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4-1 for BJP..

which was subsequently withdrawn, did not appear to have any major impact on the fortunes of the saffron party. According to Election Commission data, the BJP won or was leading in bulk of the 113 seats in western UP where it was thought to be on a sticky wicket.

"People have buried the politics of caste and religion by ensuring the victory of BJP and its allies in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Adityanath said at the state BJP headquarters in Lucknow where excitement was palpable with the party workers dancing to popular tunes and throwing gulal at each other.

Bulldozers -- real as well as miniature versions -- were at the centre stage of the celebrations at the BJP office in the state capital as they figured in the poll campaign in a reference to the action taken against criminals and what the state government calls buildings linked to the 'mafia'. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, a former chief minister, had called Adityanth a 'Bulldozer baba'.

The Samajwadi Party(SP), which made a vigorous bid for power with Akhilesh Yadav attracting huge crowds at campaign rallies, won 75 seats and was leading in 36, a significant jump from the 47 last time.

Adding to the saffron party's tally, BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) won 9 seats and was ahead in three. The BSP, which barely made a campaign splash, was leading only in one seat with a total vote share of 12.7 per cent.

The BJP increased its vote share in almost all the states that went to polls including a marginal rise in Punjab, where it just managed to win two seats.

In UP, the BJP's vote share rose to 41.8 per cent as against 39.67 per cent in 2017 assembly elections, an increase of 2.13 per cent.

The vote share of the SP increased from 21.82 per cent in 2017 to 32.02 per cent.

The BSP had a vote share of 22.23 per cent in 2017 and the Mayawati-led party won 19 seats.

The first set of Assembly elections in 2022, seen as a pointer to general elections two years away, was also the AAP's stepping stone out of Delhi.

In the 117-member Punjab Assembly, the AAP won 92 seats, Congress 18 , SAD 3, BJP 2, BSP and Independent won one seat each. In terms of vote share, the AAP won 42 per cent of the total votes cast, as against 23.7 per cent it had won five years ago.

The strong AAP wave in Punjab saw many bigwigs losing -- including SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and his father Parkash Singh Badal, Congress' Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from both the seats he contested, former chief minister Amarinder Singh who left the Congress to join hands with the BJP and Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu.

The Congress vote share slumped in Punjab from 38.5 per cent in 2017 to 23 per cent, with the party holding on to just 18 seats as against 77 seats it had won five years back.

"First this revolution happened in Delhi, then in Punjab and it will now happen all over country," Kejriwal said at the AAP party headquarters in Delhi.

"In the coming days, AAP will become a national force...the party will emerge as the national and natural replacement of Congress," party leader Raghav Chadha added while addressing workers at a rented accommodation of its chief ministerial candidate Bhagwant Mann in Sangrur.

From a comedian to the chief minister-designate, Mann, who has come a long way in a political career of just over a decade, said the oath-taking ceremony of the new Punjab cabinet will be held at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Nawanshahr district.

In the 2017 assembly polls in Punjab, the Congress had ended the SAD-BJP combine's run by bagging 77 seats. The AAP had managed to get 20 seats, while the SAD-BJP had won 18.

"Humbly accept the people's verdict. Best wishes to those who have won the mandate. My gratitude to all Congress workers and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. We will learn from this and keep working for the interests of the people of India," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Belying predictions of A fractured mandate, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has been able to deliver victory for the BJP which is coming to power for the third time.

The BJP, which bagged 20 seats, said it has received letters of support from the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (2 seats) and three Independent MLAs, enabling the ruling party to cross the simple majority mark of 21.

The BJP won big in Uttarakhand getting 45 seats to retain power and was ahead in two in the 70-member Assembly even as incumbent CM Pushkar Singh Dhami lost by 6,579 votes in Khatima, a seat he had been winning for the last two consecutive elections.

Throwing a spirited challenge to the BJP as the Congress poll campaign head for the state, Harish Rawat, a former chief minister, could not pilot the party's return to power in the state nor could he save his own seat of Lalkuwa. The Congress won 17 and was leading in two.

In Manipur, the BJP won 31 seats and was leading in one in the 60-member assembly.

Modi lauds 'Jeet..

directions, Modi said.

