

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Need 400 seats...**

of appeasement divided the country but we are ending 'tushikaran' (appeasement) and working for 'santushikaran' (satisfying people)."
He attacked the opposition tie-up in Uttar Pradesh, referring indirectly to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav. "The friendship between the two boys in UP is based on politics of appeasement. Both talk of the OBC in their speeches but they want to snatch away their rights from the back door and strengthen their own vote bank," he said.
He said the Congress government in Karnataka brought all Muslim castes under the OBC category, making them the "owners" of this quota.
"The Congress intends to play the same game in Uttar Pradesh also. In this, it is getting the full support from the Samajwadi Party," he charged.
"For the sake of its vote bank, Samajwadi Party is betraying the biggest trust of Yadavs and the backward classes. Both Samajwadi Party and the Congress, immersed in appeasement, have the same type of thinking," he charged.
He said the Constitution doesn't allow reservation on the basis of religion. "But the Congress insults the Constitution by advocating this. The Congress is determined to steal from the OBC quota to provide reservation based on religion," Modi said.
He said the Congress in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and in its manifesto, has repeatedly advocated reservation on the basis of religion even though the Constitution forbids it.
"Everything the Congress did on this front was rejected by the country's judiciary, so now the Congress has started playing the game through the back door," he said.
He referred to Rahul Gandhi's reported remarks on conducting a "survey" on economic inequalities.
"The Congress shehzade's X-ray machine will now reach the cupboards and lockers of women. It will also reach where they have kept their 'mangalsutras'. If the SP and Congress government comes to power, they will rob it. Modi charged.
"Their shehzada (prince) himself is saying this," he claimed.
"They are eyeing the savings of mothers and sisters. But I am standing as your watchman to make women entitled to their property," Modi said in Agra, invoking the term "chowkidar" he has used for himself in the past.
In Morena, he said, "Modi is standing as a wall between you and the Congress plan to loot you."

He also attacked the opposition parties over "dynastic politics", saying for them family was everything. "The SP didn't find any Yadav outside the family to give tickets in Budaun, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Azamgarh and Kannauj," he mocked.
Modi said this election was to completely free the country of the slave mentality of 1,000 years and to give new heights to India's self-respect.
The prime minister also took on the opposition over the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "They considered themselves greater than Lord Ram. They rejected the invitation of the consecration ceremony so that their vote bank doesn't get upset," he said.

J&K CEO optimistic...

the political parties and the candidates are reaching out to the people, a manifold increase in voter turnout is expected in the Valley," Pole said.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during an election rally in Udhampur on April 12, credited the improved ground situation in the Valley to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.
He emphasised that the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory are anticipated to transpire without the shadow of terrorism, disruptions or cross-border tensions.
Significant shifts within separatist factions, notably the separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference, have also contributed to the evolving political landscape.
Divisions in the conglomerate in 2003 and subsequent developments, including the passing of influential leaders such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021 and the incarceration of key figures on terror-related charges, have altered the region's political landscape.
Despite historical trends of low voter turnout in Kashmir, 2014 showed promising signs with assembly polls in the then-state witnessing a record turnout of more than 65 per cent in the region.
Pole emphasised that the ongoing aggressive campaigning by political parties and the encouraging response from the public are likely to lead to improved voter participation.
He said the assembly polls, unlike the parliamentary elections, mostly used to have good voter turnout ranging between 50 and 60 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.
"Voting in north Kashmir was relatively higher than south and central Kashmir, maybe because of local issues, presence of more candidates and active politics ... What we are seeing today is that the political parties and the candidates are canvassing aggressively and the response of the people is also encouraging," the chief electoral officer said.
With preparations in place to ensure security and build public confidence, Pole anticipates a notable improvement in polling percentages, particularly in north Kashmir where Omar Abdullah of the National Conference is contesting against separatist-turned-politician and former minister Sajjad Gani Lone of the People's Conference.

