

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Terrorists don't play...

"In 2014, Modi ji came. But this problem (terrorism) did not start in 2014. It did not begin with the Mumbai attack. It happened in 1947. In 1947, the first people (invaders) came to Kashmir, they attacked Kashmir: It was an act of terrorism. They were burning down villages and towns. They were killing people. These people were tribals from Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province. The Pakistan army backed them. We sent the army, and the integration of Kashmir took place," Jaishankar said.

"While the Indian army was taking action, we stopped in the middle and went to the UN, mentioning that the attack was by tribal invaders instead of terrorism, as if it was a legitimate force," he said.

He added that in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, Pakistan first sent infiltrators to sabotage.

"We have to be very clear in our minds about terrorism; under no circumstances is terrorism acceptable from any neighbour or from anyone who uses terrorism to force you to sit at the negotiating table. This should never be accepted," he said.

He mentioned that sometimes he is asked about the continuity in India's foreign policy and he responds clearly that there is 50 per cent continuity and 50 per cent change.

"One change is regarding terrorism. After the 26/11 Mumbai attack, there was not a single person in the country who felt that we should not have responded to the attack. Everybody in the country felt it. There is an account of that time. The NSA had written that this minister looked at it, that minister looked at it. Everybody deliberated, a lot of analysis took place, and then it was decided that the cost of attacking Pakistan is more than not attacking Pakistan. So after a lot of deliberation, nothing fruitful came out," he said.

He emphasized that if something like Mumbai happens and you do not react to it, how can you prevent the next one from happening? "They (terrorists) should not feel that since they are across the border, no one can touch them. Terrorists do not play by any rules. The response to terrorists cannot have any rules," he said.

BJP to release...

of the manifesto at the party headquarters that coincides with the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, a towering leader from the Dalit community and an architect of the Indian Constitution.

As the BJP government has fulfilled most of its core ideological promises, including the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the repeal of Article 370, all eyes will be on how the ruling party's larger cultural and Hindutva agenda figures in the manifesto. Party sources said measures for the youth, women, farmers and the poor -- four "castes" Modi has often spoken about -- will be among the highlights of its poll pledges. The BJP had appointed a 27-member manifesto committee headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh that met twice to deliberate on its contents after the party had launched multiple exercises, including vans sent across the country and social media campaigns, to seek people's suggestions.

With the census and delimitation exercise likely to be held on the watch of the next government, political watchers are keeping an eye on whether the BJP will touch on issues like concerns of southern states over the delimitation exercise.

The party is likely to underline its support for the "one-nation one-election" idea, sources said. With its senior leaders, including Modi, stressing the need for population control, it will be seen whether the ruling party proposes any policy measures for this. The issue of Uniform Civil Code, which remains a work in progress with the BJP pushing it in some of the states ruled by the party, may also feature in the manifesto.

Terror hideout busted...

search operation and recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) fitted in a Tiffin box and two pistols, police said. The operation was still going on when the last reports were received.

Besides the IED and two pistols, the search parties also recovered three electric detonators, 400 grams of explosive powder, two pistol magazines with 24 rounds, 40 rounds of AK assault rifle, eight batteries, 40 metres of electric wire, five metres of plastic rope, one steel plate, one glass, a bag, three bedsheets and some pictures, the spokesperson said.



LG exhorts youth...

On this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, the tenth Guru, formalized the concept of Saint-Soldier by introducing the Amrit ceremony and transformed the Sikhs into a family of Saints-Soldiers, known as the Khalsa Panth," the Lt Governor said.

He said a collective name given to the first five Khalsa is Panj Pyare. The Panj Pyare who were baptized by Guru Gobind Singh Ji were -Bhai Daya Singh, Bhai Dharam Singh, Bhai Himmat Singh, Bhai Mohkam Singh, and Bhai Sahib Singh.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, Sikh Coordination Committee J&K; Amarjeet Singh, President Gurudwara Sahib Abtal; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration, religious heads, prominent citizens, community elders and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion and paid their obeisance at the Gurudwara Sahib.

Sinha pays tributes...

"The unparalleled courage, valour and dedication of one of the greatest military commanders of the world will continue to inspire the generations," the Lt Governor said. RR Swain, DGP; Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GoC 26 Infantry Division; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.) President J&K Ex-Services League and other prominent personalities also paid their homage to General Zorawar Singh.



DPAP will champion...

Azad on Saturday criticized political parties for misleading the public, particularly leaders with dubious past.

