

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Time not far..**

and Kashmir. New railway, tunnel and road projects are coming up. A record number of tourists are coming to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.
Jammu and Kashmir has to become a start-up hub, the prime minister said.
He said this new phase is becoming the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir.
"This dream has been seen by several generations. I give you the guarantee that your dream is my resolution. Every moment of fulfilling your dream is dedicated to you. These efforts will be in the name of India. It will change the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said.
He said his government will work round the clock to realise the dream of "Viksit Bharat 2047".
"This is the guarantee of Modi. In the last 10 years, we have cracked down on terrorism and corruption in the region. In the next five years, we will take this region to new heights of development and progress," the prime minister said.
He asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has completely changed in the last 10 years.
"The condition of roads, electricity, water and infrastructure has changed. But the biggest thing is that there is a change of heart in Jammu and Kashmir. People have moved from disappointments towards hope," Modi said.
The prime minister said he had come to pay obeisance to Vaishno Devi and also have a "darshan" of the people of the region. "Those living with the Mata's blessings are revered for me," he said.

'Ram temple wasn't..

vettted by a court judgment and its justice delivery system. Thirdly, the people of India have contributed every penny for the construction of the temple, not the government," he said.
Modi said the trustees of the temple, after forgiving the opposition leaders for the sins committed by them against those battling for the shrine, invited them by going to their houses, but "they declined the invitation".
"I want to ask the Congress that when you were speaking against it day in and day out, as part of which election issue were you doing so? Every devotee of Lord Ram has seen your arrogance when you ignored the biggest event to which crores of people were attached," the prime minister said.
He claimed that declining the invitation was the election game plan of these parties. "What type of compulsion was this that you said Ram was imaginary? Which vote bank were you catering to? The Congress and the INDIA bloc do not care about the majority of the country's people. They feel happy to insult their feelings," Modi said.

Referring to some leaders consuming meat in the month of Sawan and making its video viral, Modi said, "In the month of Sawan, they went to the house of a person who was handed a punishment by a court and is on bail and cherished the taste of mutton. They made a video of it to tease the people of the country."
"During the month of Sawan, a person who was convicted, who is on bail, someone went to this kind of a criminal... During Sawan, they enjoyed eating mutton. Not just this, they made a video and worked to tease the people of India," he said, referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's house.
Modi said neither any law nor him prevents anyone from eating anything.
"Everyone is free to eat vegetarian or non-vegetarian food. But they had different intentions. The Mughals used to get satisfaction by vandalising temples, not by defeating kings. They used to derive pleasure out of it.
"Likewise, they tease the people of the country by releasing such videos in the month of Sawan and consolidate their vote banks," the prime minister alleged.
He said during Navratri, eating non-vegetarian food and highlighting it hurt the feelings of people.
"These people will resort to abusing me and targeting me for saying this. But when it is beyond the point of tolerance, it is my duty in a democracy to tell the right things to people. That is my job. I am fulfilling my duty," he said.
Modi accused these leaders of deliberately indulging in such acts "so that a big section of people gets annoyed".

"They have a Mughal mindset. They do not know that when the public gives a fitting reply, the princes of big dynasties get sidelined. Dynastic parties and corruption-ridden people should not be given opportunities," he said.

Three arrested for..

card to Harsh Singh, he said.
The spokesman said that Singh was subsequently arrested and disclosed during questioning that he along with Vikas alias Raja of Bhagatpur threw the ball containing the article inside the jail premises, riding a motorcycle to aid a state prisoner.
Vikas was arrested and the motorcycle used in the commission of the offence has also been seized, the spokesman said, adding further investigation is on.

LG for adopting..

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Rahul Yadav; CEO Jammu Smart City Ltd; Dr. Owais Ahmad, CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd, senior officials of Development Authorities and concerned departments.

Reject exploiters, embrace..

their voices for all, regardless of whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, or Christians. Our mission is to uplift the poor and become their voice. While other parties have exploited people in the name of religion, we are committed to delivering justice."
Azad appealed to the people to vote for development, emphasizing the importance of choosing candidates who are dedicated to the progress and upliftment of the people.

He said, "The Chenab Valley has been consistently ignored by other parties. As a native of this region, I keenly feel the pain of my people. While others have merely exploited their voters and done nothing in return, we have actively worked to build colleges, roads, schools, universities, hospitals, and gardens. We are committed to continuing this progress, but we need your support to do so."

Azad reminded the people of his impassioned speeches in parliament regarding Article 370 and statehood.

He said: "It was only me who fought for your rights when other MPs remained silent; the government has agreed to the restoration of statehood. However, our journey doesn't end here. We must continue to strive for full statehood, and for that, we need to intensify our efforts and rely on your unwavering support."

