

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
PM takes 'urban...

jacuzzi and stylish showers while his government's focus of providing water to every household.

He also said that "some parties are like AAP-da for the future of the youth" as they promise various kinds of doles at the type of elections but never fulfil them.

"Some government schemes saved lot of money, but we did not use it to build 'Sheesh Mahal'," Modi said.

Without naming Gandhi, Modi took a swipe at him for his reaction on the President's address, saying those who entertain themselves by getting photo sessions done in huts of the poor will find the talk about the poor in Parliament boring.

Soon after the President delivered her address to a joint sitting of Parliament on January 31, Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were seen discussing the speech in the Parliament complex. During the discussion, Rahul Gandhi was heard asking Sonia Gandhi if the President's speech was "boring".

"We did not give false slogans, but real development to people," Modi said.

"Till five decades, slogans of 'garibi hatao' were heard and now 25 crore poor have come out of poverty," he said.

He said till now poor people have got 4 crore house.

"The one who has lived that kind of life knows what it means to have a house with a proper roof," Modi said.

"Pain of poor, troubles of common man, cannot be understood just like that; it requires passion and some just don't have it," he said in a swipe at the opposition.

"We live by the spirit of the Constitution and do not resort to politics of poison," he said.

In a dig at former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Modi said a PM who used to chant '21st century' was so far from reality that he was unable to provide for needs of 20th century.

Modi also hailed his government's decisions in the Budget. In 2002, there was no tax on incomes of up to Rs 2 lakh and now there is no income tax on earnings up to Rs 12 lakh, he pointed out.

Modi said his government started the Ayushman Bharat for poor, but some states have stalled the scheme, leaving poor people in hardship.

Modi to take...

In line with his commitment to promote and preserve India's spiritual and cultural heritage, Prime Minister Modi has consistently taken proactive steps to enhance infrastructure and facilities at pilgrimage sites, the statement said.

During his visit to Prayagraj earlier on December 13, 2024, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 167 development projects worth Rs 5,500 crore, improving connectivity, amenities and services for the general public.

5 detained for...

areas of Dawoodpora in Anantnag district, Qamarwari and Kursu Padshahibagh in Srinagar district, Nathipora and Kalooa in Bandipora district.

Gataru Murder case...

help of team of Crime Branch, Delhi. Then the IO of the case proceeded to Delhi and obtained two days transit remand upto February 4, 2025.

CJM Jammu Preet Simran K. Grover observed that accused have been arrested and offence involved in the case are non-bailable in nature. Investigation is at initial stage. Medical examination reports of all the accused have also been produced. As a case for grant of police remand as prayed is therefore made out accordingly and these accused are remanded to police custody for a period of five days from today till February 8, 2025.

It is directed that the accused shall be medically examined before taken into police custody and thereafter they shall be medically examined after every 48 hours. CD file after perusal is returned to the investigating officer in the open court. The accused shall be produced before the competent Magistrate for further orders before the expiry of the remand period.

Battle for Capital...

security arrangements.

The Election Commission has deployed 220 companies of paramilitary forces, 35,626 Delhi Police personnel, and 19,000 home guards to ensure peaceful voting.

Nearly 3,000 polling booths have been identified as sensitive, and special security arrangements, including drone surveillance, have been made at some of these locations.

According to Delhi Police, additional police forces will be deployed for the sensitive booths where Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) will also be stationed to maintain law and order.

Special provisions have been made for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, with 733 polling stations designated for their accessibility.

In an effort to streamline the process, the Election Commission has introduced a Queue Management System (QMS) app, which will enable the voters to check crowd levels in real time.

Additionally, 6,980 out of 7,553 eligible voters under the home voting facility have already cast their ballots.

The campaigning, which officially ended at 6 pm on Monday, saw a high-voltage battle between the three main contenders.

The AAP focused on its governance model, with Kejriwal and Chief Minister Atishi leading rallies across the city.

Led by heavyweights like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda, the BJP intensified its attack on the AAP over corruption allegations and law and order issues.

The Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, too put up a spirited campaign, targeting both the AAP and the BJP on various issues.

The discourse was marked by aggressive name-calling, AI-generated spoofs, and debates over issues such as the "Sheesh Mahal" controversy, Yamuna's water quality, and allegations of voter list tampering.