Addressing a public meeting at Bhalessa, Azad questioned their contributions to the region, alleging they have exploited people without delivering tangible benefits. Despite previous attempts to sow division, he noted that voters had previously rejected such tactics.

He expressed confidence that the people of Chenab Valley will once again reject these politicians and their divisive politics in the upcoming elections.

He said that certain political parties, formerly aligned with the BJP, are now leveling accusations against his party.

He urged them to reflect on their own past actions, particularly during their tenure as Chief Ministers, and questioned their lack of meaningful contributions to the Chenab Valley.

Azad criticized them for deceiving the public with empty promises and false slogans.

He said: "Those who accuse us were part of the BJP: I was neither their MP nor minister. They enjoyed ministries with them. They brought BJP to J&K."

Azad promised a surge in job opportunities and developmental projects when his party comes to power.

Emphasizing a steadfast dedication to progress and prosperity, he underscored the need for harnessing the region's potential for growth. With the upcoming parliamentary elections, he assured the electors that G.M Saroori, DPAP candidate, will echo their concerns and aspirations in the legislative arena, echoing Azad's past efforts on critical issues such as Article 370 and statehood.

He said: "No other MP fought or spoke for Article 370. It was only me. Even those who spoke from the Congress were the members of G23, today they don't even speak."

Azad emphasized the crucial need for comprehensive development in the Chenab

Valley region. He highlighted the imperative to continue the ongoing efforts in constructing infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, degree colleges, and medical colleges.

He reiterated that the primary mission is to uplift the disadvantaged sections of society, ensuring their prosperity and well-being. Azad recounted the diligent efforts undertaken by his party to challenge land eviction orders that threatened the livelihoods of marginalized people.

Azad said that while other political parties remained passive, his party mobilized protests at district and tehsil levels to safeguard the land rights of underprivileged individuals, particularly those pertaining to state-owned lands.

Additionally, he lamented the revocation of the Roshni Scheme by the government but pledged to reinstate it, underscoring its significance in addressing the land ownership issues and empowering disadvantaged sections of the society.

Azad passionately appealed to voters not to squander their valuable votes on candidates who have failed to address the pressing concerns of the community. Instead, he urged them to support candidates like Saroori, who have a proven track record of championing the issues that matter most to the people.

Amit Shah to...

Home Minister Amit Shah will be visiting Jammu to address the rally to seek votes for BJP's MP Candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma. He said that with strong decisive governance, the Union Home Minister has ensured peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina asked the party leaders to meticulously plan everything related to the rally to facilitate the easy movement of the public and to oversee all the necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the rally.

Modi biggest supporter...

is spreading misconception, especially among Dalit and tribal brothers, that the BJP is going to abolish reservation.

"Listen to me carefully. Be it reservation for Dalits, tribals or backward classes, the BJP supports it. We will neither end the reservation nor allow anyone to do it," he said at the rally in support of Alwar Lok Sabha candidate Bhupender Yadav.

Shah's assertion came in the backdrop of the Congress' election manifesto promise of bringing a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. The Congress has also said a caste census will be undertaken if it is voted to power.

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress did injustice to the backward classes for years.

"It kept the Kaka Kalelkar report suppressed, kept the Mandal Commission report suppressed. Modi came and worked to give constitutional recognition to the OBC Commission.

"Modi has done the work of giving 27 per cent reservation to the OBC community in all recruitments at the Centre," Shah said.

The former BJP chief said the prime minister and 27 Union ministers were from the OBC community.

He sought the people's votes saying Modi accomplished many "seemingly impossible" tasks in 10 years of his government.

"Modi ji has to be made the prime minister for the third time. ... In ten years, Modi ji has done many things which seemed impossible. Modi ji has a record of 10 years and planning for 25 years," he said,

Targeting the Congress on the Ram Temple issue, Shah said, "For 70 years the Congress party kept delaying the Ram Temple, kept diverting it, kept stalling it."

"On April 17, for the first time after 500 years, Ramlala will celebrate his birthday in the grand temple on Ram Navami. This is a matter of pride for all of us," he said.

He said that the Congress had been holding on to Article 370 for so many years in its greed for the vote bank.

"Modi ji abolished Article 370 in one stroke on August 5, 2019, and hoisted the tricolour in Kashmir," he said.

Regarding the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project ERCP, he said, "ERCP is going to be completed soon, this is a guarantee of the Modi government."

Shah said that the BJP government in Rajasthan has moved towards ensuring women's safety and ending appeasement.

