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India capable to...

but if touched by someone we will not leave them," he added. Singh, Union Minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, is seeking his re-election for the third term from Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

"We have the capability and power to hit (our targets) anywhere within and across our borders. The power of India increased in the world (after the surgical strikes)," he said, giving credit to Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Referring to the safe evacuation of over 22,500 Indian students in the midst of war between Ukraine and Russia in early 2022, he said the fighting between the two countries stopped for over four hours after Modi established contact with the presidents of the two countries and the US.

"The concerned parents of these students started demanding for the return of their wards from the war-torn country and the government facilitated their safe return (to their homes)," he said.

The senior BJP leader said there is hardly any person in the country who had not benefited from the government schemes over the last 10 years.

"The corona vaccination was ensured to all citizens without any charge and it was possible only because of the strong leadership," he said.

Later briefly talking to reporters, the defence minister exuded confidence in winning all the Lok Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir.

He declined a direct answer on the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate and said "the case is sub-judice".

Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said that Section 254 C pertaining to Land viz-a-viz displaced persons from Pak Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) is already under government review and Congress party and its allies, with nothing to claim to their credit, are desperately trying to make an issue out of non-issue and confuse the masses on the eve of election.

Speaking at a public rally in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and later addressing a series of public meetings at different locations including Govindsar, Basantpur etc., Dr Jitendra Singh said, there should be absolutely no apprehension or misgiving in this regard, particularly when government has been reiterating in the past also that this Section is under review.

Citing evidence, he said, it was only about six months back, the delegation of PoJK persons met the then Chief Secretary J&K Arun Kumar Mehta who is on record having stated and a report was published in all the newspapers quoting Chief Secretary Metha that the concerns expressed by the PoJK displaced persons were under consideration and the doubts regarding Section 254(C) will be cleared after the matter is reviewed.

He said, most of the PoJK representatives and leaders meeting the government officials from time to time have been candidly conveyed this and this is also the stand of the central government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah and yet, certain elements are trying to create confusion but their mischievous design will not succeed.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that it was after 2014 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi that a Rs. 150 Crore bridge was constructed at Keerian-Gandyal just to cater to about two thousand population out of which around one thousand are PoJK displaced persons.

The question is why the earlier governments headed by Congress did not address this demand, possibly because they did not find much of a vote bank stake here. But under the Modi government, we decided to fulfill the lapses of the past and meet every genuine demand of every section of society including the PoJK displaced persons regardless of vote bank consideration, he said.

Dr. Jitendra said, it hardly needs to be stated or proved because in the last 10 years, the government headed by Prime Minister Modi has walked extra mile to support all the genuine demands of each section of displaced persons, be it the West Pakistan Refugees or PoJK displaced persons or the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community. He said, on the other hand the question is to be answered by the Congress and its allies who ruled over Jammu & Kashmir and at the Centre for more than a half of century but deliberately ignored all these sections of displaced communities because they did not find their vote bank among them.

Dr. Jitendra recalled that it was the government headed by Prime Minister Modi, which gave the Citizenship rights to refugees from Pakistan nearly 70 years after they had settled in Jammu & Kashmir. Even though in today's time, citizens moving to other countries also get their citizenship rights after a certain number of years and one of the citizens from India has already become Prime Minister of UK. Not only this, he said, even from among the West Pakistan refugees, India got two Prime Ministers namely Inder Kumar Gujral and Dr. Manmohan Singh but ironically if these two great men had chosen to settle in Jammu & Kashmir; they too might have been subject to same hardship as their counterpart here and it was only Prime Minister Modi who gave them equal rights, equal platforms and equal opportunities as any other citizens of India.

Similarly, Dr. Singh said, as far as the displaced persons from PoJK is concerned, it is for the first time that the Modi government decided upon a plan to provide them compensation and financial aid whereas the earlier governments continuously ignored them despite their repeated requests.

He said, not only the displaced PoJK persons living in Jammu & Kashmir but those living outside J&K are also getting their demands and requirements addressed because of a very sensitive and liberal approach adopted by the government under the instructions of Prime Minister Modi.

Even for Kashmiri Pandits, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, during 1990s, when BJP was not in power at the Centre, all kind of assistance including reservation was sought to be provided in some of those States where BJP was in power or shared power and after the Modi government came in 2014, not only the employment packages for them was included but provisions were also made for their safe living in the valley while taking up job there.