While governance, law and order, and women's welfare were the focal points, freebies dominated the pre-poll promises made by different parties.

The AAP has pledged free bus rides for students, insurance for auto and taxi drivers, and monthly financial aid of Rs 18,000 for temple priests and gurdwara granthis.

The BJP, on the other hand, has promised financial assistance of Rs 21,000 for pregnant women and subsidised cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500, while the Congress has vowed to provide a monthly unemployment benefit of Rs 8,500.

The poll outcome on February 8 will determine whether AAP retains its stronghold, the BJP breaks its losing streak, or the Congress springs a surprise.

With voter turnout likely to play a decisive role, all eyes are now on Delhi's electorate as they hit the polling booths on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a day before the polls, Delhi Police on Tuesday registered an FIR against Chief Minister Atishi, the AAP candidate from Kalkaji, for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and obstructing public servants on duty, officials said.

Police said Atishi was with AAP supporters who allegedly obstructed an official from doing his duty at Fateh Singh Marg.

Also, two AAP members allegedly assaulted a police constable, they said.

CS for adopting...

promoting places in and around Jammu. He suggested them to come up with concrete suggestions and plans for each of the destination. He advised them to frame two, three or four day packages based upon the potential and intensity of each place.

He further asked them to look into a mix of activities in each package inclusive of spiritual, eco-tourism, leisure, cuisine, culture and adventurous aspects. He enjoined upon them to offer several baskets along with Shri Vaishno Devi Yatra so that people are able to choose as per their choice and inclination.

The Chief Secretary also urged them to look for creation of a lot of promotional content as we have different success stories to guide us. He maintained that the continuous uploading of content over social media besides other promotional campaigns is definitely going to bear fruits over time.

He committed that the government would extend all kind of support to realise the objectives. He added that a plan for each season should be ready for joint promotion of the same with active support of the Tourism Department.

Dulloo also underscored the need for having better infrastructure and amenities at all these sites. He told them that the government would be forthcoming to invest more funds in any of the projects required at these sites. He assured them of better infrastructure, transport and other amenities at all these sites.

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, highlighted the significance of certain locations found around Katra township. She gave out that the places like Shiv Khori, Baradari, Chenab Rail Bridge, Jammu City, Patnitop, Mantalai, Sanasar and Sudmahadev are some of the potential sites found in the radius of 100 km and can be offered to the pilgrims on visit to the cave shrine.

She maintained that the Department is organizing several festivals and FAM tours across the tourism destinations of J&K to promote them in national and inter-

national markets. She also threw light on the campaigns the department has carried out so far along with the increase in footfall to each of the above locations.

The meeting was also apprised of the tourism infrastructure created at these sites besides the plans for its further augmentation. It was added that with the support and suggestions of local players the department is committed to bring all these sites on the tourism map of India.

Suspected land dispute...

Before fleeing, the attackers also damaged the vehicles windows, the police said, adding that the incident may be related to rivalry over a land issue. Police ruled out involvement of any terror angle in this.

Arum Choudhary, who was at the farmhouse with two friends, recounted that masked men arrived in an Alto car and fired four to five rounds at the vehicles.

Govt intensifies drive...

reports in local dailies highlighting the influx of machine-made Turkish and Iranian carpets being sold under the guise of genuine Kashmiri hand-knotted carpets. "The enforcement wing of the Quality Control Division conducted a comprehensive inspection of several wholesale carpet dealers in Srinagar and this exercise shall continue," he added.

During the inspection, the team discovered stocks of Turkish and Iranian carpets, some of which were unlabelled or partially labelled. Such practices mislead consumers about the origin and nature of the products, constituting a violation of fair-trade practices, he stated, adding that the dealers found in violation of the Tourist Trade and Quality Control Acts will be issued warnings and advised to ensure all products are properly labelled as per prescribed specifications. "This includes clearly distinguishing between the machine-made carpets and authentic Kashmir hand-knotted carpets," he added.

The Handicrafts and Handloom Department has reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and safeguarding consumer interests. Regular inspections will continue to ensure compliance and protect the reputation of genuine Kashmiri handmade carpets, which are an integral part of the region's rich cultural heritage.