Azad said: "If the people support our mission, we will introduce legislation in the State assembly to safeguard our job and land rights. Additionally, we are committed to restoring the Roshi scheme, which solely benefited the underprivileged. Unfortunately, the government revoked it. However, my government will reinstate the Roshni scheme to ensure justice and support for those in need."

He made a fervent appeal to the people, urging them not to fall under the influence of those with a history of exploiting the people.

He emphasized that while such entities have nothing substantial to showcase, the two and a half years of dedicated developmental work done by the government during his tenure as Chief Minister speaks volumes about their commitment to progress and welfare.

He urged voters to make choice based on the track record of candidates and emphasized the need to support those genuinely dedicated to serving the community's interests.

Police registers case..

seriously and a case under the relevant sections of law has been registered at the Kalakote police station for a detailed investigation to bring the culprits to book.
"People are requested not to fall prey to rumours and to avoid sharing the video which shall attract strict legal action," the statement said.

Farooq should stop..

has become a new land of opportunities and development where the youth can look beyond guns and bullets and talk about computers and sports.
"There is a distinct sigh of relief among the people in J&K as they were stuck in the clutches of dynastic political parties who use common masses as cannon fodder. People are living a peaceful life, business has flourished, tourism has broken all pre-

vious records, international tourists are visiting J&K, roads and tunnels have been constructed at a greater pace and youth have been provided livelihood opportunities. This is what BJP did in the past five years," Chugh said.

Chugh advised the NC President to look at things going around without the spectacles of Italy.

"Dr. Farooq should accept all the nefarious designs that he wove to keep himself in power by fooling the people of J&K," said Chugh, adding that Abdullah should accept the developments the BJP did in the past five years across the country in general and J&K in particular.

On Omar Abdullah's nomination from the north Kashmir segment, Chugh said this amplifies NC's admission of defeat in the heart of Kashmir:

"As NC leader Omar Abdullah has decided to contest LS polls from north Kashmir, it speaks volumes of their credibility. Today NC admitted its defeat and expressed that people of Srinagar have rejected their so-called dogma. Their negative rhetoric on Article 370 restoration has exposed them in public," Chugh added.

Modi's assertion on..

Sood charged. Sood said that Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier reiterated that the Centre will hold "early elections in Jammu and Kashmir as and when the security situation and other factors make it compatible".
"It's Modi's guarantee that elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir. Muftis, Abdullahs and Gandhis should understand that Modi's guarantee never fails," the BJP leader said.

Congress to become..

only been making false promises to people. Had it fulfilled even 50 per cent of the promises made in its manifestos, India would have been a developed country by now," Singh said.

Later, addressing another election rally at Lohaghat in support of Ajay Tamta, the BJP candidate from the Almore (reserved) Lok Sabha seat, Singh said during the days of Congress governments, border villages were called India's last villages but Modi called them the first villages and prioritised their development.

It shows the diametrically opposite approaches of the leadership of the Congress and the BJP, he added.

Congress governments did not do infrastructure development in border areas because the party was afraid of neighbouring countries like Pakistan and China, Singh alleged.

"We also want good relations with our neighbours but we should also be capable of retaliating if nudged or provoked by anyone," he said, referring to the work done by the Modi government for building border infrastructure in Uttarakhand over the last 10 years.

The BJP leader also slammed the previous Congress governments for handing out "lollipops" to veterans in the name of 'one rank, one pension', which he said was implemented only after Modi took steps in right earnest to fulfil the longstanding demand.

"When we took over in 2014, in terms of the size of our economy we were at the 11th position in the world. In the last 10 years, it has jumped to the fifth position and our prime minister is confident of making it the third-largest economy in the world before the end of 2026," he said.

Talking about the country's growing international stature under Modi, Singh spoke about the acquittal of eight Indian naval officers on the death row in Qatar after the prime minister's intervention.

"What is wrong with the Congress? It demands proof of surgical and air strikes from the armed forces," he said.

Refuting the Congress's charge that the BJP is creating divisions between Hindus and Muslims, Singh said it was a false allegation levelled by the opposition party to hide its own drawbacks.

"If it was true, five Arab countries would not have conferred their highest honours on Narendra Modi," he said.

"You should excuse the Congress now. It is in real bad shape. Even senior Congress leader Harish Rawat has admitted that it has become slow and weak. I can also say that the party is not well enough to climb the hills, these heights. Only the BJP can do so," Singh said.

