

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Congress will disappear...

the party. "Whatever promises made by the party in its manifestos since Jan Sangh days have been fulfilled, whether scrapping Article 370 or constructing Lord Ram's temple in Ayodhya," Singh said.

He appealed to voters, saying, "You should not even look at the candidate, and there is no point thinking whether the candidate reached out to you. All you have to see is how India achieves a position of pride in the world. We live and die for the country.

### When invited, ready...

people through false narratives and emotionally charged slogans.

He said: "The traditional parties, especially those run by two families, have long misled the public with false narratives and emotionally charged slogans. However, their deceit has been laid bare, and their once-potent narratives have crumbled. Nobody is going to trust their slogans like 'Raishumari', 'Autonomy', 'Self-rule', and others anymore. People know that they have been deceived by these parties and their leaders through these misleading slogans."

He said that once the Apni Party gets a public mandate, it will hold these parties accountable for their role in shedding innocent blood on this land.

He said: "One of these parties is responsible for the killing of more than 100 innocent people in 2010, while the other killed 128 individuals and blinded young boys and girls by using pellet guns in 2016. I promise you that once the Apni Party receives a public mandate, it will ensure that these ruthless politicians and the so-called leaders face the force of justice. We will ensure that the parents who lost their children receive justice."

He went on to say: "One of the leaders, who was at the helm in 2016, when bullets rained down, even on children, shamelessly justified these killings by heartlessly remarking, 'Kiya ye bachay chocolates aur doodh lene niklay thay' (Had these children come out of their homes to fetch chocolates and milk for themselves). These ruthless words will always haunt people in Kashmir."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged people to use the power of their vote to reject traditional parties and their leaders in these elections.

He said: "I wonder how shamelessly these parties come to the people to seek their votes. Last time, in 2019, they urged people to vote for them so that they could protect Article 370 and 35A in Parliament. People trusted them and elected three members of one party. The other one also had its three members in the Rajya Sabha. Yet, they chose to remain silent when these Articles were revoked on August 5, 2019. These so-called public representatives did not even bother to resign in protest of the abrogation of these Articles. And now, despite their betrayal, the same parties shamelessly seek the people's votes once again. I urge the people to reject them through the power of their votes."

He appealed to the people to vote for Apni Party's candidate, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, in the Rajouri-Anantnag parliamentary constituency.

He said: "Ours is a new party, and we are participating in the Lok Sabha elections for the first time. I assure you that if you grant us your mandate, we will never disappoint you. I request you to vote for Zaffar Sahib so that he can effectively represent the sentiments of the people in parliament."

Speaking on the occasion, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas promised people that he would deliver his duties with the utmost honesty and dedication if given a mandate by the people.

He said: "As a writer, a politician, and someone who has held various positions, including being an MLC in the past, I am like an open book. People recognize my unwavering commitment to integrity and dedication, and I have always stood by my people when they needed me. Today, I assure you that I will not disappoint you if you trust me and give me your mandate."

Addressing the convention, party's Vice President, Usman Majid, appealed to people to use their vote wisely and not to fall prey to the deceptive slogans yet again.

He said: "I request you to use the power of you vote wisely. We have already lost our 70 years by giving mandate to those who did nothing for people and created riches for themselves. The leaders whom people trusted established their family rule here. This is the time when we must tell them that 'enough is enough'. I request you to reject these deceptive politicians through the power of your vote."

Besides Bukhari, Manhas, and Usman Majid, the prominent party leaders who addressed and were present at the venues included party's General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Additional General Secretary Hilal Ahmad Shah, District President Anantnag Abdul Rahim Rather, Provincial Secretary Najeeb Naqvi, Provincial Secretary Nazir Daigami, District Secretary Anantnag and party In-charge for Bijbehara constituency, District youth president Anantnag Salman Infas, Gowhar Sahib, Youth Leader Advocate Raja Showkat, District President of party's Youth Wing Israr Choudhary, BDC Ghulam Ahmad Dar, Showkat Ahmad Latto, Khurshid Ahmad Sofi, Advocate Mudasir, Asif Ahmad, Sabzar Ahmad, Mohammad Akram, Mohammad Yaseen Parray, Tariq Maqbool, Mohammad Shafi Shah, Halqa President Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, Halqa President Rahil Ganai, Halqa President Nisar Ahmad Dar, Halqa President Bilal Ahmad Nanda, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Muzamil Rashid, Jamid Ahmad, Ishfaq Ahmad Reshi, Sajad Ahmad Diyalgami, the party's IT head and in charge of the social media department Ovais Mushtaq Khan and others.

