

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Entire terror ecosystem...

from Pakistan enter by taking advantage of the ceasefire, but these terrorists now carry out incidents just to register their presence."

Sinha said that it was after 34 years that the Moharram procession was taken out in the state where people participated. "I feel that, like in the entire country, the people of J&K should also have the independence to celebrate their festivals, and this is what happened in J&K", he added

While talking about the changing face of Kashmir, Sinha stressed that "the state tax revenue is better than the average of other states, while in terms of infrastructure development today, Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of highways and tunnels are going on in the Union Territory. Additionally, the UT is working at a speed of 10 times more than the national average in completing projects", he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "The land laws in the J&K were regressive but now we have digitised the land records which are available in three languages namely Hindi, English and Urdu."

Similarly while talking about the agricultural development; Sinha said that stress has been laid on a "holistic agriculture development plan after which the state is fifth in terms of the earnings of farmers".

On the question of talks with Pakistan, Manoj Sinha said, "Talk and terror can't go together. We will only talk to the youth of Kashmir and the people here and try to give them all help and all the facilities they want."

Regarding the question of statehood, LG Sinha said, "Election preparations are an ongoing process and after removal of Article 370 the work of delimitation started, now the voter list has been revised, names added and soon Lok Sabha polls will take place.

After this, hopefully by September this year, Assembly polls will take place. A full team of the Election Commission is coming to J&K on March 12. I am sure that the government of India will give statehood at an appropriate time."

He refused to talk about PoK saying, "It is MEA's work and we should let it do the work." He also added that there is complete freedom to everyone for political activities in J&K.

Sinha told the gathering that "J&K's sports budget is the highest in the country". He said that Sachin Tendulkar who was on a visit to Kashmir told him that 'Kashmir badal gaya hai!'

He said for renovation and restoration of heritage sites Rs 200 crore have been earmarked, be it temple, church, mosque or gurdwara.

He also said, "Pakistan polls do not have any effect in J&K and the people here are aware that their future is only with India. Pakistan has only misguided the youth here, killed innocents and done nothing."

LG Manoj Sinha signed off by saying, "I have an important work of J&K which I am doing with honesty. I feel it is Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Amarnath's Aashirvad that I have been given this work. It will be great for me if I am able to make Jammu and Kashmir like another state of the country."

For 'Viksit Bharat...

Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Incharge J&K.

Along with Tarun Chugh, Ravinder Raina, President J&K BJP, Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary, besides Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari, J&K BJP, Devinder Singh Rana, former MLA, Adv Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, Adv Abhinav Sharma, Spokesperson and other senior leaders were addressing to the media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The BJP also launched a mobile number 9090902024, on which any person can give suggestions to the party.

Tarun Chugh and Ravinder Raina launched the programme of 'Sankalp Patra Suggestion Campaign' and 'Developed India - Modi's Guarantee Campaign' in Jammu & Kashmir.

Chugh said, that in the Amritkaal, the country is ready to take a long leap towards a developed India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To ensure that the country takes a huge leap in development in 2024, suggestions are being collected from the public, he added.

Chugh said that yesterday BJP 'Sankalp Patra Suggestion Campaign' and 'Developed India - Modi's Guarantee' Rath Yatra was launched by BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda in Delhi.

Referring to the launch programme of the campaign, Chugh said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the vision of developed India, self-reliant India, world-friendly India is coming true.

Chugh said that BJP will establish communication with the public at more than 250 places in the country, collect more than 1 crore suggestion letters and include these suggestions in the party's 'Sankalp Patra'.

Chugh said that the illustrious public welfare and development works done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be extended to all the Lok Sabha constituencies under 'Developed India-Modi's Guarantee' through 1000 chariots. 'The video van will also work to connect people with the party along with asking for suggestions from the public, he added.

Chugh said that it is the resolve of the Bharatiya Janata Party that the aspirations of the people should reach the party and our government will fulfil these in the next 5 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To achieve this, 10000 people's aspirations boxes are going everywhere, he said.

Addressing the media persons, Ravinder Raina said that the BJP has initiated a grand exercise to reach up to every individual to know their suggestions, collect them and carry them to the party leadership. He said that the drive would be carried out in all the 20 administrative districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that BJP will organize 370 programmes in 285 blocks putting the suggestion box in each of these blocks. He said that BJP workers will visit every area of the region to collect the suggestions and ensure that these reach PM Modi, he added.

Ashish Sood said a manifesto committee has been constituted to list all the issues of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Sunil Sethi will be the Incharge, and Shamsher Manhas, Devender Rana, Abhinav Sharma, RS Pathania, Ranjit Singh, Rakesh Gupta, Jitender Singh, and Ved Sharma will be the members of the committee.

Man posing as...

The agency said the arrest followed the registration of a case under relevant sections of the law in Police Station CICE.