"Taking a dig at Congress, he said, "Modi ji says 'save daughter - educate daughter' whereas Congress says 'save son - make PM.'"

"Sonia ji's entire focus is on making Rahul the PM and not on your sons and daughters. This Rahul Baba is a vehicle that was launched 20 times but the launching failed every time," he said.

Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan will be held in two phases on 19th and 26th April. In the first phase, voting will be held in 12 seats -- Ganganagar, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Jaipur Rural, Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Karauli-Dholpur, Dausa and Nagaur.

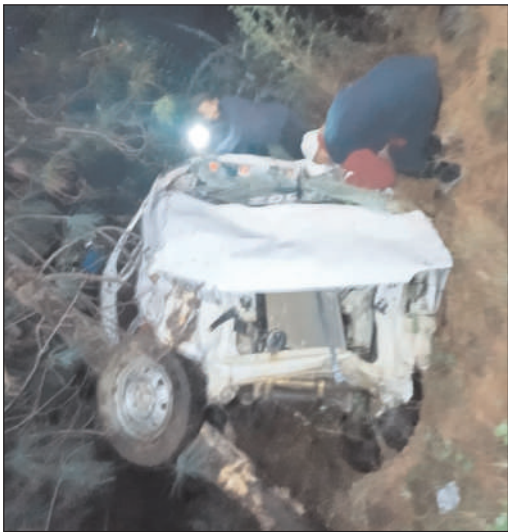
In the second phase, voting will be held in 13 seats -- Tonk, Ajmer, Pali, Jodhpur, Barmer, Jalore, Udaipur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Rajsamand, Bhilwara, Kota and Jhalawar.

Five dead, 5...

were immediately taken to nearby hospital where doctors declared five injured as brought dead.

The police officer also confirmed the identification of all deceased as Mukhtiyar Ahmed (28), son of Abdul Gani, resident of Bandoga, baby girl daughter of Mohd Amir, Riyaz Ahmed, son of Abdul Gani, resident of Phagsoo, Ireena Begum, wife of Saddam Hussain, resident of Gunthi and Mohd Rafi, son of Abdul Rehman, resident of phag-soo.

The official also identified all injured as Injured Mohd Amir, son of Mohd Shafi, resident of Phagsoo, baby girl age approximately 10, baby girl age 8, Sufiyan Sheikh, son of Bashir Ahmed, resident of Belmdoga Age 24 and Saima Begum, wife of Mohd Amir.



LG expresses grief...

and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. I have issued instructions to District Administration to provide all necessary assistance, as provided in rule, to the affected persons".

Congress in desperation...

confronted with the question that if they deny the presence of the roads, the tunnels, the overbridges and the Express Corridors built in the last 10 years, then why should they be using the same, he said.

Dr Singh said, the Congress Party then tried to underplay the courage and conviction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in abrogating Article 370 and started blowing hot and cold without making their stand clear on the issue. As Prime Minister Modi threw an open challenge in his public rally at Udhampur yesterday, does the Congress Party have the courage to say that it will restore Article 370 if at all it ever comes to power though there is no chance of its coming to power, he added.

Similarly, in a vain bid to underplay the courage and conviction shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in construction of Ram Mandir, Dr Jitendra said, the Congress Party says that BJP is politicising the Ram Mandir issue. But as PM Modi himself said in the Udhampur rally that since the Ram Mandir issue had been pending for the past 500 years, the Congress governments had the opportunity to resolve it when they were at the helm of power for more than half a century, but they could not and when the BJP has successfully resolved the issue, they are trying to falsify it even though this is not a matter of politics but an issue deeply embedded in the civilisation of India.

Dr. Jitendra said, the Congress leaders are seeking direct support from the political parties which are known to side with separatists whose purpose was to break India and Parties like PDP and National Conference who had never been in favour of complete integration of J&K with India.

Dr Singh said, there is no choice now but to vote for Modi and for Bharatiya Janata Party because any vote for Congress will mean a vote to break India, to demolish the idea of India and to halt the progress of India in its journey to 2047.

Accompanying Dr Jitendra at different spots during the election tour were former MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, DDC Vice Chairman Raghunandan Babloo, Vicky Sarpanch, DDC Sushma, Prem Nath Dogra, Janak Bhaurati, Vidya Sagar, Gopal Mahajan, PRIs, influential leaders of BJP and others.

ECI launches "KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE" App for LS Elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To strengthen accountability and bring transparency in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India on Saturday developed a new app titled "Know Your Candidate".

The app helps citizens to know about the criminal antecedents of candidates contesting the elections.