'Apology not accepted': SC raps Patanjali, Uttarakhand Govt over misleading ads

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court lambasted Ayurved guru Ramdev and Patanjali Ayurved managing director Acharya Balkrishna, refusing to accept their unconditional apology for issuing misleading advertisements and saying the judges didn't want to be "so generous" after the two were caught on the wrong foot with their "back to the wall".
A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also came down heavily on the Uttarakhand government, saying the authorities kept their "eyes shut" by not cracking down on the company for violating advertising rules by making false claims about curing diseases such as diabetes and asthma.
"We decline to accept your affidavit (of apology) or condone your conduct. We consider it wilful breach of our order (of November 21, 2023). We decline to accept this affidavit. This is deliberate violation of law for which you will have to suffer consequences," the bench told Ramdev and Balkrishna. The court pointed out that the affidavit of unconditional apology was released to the media before being filed in court, and suggested that this implied it wasn't genuine.
The court pulled up Uttarakhand officials for acting "in cahoots" with the contemnors and failing to register cases against Patanjali for issuing advertisements promising cures for lifestyle and other specified ailments prohibited under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954, Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Rules 1955, and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945. The court directed the state licensing officers and district ayurvedic officers posted in the state since 2018 (since when complaints against Patanjali are pending) to explain their inaction

within two weeks.
"We will rip you apart... Why should we not think that you were in cahoots with the contemnor respondents and you were keeping your eyes shut deliberately?" the bench asked.
The court, which fixed April 16 as the next date of hearing, directed Ramdev and Balkrishna to remain present for the third time, reminding the two that they were taking things "too lightly" when there was a "wilful and deliberate breach of law" in a contempt case, for which consequences will follow.
On April 2, the court had refused to accept the affidavit filed by Ramdev and Balkrishna, giving them an opportunity to file a fresh affidavit. The bench indicated that it might initiate perjury proceedings after noting a wrong fact in an application that sought exemption from personal appearance for the two men.
In that document sworn on March 30, they attached a copy of the travel ticket of March 31, which infuriated the bench. "The fact remains that when the affidavit was sworn, no such ticket was there and an attempt was made to wriggle out of the proceedings before court," the bench remarked.
"The apologies that are on record are on paper. Since you have been caught on the wrong foot and their back is already against the wall, having gone to town saying all kinds of things the very next day of our order passed (on November 21) where your counsel had given undertaking... we are wondering why should we not treat your affidavit with the same disdain that you showed to your undertaking. We won't accept your affidavit," the court said.
"Patanjali, Baba Ramdev did not find it fit to send us the fresh apology affidavits. Till matter hit the news, this court did not have the benefit of getting the affidavits. They sent it to media first. They clearly wanted to publicise it by putting it into

public domain. Till 7.30pm yesterday it was not uploaded for us," the court added.
In the November 21, 2023 order, the top court had noted that the counsel representing Patanjali Ayurved had assured it that "henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it and, further, that no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form".
The top court had said Patanjali Ayurved is "bound down to such assurance". But it was flouted by the company, which also released statements to the media, which irked the court.
Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Balbir Singh, representing the two contemnors and the company, urged the court to consider the affidavit where the two even agreed to refrain from making any public statement or issue advertisement contrary to their undertaking. They also offered to issue a public apology in the media and press.
But the bench was unmoved. "You do whatever, but we will pass orders," it said.
Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the court that the fresh affidavits were filed on his advice, and if there was anything that the court felt must be done, it could be communicated to the lawyers.
The bench said, "It is not about the contemnors alone but a larger message should go out to the public at large that an undertaking given to the court, which is to be valued and accepted, and you are violating the law with blatant impunity."
They observed that an apology given to the court could not be taken lightly as there was a larger issue concerning public health. "We are also concerned about the

FMCs (fast moving consumer goods) who are taking the consumers up the garden path and making people buy their products who end up bearing adverse consequences. There are major fault lines in the system and this fault line is not at the cost of your company but the health of the public."
Uttarakhand filed a separate affidavit explaining the action taken on the complaints against Patanjali for misleading advertisements. Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for the state, said that in three instances during 2022, notices were issued to Divya Pharmacy (under Patanjali Ayurved Limited) over their medicines promising cure for diabetes, asthma and other lifestyle diseases.
Dhruv Mehta referred to the affidavit filed by licensing department's joint director Mithilesh Kumar who quoted the response received from Divya Pharmacy citing an order of the Bombay high court staying the 1945 Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. On this basis, a warning was issued to the company.
But the court dismissed this explanation. "Why should we not think that you are in cahoots with the alleged contemnors? You kept your eyes shut deliberately. When they violated your warning, what did you do, sit and wiggle your thumb. On what basis did you offer them warning? You warned but did not take any action for two years. Should this be the attitude of the state authority? You are hand-in-glove as three times you issue notice but no action taken."
The court noted that the officer who filed the Uttarakhand affidavit was in office only for nine months.
As the officer, Mithilesh Kumar, sought to apologise, the bench remarked, "What is at stake are the countless faceless people who buy these medicines. What about people who had Coronol (a drug floated by Patanjali as cure for Covid later with-