'Beginning of Ram...

formation of the government but for the country which was pulled out from a big trouble caused by the trust deficit between the people and politicians.

Singh assured people that nobody who is an Indian national is going to lose his citizenship after the implementation of the CAA, while the BJP will keep its promise to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as promised in the party manifesto in the next five years.

He also referred to the banning of triple talaq and said "whether we form the government or not, attack on the dignity and honour of the women is not acceptable to us".

"I have a feeling that the establishment of Ram Rajya has started in the country and nobody can stop it from becoming a reality.

Ram Rajya means that the people have realisation and awareness towards their duties. There is a problem when people start having a sense of authority," he said.

Kathua district is part of Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

The senior BJP leader said a situation where people are realising their duties is taking shape in the country.

"When those sitting in the government do their duties responsibly, it will slowly create awareness among people as well. We are not doing politics to form the government but for the country," he said.

Expressing confidence about Jitendra Singh winning from the constituency for the third term with a huge margin, the defence minister appealed to the people to pick up the party's past manifestoes, since its origin from the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, and see to it that "we have fulfilled all our promises".

"We finished Article 370 (that provided special status to J&K) to bring it at par with other parts of the country. Opposition parties were talking about construction of the Ram temple since 1984 but it was done by us and our Prime Minister performed its 'pran pratishtha' on January 22," Singh said.

"We implemented the CAA but there are people who are trying to create misgivings but I want to clarify that no Indian citizen is going to lose his citizenship," he added.

Singh further said, "We have promised implementation of the UCC in the next five years and I wonder why it should not be done."

"A big trouble has been created in free India due to trust deficit caused by the politicians who used to say something and do something else. This trust deficit between people and politicians was finished by the BJP," he added.

Referring to the triple talaq, Singh said some people are saying why are you interfering in the religious affairs of others.

"I want to make it clear to them that any woman irrespective of her faith is our mother, sister and daughter. The attack on the dignity and honour of women will not be tolerated. Whether we form a government or not, how can we accept such a thing which will throw her out of her home," he said.

Advance registration begins...

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday.

The yatra would commence simultaneously from both the routes, the officials said.

The shrine board will also enable the live telecast of morning and evening "aarti" (prayers) for devotees across the globe.

A total of 542 bank branches across the country has been designated for the registration of pilgrims by the board, which is offering the facility also on its website.

According to the board, which manages the annual pilgrimage, no one below the age of 13 or above 75 years, and no woman with more than six weeks' pregnancy shall be registered for the yatra.

SC notice to...

giving everybody a wrong impression.

"I am not aware of selective leaks," Justice Khanna said, adding, "Let a notice be issued." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who represented the ED, said the probe agency will file its reply to the petition.

"I am now asking for an extremely short date of Friday for a reason," Singhvi said, underlining the need for the matter to be heard early.

"We will give a reasonable date, a very short date, but not what you are saying. That is not possible," Justice Khanna told Singhvi.

During the hearing, the senior advocate said the CBI and the ED have filed eight chargesheets in the excise case and Kejriwal had not been named in any of them.

"The story starts from September 2022 and he (Kejriwal) is arrested in March 2024," he said. Singhvi said during this period, 15 statements, including nine by one person and six by others, were recorded and none of them named Kejriwal.

"Reserve your arguments for the next date," Justice Khanna told the veteran advocate, who continued to question the timing of the AAP national convenor's arrest. Now, Singhvi said, the first round of polling is going to be held on April 19.

Mehta insisted electioneering cannot be a ground for seeking relief in such matters.

"After we have said issue notice, you should not have even argued," the bench told Singhvi, adding, "We know the facts. We have gone through the paper book. We spent so much time".

The bench, while issuing notice to the ED, asked the central agency to file its reply on or before April 24 and rejoinder, if any, can be submitted by April 27.

This is just...

of independence. It is an inspiration in itself and an opportunity to move towards development with renewed enthusiasm," the PM said when asked about his frequent reference to the "2047 vision."

'Modi ki guarantee'

When asked about the purpose of using 'Modi ki guarantee' across poll rallies, he said: "Every candidate is important in the upcoming elections. But 'Modi ki guarantee' is about ownership and taking responsibility. If you see other political leaders' speeches, there is no accountability."