He also hit out at opposition parties without directly naming them for trying to save the corrupt following action of institutions acting independently against them and expressed concern that critics have invoked caste, religion and region in their efforts to impede probe.

People should shun such voices, Modi said, asserting that his government is not only expected to work with integrity but also act against those who have been involved in corruption.

He said he is not against any individual or any particular family, but his concern is about democracy.

Central agencies' action against some opposition leaders, recently in Maharashtra, have drawn sharp criticism of the Modi government from their parties.

Modi also slammed rivals for augmenting fear among Indian students stranded in war-hit Ukraine and their families, and accused them of using regionalism to target "Operation Ganga", launched by his government to evacuate students, most of whom have been brought home.

The BJP's win in the four states where it was in power augurs well for the country in its 75th year of independence and shows people's faith in the party's policies and its vision for the country for the next 25 years leading to the nation's centenary year of freedom, the prime minister said.

Referring to Punjab, another state that went to polls and where the Aam Aadmi Party has notched up a massive victory leaving its rivals, including the BJP, far behind, Modi lauded his party's workers for their hard work under adverse circumstances. This portends well for Punjab and the country, he said.

"The (four) state results strongly vindicate BJP's pro-poor and pro-active governance. Earlier, people could not reach governments for basic amenities such as electricity, gas and water. Now we are delivering the poor their rights," the prime minister said, asserting that he will not rest until the poor get their due.

Lauding BJP workers for ensuring an early Holi by making the party victorious in four states, Modi said its voteshare has increased in Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Goa even though it was in power in the states.

All exit polls were proven incorrect in Goa, and the people of Goa have given the BJP the chance to serve them for the third consecutive time, he said.

In Uttar Pradesh, people have reelected a chief minister for the first time after he had served a full term and also for the first time in 37 years, brought the same party to power again, he said.

Modi also hit out at those who believe that caste rules politics in Uttar Pradesh and asserted that the BJP's straight four wins since 2014, two Lok Sabha and assembly polls each, has highlighted that people have voted for development and good governance. Those who refer to castes while analysing Uttar Pradesh politics insult the state and its people, he said, asserting that caste identity should be used to bring the country together and not to break it.

People's vote for stability in the polls shows that democracy flows through their veins, he said.

"It is a day of zest and festivities and this enthusiasm is for India's democracy," Modi told jubilant party workers as he was joined by top party leaders at the dais.

He said Uttar Pradesh has given many prime ministers but for the first time it has reelected a chief minister after he had served a full term.

The prime minister said that governance delivery has been made better and transparent in the last few years, while delivering the poor their rights.

In Goa, he said, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party and even after being in power for 10 years, the number of BJP seats in the state has increased.

"BJP has created a new history in Uttarakhand too," he said, while referring to the BJP achieving the maiden feat of retaining power in the hilly state.

He also praised young voters and women voters as well, saying they have played a crucial role in these elections.

"They have blessed us - we've won splendidly in areas where women voters have dominated. Our Nari Shakti have been our partners in this victory," Modi said.

Patwari, Chowkidar land..

possession in presence of independent witnesses. Immediately after trap, search was conducted at houses of accused," said official, adding that further investigation is going on.

The Kashmir Files..

compromise with their responsibility bothering least about safety, security and well being vis-à-vis of them and their family members. At that time, plaintiff along with her husband and children were stationed and living at Rawal Pura Housing Colony (a civilian colony) without any security, during his posting at 1st Wing Srinagar and on fateful day of January 25, 1990, at about 07:00 AM, while the husband of the plaintiff left for his office as usual despite announcement of curfew and stood waiting for his official bus at a nearby point with a fellow officer, namely Flight Lieutenant B R Sharma, one Yaseen Malik came on his motorcycle and asked for directions towards Nautipora and shot a bullet in his abdomen from a very close range. However, brave husband of the plaintiff, despite suffering bullet injury, entered into a scuffle with terrorist in order to overpower him and emptied his gun in air but unfortunately other terrorist, on another vehicle, further shot him with entire magazine of AK-47, leading to his martyrdom too at an age of 38 years. It was further submitted that whole scene was also witnessed by aforementioned Flight Lieutenant B R Sharma, who accompanying the martyr at that particular point and even plaintiff, after hearing gun-shots, went to the roof top and saw some people dancing at crime scene which was approximately 50 yards away & effectively visible to plaintiff, after which she rushed to the spot and was shocked to see her husband lying down unconscious. Moreover the plaintiff requested officers around to carry her husband to hospital after which he was shifted to hospital in an official vehicle but declared as brought dead. It is apt to mention that aforesaid terrorist had also martyred 3 other airmen of Indian Air Force at Barzella, moments before martyring husband of plaintiff, who were also waiting for their bus at their respective point at Barzella.

