Guarantee Poori Hone Ki Guarantee (Modi means the guarantee to fulfill every guarantee)," he had said in an article last week.

Free food grain, income assistance for farmers, housing for all, 100 per cent electrification of villages, and tap water to every home, were listed by the BJP as some of Modi's guarantees in Chhattisgarh.

After the Congress' loss in three key states, rumblings have surfaced in the opposition bloc INDIA ahead of their meeting on December 6, with many leaders claiming that the grand old party ignored others, but was unable to win elections on its own.

The loss for Congress, which made a loud pitch for caste census and adopted a soft Hindutva approach, also appeared to weaken its position in the INDIA bloc where party equations could change, as other opposition parties may no longer consider it as the fulcrum of the opposition alliance.

"The poll results show the defeat of the Congress and the victory of the BJP. The Congress ignored other INDIA parties, but was unable to win on its own," said JD(U) leader K C Tyagi.

With BJP dislodging the Congress hit by factionalism in Rajasthan, the desert state stuck to a nearly 30-year-old 'rivalz' (tradition) of not voting an incumbent party back to power: The BJP got a majority bagging 115 seats after voting was held for 199 constituencies. The Congress notched 69 seats

The Chhattisgarh outcome was a surprise for many Congress leaders who were hoping for another stint in power in the state by fending off the BJP challenge.

The day began with both parties neck and neck but, as counting continued, the BJP consolidated its lead and won or was ahead in 54 seats. The Congress won or was ahead in 35 seats in the 90-member house.

The K Chandrashekar Rao-led BRS hoped for a hat-trick in Telangana but was dethroned by the Congress. Annamula Revanth Reddy, a Lok Sabha MP who led the Congress' charge, could be the second chief minister of the state.

The Congress won 61 seats and was leading in three in the 119-member House. The BRS bagged 33 and was ahead in six.

The BJP put up a good showing and increased its tally in the southern state with the victory of its candidate K Venkata Ramana Reddy in Kamareddy against both the outgoing chief minister KCR and Revanth Reddy, who is the TPCC chief, being the highlight. KCR and Revanth Reddy, however, won from Gajwel and Kodangal constituencies respectively. BJP won 8 seats, up from one seat, and doubled its vote share from the 2018 polls to nearly 14 per cent.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Assembly results have proved that the days of appeasement and caste politics are over and that 'new India' votes on politics of performance.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the party will overcome temporary setbacks and prepare fully for the Lok Sabha polls along with its partners in the INDIA alliance.

"Congress' performance in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan assembly polls disappointing," he said.

Basking in his hour of glory, Chief Minister Chouhan said the state government implemented schemes like the Ladli Lakshmi and Ladli Behna and a lot of work was done for the welfare of farmers, poor people and youth.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is in the hearts of the people of Madhya Pradesh. The state is also in the heart of Modi ji."

Taking a swipe at Gehlot, born into a family of magicians, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the magic has ended and people in Rajasthan have voted for the honour of women and for the welfare of the poor.

The BJP amplified its pitch around the prime minister during the Assembly polls as its manifestoes featured his guarantees, with Modi crisscrossing the poll-bound states, except for Mizoram, to seek popular support to deliver on his welfare and development promises.

Modi addressed 14 rallies each in Rajasthan and MP and five in Chhattisgarh after the polls were announced. He held two massive roadshows in Rajasthan and one in MP and his entries in many of rally venues were marked by a drive through cheering supporters.

The extent of the party's win in Chhattisgarh and MP has taken even some of its leaders by surprise, as most exit polls gave the Congress an edge in the former and were mixed in their forecast for the latter.

A campaign devised by its central leadership with Home Minister Shah focussing more on MP and Chhattisgarh worked like a magic, party leaders said.

Together, the five states have 84 Lok Sabha seats - MP with 29, Chhattisgarh 11,

Rajasthan 25, Telangana 17 and Mizoram two.

J&K Tourism bags...

is a significant achievement for the tourism sector.

In a compelling destination presentation, Abdul Jabbar garnered a positive response, showcasing the diverse offerings of Jammu and Kashmir. During the subsequent question-answer session, he clarified queries raised by the engaged attendees.