The Anantnag-Rajouri seat goes to the polls on May 7, Srinagar on May 13 and Baramulla on May 20.
Udhampur-Kathua, which went to the polls in the first phase on April 19, recorded a turnout of 68.27 per cent. On Friday, polling will be held for the Jammu seat.
Pole also spoke about various initiatives under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme that have been launched to boost voter engagement, particularly in areas with historically low turnout, underscoring efforts to promote democratic participation and inclusivity in the electoral process.
Amid these developments, Jammu and Kashmir gears up for a potentially transformative electoral exercise, with hopes pinned on a vibrant and participatory democratic process shaping the region's political future.

CS for promotion...

crafts and cuisine. He maintained that such strengths of our UT together with its established tourism sector can increase the foothold to such places substantially.
He asked for having collaboration with the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for organizing cultural activities at such places to attract the culture enthusiasts. He made out for formulating 2-3 days plans based upon the circuits devised and for the ease of visitors.
Dulloo also emphasized upon carrying out promotional campaigns to popularize all these circuits taking strengths of each of these into consideration. He even suggested taking the aid of the celebrities coming here for devising promos for our tourist destinations. He further told them to carryout both outdoor publicity besides carrying out the in-house information on the departmental websites and Social Media handles of the Department.
The meeting, besides Principal Secretary, Culture and Commissioner Secretary, Tourism was also attended by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society; Director Tourism, Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned officers.
The meeting discussed different circuits and places of heritage to be included for the interest of the visitors. The Commissioner Secretary, Culture Suresh Kumar Gupta gave insights into the possible circuits the Department is proposing to promote. In addition the Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal also laid down her plan of promotion for such exquisite places.
The current foothold and physical status of such places was deliberated upon. It also took into consideration the amenities available at such places for the ease of tourists visiting there.
As part of its promotional strategy, the Department of Tourism is taking various initiatives including FAM tour to heritage and pilgrim site, generating user content, iconography and documentation of such places, carrying out digital campaigns, creating mini documentaries, sponsorships and organizing festivals as future plans for promotion of these places in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

LS polls phase...



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

more than 16 lakh polling officials have been deployed across 1.67 lakh polling stations for over 15.88 crore voters.
Voters include 8.08 crore male, 7.8 crore female and 5,929 third gender electors. As many as 34.8 lakh first-time voters are registered to cast their votes. Additionally, there are 3.28 crore young voters in the age group of 20-29 years, the poll authority said.
Keeping in mind the heatwave, the EC has extended polling time in several polling stations of four constituencies in Bihar.
The India Meteorological Department has also warned of heatwave to severe heatwave conditions in parts of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh during the next five days.
The Met office said high humidity could add to people's inconvenience in Tripura, Kerala, coastal Karnataka and Assam.
Of the 1,202 candidates in the fray, 1,098 are men, 102 are women and two are from the third gender category.
At least three helicopters, four special trains and nearly 80,000 vehicles have been deployed to ferry poll and security personnel.
Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and actor-turned-politician Arun Govil, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Cong), and former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS) are among the key candidates while BJP's Hema Malini, Om Birla and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat seeking a hat-trick of wins from their respective constituencies.
The first of the seven-phase elections held last Friday for 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories saw a voter turnout of around 65.5 per cent.
After Friday's phase, polling will be over in Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura. In the first phase on April 19, polling was completed in all seats of Tamil Nadu (39), Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1) and Lakshadweep (1).
In 2019, the NDA had won 56 of these 89 seats and the UPA 24. Six of these seats have been redrawn as part of the delimitation exercise.
In Kerala, 2,77,49,159 people are eligible to cast their votes and out of them more than five lakh are first-time voters.
Gandhi is the sitting MP from Wayanad and is pitted against CPT's Annie Raja and BJP's K Surendran.
On the eve of polling, Gandhi in a video appeal urged people to support his party and asserted this is an election to save democracy and the Constitution which he alleged the BJP-RSS are trying to "destroy".
Tharoor is aiming to win the Thiruvananthapuram seat for the fourth time. He is pitted against Chandrasekhar from the BJP and CPT's Panniyar Raveendran.
Malini, who has represented the Mathura constituency since 2014, is contesting against Congress's Mukesh Dhargar while Om Birla, a two-time MP from Kota, is facing Prahlad Gunjal of the Congress.
Union minister Shekhawat is eyeing a third win from the Jodhpur seat and is pitted against Congress candidate Karan Singh Uchiyarda.
Tejavi Surya, the sitting MP for Bangalore South and the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morecha (BJYM), will face Congress's Sowmya Reddy.
Former chief minister of Chhattisgarh and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel is contesting from Rajnandgaon, a stronghold of the BJP for over 30 years.
Govil, famous for portraying Lord Ram's character in Ramayan TV series, is making his electoral debut against BSP's Devvrat Kumar Tyagi and SP's Sunita Verma.
The contest for the Alappuzha seat in Kerala has turned into a prestige battle for the Congress with All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal's return to the Lok Sabha poll fray after 2014 as the party looks to wrest the only seat it lost to the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in its landslide 19-1 victory in Kerala in the 2019 polls.
Venugopal has not lost any major election in his career. He won the Alappuzha Assembly seat three in a row in 1996, 2001, and 2006 and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Alappuzha in 2009 and 2014.
In 2019, he did not contest after the party elevated him to the post of the AICC general secretary. The third phase of elections for 94 seats across 12 states and Union territories will be held on May 7.