The spokesman further emphasized Department's commitment in upholding the integrity of Kashmir's handicrafts sector. "All stakeholders are urged to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations governing the industry. Any deviations or mal-practices will be met with stringent actions to protect the interests of genuine artisans and preserve the authenticity of Kashmir's heritage."

If terrorism has...

everywhere that militancy has ended.

"If militancy has ended, incidents like this should not happen," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Abdullah responded to a range of questions on political and social issues, including the Delhi elections, the INDIA bloc, the restoration of statehood and concerns regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Regarding the upcoming Delhi assembly elections and the BJP's claims of victory, Abdullah wanted all to wait for elections to be held on Wednesday.

"They (BJP) also said they would come (to power in J&K). They said this way or that way, there will be a hung assembly (in J&K).

"Where have their claims gone today? They seem to have been silenced now. The decision is made by the people of this country, not by Farooq Abdullah or Sakina Itoo," he added.

Regarding chances of the BJP benefitting from INDIA bloc partners such as the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) contesting separately in Delhi, Abdullah dismissed speculations about its impact on the alliance, stating, "If I were God or clairvoyant (antaryami), I could predict this. But I am a simple man.

"What do I know about who will come and who will not come? I did not even know if we would come here (in J&K)," he said.

Abdullah expressed confidence in the INDIA bloc, stating that it was progressing with God's blessings and would continue moving forward despite opposition.

Asked if he would take the initiative to unite alliance partners at the national level, Abdullah downplayed his role, saying, "I don't have that capacity, and I am not that person. We all know that together, we can do something better for this country. Divided, we cannot achieve anything."

On the restoration of J-K's statehood, Abdullah reiterated his stance and expressed hope that it would be restored.

"God willing, it will be restored. It may take some time but it will definitely happen. If I were a clairvoyant, I would say it will happen now but I am not," he said.

Responding to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's concerns about EVMs, Abdullah shifted focus to media freedom, questioning the ability of the press to critique the central government.

"You ask the questions you like. How many of our answers do you publish? "Can you criticise the central government? You only criticise the opposition. You and your newspaper will be destroyed. You will end up in jail. You keep buttering them up", he added.

Regarding the possibility of a cancer vaccine similar to the COVID-19 vaccine, Abdullah expressed scepticism about the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. He claimed that the Covid-19 vaccine was administered without any trial.

"Today, we are seeing its results. Many young people are dying of heart attacks and other issues, and it is being said the vaccine is responsible. We cannot say anything until it is specifically determined whether it is responsible or not," he said.

Abdullah strongly advocated the development of a cancer vaccine, emphasising the need for a thorough research. "If you want to develop a vaccine for cancer, research should be conducted. Who says a vaccine should not be developed?"

"But it should not be rushed like the COVID vaccines were. I have also taken many vaccines," he said.

Regarding the Uniform Civil Code proposed by the Gujarat government and implemented by Uttarakhand, he said, "Let them do it."

Asked whether he would attend the Maha Kumbh, Abdullah said, "I bathe at home. My God is at home.

"My God is not in water. My God is neither in a mosque, temple nor gurdwara. My God is in my heart," he said.

Earlier, addressing the conference, Abdullah said, "When I arrived at the medical college in Jammu, it was clean but there were very few doctors. Yet people had high expectations."

Asserting that there is no shortage of machines now, he highlighted the crucial role of nurses after doctors. "But sadly, no nurse has been employed in the last 10 years," he lamented.

Criticising the system, he remarked, "Today, we have become worshippers of wealth. We are being destroyed by the pursuit of wealth. Those who chase wealth and power will attain neither."

He said there were many aspects of the old medical system that are missing today. Those with knowledge of traditional practices have taken it with them, he added.

Calling on doctors to treat people impartially, he said, "Hatred harms us all. Does any disease differentiate between Hindus and Muslims? Is there a difference in their upbringing? This division saddens me. Teach your children love, brotherhood and humanity."

I Apologise!...

is United we fall!