During media interactions, Abdul Jabbar highlighted the remarkable progress of J&K Tourism under the visionary leadership of Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah. He shared that there has been a significant increase in tourist footfall, both from local and foreign visitors. Emphasizing the identification of 75 new offbeat destinations, Jabbar outlined the focused efforts to promote these unique locations, along with the potential of MICE tourism in J&K. He reiterated the commitment to sustainable tourism practices and film tourism. Additionally, he extended a warm invitation to explore the serene beauty of Jammu and Kashmir, inviting everyone to partake in exciting winter sports activities.

Committed to end...

The Lt Governor congratulated and commended the recipients of awards for their determination and hard work in pursuit of excellence in their respective fields.

He shared the efforts of the UT Administration towards socio-economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and developing an enabling environment for them to lead a dignified life.

He said the Administration has also taken steps to recognise 100 percent visual disability as benchmark disability for MTS post, increase in number of benchmark disabilities for various posts in Government sector and 200 percent increase in distribution of retrofitted scooties to achieve saturation.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts are being made to create accessible infrastructure for Divyangjan in government buildings and major public places, he added.

The Lt Governor urged all sections of the society to join the J&K Administration's endeavour in ensuring complete integration of Divyangjan into the mainstream and their effective participation in socio-economic activities with dignity.

He also assured every support and assistance from the administration to Persons with Disabilities in their entrepreneurial and business ventures.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a book titled "Swarn Dhara".

Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; Rahul Sahai, Chairman PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Ritu Singh, founding Chairperson FICCI FLO J&K; Dr Anita Sharma, Vice President, Kalpana Kala Kendra; Prof Avinash Chandra Mishra from Delhi University; Indu Sannoo, CEO Samsidh Group of Schools Bangalore, senior officers and people from various states and UTs were present.

Election results in...

the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) – said while the BJP is not expected to talk about the minorities, the grand old party has also abandoned them in favour of the SCs and the STs over the years.

"It is a matter of concern and needs pondering over: While Indira Gandhi would talk about the Muslims and the SCs being poor; it later became minorities and SCs. The new leadership over the past eight-nine years has ignored the minorities and limited itself to only the SCs and the STs," he added.

Comprehensive security situation...

of infiltration, law and order; and other issues related to day-to-day policing in north Kashmir's Kupwara and Handwara," the spokesman said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Baramulla, Vivek Gupta was also present in the meetings, the spokesperson said.

The participating officers provided comprehensive briefings, offering invaluable insights into the prevailing security scenario, the existing security grid, and operational strategies employed to counter the challenges posed by recent trends of infiltration, he said.

"They presented an overview of the proactive steps initiated in their respective districts to address challenges and threats faced by inimical elements at the ground level," the spokesperson said.

The IGP directed the officers to work without any prejudice, take stern action against those violating the law, and ensure that law enforcement agencies are well prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any security untoward incidents.

He stressed upon the officers to increase focus on human intelligence along with technical inputs and to intensify anti-terrorist operations to flush out the inimical elements.

He also exhorted upon them to take stringent action against any person or organisation supporting anti-national activities.

In addition to anti-terrorist operations, the spokesperson said the meetings addressed

broader concerns related to the overall security scenario.

Consider anyone coming...

be booked for treason and terrorism of the highest level," he added.

Svain said the security along the border areas is tight but attempts are being made from across the border to disrupt peace in the Union Territory.

"In the recent past, the tunnels were dug at different places to push terrorists and weapons which was a challenge. Drone is another challenge and the people have to play a role (in countering this challenge)," Svain told reporters in Samba district.

Referring to a meeting in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the DGP said it was conveyed at the highest authority level that there is a lot of population who can work as eyes and ears because conventional methodology like air defence systems do not pick up the movement of drones given its technology.

"The drone intrudes stealthily like a rat. We want a system in place at the police station and police post-level with a focus to respond as quickly as possible on hearing about it (drone movement), trace and its interdiction besides intelligence gathering to know exactly when it is air-borne," he added.

The DGP said it is by a combination of intelligence, investigation, area domination and people's cooperation to make their work so difficult that they will understand it is of no use.

Asked about the growing terrorist activities in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region, Svain said that "sweeping statements cannot tell us about the real situation" "Operational secrecy does not allow revealing the number of active terrorists. We do not talk about the numbers because it cannot tell anything about the situation. Even two persons can carry out a major incident," he added.

