

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Rahul opposed Art...

again. The entire country is committed to make Modi prime minister for the third time," he said.

Modi took tough decisions without caring about the vote bank, he said.

Under the UPA government, the Congress left no stone unturned to do injustice to Gujarat, Shah said.

"In 10 years, the BJP government resolved the issue of Narmada dam. Congress party granted only Rs 1.22 lakh crore to Gujarat in 10 years of this rule, while Modi granted Rs 5.55 lakh crore in the last decade," he said.

Shah alleged that the Congress party did not consider anyone except Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi as leaders, and forgot Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Modi constructed the Statue of Unity (the world's tallest, at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat) to immortalise Sardar Patel's name. The statue was in accordance with the kind of respect that the people of the country have in their hearts for Sardar Patel," he said.

Shah also targeted Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his remarks that people of Gujarat and Rajasthan have nothing to do with Kashmir over the scrapping of Article 370.

"Kharge saheb, you have crossed 80 years of age and have not been able to understand the country. Every single youth here is ready to sacrifice his life for Kashmir. Shouldn't Article 370 be scrapped? For 70 years, Congress took care of Article 370 like an adopted child for its vote bank politics," he said.

Shah also said that the Modi government made possible the construction of Lord Ram temple at Ayodhya.

"For 70 years, Congress kept the issue hanging for vote bank politics. In five years of the second term, we won the election, laid the foundation, and consecration on January 22," he said.

For 500 years, our God was in a tent at a temporary place. It's Modi who worked to construct his grand temple after 500 years, he said.

Modi also built Kashi Vishwanath Corridor as Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had destroyed the temple, Modi said.

He also made the Mahakal corridor, enlivened Badrinath and Kedarnath, and Somnath temple is being built using gold, he said.

Over 500 persons...

The revenue, horticulture, sheep husbandry, animal husbandry, agriculture,



rural development, roads and buildings and other departments concerned have been tasked to assess the damages to facilitate speedy release of compensation to the victims under SDRF norms, the official said.

Meanwhile, The National Conference (NC) on Saturday urged the Centre to send a team of its top experts to assess the recent land sinking in Ramban district and take measures to prevent recurrence of such disasters.

It also demanded that the Jammu and Kashmir administration stepped up its rescue and rehabilitation work for the families affected by the land subsidence in Pernote village, located 5 km away from the Ramban district headquarters, over the past two days.

"The response of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to the situation appears inadequate... The government should step up its efforts in the rescue and rehabilitation work, ensuring the safety and well-being of all affected individuals and families," the NC said in a statement here.

The party highlighted the pressing need to form a team of officers for a comprehensive assessment of the damages and compensation for the affected families to start rebuilding their homes and businesses.

The NC asked the Centre to send a team of its top experts to assess the situation and also take measures so that such incidents do not recur.

The party expressed its sympathy with the affected families and said there is immediate need for resources and assistance to facilitate rebuilding of the lives of those impacted by this tragedy.

Houses started developing cracks and the road connectivity between Gool and Ramban snapped Thursday evening following the sudden 'sinking of land' in Pernote village, prompting several families to move to safer places.

Railways plans to...

unique coach configuration in which four coaches will constitute one unit and a minimum of 12 coaches will make one Vande Metro. To start with, the Railways will launch a minimum of 12 Vande Metro coaches and will increase coaches up to 16 as per the demand on the route.

"Initially, we will have a 12-coach metro but it can be extended to 16 coaches depending on the demand and need of the city," the official said, adding the city which will have the first Vande Metro is also being worked out.

Man commits suicide...

than 19 years ago. As the body of the deceased was handed over to his family after its post-mortem, the family again blocked the main road at Janipur and demanded action against the policemen. They lifted the road blockade and left for their home along with the body only after civil and police officers assured them of justice. "We have already attached the SHO (of the Janipur police station) and an inquiry is underway to look into the allegations," Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) DSP Zaheer Abbas Jafari told media persons. He said the deceased was a "history-sheeter and was called to the police station as per routine." "An inquest proceeding has also been launched into the incident since the death has taken place in a suspicious manner. A board of doctors performed his post-mortem," the officer said and assured action against anyone found guilty during the course of investigation.