I have seen two major agitations in my short life of sixty -five years, the latest one being the Amarnath Land Row when whole of Jammu united under the Tiranga and with the song Jhuk Gayee Sarkar Jago Jago Re; echoing each and every street with Security Forces in battle gear on guard, both sides respecting each other peacefully. No laathis, no stone pelting; and yet the message went loud and clear that now Jammu is awake; Jammu will get its rights peacefully. And just when the Movement was about to reach a fruitful and respectable conclusion, someone from Jammu saw his -their- own personal interests superseding the interests of Jammu. The agitation fizzled out; and those who sabotaged it, I apologise for them! And this has happened each and every time whenever Jammu wanted to unite and fight for its rights; fight for its dignity; fight for its self- respect; fight for its lost glory and fight for the Dugger identity; but personal interests of a few overshadowed the interests of Jammu in general and the Dogras in particular.

And yes Sir, I apologise!

In the days of black and white TV, I had seen a Pakistani Drama titled Aakhri Chaattan; the story revolving round Changez Khan murdering, looting, conquering, making skull towers. A Prince very bravely tries to unite small kingdoms against the Khan, but fails. In his last fight, his desperate words were: Yeh log bedaar hi nahin hote, hum kya karen! I don't know why it reminds me of some.

We have WhatsApp groups christened Jammu Pradesh, Jammu State, etc. We had Jammu Mukti Morecha; we also had a Political Party with Jammu at its heart, and we had many thinkers and writers and social personalities discussing seriously about having a Separate Jammu State. I apologise to all of them.

I apologise in particular to our Reverend War Veteran Major General G S Jamwal, who has been nurturing the dream of a Separate Jammu State, with dignity and honour and self -respect for the Dogras and trying to unite Jammu on this issue even at his young age of eighty plus.

General Sir; to you I apologise.

Badhaal deaths: 11...

Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, concluded a three-day visit to Rajouri. They examined the patients from Badhaal village and collected various samples as part of their investigation into the recent deaths in the area.

"All patients from Badhaal village have now fully recovered. Today, they were shifted from the treatment ward to the general observation area of the hospital," Dr Shamim Ahmed, Medical Superintendent of GMC Hospital, Rajouri, Dr Shamim Ahmed, told reporters here.

Dr Shamim said that among these patients are three, who were previously in the ICU.

He assured that all patients are stable, out of danger and have been moved to the general observation area, where other village residents are also being monitored as a precautionary measure.

Sources said that doctors at GMC, Rajouri, treated the 11 patients with Atropine, an anti-poison drug. They were admitted to the hospital last month.

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma on Tuesday visited the hospital to meet with these patients. He also convened a meeting with the doctors and medical staff at GMC Hospital, where the principal briefed him on the overall health status of the patients.

During their visit, a five-member team of AIIMS, Delhi, experts, including specialists in toxicology, conducted interviews and recorded clinical histories from the 11 patients currently undergoing treatment for the mysterious illness responsible for 17 deaths in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

The AIIMS team, led by Director Dr M Srinivas, included Dr A Shariff, Professor of Clinical Toxicology, Dr Shailendra Kumar, Additional Professor of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Dr Jamahed Nayer, Additional Professor of Emergency Medicine, Dr Jagdish Prasad Meena, Additional Professor of Pediatrics, and Dr Javed Qadri, Assistant Professor of Clinical Toxicology.

The AIIMS team thoroughly examined the patients from Badhaal who have been suffering from an unknown illness involving neurotoxins, resulting in 17 deaths under mysterious circumstances over the past eight weeks, they said.

They also collected samples of fresh water, soil and other environmental elements from the village to aid in their investigation.

Badhaal village remains under containment, with 79 families still in isolation as a precautionary measure, they said.

Eight teams comprising government officials are diligently caring for over 700 livestock in the village. Seventy-nine families, comprising approximately 370 individuals, have been in isolation facilities for the past 11 days. These teams are ensuring the well-being of the animals by providing food, water and medical care during this challenging period, they said.

To ensure the safety of the remaining 808 households, totaling 3,700 individuals in Badhaal, the village has been divided into 14 clusters monitored by multi-departmental teams comprising 182 officials.

All shops and establishments in the village have been sealed and ration distribution is being strictly supervised, according to officials.

The remote village has been declared a containment zone with prohibitory orders imposed on all public and private gatherings.