The DGP said that attempts are being made from across the border to disrupt peace.

"We are a border state and that cannot be changed," he added.

Svain said that "planning and strategy is needed to take on this challenge".

"I have previously said that it is a challenge or a challenge is being thrown at us. Whether it will overwhelm us, the answer is no," he added.

The DGP said the "people have a major role to play in countering such types of challenges". He further said the people are actively cooperating with the security agencies in the fight against terrorism, adding the security forces are getting dozens of inputs about the terrorists in Poonch-Rajouri belt.

"Even at places, the people have themselves caught hold of the terrorists," Svain said, referring to arrest of dreaded terrorist Talib Hussain Shah of Rajouri and his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama who were overpowered by the villagers of Tukson Dhok in Reasi in July last year and later handed over to the police.

Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Pahalgam, Gulmarg reel...

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was 1.4 degrees Celsius, a dip of over three notches from 4.8 degrees Celsius recorded the previous night, MeT officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius, down from 3.4 degrees Celsius observed the previous night, they said.

Kokernag town in south Kashmir registered a minimum of 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in the north, recorded a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The three-week dry spell in Kashmir ended on Thursday with snowfall in the middle and higher reaches of the valley and rains in the plains. The intermittent snowfall continued at some places such as Sonamarg in central Kashmir on Friday morning as well. The Met office said the weather would remain mainly dry till December 10.

Nation is proud of BSF's commitment in protecting our borders: LG Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Raising Day celebrations of Border Security Force (BSF) at Frontier Officers Institute, on Sunday. The Lt Governor extended his warm greetings to Veterans, all personnel, officers and their families.

The Lt Governor tweeted: "Attended BSF's Raising Day celebrations at Frontier Officers Institute today. Extended my greetings to Veterans, all personnel, officers & their families. The nation is proud of BSF's commitment in protecting our borders, ensuring the integrity of the country & safety of citizens".



LG Manoj Sinha attending BSF's Raising Day celebrations in Jammu on Sunday.

JKTJAC raises burning issues of teaching fraternity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar held at Udhampur on Sunday. The meeting was attended by the JKTJAC representatives from all the eleven zones of the district.

While speaking on the occasion Vinod Sharma highlighted the burning issues of the teaching fraternity and appealed the authorities to resolve them amicably for the welfare of thousands of teachers of the UT.

While speaking he appealed the Director School Education Jammu to issue regularisation orders of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period as they are waiting for their regularisa-

tion for a long time .He also demanded conversion of RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III whose files are lying in DSEJ office so that their salary get released. He further demanded immediate conversion of EVs to ReTs as they have been working in the department for last 20 years and even some have retired from the department.

He said that all these categories of teachers mentioned are without salary for last more than two years and all this is under the authenticity of worthy Director School Education Jammu and urged him to come in the rescue of these teachers who are on the verge of starvation.

Demanding issuance of mutual transfer list he said that many files are lying in DSEJ office for last more than 6 months and need to be cleared at the earliest.

Other demands highlighted on the occasion included:

Comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under ReT scheme as these teachers have been working in the same schools for last more than 20 years , Conversion of headteachers posts into non plan posts of masters to resolve the salary issue of the masters; Release of more than one year Mid Day Meals dues which the teachers have managed from their own pockets, Raising Grade of teachers at par with their counter parts in other UTs; Filling up of vacant posts ZEOs and Headmasters as many zones and High Schools are headless, Issuance of DPC list of teachers to masters and masters to Headmasters.

He also demanded the settlement of GP fund (Refundable and non refundable) cases of teaching and non teaching staff of education department which are lying in different treasuries

for last 6 to 8 months due to non availability of cash.

On the occasion Lekh Raj Parihar appealed to the Chief Education Officer Udhampur to make provision of atleast two teachers in each Primary school so that studies of the students go on smoothly . He also demanded post facto/ enrollment permission in favour of teachers whose files are lying in the CEO office Udhampur.

Others who also spoke on the occasion were: Sham Parkash Sharma, Ashok Seth, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Shamsher Singh, Suresh Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Amit Gupta, Sham Singh, Ashok Verma, Ranjit Singh, Rakesh Singh, Narinder Dogra, Raj Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar, Pankaj Thakur, Parveen Singh, Sudesh Singh, Parshant Sharma, Ravinder Atri and others.