"Lately, I heard a politician say 'Ek jhatke mein garibi hata dunga'. Those who got a chance to be in power for 5-6 decades, when they say this, the country thinks 'what is this man saying?'" he added.

In the interview with ANI, the Prime Minister said that the Congress and its allies had used the Ayodhya Ram Mandir issue like a political weapon. Commenting on leaders from political parties not coming for the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, he said, "The invite to the consecration ceremony was rejected to appease vote banks."

'We (BJP) can't play at that level'

When asked about the lack of a 'level playing field' and the alleged influence over law enforcement agencies, the PM said: "Out of these, not a single law (regarding the ED, CBI filing cases) was brought by my government, on the contrary, Election Commission reforms were brought by our government... We at least have members from the opposition in the commissions. Earlier, those close to the 'family' were made Election Commissioners who later got Rajya Sabha seats and ministries... We (BJP) can't play at that level."

'Regional aspirations should be given maximum attention'

Stating that the regional aspirations should be given the maximum attention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he would never want a state to face obstacles in its path to progress, and will instead look forward to help the state achieve its target. He also stressed that, along with cooperation, healthy competition should also exist between the states to take the country forward.

"Secondly, when I was in Gujarat, even then I had a mantra. The government here (Centre) was of UPA. Even then I had a mantra, for the development of India, Gujarat should be developed. I will develop Gujarat. Why? Because I want to develop my country. There should be an environment in our country," he further added.

PM Modi on Elon Musk's India plans

"I want investment to come in India because in India, it doesn't matter who has invested money, (but) the sweat put into the work must be of our own people. The product should have the essence of our soil, so that our youth in the country will get employment opportunities," PM Modi said, to a question on Elon Musk's Tesla and Starlink's possible entry into India.

During the interview, the Prime Minister was asked about Elon Musk publicly saying that the latter was a fan of Modi. To that, he responded by saying that Musk is a supporter of India.

For honest, middle-class taxpayers' in Modi 3.0

"The first time voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections will be the biggest beneficiary of 2047. I am urging them to join me as I work for their future," PM Modi said, as a message to the "honest, middle-class taxpayers" on what's in it for them in Modi 3.0.

He highlighted that the number of TITRs being filed doubled over the last 10 years during BJP's rule. "Today over 8 crore people file TITRs, this has doubled in the last 10 years because they have the trust that their money is being used in the right places," he said.

'Vote for the country': Modi signs off

Ending with a message ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls starting April 19, the PM urged people to go out and cast their votes "for the country." "Vote for your future over the next 25 years," he added.

I'm in...

National Conference (NC) leader, who hails from Kangan assembly segment in central Kashmir Ganderbal district, dismissed suggestions that any of the contesting candidates was an outsider.

"I respect all my opponents. (Ghulam Nabi) Azad is contesting from here. It is not as if he is making a mistake. He has a right to contest. He has contested from Maharashtra also. My father (Mian Bashir Ahmad) contested from Darhal (Rajouri) and won from there.

"A former chief minister (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed), who I respect, contested from UP while Mehbooba Mufti herself contested from Wachi (Shopian). I do not want to comment on these issues," Ahmad said while listing two other Lok Sabha members who represented the South Kashmir constituency but did not hail from here.

The NC candidate said his focus will be on undoing the decisions taken by the Centre in August 2019 by abrogating Article 370 and downgrading a full-fledged state into two Union territories.

"I will try to reach out to each and every block and tehsil in the constituency. I will listen to the people about their issues but the main focus will be to right the wrongs that were committed after August 2019, the uncertainty that is prevailing, the downgrading of a full-fledged state into two Union territories. The people have not accepted this decision.

"In terms of development, I will replicate in the Parliament constituency what I have done in my assembly constituency (Kangan). I have listened to the poor, the youth and unemployed which resulted in people voting for me time after time.

"But all this is possible only when the political uncertainty ends. You can see this uncertainty in Ladakh and Jammu while it is there in Kashmir also," he added.

TMC government trying...

the central security agencies will leave from here, after that who will protect them?

Citing the incidents, Chugh said that in the Diamond Harbor incident, the same people who were attacked for raising slogans of Jai Shri Ram are put in jail under Section 307. While the attackers are roaming freely.

Chugh said that in the Sandesh Khali incident, the investigation was handed over to CBI after the order of the High Court, Mamata government kept protecting the accused, instead of protecting the voters, the TMC government is creating an atmosphere of fear by scaring them.

