

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! 'Iss Chunaav Mein...

that he is not disciplined about it, sleeping only for a few hours everyday.

Pankti Pandey from Ahmedabad, a former ISRO scientist, received the Green Champion Award for amplifying the message of Mission LiFE.

After awarding Pandey, the Prime Minister asked her to conduct a detailed study about Mission LiFE and recalled his clarion call to make one's life environment friendly.

Jaya Kishori, known as Meera of modern times, shared stories from Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana after she was awarded by the prime minister.

Lakshya Dabas received the Most Impactful Agri Creator for his work on improving agricultural practices with the use of innovation and technology. His brother received the award on his behalf and highlighted the need for natural farming in the country.

Cultural Ambassador of the Year Award went to Maithili Thakur who performs original songs, covers and traditional folk music in multiple Indian languages. On the Prime Minister's request, she performed a devotional song for Bhagwan Shiv on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

The Best International Creator Award had three creators, Kiri Paul from Tanzania, Drew Hicks from America, Cassandra Mae Spittmann from Germany. Drew Hicks received the Award from PM.

Drew Hicks, with his fluent Hindi and Bihar accent, has amassed social media popularity and fame for linguistic talent in India.

Kamiya Jani of Curly Tales was given the best travel creator award. When she said that she is confused about visiting Lakshadweep or Dwarka, the Prime Minister said that for Dwarka she will have to go very deep, amid peals of laughter.

Narrating his experience of going to Aadi Kailash, the Prime Minister said that he experienced the places of height and depth both. He also asked the creators to inspire devotees to experience the holy places in their entirety other than the 'darshan' part.

'Technical Guruji' Gaurav Chaudhary a top tech YouTuber won the Tech Creator Award. The Prime Minister said "for a bright future we need to democratize technology".

Heritage Fashion Icon Award was given to Jahnvi Singh, a 20-year-old content creator for Instagram who talks about Indian Fashion and promotes Indian sarees. The Prime Minister said that the textile market goes with fashion and praised the creator for her efforts in promoting Indian textiles.

Best Creative Creator (female) award went to Shraddha while RJ Raunaq received the Best Creative Creator (male).

Raunaq said that with Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister is also an important, record-breaking figure of the radio industry.

The award for "Best Creator in Food" went to Kabita's Kitchen, Naman Deshmukh received the award in the "Best Creator in Education" category, Ankit Baiyanpuria was given the "Best Health and Fitness Creator" award, Nischay was given the "Gaming Creator" award, Aridaman was adjudged the "Best Micro Creator", Piyush Purohit won the "Best Nano Creator" award and Aman Gupta, famous for his involvement in television programme "Shark Tank India", was given the "Best Celebrity Creator" award.

### EC holds security...

Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim end on different dates in June and state elections there will be held alongside Lok Sabha polls.

Whenever assembly elections are held in J-K, they will be the first since Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two Union territories in 2019.

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following the delimitation, the number of assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding the seats allocated to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

In December last, the Supreme Court had directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

During the meetings, the poll panel is learnt to have underlined the need for timely movement of central forces being deployed for election duty.

The Commission is also learnt to have stressed the need for good coaches in trains which will be used for the movement of security personnel. It also pressed for food on board such trains.

The poll panel was represented by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and fellow Election Commissioner Arun Goel, and other senior officials.

During the deliberations, the EC insisted on meeting the deadline of early next week for "advanced induction" of security personnel.

The Commission also demanded sufficient number of helicopters for deployment of central forces in difficult terrain, including areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

The poll panel has also asked for cashless treatment of personnel in case of injury or other medical emergencies during poll duty deployment.

The meeting comes days before the Commission is likely to announce schedule for the Lok Sabha elections.

The crucial deliberations also come days ahead of the Commission's Jammu and Kashmir visit early next week to review poll preparedness.

The EC has sought 3.4 lakh Central Armed Police Force personnel for Lok Sabha and four assembly polls.

With nearly 97 crore voters, the EC would set up approximately 12.5 lakh polling stations across India.

Last time Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and were held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23.

### ACB arrests Forester...

further stated that when he visited Range Office, Watergam, he was given one transit permit for transportation of timber but the concerned Forester, Mansoor Ahmad demanded bribe of Rs 3500 for the issued permit and also told him that he had to pay more for other three pending permissions.

"Under these circumstances the complainant approached Anti Corruption Bureau with written complaint and requested for legal action against concerned officers of Forest Range Office, Watergam for demanding bribe from complainant for processing and issuing transit permit in his favour," the statement reads.

"On receipt of the complaint, as per laid down norms, the allegations were discreetly verified which revealed that the Forester in connivance and conspiracy with other officials of the Range Office, Watergam is demanding bribe of Rs 3500 from complainant for one transit permit already issued to complainant and is also demanding bribe for processing and issuance of Transit Permit through online National Transit Pass System (NTPS) in other three pending applications of complainant," it added.