Don't fall prey to deceit of traditional political parties any longer: Bukhari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Sunday, urged people not to fall prey to the deceit of traditional political parties any further. He emphasized unity and stated that conventional politicians always divide people based on caste and creed for their political gains.

He delivered this message during a vibrant public rally held in the Nambra village of northern Kashmir's Uri. The people thronged to the event and gave a rousing reception to Apni Party president and other esteemed leaders upon their arrival at the venue. Bukhari, while addressing the rally, said, "The traditional politicians have been deceiving people to attain and retain power. Even in 1947, they started by dividing people on the basis of caste for their political advantages."

"Enough is enough; it's time



JKAP President S.M.A Bukhari addressing gathering at Uri.

to stop falling prey to deceptive politics any longer and to maintain unity for your greater interests," he urged people.

Recalling the deaths and destruction that the people of Uri have faced over the years due to the confrontation between the armies on both sides, Bukhari said, "People who live on the borders have suffered greatly over the years simply because they were easy targets of firing and shelling from both sides. I hope this

situation will change, as history stands witness to the fact that when enemies decide to end the enmity, peace and prosperity begin."

He said, "I promise you that the Apni Party's government will ensure the Mohra powerhouse is rebuilt, and the power generated from this project will be exclusively allocated to the residents of this area. Also, we will ensure that local youth receive preferential consideration for employment opportunities arising from the

infrastructure development in this region."

"I assure you that I will never disappoint you; Apni Party will get the people of Uri out from miseries and deprivation by using the natural resources of this area," he promised.

On this occasion, Apni Party's senior leader and vice president, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, harshly criticized the National Conference and Congress, blaming these parties for the miseries of the people living on the borders.

Manhas presented historical facts to justify his criticism. He said, "We know as a matter of fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah are solely responsible for the miseries and suffering that people living on borders have been facing over the past seven decades. In 1948, when the Indian Army was pushing the raiders back, these leaders ensured a ceasefire here, which eventually created a border in places where Gujjar-Bakewal tribes and the Pahari community were dominantly residing. The creation of the border not only divided these populations but also made them vulnerable. The ceasefire was deliberately ensured to make Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah an undisputed leader in Kashmir."

Addressing the rally, the party's senior leader and former mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu, said that as soon as the autocratic rule of the Maharaja ended in Jammu and Kashmir over seventy years ago, the National Conference established its own dynastic rule in the region.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Euphoric with the victory in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan elections, BJP leaders celebrated the victory in Ghagwal and Hiranagar by distributing sweets under the leadership of BJP DDC Suresh Kumar Falli and BJP OBC Morcha National Secretary Rashpal Verma.

On the other hand, to celebrate the victory of the market from Hiranagar Ram Leela Club, the workers and people celebrated the victory by taking out a rally under the leadership of former Municipal Committee Chairman and BJP leader



BJP workers celebrating victory at Samba.

Advocate Vijay Sharma. In celebration of BJP's victory, Bharatiya Janata Party former MLA Kuldeep Raj and his workers have started celebrating in Hiranagar Morh. Mandal President Rajesh Upadhyay Kaka, District Vice President Geeta

Bhagat, District vice president Kishore Kumar, Mahila Morcha Mandal President Renu Vala, Indresh Sharma Bittu, Nishant Sharma, Ankush Sharma Billu, Om Pal Sharma, Suresh Sambyal, Naresh Sharma and others were present.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: A meeting of all the Disabled Persons was held in Sub Division Nowshera under the Chairmanship of Vinod Kumar Sharma, Sr. Vice President All J&K Handicapped Welfare Association District AJKHW (Rajouri) on the occasion of World Disabled Day. Person with Disability of sub Division Nowshera participated in programme and highlighted their demands which include enhancement monthly pension as at present Social Welfare Deptt. is dispensing pension @1000/- per month



Vinod Kumar Sharma, Sr. Vice President All J&K Handicapped Welfare Association and others during meeting.

which is not sufficient to fulfill the need of the disabled persons. They requested to increase the pension upto the 5000 per

month.

Creation of separate Directorate department as Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment Govt. of