exfiltrated to Pakistan or Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in 1990s or in first after 2000 and are presently in Pakistan or PoK. Since then, they are continuously involved in handling terrorists and reviving and spreading terrorism in Handwara and other areas of Jammu and Kashmir", an official statement stated.
Following the prescribed procedure, land measuring ten Marlas at Kralgund belonging to proclaimed offender Mumtaz Ahmad Khwaja, son of Mohammad Subhan Khwaja, resident of Kralgund; land measuring 16-3/4 Marlas belonging to Lateef Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Rehman Bhat, resident of Badra Payeen; land measuring 01 Kanal and 2 Marlas at Ashipora belonging to Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, son of Mohammad Sultan Mir, resident of Ashipora and land measuring one Kanal at Khaipora belonging to Ghulam Nabi Ganai, son of Ghulam Rasool Ganai, resident of Khaipora, Qaziabad was attached by Police District Handwara on the orders of the Court.
These terrorists are also involved in different cases of Police District Handwara and are actively trying to revive and run the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The statement added.
Besides these four, 51 persons of Jammu and Kashmir citizens, who have exfiltrated to Pakistan, Pak Occupied Kashmir for illegal arms training and are operating from there have also been declared as proclaimed offenders by the Court. The action is also being contemplated against them under law, the statement said.

Property of 4...

People want me... almost all major issues in parliament, be it Article 370, CAA NRC, or the lynching of innocents. You have tested those parties, give a chance to my candidate, Adv Saleem Parry; he will raise your issues the way I did."
Azad reiterated his unwavering commitment to development as the cornerstone of his political agenda. With five decades of dedicated service to the nation, he emphasized the unassailable integrity that has characterized his political journey.
In his own words, he asserted, "In my 50 years of politics, no one can question my integrity. I have never taken a single penny from anyone for doing their work."
Azad outlined his vision to empower the youth and catalyze the development of Jammu and Kashmir through tangible initiatives. He said his vision encompasses the establishment of more colleges, roads, schools, universities, and hospitals, aiming to uplift communities and foster progress across the region.
"I do not engage in personal attacks or abusive rhetoric," he said, adding that his commitment is to constructive dialogue and civility in political discourse.
Reflecting on the pressing challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said that while his party leaders had proposed his candidacy in parliamentary elections, his conscience led him to a different decision.
Responding to the grievances of the people, including the lack of basic amenities such as electricity, water, employment opportunities, and infrastructure development, Azad recognized the urgency of addressing these issues at the 'state level'.
"The demand of the people is clear - they want genuine progress and development," Azad said, adding: "Only by focusing our efforts on the state level can we address the pressing needs of our communities and pave the way for a brighter future."
Among others present on the occasion were Adv Saleem Parry candidate, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Shuby Jan Secretary and others.

Will campaign for...

accompanying their father to the Deputy Commissioner's office here where party candidate Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi submitted nomination papers from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.
However, Zahir refused to answer another question, saying he had to meet the people.
"I want to meet the people. You take Omar sahab's byte," he told media persons.
His brother Zamir said while he has no intention of joining politics, yet he wants to remain connected with the people.
"I have no plans yet. I am a lawyer. We have connection with the people and that will stay forever," he said, when asked if he had any plans to join politics.
Zamir said the two will always remain connected with the people.
"I have no more plans than this as of now. I am with Omar. Mehdi submitted the nominations today. I am with him. They have my support till the very end. Our job is to connect with the people," he added.