'Shaurya Smarak' of...

School Nagrota, Major General Shailendra Singh unveiled the busts of the brave-hearts and paid tributes to their valiant sacrifices, the spokesman said.

The parents of the brave-hearts from Jammu, Thoru Ram Bhagat and Santosh Kumari Bhagat (Major Bazala's parents) and sub-major (retired) Swaran Kumar Bal and Parveen Kumari Bal (Flight Lieutenant Advitya Bal's parents), were the Guests of Honour, and they underscored the legacy of their courage and sacrifice.

"The 'Shaurya Smarak' stands as a testament to their heroism, serving as a perpetual source of inspiration for generations to come. It stands as a beacon of honour, reminding us all of the indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication of our brave soldiers.

He said the Sainik School Nagrota is dedicated to nurturing young minds and fostering a spirit of patriotism, discipline, and leadership.

CBI DySP killed...

IAS officer Navin Choudhary. Family members of DySP Prashant Sharma have demanded that impartial and fair probe must be carried out by police to dig the truth.

Jammu police states that CCTV footage checked from nearby shops showed the bike was coming at great speed and then skidding after hitting the speed breaker. It was raining and prima facie it appeared that DySP Prashant Sharma couldn't control his motorcycle on speed breaker and met with the accident. Postmortem has been conducted by board of doctors under videography. "Prima facie it appears that deceased received serious head injury.

Further investigation is underway by special team in the case to explore all possible angles and to ascertain possibility of foul play if any," police said.

Special training camp...

peace and stability in the forward areas, the officials said.

The training assumes significance given the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and efforts of security forces to maintain peace and provide assurance to the people in minority pockets as well as in far-flung areas, they said.

The training has helped the VDGs in reorienting their training prowess and skills in weapon handling and firing, they said.

Comprising of local volunteers, the VDGs are equipped with .303 and bolt action rifles and were enthusiastic in sharpening their skills, they said, adding the weapons were inspected, cleaned and firing practice was carried out during the camp under the supervision of army trainers.

They said a lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling, musketry and firing positions was also conducted as part of the training.

The Army assisted the members of VDGs in further improving their self-defence capabilities and emphasised their greater role in maintaining peace and harmony in the area of responsibility, particularly in the minority pockets, the officials said.

Gangsters' strike; Two...

killed in police action at GMC Kathua campus and PSI Deepak Sharma was martyred.

The incident at Khajuria Food Mall in Miran Sahib, Jammu, where miscreants opened fire, created panic and concern among the local residents.

According to reports, unknown gangsters on a scooter approached the sweetshop, with their faces covered, and one of them fired at the mall, shattering the windowpanes and glasses.

In response to the incident, local police, including SHO Bhupendra Singh and SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna, along with a police team, arrived at the site to investigate the matter. Police is scrutinizing the CCTV footage installed within the mall premises to gather evidence and identify the perpetrators.

The incident has reportedly instilled fear among the shopkeepers and residents of the Mira Sahib market, as it marks the occurrence of such a serious incident after many years.

The owner of Khajuria Food Mall, Omprakash Khajuria, expressed concern over the audacity of the miscreants and the potential threat posed to customers and businesses in the area.

It is very strange that if in wake of model code of conduct, police has already seized all the weapons from the license holders then how these gangsters managed to hide their licensed weapons? asks Khajuria, adding either these gangsters have unlicensed weapons which means they will again target the innocent citizens for extortion.

CS reviews flood...

The Chief Secretary asked for devising an effective strategy to deal with flood like situations in the valley. He maintained that floods are disasters which require prior preparedness to alleviate the damage caused by them. He called for evolving proper SOPs to deal with the Floods as like the 'Code Blue' being followed in hospitals, where every concerned individual is fully acquainted with his/her role and responsibility in the times of emergency.