Chugh pointed out that in another matter, Rahul Gandhi recently publicized a false statement that the Prime Minister is in favor of One Nation One Language.

Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed strong opposition to this statement of Rahul Gandhi.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Modi government respect all Indian languages and are committed to their expansion.

Chugh reiterated that the Prime Minister has also discussed in the manifesto yesterday that his government will remain committed to expanding the Tamil language,

Chugh said that Rahul Gandhi is a habitual offender of constant lying and has been punished for lying only.

The Congress party is trying to make its political gains by dividing the country on linguistic basis. This is unfortunate, he said.

Omar challenges Azad...

of the Chenab valley region to garner support for INDIA bloc candidate Choudhary Lal Singh.

The Chenab valley, comprising Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts, is an area where Azad has considerable influence. It also forms part of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, which is going to polls on April 19.

Azad, also a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, was named as the DPAP candidate from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat but he subsequently said he is not sure about his candidature as he was not consulted by the party about it.

"I challenge him (Azad) to contest (the polls) against me to test his strength. Hiding behind a camera and giving statements (against the NC) is very easy. If he is a man, let him fight against me. I will see how many votes he gets," Abdullah told reporters on the

sidelines of his roadshow in the Thathri area of Doda district.

Braving inclement weather, the NC leader carried on with his roadshow in support of Lal Singh, who is contesting the polls on a Congress ticket against Union minister Jitendra Singh.

Asked about Azad's onslaught against the NC in his election rallies, Abdullah claimed that he is doing so at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"We did not speak against Azad (after he left the Congress and floated his own party in 2022) until he started targeting NC president Farooq Abdullah. We considered him as our friend but he turned out to be a friend of the BJP," he said, adding, "It is Azad's compulsion to target the NC as he cannot target the BJP"

Earlier, addressing a gathering from atop a vehicle despite rains, the NC leader said his tour of the Chenab valley is meant to caution people about the ground situation and the conspiracies to divide their votes and weaken their voice.

"The party with a bucket symbol (DPAP) is not here to benefit you and resolve your issues. It has joined the (poll) contest to benefit the BJP, which revoked Article 370 of the Constitution, bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories (on August 5, 2019) and made hollow promises to us," he said.

Abdullah said this was the first time in the history of the country that a state was downgraded to a Union Territory. "What has changed (after August 5, 2019)? They made big promises and accused us of being an obstacle in the development of the region."

The NC leader said they are compelled to ask about the promised industrialisation, opening of new factories, employment for youngsters and massive development.

He slammed the BJP for its 'failure' to ensure employment for locals in under-construction power projects and said the administration has decided to lease out electricity from the Rattle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited, a joint venture between the NHPC and the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation, to Rajasthan for 40 years even as "our villages face major power cuts".

"This is the same power project that gave the BJP Rs 600 crore in the form of electoral bonds," the NC leader said.

NC, Congress mislead...

He said: "Where were these political tourists in Chenab Valley during the ten years of people's suffering? Did they raise their voices against land eviction or Article 370 in Parliament? No. They seem to be aiding the BJP in every action. Their leaders are too busy appeasing the BJP, just check their statements. They are the ones who declared their doors open for NDA, not me. So, who's the BJP's A team? It's the NC."

Azad questioned the Congress party's stance on Article 370. Reflecting on his time as Leader of the Opposition, he emphasized his advocacy for Article 370, 35A, and statehood.

He expressed concern over the current silence from the Congress on these significant issues.

Azad said that instead of confronting the BJP, the Congress seems to direct its focus on targeting our party, suggesting a perceived decline in influence.

He characterized this shift as indicative of internal frustration within the party.

He said, 'Congress is silent on Article 370, they didn't even speak when I was in the Congress. Only I know how I managed to speak on Article 370 in parliament.'

Azad criticized the lack of a clear stance of these parties, accusing them of misleading and abusing those who question their leadership.

He lamented their failure to address public issues, attributing their electoral losses to this neglect.

Azad criticized those in the Congress who prioritize appeasing the high command, by saying that they are doing injustice to the party.

Meanwhile, Azad described NC leader Omar Abdullah as a 'tourist' who spends summers in London and winters in warmer climates abroad. He pointed out that despite their political actions, such as implementing the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the loss of innocent lives, Abdullah and his cohorts have continued to live luxuriously, showing a lack of concern for the people.