Modi accomplished Congress...

of Article 370. He said " It was a temporary provision but the Congress led regimes did not have the courage to remove it and their vested interest allowed it to stay on for 70 years. It was the leadership of Prime Minister Modi which brought the unfinished business of previous regimes to task".
Dr. Jitendra Singh categorically mentioned that refugees from Pakistan were deliberately denied citizenship for 70 years. This was not only a violation of constitutional rights but also of democratic rights. Adding further he said that after witnessing the development in the valley, people in the illegally occupied part of J&K (PoJK) want to be a part of India.
The Union Minister also recalled that PM Modi believes in justice rather than

appeasement and several deprived sections have now got their rights. Children from the most disadvantaged sections of Valmikis in J&K can also now aspire to take up top jobs in the country due to a level playing field, he said.
"Development is our main plank to seek votes based on the progress in the past 10 years" says Science & Technology Minister. He said though there is a significance of article 370 in the general election campaigning while important agenda remains development which has taken place in J&K in the last ten years in a very balanced way without any regional discrimination and without any appeasement politics. All aid from the Centre was distributed in a balanced way to bring development into the mainstream. Now the region has IIT, IIMS, AIIMS, half a dozen centrally funded medical colleges, national level schemes, the world's highest bridge, S P Mukherjee Road Tunnel, passport offices, Ist Industrial Biotech park in northern India in the constituency.
Dr Jitendra Singh said, "people who were not voting for BJP earlier, but have become beneficiaries of different Modi schemes now, are also going through a change of mindset".
On the issue of inheritance tax featuring in Congress manifesto, Dr Singh said wealth tax is alien to the democratic values and Indian ethos. It is not compatible with the Indian family system, culture, and heritage as it will take away 50 percent of the wealth from the family after the death of a person. He added that it is the part of appeasement approach of Congress towards certain sections of the society for vote bank and Prime Minister Modi is trying to make people alert in this regard. The Congress party is trying last election tricks but the voters have moved on and they understand the real intent of Congress, he said.
He stated that BJP has no relations with PDP or INDI alliance in Jammu and Kashmir.

personnel will be done in future through various refresher courses. The telecom officials were also imparted training by the Cyber Police Station Jammu, Jammu Zone to deal with cyber-crimes to augment these newly created district Cyber Cells."
These district Cyber Cells are dealing with the various money related frauds cases like KYC update fraud, OLX fraud, PDD fraud (pending electricity bill fraud), investment related fraud, fake loan App. fraud, etc, at district level where fraudsters are defrauding people of their hard earned money and social media cases like being duped/cheated/defamed/defaced, cases related to transmission of obscene material, etc, on various social media platforms. "The Cyber Police Station Jammu, Jammu Zone is acting as a resource body for the entire Jammu Zone and is imparting trainings/refresher courses and providing all possible assistance to these newly created district Cyber Cells," Jain said, adding "Moreover, massive awareness programmes are also being conducted by Cyber Police Station, Jammu at various platforms like educational institutions, health care institutions, retired personnel institutions, armed forces, old age homes, NGOs, etc to beware people about the cyber-crimes in trend and how to prevent themselves if any such thing happens with them." "Besides, the Cyber Police Station, Jammu is also sharing Do's & Don'ts and other awareness messages/advisories on social media handles to reach out to people," informed Jammu Zone police chief Anand Jain. Additionally, the cyber Police station is also working on blocking the calling numbers and mobile phone sets used in fraudulent activities. The Cyber Police Station Jammu, Jammu Zone and the district Cyber Cells are aimed at helping various victims of cyber frauds and providing them relief immediately, ADGP Anand Jain said, adding, "The mission is to generate mass awareness against cyber-crimes in the most vulnerable sections of the society and to induce a sense of responsibility among them while using internet and attending unknown calls."
In this regard, a team of "Cyber Volunteers" is in pipeline from different layers of the society to act as force multipliers to disseminate the cyber awareness amongst people, ADGP Jain added.