After proper verification of the contents of complaint a case FIR No. 01/2024 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) and Section 120-B IPC was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla against accused public servant Mansoor Ahmad and other officials of Range Office, Watergam and investigation was commenced, the statement read.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant namely Mansoor Ahmad and one other official of Range office Watergam red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 12,500 from complainant. Both the accused public servants were arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities and the bribe money was also recovered from them. The role of other officials in bribery case is also being looked into," it said, adding that further investigation in the case is going on.

### Azad pledges to...

support from the alliance party, citing insecurity stemming from his work.

He pledged to serve the people and fulfilling the vision he had set out to achieve during his tenure as Chief Minister .

Azad said that despite facing challenges and setbacks, he remained resolute in his belief that completing these projects was imperative for the progress and prosperity of the region.

He highlighted his party's pivotal role in leading the ground-level fight against land eviction orders, which compelled the government to halt the bulldozers.

Azad announced his party's commitment to reinstating the Roshni Scheme and providing free electricity for the underprivileged in Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad emphasized the importance of these initiatives in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the people of the region.

The Roshni Scheme, aimed at providing legal ownership rights to occupants of state land, had previously empowered numerous families by granting them ownership of land they had occupied for years, he added.

Azad underscored the significance of reinstating this scheme to continue supporting vulnerable communities and ensuring their security and stability. Additionally, he pledged to provide free electricity to economically disadvantaged households in J&K.

"This initiative aims to alleviate financial burdens and improve the quality of life for those in need, further promoting social welfare and inclusivity".Azad said and reiterated his party's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the interests and well-being of the people of J&K.

By reinstating the Roshni Scheme and providing free electricity, his party aims to foster greater equity, prosperity, and empowerment across the region, he said

Azad reiterated his unwavering commitment to the mission of development and progress in J&K.

Emphasizing his commitment to the socio-economic advancement of the region, he outlined his vision for fostering growth and prosperity for all residents of J&K.

He said the focus on infrastructure development, job creation, and social welfare programmes reflects his steadfast desire to improving the lives of residents across the region.

Among others present on the occasion included Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Ad Qayoom Dar Sr Vice President South Zone, Mushtaq Khanday Distt President, Peer Bilal Zonal President, Ashiq Khanday, Javid Hakim and others.

### Enemy's ability to...

on the course to maintain peace.

"We will take steps to move forward, rectify our mistakes and increase our commitment level. Then the people will themselves see that we are sincere and capable and that our intensions are right," he added.

Swain said the adversary tends to exemplify even small incidents to create fear.

"We will not overlook those incidents, but we will see it in the context of the overall graph. We will focus on our strategy and keep an eye on whether it is working or not. If someone tries to derail us, we know that we are not going to deviate from our path. We will take it to the destination," he asserted.

He said such a situation would be created where those anti-national elements who are still there would fall silent themselves. "Talk to me in 2025, you will know the difference," Swain added.

### Rs 100 cut...

and collaboration of content with purpose shows impact".

He urged the content creators to bring inspiration through their content and recalled that he had raised the issue of disrespect towards women from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Modi also requested them to forward the spirit of equality among parents while raising boys and girls.

He said the content creators should showcase the capabilities of "nari shakti" (women power) and gave ideas on depicting how a mother conducts her daily tasks and women from rural and tribal areas engage in economic activity.

"Content creation can help rectify wrong perceptions," he said.

Murty's nomination to the Upper House by President Droupadi Murmu was first announced by Modi as he lauded her contribution in diverse fields.

The prime minister asserted in a post on X that her presence in the Upper House is a powerful testament to women power, exemplifying the strength and potential of women in shaping the nation's destiny.

Wishing her a fruitful tenure, he said, "I am delighted that the President of India has nominated Sudha Murty Ji to the Rajya Sabha. Sudha Ji's contributions to diverse fields including social work, philanthropy and education have been immense and inspiring."

Murty, wife of Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy, is also the chairperson of the Murty Trust and has authored several books.

Modi also shared short videos to highlight as to how difference schemes of his government have empowered women.

"A home is the foundation of dignity. It's where empowerment begins and dreams take flight. PM-AWAS Yojana has been a game-changer to further empowerment of women," he said on X about a scheme under which crores of homes for the poor have been built, with more women than men getting the ownership.

The PM Svanidhi scheme, a micro-credit facility for street vendors, has brought happiness to the lives of poorest workers, who include a large number of women, he said.

The "Lakhpati Didi" scheme, an initiative for financial empowerment of women associated with self-help groups, has become a big platform to empower them, he added in another post.