The Chief Secretary called for having a detailed flood mapping/inundation map of each area in the districts to act accordingly. He exhorted upon the DCs and Divisional Commissioner to have proper planning in place to deal effectively with the natural disasters.

Dulloo also asked for having a direct communication link with the public in times of such disasters so that they do not panic and get actual information about rescue measures and places available for public. He suggested for mapping of mobile towers so that customized messages to people in case of emergencies can be sent. He also asked for identification of rescue centres in all flood prone having all the requisite amenities. He also asked for working out a proper backup strategy to augment the efforts of administration in case of any possible emergency.

The Chief Secretary also asked making trainings and exercises an important part of the preparedness plan. He took stock of the functionality of dewatering stations in Srinagar City and asked for periodically checking them for efficacy.

He reviewed working of Emergency Operation Centre and the vital installations present in the flood prone areas. He called upon the Divisional administration to carry out an exercise of creating backup for such installations.

During the meeting, ACS Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, threw light on all the measures taken by the department to deal with such kind of natural calamities in J&K. He said that the UT besides increasing the carrying capacity of the River Jhelum and Flood Spill Channel has adopted other state of the art technologies to have better information and coordination to mitigate its effects.

He revealed that the Department has installed the Early Warning System and automatic water sensors besides carrying out audit of embankments to deal with floods effectively. He said that the 'Kashmir Flood Watch' mobile app and website gives updated information about the water levels in rivers. He also revealed that other requisite information is also transmitted to public through both traditional and social media handles simultaneously.

The meeting was apprised of the works carried out, so far, by the Department. It also laid out the future plans of the department besides the contingency plan it has devised for the eventuality. The meeting also presented the stock position of different flood mitigation items available with the Department in its stores.

The meeting was informed that the central flood committee is being headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir while the District Coordination Committees are headed by respective DCs. The meeting discussed about the river capacity, first overflow, danger level of water and level for declaration of flood as per the gauge readings at Sangam, Ram Munshibagh and Asham.

Cong-led INDIA...

BJP and NDA are ahead by 2.0 goals," he said.

Modi further said the Congress and the INDI alliance have scored two "self-goals" through their anti-India policies and politics of hate.

"The football carrier's responsibility lies with the people of Kolhapur who will hit such a goal that the INDI alliance will be vanquished in the coming rounds of elections," he said. Modi said these people (read the Opposition bloc) are venting their anger on the country. In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Congress and INDI alliance leaders are talking about breaking south India to make a new country, he said.

"Will the people from the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who brought land from Peshawar in the north to Thanjavur in the south under Hindvi Swarajya, allow this scheme? They (INDI alliance) should get a befitting reply," he added.

Modi said the Congress had not only opposed the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya but also declined the invitation for its consecration.

"The Congress has stooped so low. The trustees of Ram Temple in Ayodhya are good people. They decided to forgive the past sins of Congress and handed invitations to Congress leaders by visiting their homes. But they declined the invitation. Will anyone ever decline the invitation to go to Lord Ram's darbar?" he asked.

Modi said Iqbal Ansari, a former litigant in the Ram-Jammabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, too attended the consecration ceremony whereas Congress declined the invitation. Targeting Rahul Gandhi over wealth distribution, Modi said, "The Congress shehzade wants to search your wealth and distribute it to those who the party had said have the first right on the country's resources".

"The Congress wanted to impose inheritance tax and rob people of their inheritance. Such people shouldn't get even a slight chance of coming to power. For appeasement, Congress can go to any extent," he added.

Modi criticised DMK over remarks made by some of its leaders over Sanatan Dharma and termed the Tamil Nadu-based party as Congress' "khas". "It (DMK) is abusing Sanatan dharma and calling it denuge".