Azad reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people of the 'state'. He emphasized that unlike some, he does not indulge in leisurely vacations but remains dedicated to addressing the suffering of his people.

Expressing empathy for the struggles faced by the people, he declared his unwavering determination to bring justice and development to the region. He urged the public to scrutinize his track record, highlighting his significant contributions to development efforts.

Azad appealed the public to support G.M. Saroori, the DPAP candidate, in the upcoming lok sabha elections.

Recognizing Saroori's tireless efforts and unwavering dedication, Azad praised him as a secular leader, committed to addressing public issues.

He exuded confidence in Saroori's ability to effectively represent the people's concerns in parliament, citing his track record of public service.

Among others present on the occasion were G.M Saroori Vice Chairman, Ab Majeed Wani Gen Secretary, Asif Gattu Distt President and others.

ECI facilitates voting...

is being extended to two key demographic groups: Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) meeting the 40 per cent benchmark disability criteria and senior citizens aged above 85 years.

This optional facility underscores the Election Commission of India's commitment towards ensuring that citizens' right to vote is not encumbered by physical barriers and disabilities. This upholds the Commission's motto of ensuring - No voter is left behind.

The procedure to avail this facility is simple yet thorough. Within five days of the election notification, the eligible voters must complete Form 12D and submit it to the returning officer while the PwD voters have to submit a baseline disability certificate with their applications.

The Booth Level Officer (BLO) is responsible for retrieving Form 12D from the elector's place of residence when the required documentation has been completed. The candidates receive a list of these electors in order to maintain accountability and transparency; if they wish, they can choose a representative to supervise the process.

Following this, a dedicated team of polling officials along with security officials visits the voter's residence to collect their votes. Crucially, the voters are notified ahead of time of the planned visit, allowing them to be prepared to exercise their right to vote safely and comfortably. To further expedite the procedure and improve accessibility, the voters can also receive notifications via SMS about the days when their home voting facility will be active. The complete process is also being videographed for transparency.

The provision of home voting is a progressive measure aimed at further empowering the voters. It is pertinent to mention here that the process of Home voting has already begun in PC -4 Udhampur wherein identified voters in the districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar have begun casting their votes via postal ballots.

116 votes casted...

Election. "This initiative aims to facilitate voting for elderly citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) at their homes as polling teams are reaching at their doorsteps to enable them to cast votes for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections," DEO said.

Pertinently, the initiative aims to increase voting percentage ensuring that no voter is left behind as every vote counts.

Jammu Distt declared...

the upcoming VVIP Visit on April 16, 2024 at M.A. Stadium.

As per the advisory, As a part of security measure and to ensure fool-proof arrangements for security and safety in connection with the VVIP visit to District Jammu on April 16, 2024, a number of precautionary measures are being taken.

"Whereas the instant VVIP being high profile, as such, District Jammu is required to be declared as "No Drone Zone" (Temporary Red Zone) as the pre-emptive security measure," it stated.

In this connection, SSP Jammu by virtue of Section 22(2) of notification of Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding Drone Rules 2021 declared District Jammu as "No Drone Zone" (Temporary Red Zone) with effect from 2200 hours (April 15) to 1300 hours (April 16).

"In lieu of provision containing in Rule 49 of Drone Rules 2021, police can take cognizance of the contravention of Rule 22 and Rule 27 of Drone Rules 2021, which are cognizable and non compoundable," it added.

Mohan Cheer Murder...

During sustained questioning, the accused turned out be main murder accused involved in infamous Mohali murder case in which gangster Rajesh Dogra alias Mohan Cheer was killed due to rivalry between two groups of illegal gangs.

The arrested main murder accused has been identified as Ranjeet Singh alias Rimpaa, son of Ashok Singh, resident of Langeth Supwal, district Samba and was wanted in case FIR No. 19/2024 under Sections 302/120-B IPC and 25/54/59 Arms Act of Police Station Phase II, Mohali, Punjab.

The accused Ranjeet Singh alias Rimpaa is a hardcore criminal and is also involved in case FIR No. 17/2010 under Sections 332/427/504/510 IPC and case FIR No. 71/2016 under Sections 332/427/504/510 IPC registered at Police Station Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