Women associated with the group are a strong foundation for building a developed India, he said.

"NaMo Drone Didis are champions of innovation, suitability and self-reliance. Our Government is leveraging the power of drones to further women empowerment," the prime minister said.

The posts, made on International Women's Day, were accompanied by short videos, highlighting the positive impact these schemes have made on women.

Women have been at the centre of Modi's outreach and he has often asserted that their support to him and the ruling BJP have played a significant role in the party's successes.

In the run up to the Lok Sabha polls, expected to be held in April-May, the BJP has intensified its connect with them as it looks to score a bigger win and retain power for a third straight term under Modi.

### Watched 'Article 370'...

effective manner," Singh said in a post on X in Hindi.

"This film shows how complex this problem was and how challenging the solution was and it also presents a good example of women empowerment. I congratulate the producer-director and all the actors of this film for their effective presentation," he wrote.

The central government on August 5, 2019, had revoked Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The film, starring actor Yami Gautam in a lead role, hit the screens on February 23, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In another post, earlier in the day, Singh said the role of women in India's journey towards becoming a fully developed nation by 2047 is going to be "extremely crucial and significant".

"On International Women's Day, I salute India's indomitable 'Nari Shakti' and their contributions in the progress and prosperity of our nation. The Government under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi has further empowered India's 'Nari Shakti' with historic legislation like 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.

"India is on its way to be a fully developed nation by 2047 and the role of women in this journey is going to be extremely crucial and significant," he said.

### Mehbooba accuses NC...

"Omar (Abdullah) has himself said that the PDP is out of the alliance. You can see who has broken the alliance. We did not. This was a unique alliance, it is disappointing to see it shattered. They have reduced PAGD to a joke," Mufti said when asked if the NC's decision meant the alliance was broken.

The NC has announced the party would contest all the three seats in the Kashmir valley and asked the Congress to contest on two seats in the Jammu region. The party also said there would be a consensus candidate of NC and Congress on the Ladakh seat.

Mufti, however, said the PDP was still a part of the INDIA bloc and the party would discuss the future strategy with the Congress.

"We will discuss with the Congress and not take a unilateral decision. We will also deliberate it within the party and soon take a decision on it (contesting the Lok Sabha polls)," she added.

She said it was "difficult to see the unity break".

"I regret that what we nurtured for five years has been shattered," she said. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said had the NC leadership discussed the issue with her, the PDP could have let the NC contest on all the three seats in the valley.

"There used to be a discussion on smaller issues within the PAGD, but the NC took such a decision without consulting us," she said, adding what the BJP couldn't do (breaking PAGD), has been done by a member of the alliance.

She said her party has always thought about the larger cause and through the PAGD, wanted a message to go out to the country that the parties in Jammu and Kashmir were united.

"When INDIA alliance took shape, I told them Farooq Abdullah will take a decision on the seat sharing in J&K as he is the senior most leader. The people of Jammu and Kashmir had hopes from PAGD and the INDIA alliance. But, the NC's decision is a huge setback," she said. Mufti said her party may be down, but "we are not out".

"However, I want to say that the PDP maybe down, but we are not out. We will go to the people and present our case as it is really important to have a voice in the Parliament. The Muslims of the country look up to that voice," she added.

## Gang War: Five arrested in Mohan Cheer's murder case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MOHALI: Police arrested five of the eight suspects, including two tainted cops, involved in the daylight shooting of Jammu-based gangster Rajesh Dogra near the Sector 67 shopping mall here on March 4.

The suspects, identified as Samba resident Anil Singh (kingpin), Meerut resident Harpreet Singh, Pilibhit resident Satvir Singh, Fatehgarh resident Sandeep Singh and Udhampur resident Sham Lal, were booked under Section 302 of the IPC and the Arms Act.

Mohali police said Anil Singh was dismissed while Sham Lal is under suspension by Jammu police. Police seized three pistols, two revolvers, a .12 bore gun and 71 live rounds.

Four luxury vehicles - two registered in J&K, one in Chandigarh and the fourth in Himachal Pradesh - used while committing the crime have also been impounded.

"The brutal killing was planned by Anil Singh with a motive of revenge in gang war. Suspects fled to Pilibhit in UP after the incident. Three of the four vehicles were abandoned in Mohali and only one was taken away," SSP Sandeep Garg said.

Rajesh Dogra alias Mohan Cheer was a Jammu-based gangster who had come out of jail recently and the rival group members were keeping track on him.

At a shopping mall in Mohali, the incident took place as soon as Dogra, accompanied by two others, reached outside the mall where attackers had reached in two vehicles including one bearing a Jammu and Kashmir registration number. And, the accused fled away.