Cyber Cells block...

CS reviews take-up of Vishwakarma, RAMP schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday reviewed the take-up of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like PM Vishwakarma and Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP) implemented by the Department of Industries & Commerce (I&C) in the UT.
The meeting, besides Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, SDD was also attended by MD, TPO; representatives from Ministry of MSME, NSDC; HoDs of the Department from Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers from these Departments.
The Chief Secretary asked to make an effective strategy for training and capacity building of the artisans registered for the PM Vishwakarma scheme. He asked DCs to visit the training centers to ensure that the aspirants are given quality training as mandated under the scheme.
Dulloo also took note of the action taken reports submitted on different issues raised last time. He asked for striking a balance between trainings and registrations made for different trades across the districts. He also took note of low traction among people against some trades and asked the department to create awareness among its artisans to take advantage under this scheme.
Dulloo also enquired about the credit linkage of the registered artisans with the financial institutions. He even took stock of the status of toolkits to be provided to these artisans by the Ministry as per the guidelines of this scheme.
Regarding the RAMP scheme he asked the concerned to take the necessary measures for formalization of MSME sector here. He advised for making effective strategy to create better ecosystem, space and generate ideas for its growth here. He asked them to give training, exposure and extend hand-holding to make MSMEs flourish here like other regions of the country.
The Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh divulged details of different kinds of activities the Department has undertaken for smooth implementation of these schemes here. He informed the meeting that under PM Vishwakarma scheme the registered artisans in 18 designated trades are eligible for collateral-free credit support of upto Rs 3 lakhs in 2 tranches at a concessional interest rate of 5%.
It was further made out by him that the registration and verifications are done by the Department and had been fast-paced since last meeting. He revealed that the progress is monitored and issues resolved simultaneously for making the scheme a success.
The Administrative Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan informed the meeting about trainings imparted through different polytechnics/ITIs to these artisans. He laid out that most of the registered artisans are in the trades of Tailoring, Mason and carpentry.
It was given out that around 60,924 artisans were trained till date through 70 government and 152 (NSDC approved) private training centers. It was said that after giving the basic skill these would be provided advanced skills besides a certificate of their skilling to receive the necessary assistance and toolkit.
As far as the implementation of RAMP scheme is concerned the MD, TPO, Khalid Jahangir apprised the meeting about the aims and objectives of this scheme. He said that 461 and 420 consultations with stake holders had been done across the districts of J&K.
It was also revealed that the baseline survey of about 1835 Udhyam and 1434 non-Udhyam registered MSMEs were surveyed by the organization here. It was given out that there are some 3.9 lakh micro, 0.49 lakh small and 290 medium enterprises here in the UT.
The meeting also discussed the formalization of MSME sector, industry-academic collaboration, training/incubation through different universities and institutions, empanelment of Business Development Services, branding, packaging and market access to be provided to such MSMEs under this scheme.

Over 4.40 lakh people visited Srinagar's tulip garden, highest since 2007

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A record 4.46 lakh visitors visited Asia's largest tulip garden, ensconced between the Dal Lake and the Zabarwan Hills here, which was closed for public on Wednesday after remaining open for over a month, officials said.
"This year the garden remained open for 33 days and saw a foothold of 4.46,154 visitors," Floriculture Officer of the garden, Javeed Masood, told PTI.
This is the highest foothold ever recorded in the garden since its inception in 2007.
The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, earlier known as Siraj Bagh, was opened for the public on March 23 this year.
Among the visitors, 3,204 were foreigners, 3,35,636 domestic tourists and 1,07,314 locals, Masood said. He said the garden saw the highest foothold on April 11, a day after Eid-ul-Fitr when a total of 30,659 people visited the garden. The locals, 18,888, were the bulk of the visitors that day.
More than 3.65 lakh visitors, both domestic and foreign, visited the garden last year, while it witnessed a foothold of 3.60 lakh people in 2022.
This year, the floriculture department added five new varieties of tulips to the existing 68. It also increased the area of the tulip garden by adding another two lakh bulbs. A record 17 lakh tulip bulbs were planted in the garden spread over 55 hectares.

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