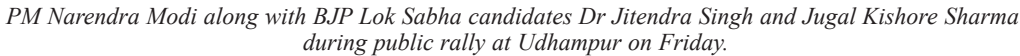


## 10 Traditional fervour marks Baisakhi celebrations at JK Public School Kunjwani

**Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh**

# Time not far when Assembly polls will be held in J&K: Modi

## "J&K will also get statehood back"



the region. "You have seen the worst, so this looks like a lot to you. You feel good to see development. But Modi thinks bigger. Modi has a great vision. Whatever has happened till now is just a trailer," the prime minister said.

He added that the ongoing road and tunnel construction projects will be completed at a fast pace. "Companies and factories from across the country and outside will come to Jammu

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# "Ram temple won't and will never be election issue"

UDHAMPUR : In a scathing attack on the INDIA opposition bloc for claiming that the Ram temple in Ayodhya is a "poll plank" for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it is a matter of faith for the people of the country.

He compared the mindset of the Congress and its allies with that of the Mughals, who he said used to derive pleasure from vandalising temples, and accused them of teasing the majority community by displaying videos of consuming meat during the month of Sawan to consolidate their vote banks.

"You must have seen how the Congress hates the Ram temple. The Congress and its entire ecosystem start screaming if there is even a reference to the temple. They say the Ram temple is an election issue for the BJP. It was never an election issue and will never be an election issue," the prime minister said at a mega public rally here in Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi pointed out that the Ram temple movement started when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was not even born. "It was an issue at a time when the British were yet to come. It is a 500-year-old matter when there was no thought of elections," he said.

Taking a dig at the Congress for declining the invitation to the consecration ceremony of the temple, Modi said, "What kind of an election game was it that you declined the invite to this holy function? It is an election issue for the Congress and the INDIA bloc, whereas it is a matter of devotion and faith for the country's people," he added.

The prime minister said the temple was a victory of tolerance.

"It was a victory after a long wait of 500 years. When foreign invaders vandalised temples, the people of India fought to protect their religious places.

They faced the worst situations for protecting their faith," he said. Taking a dig at the leaders of the Congress and its allies, who he said were living in huge bungalows when Ram Lalla was living in a tent, Modi said people used to run from pillar to post to get the tent changed during rains, only to be threatened with court cases. "This was an assault on the faith of crores of people who considered Ram as the prime deity for worship. We had told these people that one day, Ram will return to his temple. Do not forget three things -- one, this is a reality now after 500 years of fighting. Do you agree? Secondly, it has been done through a full process of the judiciary. It has been

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## Three arrested for throwing mobile, SIM card inside jail in Jammu

A photograph showing Lt Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, presiding over a meeting. He is seated at a long conference table, facing a group of officials. The table is equipped with microphones and documents. The setting appears to be a formal meeting room with wood-paneled walls and other officials seated around the table.

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## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have busted a three-member gang involved in throwing a mobile phone, a SIM card and a charger using a Cosco ball inside a jail premises for use by the prisoners here.

The ball was found in the premises of Amphala Jail in Jammu during a routine search on April 2, leading to recovery of the Chinese-made mobile phone along with other accessories, a police spokesman said.

While the main accused Vikas Singh of Bhagatpur was arrested on Thursday,

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## Reject exploiters, embrace progress: Azad

Abdullahs, Muftis and Congress family leaders have done nothing positive for the people of J&K. Violence, killings, stone pelting and strikes were the norm of the day in their times. And when BJP makes efforts for welfare and well-being of people, they are trying to incite masses against ruling dispensation instead of accepting their crimes they committed in their regimes on hapless people of Jammu and Kashmir," Chugh said.

He said since Article 370 was abrogated, Kashmir

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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**RAJOURI:** A case was registered on Friday in the Rajouri district following the circulation of a fake video with the intention to "create unrest" in the Jammu and Kashmir Police said.  
 "A video has been circulated on social media in which some objectionable slogans are heard during a procession in the Kalakote area of Rajouri. During initial analysis, it was found that the video is edited/unoriginal in nature with the audio of slogans added to create unrest," the police said in a statement. It said the police has taken the issue

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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chairman  
Democratic Progressive  
Azad Party (DPAP)  
Ghulam Nabi Azad, on  
Friday underscored the  
imperative for change and  
improved voters to back a  
candidate, who advocates for  
fairness and equality irre-  
spective, of caste or religion.  
Addressing a public meet-  
ing in Thatri, Kishtwar, rak-  
ing support for the party's  
Lok Sabha candidate, G.M  
Saroori, he stressed the sig-  
nificance of electing lead-  
ers dedicated to serving the  
needs of all constituents and  
fostering a climate of inclu-  
sivity and mutual respect.


an atmosphere



brimming with enthusiasm, Azad fervently appealed to the people to throw their weight behind Saroori and the principles he stands for. He said: "We must vote for the candidate who will ensure

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## Modi's assertion on holding Assembly polls in J&K razed opposition's 'false narrative': BJP



under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The voice of the country is heard distinctly on international forums and taken seriously, he added.

The defence minister claimed that the Russia-Ukraine war was suspended for more than four hours following Modi's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US

President Joe Biden for the safe evacuation of 22,500 Indian students stranded in Ukraine.

He said the world is acknowledging the progress made by India over the past few years.

Singh also quoted the US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, as saying that if the world has to see the future, it should come to India.

"We are manufacturing

President Joe Biden for the safe evacuation of 22,500 Indian students stranded in Ukraine.

He said the world is acknowledging the progress made by India over the past few years.

Singh also quoted the US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, as saying that if the world has to see the future, it should come to India.

"We are manufacturing

most of our defence equipment in India now. Earlier, we used to export defence equipment worth only Rs 600 crore. Over only seven years, we are exporting defence equipment worth more than Rs 21,000 crore. India is not an ordinary country now," he said.

Describing the BJP as a party that does what it says, Singh said it implements its manifestos in verbatim.

"We said we would abrogate (the provisions of) Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir; we did it. We said we would bring the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, we did it. We were saying since 1984 that we would build a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and we did that too," he said.

"On the contrary, parties like the Congress have

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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The BJP on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion on holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir "demolished" a false narrative "being created" by the NC, PDP and other opposition parties.

The BJP's reaction came after the prime minister, while addressing a poll rally in Udhampur earlier in the day, asserted that the time was not far when the Assembly polls would be held in Jammu and Kashmir, which would also get its statehood back.

"I would like to congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir because the prime minister has reiterated this resolve to hold early elections in Jammu and

"BJP leader Hood, who is the in-charge for the territory, said. He suggested that the top of the National People's Party and other parties were creating a false perception of the Centre was afraid of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the situation in that region is normal in Jammu and the security situation is normal and that the Government of India is afraid of elections. This kind of narrative is, Muftis and others are creating which has been demolished,"

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