"Using Cheer's accomplice, the rival group members called Mohan Cheer at the Mohali mall and shot him dead when he reached the spot and all managed to flee from the spot.

However, Mohali police has solved the case with the arrest of five accused. Three suspects are still at large.

### Personal remarks on PM backfire, secure self-goal for opposition: Omar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah here on Friday said personal attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi backfire for the opposition and slogans about his family only secure a self-goal.

Omar Abdullah's remarks came in response to a question about RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's jibe on the prime minister for having no family.

Omar Abdullah, whose party is a member of the opposition's INDIA bloc, said such things backfire like the "Chowkidar chor hai" slogan did in the last election.

"I was never in favour of such slogans and nor they benefit us. In fact, there is an opposite effect when we use such slogans, it causes loss to us. A voter is not satisfied with these slogans, he wants to know how the issues he faces today would be addressed.

"He wants to know about employment generation, tackling agricultural distress, reactivate rural economy. He wants to hear about those things rather than whether someone has a family or not," Abdullah told reporters.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the opposition only secures a self-goal with such slogans.

"Now, we have given him (Modi) an open goal post and he has used the opportunity to his advantage by saying that Modi belongs to those who do not have anyone. We do not have any answer to that now.

"I will only say that we should not indulge in such personal politics but raise the issues of the public. Chowkidar, Adani-Ambani, Rafale, Parivar -- these do not work," he added.

To a question about the NC not leaving any seat in the valley for the PDP for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and its impact on the INDIA bloc, Abdullah said the situation has kept the PDP out, not his party.

"The PDP came at the third number in the last Parliament elections and how is it justified that the number one or number two party will leave the claim on the seat and give it to the third number? Also, I do not see any influence of the BJP on the seat (south Kashmir-Rajouri)," he said.

As far as coalition is concerned, Abdullah said, it is the responsibility of every party to keep the coalition running.

"You ask us about the seats for them, but when they target the NC through their tweets or on social media, then you don't ask them if that is the coalition dharma... The NC is attacked even when elections take place in Pakistan. They said on Twitter that what happened in Pakistan elections, reminded the people of what happened here in 1987 elections. What coalition dharma is this?"

"I do not know under what influence did Ghulam Nabi Azad target Farooq Abdullah, but the PDP forced itself into that as well and attacked the NC. They along with Azad attacked Farooq Abdullah and the NC from their Twitter platform and you ask us where is the coalition dharna," he said.

He, however, said that despite the PDP's attacks on his party, the NC has told the Congress that it is ready to keep doors open for an alliance for the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"But, first we will see their (PDP's) approach in the forthcoming Parliamentary polls," he added.

The NC vice president said his party has discussed the seat sharing with the Congress and the national party would contest from two seats in the Jammu region.

"We have told them to field their candidates from Udhampur and Jammu seats. We have also told them that the NC will not field its candidate on the Ladakh seat, but our endeavour should be to field a consensus candidate there who can take back the seat from the BJP," he said.

Abdullah said had he known before joining the INDIA bloc that he would have to "weaken" his party for the sake of some other member of the alliance, "then perhaps I would never have joined the alliance".

### No conflict between INDIA bloc members on seat-sharing in J&K, says Congress leader

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Talks on seat-sharing with NC and PDP in Jammu and Kashmir for the forthcoming parliamentary polls are on and there is no disagreement between the members of the INDIA bloc in the Union Territory, a Congress office-bearer said here on Friday.

"There is no disagreement. It is not a big issue. Every party has a right to claim as many seats it can. But, the talks are on," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior vice president Ghulam Nabi Monga told reporters.

Monga's remarks came after the National Conference (NC) said it will field candidates on the three seats in the Kashmir Valley without leaving a seat for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

J-K has five Lok Sabha seats, including two from Jammu region, while Ladakh has one. In the last elections, while the NC won all the three seats from the valley, the BJP won the two Jammu seats as well as the lone Ladakh seat.

Citing the the Congress' discussions on seat-sharing in Maharashtra and with parties like AAP, Monga said all the issues are resolved through talks.

"No one would have ever thought that Congress and AAP will come together. So, every issue is sorted through talks.

NC has a right to claim even four or five seats. But ultimately talks happen and what will come out of those you will get to know," he said.

The Congress leader said discussions are going on all the six seats in J-K and Ladakh.

"A final decision will be taken in a day or two. Everything will become clear when the discussions are given a final shape. Both the NC and the PDP are important for us. They are with us, they are a part of the INDIA bloc," he said.

Asked about the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at a rally here on Thursday, Monga said the prime minister should have talked about the restoration of statehood and democracy.

"What was the new thing that he said? The new thing would have been to talk about election or statehood. "It is unfortunate that the Supreme Court had to tell the government to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He should have addressed the issues of inflation and unemployment," he said.