"Leaders from the INDI alliance invite such people from DMK to Maharashtra and felicitate them," he said.

In a veiled jibe at Uddhav Thackeray, the prime minister said the "nakli" (duplicate) Shiv Sena is siding with such people and has joined hands with those who revere Aurangzeb. "By seeing this, what Balasaheb Thackeray would have thought had he been alive. He would have been saddened by seeing all these things," Modi said. He said the Congress-led bloc has only one agenda and that is 'sarkar banao, note kamao' (form a government and earn money).

Mughal Road shut...

to heavy rainfall in the plains and light snowfall in high-altitude areas.

A Traffic department official said the 270-kilometre Jammu-Srinagar National Highway -- the only all weather-road connecting Kashmir with rest of the country - was washed by moderate to heavy rain, resulting in mudslides at several places, including Dalwas, Mahar, Gangroo and Hingani in Ramban district.

"The highway is open for traffic on both ways in a regulated manner in the affected areas due to a single-lane stretch and slippery conditions of the road," the official said and advised commuters to temporarily avoid travel on the highway.

'Tribals oppose re-scheduling of elections, because of annual seasonal migration'

Move is conspiracy to deprive nomads from exercising their franchise: Inqulabi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of IGM was held today under the chairmanship of Ch. Rashid Azam Inqulabi in a virtual mode in which the nomads of the Anantnag/Rajouri constituency participated and discussed the move of the Election Commission of India to re-schedule the poll, who sought comments from Chief Secretary and Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir for rescheduling the poll.

Some political parties who are not in the fray, demanding the rescheduling of the election in the Anantnag/Rajouri parliamentary constituency vide their letter no 464/Misc/2024/EPS dated April 25, 2024 as Anantnag-Rajouri PC of J&K, going to poll on 7th of May 2024.

"Mughal Road is operational at present and there is no difficulty in movement of vehicle. All political parties and contested candidates are campaigning freely. The staff of Pir Panjal PWD Division is very active and works professionally, if due to rain some sliding block the road the staff of PWD is in a position to remove the debris from the road within an hour and open the road for traffic smoothly," Ch. Rashid Azam Inqulabi said adding, "The alternative route to this Parliament constituency is also available through national highway from district Ramban/Reasi districts."

"The distance from Anantnag to Poonch via Mughal Road and the alternative route of Ramban/Reasi is almost the same.

The candidate from Anantnag side has already taken up the matter with the Commission for not to postpone the election.

The processes for filing the nomination is already over and now 25 contesting candidates are in the fray and campaigning smoothly, freely without any difficulty of road connectivity," Inqulabi said.

"Some political parties and people who are not contesting from the Anantnag/Rajouri constituency demanded for rescheduling of the poll date which is not fair and badly effects on the turnout of the voters because nomad voters starts to move on higher reach of summers in the second week of May 2024," he added.

Moreover, he said, in this parliamentary constituency about 5 lakh nomads voters, and they will move to higher reaches in the second week of May 2024.

"If the election dates are re-scheduled then 5 lakh nomad voters shall not be in position to cast their votes and this would cause irreparable loss to them," he said.

The nomads demanded that the Election Commission shall conduct the election in Anantnag/Rajouri parliamentary constituency on due dates i.e. on the 7th of May 2024.



General, Police, EOs for Srinagar PC hold joint meeting with officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The General Observer for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mukul Kumar along with Police Observer, Sandeep Singh Chauhan and Expenditure Observer, Sambit Mishra on Saturday held a joint meeting at SKICC here to take first hand appraisal of the preparedness for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

The constituency comprises 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam (Partly), Pulwama (partly) and Shopian (Partly) Districts.

Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom; District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir; District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Akshay Labroo and District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb were present in the meeting.

Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Shopian Districts also attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Observers held an extensive interaction with Assistant Returning Officers (ARO) and Nodal Officers for Model Code of Conduct, Expenditure, and Media Certification & Monitoring Committee and discussed threadbare various vital aspects related to the conduct of Lok Sabha elections in the Constituency.