drawn after Centre intervened) in good faith. Can a warning be enough if people die?"
Noting the manner in which the files against Patanjali kept moving between the ministry of Ayush in the central government, the Uttarakhand licensing authority, and the district ayurvedic officer, the bench said, "We are appalled to note except for pushing the file, the state licensing authority has done nothing. They sit pretty and wait for instructions from above when they can act under the law.... There was a clear attempt on part of state authority to pass the buck and delay the matter. In all these five years, the licensing authority has remained in deep slumber... You have given them a long rope by acting as a mere post office."
The order said, "We are of the opinion that all predecessors of the joint director, licensing department are equally complicit during their tenure in office... The predecessor to the present deponent (Mithilesh Kumar) shall file affidavit explaining his inaction on his part during his tenure in office. All district ayurvedic and Unani officials from 2018 till date will also file affidavit explaining inaction on their part."
They were granted two weeks to file response.
The orders came on a petition filed by Indian Medical Association (IMA) and former IMA secretary-general Jayesh Lele, who approached the top court in 2022 against derogatory remarks made by Ramdev against allopathic doctors and modern medicine and promoting Patanjali drugs to have cure for lifestyle diseases, prohibited under the 1954 Act.
On February 27, IMA referred to certain advertisements issued by Patanjali in violation of their undertaking and a press conference held by Ramdev a day after the undertaking given by the company on November 21 last year.

This 'undeclared emergency' more dangerous than 1975 Emergency: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah Friday said there was an "undeclared emergency" in the country and it was in more danger than during the Emergency in 1975.
"The usual complaint is that what we are going through is a worse phase than the Emergency. The only difference is that (former prime minister) Indira Gandhi declared it an Emergency.
"Today, the situation is like an emergency, but, it is not called an emergency," Abdullah told reporters here when asked to comment on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on the issue.
The former J-K chief minister said democracy was in

greater danger today than what it was during the Emergency in 1975.
"Tell me, how much of freedom do you enjoy to report the truth?... Today, democracy is in more danger compared to those times. Indira had the courage to hold elections then. She did not arrest anyone before the elections.
"Look at what is happening today. Wherever the BJP feels danger, candidates are arrested through some agencies. If this is not emergency, then release the opposition leaders and see whether the people support them or not," he said.
On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's barb on dynastic politics directed at the NC, PDP and the Congress, the NC leader said, "He (PM) rakes these issues when he comes here.

We wait for his programmes so that he says something new."
Abdullah said Modi, who has been in power for the last 10 years, only talks about 'parivarwad'. "The BJP is not opposed to families in politics. They are only opposed to those families who are opposed to the BJP," he said.
"If you see the distribution of their mandates this time, almost one-fifth of it belongs to political families. The BJP has given tickets to the families of its leaders.
"If that 'parivarwad' is fine for the BJP, then why do they have an objection when it comes to us? It is only because we oppose them. We have been opposing them and we will continue to oppose them," the NC vice president said.
Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974 at Pudducherry under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore by the ICAR, New Delhi. He also informed the farmers that presently the ICAR has established 731 KVKs across the nation and these KVKs are mitigating the scientific agricultural needs of the farmers. He further added that the KVKs are playing a pivotal role in transformation in rural areas by creating the awareness among the rural people about the latest agricultural technologies. He added that the KVKs are playing a significant role in farmers' prosperity. Dr.Banarsi also appreciated the farmers for their efforts on commercial floriculture, organic vegetables growing, poultry farming, sericulture etc.
During the programme progressive farmers, Sukhdev Singh and Kamal Singh were also present who shared their experiences on progressive farming with the other farmers. The programme was assisted by Manohar Lal and Mohd. Iqbal and concluded by Dr. Banarsi Lal with the formal vote of thanks.

KVK Reasi celebrates Golden Jubilee of KVKs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Jammu (SKUAST-J) celebrated the Golden Jubilee of KVKs at KVK, Reasi which was attended by a number of farmers of the area. The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof.BN Tripathi and guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J.
KVKs Golden Jubilee Torch reached at KVK, Reasi which was handed over by Dr.Parveen Kumar, Scientist, KVK, Ramban to Dr.Banarsi Lal, Sr.Scientist & Head, KVK, Reasi. While addressing the farmers Dr.Banarsi said that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are celebrating their Golden Jubilee Year in 2024 as they have fifty years of their journey. He informed that the first Krishi

in rural transformation. He further said that the KVKs are bringing the modern package of agricultural technologies at the farmers' doorsteps and are mitigating the scientific agricultural needs of the farmers. He further added that the KVKs are playing a pivotal role in transformation in rural areas by creating the awareness among the rural people about the latest agricultural technologies. He added that the KVKs are playing a significant role in farmers' prosperity. Dr.Banarsi also appreciated the farmers for their efforts on commercial floriculture, organic vegetables growing, poultry farming, sericulture etc.
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