Some incriminating materials, including fake identity cards, seals and other documents used in commission of the crime have also been seized from the possession of the arrested person, the statement said, adding further investigation of the case is in progress.

Wagay was posing as the Under Secretary posted with the Raj Bhavan to dupe gullible victims, an official said.

Modi to address public rally in Kashmir in March: BJP sources

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir next month and address a public rally in Anantnag district, BJP sources said here on Tuesday.

This would be the prime minister's first visit to the Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The public rally will be held as part of the BJP's election campaign for the forthcoming general polls, the sources said.

"The prime minister's public rally is scheduled in Anantnag district next month," the BJP sources said.

"While the exact date is yet to be finalised, the rally will take place any day between March 14 to 17," the sources said, adding the party was waiting for the final dates from the Prime Minister's Office.

The BJP is focussing on the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat which comprises

of the south Kashmir areas of Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag, and Rajouri-Poonch areas in Jammu.

Before delimitation of the constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag seat comprised only of the four south Kashmir districts -- Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag.

The seat was won by National Conference's Justice (retd) Hasnain Masoodi in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The visit would be the prime minister's first visit to the Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories in August 2019 by the Centre.

However, this would be Modi's second visit to J&K in two months. The PM addressed a public rally in Jammu on February 20 during which he also unveiled multiple development projects totalling over RS 32,000 crore.

Centre extends ban on J&K Jamaat-e-Islami for 5 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir (JeI), for five more years for continuing activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said.

He also said anyone threatening the security of the nation will face ruthless measures.

"Pursuing PM @narendramodi Ji's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and separatism the government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir for five years," he wrote on X.

The home minister said the organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on February 28, 2019.

In a notification, the Union home ministry said

the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir has been indulging in activities which are prejudicial to internal security and public order and have the potential to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country.

The home ministry has listed 47 cases registered against the JeI and that includes an NIA case for collection of funds used to encourage violent and secessionist activities.

The funds were also used by the active cadres and members of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist organisations through a well-established network of their cadres to organise violent protests, create public unrest and communal disharmony, thus creating a sense of fear and insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir and all over the country.

Another NIA case was registered against the members and cadres of JeI, including Ameer Mohammed Shamsi, chief executive of Al-Huda

Educational Trust (AHET), for receiving the funds through AHET, Rajouri, in the name of JeI even after its ban in February, 2019.

The funds were used by the members in anti-national activities in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The AHET was formed by the top leadership of the JeI and seven top leaders including accused Ameer Mohammed Shamsi who were the trustees of AHET.

The home ministry said JeI is in close touch with militant outfits and is continuously supporting extremism and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere.

The JeI is supporting claims for secession of a part of the Indian territory from the Union and supporting terrorist and separatist groups fighting for this purpose by indulging in activities and articulations intended to disrupt the territorial integrity of India. It is involved in anti-national and subversive activities in the country intended to

cause disaffection, it said.

The home ministry said it is of the opinion that if the JeI are not curbed and controlled immediately, it will take the opportunity to escalate subversive activities, including attempt to carve out an Islamic State out of the territory of India and escalate secessionist movements, support militancy and incite violence in the country.

The central government is firmly of the opinion that having regard to the activities of the JeI, it is necessary to declare it as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect, the home ministry said.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the central government hereby declares the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir, as an unlawful association for a period of five years, the notification said.

Gaganyaan: IAF fighter pilots earn 'astronaut wings'; two recipients of 'Sword of Honour'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: IAF's four fighter pilots undergoing rigorous training for the landmark Gaganyaan mission, and who earned the 'astronaut wings' on Tuesday, have a stellar resume. They have a flying experience in the range of nearly 2,000-3,000 hours and two of them are recipients of the prestigious 'Sword of Honour'.

Names of Indian astronaut-designates -- Gp Capt Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Gp Capt Ajit Krishnan, Gp Capt Angad Pratap Wg Cdr Shubhanshu Shukla were unveiled on Tuesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A spokesperson of the Indian Air Force told PTI that all four officers are fighter pilots and it is a matter of immense pride for the IAF.

Gaganyaan -- the country's maiden human space flight mission -- envisages demonstration of human space-flight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for three days mission and bring



them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters, according to ISRO website.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a post on X extended his wishes to the four pilots for getting selected for the groundbreaking mission.

"The aspirations and ambitions of New India is set to take a giant leap as PM Shri @narendramodi unveils and hands over wings to the four Indian astronaut-designates.

I extend my best wishes to Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu

Shukla for getting selected for the #Gaganyaan Mission. I am confident that they will rise to the occasion and help India in realising the dream of its first #indigenous manned space flight," he posted.

In a historic announcement, Prime Minister Modi unveiled the names of the four astronaut-designates who are currently undergoing rigorous training for Gaganyaan.

Bestowing them with the prestigious 'astronaut wings,' Modi hailed these astronauts as "four forces" representing the aspirations of India's 1.4 billion people. He emphasised the significance of this mission, noting

that after four decades, an Indian is poised to venture into space.