### ‘Modi guarantee’: BJP...

parties ignored people from backward communities, who were granted their rights by Narendra Modi after he became prime minister.

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "Rahul Gandhi says that if the BJP gets 400 seats, it will remove reservation. I want to say that we had a full majority for two terms but Narendra Modi is a supporter of reservation."

"I want to say that it is a Modi guarantee that neither will the BJP remove reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs nor will it allow anyone to do so," Shah said.

The home minister also hit out at the opposition for keeping the Ram temple issue "hanging" and said the public has to choose between "those who opened fire at karsevaks and those who built the Ram temple."

Attacking opposition party leaders for not attending the Ram temple consecration ceremony, Shah said in Kasganj, "The people who did not go to the consecration ceremony, they know that they are the people who shot at karsevaks."

He asserted that there are two groups to choose from -- "one that fired shots at Ram bhakts and one that built the Ram temple".

"The Congress, Rahul 'baba' and the party of Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) kept the Ram temple issue hanging for more than 70 years. You made Modi ji the prime minister for a second time and he did 'Jai Shri Ram' by doing the consecration ceremony on January 22," Shah said.

In Mainpuri, campaigning for BJP candidate Jaiveer Singh Thakur -- who is contesting against Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav -- the home minister said, "Akhilesh (Yadav) ji, Dimple (Yadav) ji, because of whose fear did you people not go to the Ram temple consecration? Even Azam Khan is now in jail."

Shah alleged that the Samajwadi Party leaders did not attend the ceremony due to fear of losing their vote bank.

"But the BJP is not afraid of (losing) vote banks. We built a temple where Lord Shri Ram was born," he said.

Listing the BJP government's schemes, including free ration and homes to the poor, Shah said in Kasgang the free ration scheme will continue till 2029 if the BJP returns to power.

He also hit out at Samajwadi Party chief Yadav for allegedly fielding only members of his family.

Alleging that people had to migrate during the Samajwadi Party government, Shah said "goondas are forced to migrate not people" under BJP rule in Uttar Pradesh.

"In Uttar Pradesh, where once bombs exploded, today 'bombs' are being manufactured for export under the leadership of Modi," Shah said in Kasganj.

In Mainpuri, Shah claimed that the BJP will win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Targeting Yadav, he said the wind in favour of the BJP has blown from the west and it will wipe out the Samajwadi Party and the Congress everywhere via Mainpuri and Azamgarh.

He also asserted that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will win 400 seats under Modi's leadership.

Taking a swipe at the INDIA bloc, Shah asked who the prime minister would be if the opposition alliance won a majority.

He also asked the gathering if anyone except Modi can effectively run the country.

In Kasganj, Shah claimed that the BJP will secure more than 100 seats from the constituencies that went to the polls in the first two phases while the Congress and the Samajwadi Party will not be able to open their accounts.

Campaigning for Ram Shankar Katheria in Etawah, Shah said that on one side, there is a 'corrupt INDI alliance' while on the other, there is Narendra Modi, who doesn't have any allegations against him despite serving as a chief minister and the prime minister for more than 23 years.

"On one hand, there is Rahul Gandhi who leaves for vacations in Thailand in the summers. On the other hand, there is Narendra Modi who celebrated Diwali with

soldiers on the border for 23 years," Shah said.

He also accused the opposition for protecting Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, for their vote bank.

Polling in Etah-Kasganj and Mainpuri will be held in the third phase on May 7. Etawah goes to the polls in the fourth phase on May 13.

### VDG killed in...

moving towards Chochru Gala heights around 7:45 am and in the ensuing encounter, the VDG member laid down his life.

Reinforcements from police, CRPF and Army were rushed and the whole area was cordoned off to track down the terrorists and neutralize them, the officer said.

Officials said the army made two helicopter sorties to drop para-commandos deep inside the dense forest to eliminate the terrorists.

The ADGP said two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infiltrated from across the border.

"Where from the terrorists have infiltrated is a matter of investigation which is going on but it is certain that this group is a freshly infiltrated one," he said when asked about possible infiltration of the terrorists through the International Border from adjoining Kathua district.

He said the strength of the two groups, as per preliminary investigation, is between four and six but their affiliation is not known immediately. "We are working on various inputs and the area is being sanitized to hunt them down with deployment of additional forces."

Earlier, official sources said there was information about movement of two separate groups of terrorists, who infiltrated recently, from Kathua to Basantgarh.

One of the groups with five members was confronted, while there was no trace of the other group, which has four members and whose movement was last reported in the Machedi top area bordering Kathua, they said.