Giving further details, the advocates submitted that in the movie it was shown that husband of plaintiff was distributing toffees among children while he was martyred by terrorist in a throwaway manner, in complete contradiction to the actual course of events occurred on that day. It was submitted that there was a call by separatists for announcing independence of Kashmir on that particular day in lieu of which there was a curfew and Government officials, especially those of defence forces, were prime target of separatists to their call. However, in movie, the scene has been shown in a manner which not only underrates essence of courage possessed by husband of the plaintiff despite looming threat by separatists, but also tends to lower intestinal fortitude and commitment of soldiers who vow to put their lives at stake despite all odds, for their motherland and projection of scene. The facts relating to brave husband of the plaintiff in the movie has served a fatal shock to the plaintiff whereby the defendants, by paralyzing real course of events, have drafted the scene as per their infatuation without asking the same from plaintiff or an eye-witness Flight Lieutenant B R Sharma or even from contents of case, pending disposal at TADA Court Jammu, which is easily available in public domain. However, the defendants alleged to have considered events and information available in public domain as basis for movie which is unequivocally incorrect as scene pertaining to husband of the plaintiff is more a fiction and completely moved by their whims and fancies, coupled with their obsessive aim to entertain audience instead which defeats the very purpose of movie. The plaintiff further submitted that after culmination of screening of movie, she even narrated the actual facts to defendant & other audience and apprised them about errors related to scenes and facts with a request to either delete, remove or amend the same in accordance to actual facts before release of movie, but defendants turned a deaf ear towards plaintiff and did not bother to address plaintiff and her grievances.

Union Minister inaugurates ...

Chairperson, National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine, New Delhi, Vaidya Jayant Yashwant Deopujari, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Professor Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, Professor Akbar Masood, Director General CCRUM, Professor Asim Ali, Advisor (Unani), Ministry of Ayush, Dr. M. A. Qasmi, Director Ayush J&K, Dr Mohan Singh, scientists, researchers, doctors and other officers.

The event was also virtually attended by the scientists and researchers from foreign countries including Iran, UAE, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Bangladesh and others.

Addressing on the occasion, Sarbananda Sonowal said that the Government of India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Naranadra Modi, has accorded great importance to multifaceted development of Indian Systems of Medicine including Unani medicine. He informed that because of personal intervention of the Prime Minister, the World Health Organization (WHO) has decided to establish Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India which would provide a great opportunity for researchers and students to lead the world in traditional medicine. He further said that Unani Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan because it is due to the contributions made by him and many other scholars that we inherited this comprehensive medical system. He added that J&K is rich in plant resources and stressed the need to explore them and conduct researches for their medicinal use so that the mankind is benefited. He said that while it is important to acknowledge the efficacy of our traditional medicine, it is equally important to integrate it with emerging technologies.

MoS Ayush said that diet is very important as it is the basic source of energy adding that Unani Medicine provides detailed guidelines for healthy food habits to maintain health and prevent diseases. He lauded the role of Ayush system in immunity enhancement through drugs and medicinal foods and fighting against COVID-19. He also appreciated the contribution of CCRUM in research and development in Unani Medicine.

Speaking on the occasion, Pramod Kumar Pathak said that proper and nutritious diet is key towards good health and well-being and Unani Medicine has a holistic approach to adjust the imbalances which contribute to disease. He informed that the Ministry of Ayush has established NIUM with 200 bedded hospital in Ghaziabad as a part of vision of Prime Minister for provision and promotion of quality education, research and healthcare services through Unani Medicine and other Ayush systems. He also said that we need to create awareness about our traditional diets as the

choice of food and the manner in which it is prepared is vital for good health.