To use the KYC app, the voters need to select the election type and AC/PC name to view the list of nominations or they can directly search the candidate by name. The app will then display information about the candidate's criminal antecedents, if any. This information includes the details of any criminal cases filed against the candidate, the status of those cases, and the nature of offenses. It can help voters in identifying candidates with a history of criminal activity thereby enabling them to make an informed decision.

The citizen will be able to view the status of criminal cases filed against the candidate (if any) including the nature of offenses that the candidate has been accused of. The app is a valuable resource for voters who want to know more about the candidates who are contesting elections. The application is available both on Android and IOS devices. The citizens are encouraged to visit ECI's Website for more information.

Time to bring change through ballot: Raj Babbar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Senior Congress leader and star campaigner Raj Babbar on Saturday accused the BJP-led central government of doing grave injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said it is time to bring about a change through the ballot.

Addressing a massive rally here in support of the Congress candidate for the Udhampur parliamentary constituency Choudhary Lal Singh, the actor-turned-politician claimed that the people of the entire country were fed up with the Modi government for its "anti-youth, anti-poor and anti-farmers policies".

The Udhampur Lok Sabha seat is going to polls on April 19. The BJP has fielded Union minister Jitendra Singh from the constituency.

"The BJP has done injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in every sphere and it is time to bring about a change through the ballot," the Congress leader said.

Babbar also hit out at the government for launching the Agnipath military recruitment scheme and claimed it spoiled the future of the youth and dashed their dreams of joining the armed forces.

He assured that the Congress would abolish the scheme and restore regular recruitment drives once it is voted to power.

Former Union minister and AICC in-charge for J-K Bharat Singh Solanki, Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani, Lal Singh, National Panthers Party leader and former minister Harshdev Singh also addressed the rally.

Babbar said the Congress will provide relief to the youth, farmers, women and workers as guaranteed in its manifesto.

Seeking votes for Lal Singh, Babbar said he is a crusader against injustice and fights for the rights of the poor and downtrodden.

"Jammu and Kashmir was deprived of its status, rights and dignity by the BJP government," Solanki said, in an apparent reference to the abrogation of Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in August 2019.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election rally in Udhampur on Friday, he said top leaders of the BJP were rushing in one after another to campaign here as they know that people have made up their minds to bring about change.

Wani hit out at the BJP and the Modi government for "destroying the democratic system" in Jammu and Kashmir:

"The rights of people have been snatched, resources looted and our state downgraded. The large crowd here the very next day of the prime minister's rally is an indicator of the mood of the people who want to punish BJP...", he added.

Lal Singh assured the gathering that he would continue his fight for the dignity of the people who have been deprived of their "identity, status, and land and job rights".

DG RPF inspects newly commissioned railway line in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS



DG RPF Manoj Yadava during visit to Banihal.

BANIHAL: Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Manoj Yadava on Saturday commenced his two-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir by inspecting the newly commissioned railway line and stations between Banihal and Sangaldan in Ramban district, officials said.

The 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch along the country's most ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project was dedicated to the people by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu on February 20.

Out of the total 272-km USBRL project, 161 km was earlier commissioned in phases. The first phase Qazigund-Baramulla section covering 118 km was inaugurated in October, 2009, followed by the opening of the 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June, 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July, 2014.

According to railway officials, the work on the remaining railway line between Katra and Sangaldan is likely to be completed by June this year.

Yadava, accompanied by officials of RPF and northern railway, reached Banihal station on a special inspection rail car from Srinagar, after which he inspected the railway station and RPF post, the officials said.

He then visited the Khari, Sumbar and Sangaldan railway stations and inspected the deployment of railway protection force and security, they said.

On Sunday, the DG will be reviewing security of railway infrastructure in Srinagar followed by a visit to the Baramulla railway station, the officials added.

Mian Altaf still NC candidate from Anantnag Rajouri LS seat: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Saturday said Gujjar leader Mian Altaf was still the party's candidate from Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary constituency amid reports that he was not keeping well.

"We have not heard about it. If he had taken such a decision, then he would have informed us. Now that you have raised it, we will find out about it," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said Altaf is the party's first choice for the seat "and unless we won't hear from his mouth, he will be our party's face." "We will see what has to be done. Media reports are not always true, sometimes they are wrong. As I said, unless I won't hear it from Altaf that he won't be able to contest citing health issues, I won't be able to comment on it," he said. The party vice president said if Altaf does not contest then the party will hold consultations over it.