"This time around, the countdown, the timing, and even the rocket would be ours," Modi said and bestowed the 'astronaut wings' to them.

Gp Capt Nair was born in Kerala in 1976 and is alumnus of the NDA, and a recipient of the 'Sword of Honour' -- an honour given to the best all-round cadet -- at the Air Force Academy, the spokesperson said.

He was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF in December 1998.

"A Cat A flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 3,000 hrs of flying

experience, he has flown a variety of aircraft, including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Hawk, Dornier and An-32," the official said.

Gp Capt Nair is also "an alumnus of the United States Staff College and a DS at DSSC, Wellington and FIS, Tambaram, the spokesperson said, adding he has commanded a premier fighter Su-30 Sqn.

Gp Capt Krishnan, also an alumnus of the NDA, was born in Chennai in 1982. He is a recipient of the President's Gold Medal and the 'Sword of Honour' at Air Force Academy.

"He was commissioned in June 2003 in the fighter stream of the IAF. A flying instructor and a test pilot with nearly 2,900 hrs of flying experience, he has flown variety of aircraft, including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-21, Mig-29, Jaguar, Dornier and An-32," the spokesperson said, adding, he is also an alumnus of DSSC, Wellington.

Gp Capt Pratap was born in Prayagraj in 1982. Also an alumnus of the NDA, he was commissioned in

December 2004 in the fighter stream of the IAF.

He is a flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 2,000 hours of flying experience and has flown Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32, among other aircraft, the spokesperson added.

Wg Cdr Shukla was born in Lucknow in 1985 and an alumnus of the NDA who was commissioned in June 2006 in the fighter stream of the IAF. A fighter combat leader and a test pilot with nearly 2,000 hours of flying experience, he has flown Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32, among other aircraft.

The ISRO website says the pre-requisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human-rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, life support system to provide an earth-like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew.

Fresh snowfall, rains in parts of Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall on Tuesday, while rain lashed the plains, officials said.

The middle and higher reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg and tourist resorts of Sonamarg and Pahalgam, and Kokernag continue to witness snowfall. The plain areas of the valley, including Srinagar, witnessed rains, they said.

In a weather advisory issued here, the Meteorological Office said

under the influence of the another active western disturbance, widespread moderate rain or snowfall is expected in Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from February 29 night or early morning March 1 till the afternoon of March 3, with its peak activity on March 2.

"The above system is most likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain/snow over Pirpanjal Range of Jammu Division and middle and higher reaches of Kashmir Division

(Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian-Pir Ki Gali,

Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara-Sadnha Pass)," the advisory read.

The weather system may further lead to disruption of surface and air transport including Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other major roads of middle and higher reaches of J-K, it said.

The advisory further warned people in snow-bound areas to avoid venturing into sloppy and avalanche-prone areas and cautioned of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

INDIA bloc formed to reduce seats of BJP, not of alliance partners in LS polls: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference will hold a second round of discussions with Congress on seat-sharing in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls as the two parties could not reach an understanding in the earlier round of talks held last week, party's vice president Omar Abdullah said here on Tuesday.

He said Congress-led INDIA bloc was formed to reduce the seats of BJP and not of its own alliance partners in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, and reiterated that the party will not "surrender" any of the three seats in Kashmir that it has won in the last general election.

"There has been one round of discussion in New Delhi.

There were certain proposals put forward by the Congress which required to be discussed within the NC party. One of the proposals that they had has not found acceptance from the NC senior leadership that is there. So, we will go back. We will have a second round of discussion," Abdullah told PTI Videos.

The former chief minister was reacting to speculations that INDIA bloc has reached an agreement on seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with Congress fighting on Jammu, Udhampur (in Jammu region) and Ladakh constituencies, National Conference (NC) on Srinagar and Baramulla and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Anantnag seat.

NC had won Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag seats and BJP was victorious on Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh in the 2019 general elections.

"Why should we surrender a seat? The aim of the INDIA alliance is to reduce the seats of BJP and not reduce the seats of INDIA alliance members. We are discussing only three seats," Abdullah said.

He said there has been only one round of discussions in New Delhi recently on seat-sharing agreement among the INDIA bloc partners.

He said there will be a second round of discussions and "I am going to Delhi in a few days".

However, he reiterated that his party would be only discussing those seats which are presently held by the

BJP. "There are only six seats including Ladakh. Three seats are anyway held by NC. So we are only discussing three seats - Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh. So I do not think it will be too difficult," Abdullah said. "I am sure in the next round of discussion, we will have it (seat-sharing arrangement) concluded. I am going to Delhi in a few days and I will have another round of discussion with the people there," he said.

Asked about the delay in conducting the assembly elections in the Union Territory, Abdullah expressed the hope that there would be some good news from the Election Commission of India's (ECI's) visit to J-K next month.