Vivek Bhardwaj said that Unani Medicine is very popular in J&K and for its further promotion and development, the Union Government is making concerted efforts including introduction of MD in Unani Medicine at RRIUM, Srinagar and BUMS at the first Government Unani Medical College of J&K.

Professor Talat Ahmad and Professor Akbar Masood appreciated the role of CCRUM in research and development in Unani Medicine and urged to expand collaborations with other institutions for interdisciplinary research in Unani Medicine.

Professor Asim Ali Khan delivered the welcome address while as the inaugural session was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. M. A. Qasmi.

During the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Mohan Singh, Director Ayush, J&K entered into memorandum of understanding with Morarji Desai Institute of Yoga, New Delhi for establishing two Regional Yoga Therapy and Training centers at Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu and Government Unani Hospital, Shalteng, Srinagar with the approval of Department of Health and Medical education.

Through these centers YCB certified Yoga Professions will be produced and Yoga will reach each and every household of J&K. Yoga has found global acceptance as a remedy for physical & mental disorders and its introduction at grass-root level in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will tremendously help in improving the health indicators.

During the inaugural session of the conference a live Yoga session was also conducted by Yoga instructors of Directorate of Ayush, J&K.

A video documentary with the theme "Jammu & Kashmir main Ayush kay badhtay kadam" was also streamed during the conference emphasizing the role and importance of Ayush Sector at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary care for improving Health indicators in UT of J&K. The Documentary also highlighted the achievements of Ayush in the UT of J&K with special focus on regimental therapies a Specialized mode of treatment in Unani System of Medicine.

The inaugural session also witnessed release of conference souvenir and eight books published by the CCRUM, release of two Unani e-books, distribution of YCB certificates among felicitate yoga instructors and live yoga performance besides release of CCRUM Apps and presentation of NABH Accreditation Certificate to RRIUM, Srinagar.

Later, a panel discussion and scientific sessions were also held during which a number of national and international experts and luminaries from the field of health sciences shared their knowledge, experiences and expertise.

No breakthrough in..

seek a solution to humanitarian issues caused by the war.

He said Moscow is not ready to offer a cease-fire. He said: They seek Ukraine's surrender. This is not going to happen.

Kuleba said the last thing he wanted was to kill hope for Ukrainians seeking safe passage out of cities besieged by Russian bombardments and attacks.

Cong's ideological fight..

a lot due to price hike and unemployed youth without jobs", she added.

She said that Jammu and Kashmir suffered the most under BJP rule and it lost statehood.

J&K Bank wins..

by Zonal Heads Tabassum Nazir and Arshad Hussain amidst good gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens, local businessmen and other officers of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "We are pleased to dedicate these new business units to serve the people. These have been suitably resourced and equipped to provide best financial services and state-of-the-art banking facilities to the people."

Expressing hope that the business units shall further strengthen the Bank's bond with the people, he urged the participants to avail the benefits of the Bank's various products and schemes that have been designed to meet their specific requirements. "We are committed to empower the people especially youth by financing their viable business ventures and other self-employment projects", he said.

On the occasion, MD & CEO also acknowledged the commitment and dedication of Bank staff. However, he advised them to ensure quality services to customers while making sure that the Bank's business registers positive growth every day.

Two terrorists killed..

Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the famous Dal Lake. The shrine houses the relic of Prophet Mohammad.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said one of the militants was a Pakistani and termed his killing a "big success".

"We were monitoring him. His aim was to attack the shrine guard and snatch his weapon. He fired at the police party, which retaliated. In the firing, the Pakistani militant was killed," Kumar told reporters outside the shrine complex.

The slain ultra was identified as Manzoor alias Haider alias Hamza. He was affiliated with proscribed outfit LeT, the IGP said.

"He was an associate of top LeT/TRF commander Mehran. His killing is a big success," he said.

Kumar said Manzoor was active in Srinagar for the past six months. He was involved in several killings. A video in which he talked about attacking senior officials had gone viral.

On the two terrorists who fled, the IGP said, "We are tracking them. We hope to neutralise them soon."

Kumar said the terrorists were trying to use religious places to take shelter and stir emotions to create a law and order issue.