They held a detailed discussion with regard to enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, Expenditure Monitoring, Security plan, Transport and Communication plan besides functioning of VST and flying squads, Training of Poll Staff, AMF at Polling Stations, SVEEP activities and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the constituency.

On the occasion, the

General Observer enjoined upon the Officers to work with added zeal and unwavering dedication to uphold sanctity of the election process and safeguarding the democratic spirit.

He also urged them to ensure strict enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and other guidelines of Election Commission of India to ensure smooth, fair and transparent conduct of polls in Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

He stressed on proactive approach from all the stakeholders to encourage maximum voters so that enhanced voter turnout is registered during upcoming Elections in 02-Srinagar PC. He further stressed on completion of EPIC distribution process in the Constituency.

The Expenditure Observer emphasized the need of coordination among various monitoring teams for effective expenditure overseeing and stressed the prompt reporting of ECI violation with respect to election expenditure booking. He also underscored the efficient monitoring of the media in order to contain any misuse of election expenditure by the contesting candidates in the District.

He further laid emphasis on instant sharing and uploading of the information related to any kind of seizures, if any in the Constituency as per ECI norms.

The Police Observer stressed the Officers to work with utmost coordination to ensure incident free and smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections in the Constituency.

Earlier, the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar PC apprised the Observers regarding the preparations for free, fair and peaceful conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections in the Constituency.

The RO informed that as many as 1748091 registered electorates are exercising their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency including 875865 male and 872165 Female and about 61

Transenders.

He added that as many as 2135 Polling Stations have been setup at 1323 designated location across all 18 Assembly Segments of the Constituency including 260

Polling Stations in two Assembly Segments of Ganderbal District, 929 Polling Stations in eight Assembly Segments of Srinagar District, 345 in three Assembly Segments of Budgam District, 479

Polling Stations in 4 Assembly Segments of Pulwama District and 122 Polling Stations in one Assembly Segments of Shopian District.

The RO also informed that Model Polling Stations have also been set up at various locations across the Parliamentary Constituency to facilitate the voters on the Polling day and welcome them to experience a festive-like environment. He added that dedicated facilities for voters including clean drinking water and ramps for persons with disabilities (PWDs) are also meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

The District Election Officer (DEOs) of Pulwama, Ganderbal, Budgam and Shopian also briefed the Observers about the preparations put in place for the upcoming General Lok Sabha Elections in their respective Districts.

Similarly, Senior Superintendents of Police apprised the Observers about the preparations with regard to security aspects to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the polling within their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting was attended by all the 18 Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) of 02-Srinagar PC.

Besides, Nodal Officers for Model Code of Conduct, Nodal Officers for Expenditure, and Nodal Officers for Media Certification & Monitoring Committee of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam (Partly), Pulwama (Partly) and Shopian (Partly) Districts and Deputy District Election Officers of all the Districts were also present in the meeting.

SVEEP: Signature Campaign held at GDC Sumbal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Continuing its efforts to raise voter awareness campaigns among the masses under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation), a Signature Campaign was on Saturday held at Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal.

The Campaign was organised by Assistant Returning Officer 14- Sonawari in collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club, GDC Sumbal. ARO 14-Sonawari, Aamir Choudhary said that the signature campaign was launched this week in sub division Sumbal to increase voter awareness and participation in the democratic process. The pro-

gramme held at GDC Sumbal was intended to build a participative democratic character among students and encourage them to vote and make an informed decision during the elections. On the occasion Selfie points with the message, My Vote-MY Right, Proud to be a Voter, Nothing Like Voting- I Vote for sure were also installed. The SVEEP signature campaign received overwhelming response from students and staff and a large number of students, faculty and non-teaching staff took active part in the campaign and registered their signatures on the signature board encouraging them to become active participants in the electoral process.