Two arrested for abducting 2 girls in Jammu in separate incidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two men have been arrested for abducting two girls from their homes in separate incidents here, police said on Tuesday.

The abducted girls have been safely rescued, officials said.

On January 19 a woman lodged a complaint in Domana police station, alleging that Sonu Kumar, hailing from Nabyua Kallan in Uttar Pradesh and currently residing in Greater Kailash, had kidnapped her 16-year-old daughter from their home, they said.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

In a separate incident on January 31, another woman filed a complaint at Pomi Chak police post, officials said.

She alleged that Mohammad Asfak from Jharkhand, had kidnapped her 24-year-old daughter from their residence in Jammu, they said.

Following her complaint, a case was registered, police said.

Special police teams from Domana police station were assigned to trace the missing girls, officials said.

With extensive efforts and technical support, the police successfully recovered both the girls from outside the Union Territory and arrested the accused, they added.

Upon completing legal formalities, the rescued victims were reunited with their families. Further investigations are underway, official said.

Candlelight vigil held in Kashmir against martyrdom of ex-servicemen

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Demonstrations and candlelight vigil were held at several places in Kashmir on Tuesday against the martyrdom of an ex-serviceman in a terror attack, officials said.

Terrorists martyred former soldier Manzoor Ahmad Wagay and injured his wife and 13-year-old niece in an attack in Behibagh village in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday. This was the first assassination of a non-combatant this year in a terror attack.

Candlelight vigil was held in Kulgam, Anantnag, Baramulla and Kupwara districts against the incident.

India heaven for minorities, Sikhs call Modi messiah: Lalpura

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India is "heaven" for minorities and Sikhs regard Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "messiah" for what he has done for the community in the past 10 years, National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Chairperson Iqbal Singh Lalpura said on Tuesday.

In an interview with PTI here, the senior BJP leader also slammed the AAP government in Delhi for exploiting the Sikh community for votes and not doing anything for them in the last 10 years.

"India is heaven for minorities. I would like to add that according to the 1951 census, the minority population was 16 per cent and the majority was 84 per cent.

"If they would have increased at that rate, the minority population at present would have been much less. But, according to 2011 census, the majority population has come down from 84 to 79 per cent and the minorities have gone up from 16 per cent to 21 per cent," he said.

"We (minorities) have been given the post of the president four times, PM once... you can do anything, if you are Azharuddin, you can be the captain of the Indian cricket team, if you are Bishen Singh Bedi, you can be captain, nobody can stop Farokh Engineer from playing. So this is what India is doing for us," Lalpura said.

He also pointed out that one field marshal and one air marshal have also been from among the minorities -- Sam Manekshaw and Arjan Singh.

"So India has given all the opportunities, now 62 officers in the central services were from the Muslim community, 11 from Jain community. Whosoever is competent can reach wherever they want," the former IPS officer and BJP's parliamentary board member said.

Lalpura also claimed that the Sikhs are very happy with Prime Minister Modi as what he has done in the last 10 years for the community, nobody had even thought of doing that before.

"He facilitated the Kartarpur corridor...Veer Baal Diwas is being marked. He has taken care of the history of Sikhs and celebrated 400th year of birth centenary of Guru Tegh Bahadur from the Red Fort, from where he was ordered to be murdered. This is what the present government is doing to settle all their issues.

"People love Modi ji, they call him messiah. I was writing a book on contribution of PM Modi to the Sikh cause and I wanted to use the word 'messiah', but he stopped me for doing it and said 'I am not a messiah'. Then I had to use the word 'sevak'," Lalpura said.

Asked about concerns over violence against minorities, Lalpura said in society, individual crime has always been there.

"In India, I can say on oath and by experience, I have not seen even one instance of communal violence (in the real sense). I went to Nuh (where there was communal violence in 2023), they told me that Hindus saved the mosque and Muslims saved the Hindu temples. They were living together...same was the case in Jehangirpuri (Delhi)," he said.

"So we have to identify the criminals vitiating the system. As far as hate crime is concerned, America had more hate crime against Sikhs," the NCM chairperson said.

He asked why people are not looking at Pakistan where population of minorities was 22 per cent at time of partition.

"The day we were celebrating 500th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the daughter of the priest of Nankana Sahib gurdwara was converted to Islam," he said.