"His (the Pakistani terrorist's) aim was to enter the mosque, engage with the security forces, spread news and stir religious sentiments of the people and create a law and order problem. But we will not let them (militants) succeed in that," he said.

Asked about the recovery of the body of an Army soldier in Budgam, the IGP said the police are investigating the incident from all angles.

"We are probing both the angles, the terror-crime angle or maybe there was some fight because of personal animosity and he was murdered," Kumar said.

The soldier, Sameer Ahmad Malla, was found dead in an orchard in Kashmir Valley's Budgam on Thursday, three days after he went missing.

His body had no bullet marks but showed signs of blunt injuries, officials said.

141 people stranded..

said. Giving a break-up, the officials said that 39 people were flown from Jammu to Kargil, 16 from Kargil to Jammu, 12 from Kargil to Srinagar and 38 from Srinagar to Kargil.

Pawan Hans transported 36 people from Srinagar to Kargil, they said.

The air force has been operating C-17, C-130 and AN-32 aircraft regularly to airlift stranded passengers in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh due to the closure of the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall in January.

J&K highway closed..

with the rest of the country, at Nachlana near Sanmroli, the officials said.

Men and machinery from road clearance agencies are working on clearing the highway, they said. "No fresh traffic was allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar in view of the closure of the highway," the officials said.

The people are requested not to travel on the highway till the clearance work is completed, they said.

Aircraft-shaped balloon..

officials said. Such balloons have been found floating frequently along the International Border and the Line of Control.

J&K reports 35 new COVID cases, Ladakh 5

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 35 fresh COVID-19 cases on Thursday, taking the infection count to 4,53,382, officials said.

The death toll from the pandemic remained unchanged at 4,749 as no new fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, they said.

Fourteen of the fresh cases were from Jammu and 21 from Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

The officials said Jammu

district recorded a maximum of 13 new cases.

Thirteen of the total 22 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh cases.

There are 293 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recoveries stands at 4,48,340, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported five fresh COVID9 cases -- all from Leh-- taking the overall caseload in the union territory to 28,144, officials said.

The number of active

cases has gone down to 88, they said.

The union territory has recorded 228 COVID-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil -- they said, adding that no fatality was reported in the last 24 hours.

Fifteen patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh, taking the overall recoveries to 27,828, they said. A total of 652 sample reports in Ladakh were tested negative, they said.

The total number of active cases in Ladakh is 88, 86 in Leh and two in Kargil.

UP result heralds new political culture under PM Modi: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union minister Jitendra Singh ON Thursday said that Uttar Pradesh Assembly election result heralds a new political culture under Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is in tune with the aspirational democracy of a new India.

He said the new political culture is guided by the spirit of reaching out to the deprived and providing them with benefits of equitable development with ease of living, empowerment and esteem, without any bias or prejudice.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said

that Uttar Pradesh has broken many a jinx of the past.

For example, he said, over the last half-a-century, the Congress manipulated people into believing that any political party which has been in power for five years necessarily faces anti-incumbency and this phenomenon has to be taken in stride as a norm.

The BJP under Modi has vindicated that elections can be fought and won with pro-incumbency vote and this is something which I had been predicting during the UP election campaign as well, Singh said.

For several decades, he said, political spectrum in India which was dominated by the Congress and its allies sought to fight elections on the basis of caste, creed, religion and vote bank considerations, which in other words implied securing votes by dividing society and following the feudal legacy of divide and rule and this virtually became a norm over the years.

However, under Modi, this trend has been done away with and the BJP proved to the world that election could be fought and won by rising above these biases and focussing

on development, providing security to the insecure, empowering the weaker section, providing benefits to the deprived and ensuring equal justice and respect for all, he said.

Singh said he had predicted during the election campaign that in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will get the support of a large number of silent women voters, including Muslim women, who may not openly say so.

Similarly, he said, during the campaign young girl students from all religions and castes used to tell us that before the BJP government came, their par-

ents would not allow them to step out of the house all alone but now they felt absolutely secure .

Counting is underway for Assembly elections held in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur.

The BJP raced towards a second straight win in Uttar Pradesh and dominated the score chart in three other states -- Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa -- while the Aam Aadmi Party announced its national presence with a landslide victory in Punjab, according to the election trends and results declared so far.