The sources said the terrorists are believed to have infiltrated through the International Border from Kathua district and are heading to Kashmir via Chenab valley, taking advantage of the thick forest.

Meanwhile, Pawan Kumar, a VDG member, demanded equipping them with automatic weapons to take on the terrorists effectively.

"We are ready and will not allow them to settle down," he said.

This was after a long time that an encounter took place in Basantgarh, once a hub of terror activities, before it was cleared of terrorism by the security forces about two decades ago.

### StartUps in India...

Modi unleashed India's Space research by opening up the hitherto conservative and secluded sector. India has literally reached for the moon and beyond with the twin feats of Charyyaan-3 and Aditya L1 solar mission in the last year alone.

Note only this , the number of Space StartUps has gone up from a single digit to three digits in just about four years since the Space sector was opened up to the private sector, the Minister informed.

PM Modi's out-of-the-box decisions have given a push to different sectors including Space, Railways, Roads, Infrastructure and Electronics-Communication, and which has posted India's economy from 11th rank to 5th largest economy and is now on the verge of occupying 3rd rank, the Union Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said , in 2014, when PM Modi took over, India stood as the world's tenth largest economy. In less than ten years, we jumped to 5th position. Hopefully this year it will emerge as the 4th largest economy and during PM Modi's 3rd term, India will be the world's 3rd largest economy, marching on to become the No.1 economy by 2047," he said.

During Financial Year 2023-24, Indian economy grew at 6 percent plus for the third successive year even as the global economy struggles to grow at around 3 percent. We are the third-largest fintech economy in the world after the USA and the UK, he said.

"India of 2024 is ready to take a giant leap, backed by its scientific acumen and technological prowess," said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is the age of innovation and ideas. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is providing every kind of technical as well as financial support for ideas and innovations to grow and sustain. As a result, India has emerged as a leading StartUp ecosystem in the world and the time has come to strategise sustainability, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, youth is the centre of focus of the Modi Government through empowerment of the Amrit-Peedhi.

"The common citizen believes that India can become the world's leading economy under the leadership of PM Modi because of the outreach he commands across the world and the common people also feel confident under the Government headed by Narendra Modi," he said.

### 4 killed, 2...

fast-moving stream at Gagangir in Sonamarg area of Ganderbal.

He said a rescue operation was launched by the SDRF and police.

"Three persons were rescued and shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment," the official said and added that four bodies have been retrieved while search is on for the remaining two persons.

Quoting an official, a Srinagar based news agency reported that soon after receiving information about the tragic incident, a wide scale rescue operation was jointly launched by Police, Army's 34 Assam Rifles, Traffic Rural Police, Civil administration, locals, SDRF and NDRF which yielded retrieval of four bodies.

"All the persons boarding the vehicle except for the driver were tourists," the official said, adding, "except for him (driver) no one other person has been rescued safely up to now." "Due to ongoing heavy rains in the area, the operation has been called off till tomorrow," the official added. More details awaited.

### Police seize residential...

Mohammad Lateef Kar. "The property is now under official seizure, prohibiting any transfer, lease, disposal or alteration without prior permission from the designated authority," the spokesperson said.

### Three Abu Jat...

Police Vinod Kumar told reporters on Sunday.

Immediately after the twin firing incidents, police had lodged separate cases and conducted raids at various places. FIR 44/2024 under sections 307 336 34 IPC, & 3/25, 3/27 Arms Act was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib and another FIR 74/2024 under sections 452/307/34, IPC & 3/25, 3/27 Arms Act was registered in PS RS Pura.

"CCTV footages from the place of occurrence and adjacent areas were also collected and analysed, leading to the arrest of the three main accused along with the weapon of offence," Kumar said.

Police identified the three as Guga; Krrish, both residents of RS Pura area and Kulbir Bhagat alias Rinku, son of Bhushan Lal resident of Langotiyar, RS Pura. Bhagat was found to be named in a rape case registered at Bishnah Police Station, while Guga was booked in four cases at R S Pura Police Station last year.

A motorcycle and a scooter used by the accused during the firing incidents were also seized, the officer said, adding police is investigating the role of people who may have provided logistic support to them.

Police are also verifying the authenticity of a few social media accounts through which Choudhary claimed responsibility for the firing incidents, Kumar said.

It is pertinent to mention that four FIRs are already registered against the accused Guga. FIR 72/2023 under sections 458/207/323/147/148 IPC 4/25 Arms Act PS RS Pura; FIR 64/2023 under section 458/323/504/506/34 IPC 4/25 Arms Act PS RS Pura; FIR 06/2023 under section 307 /341/324/506 IPC 4/25 Arms Act PS RS Pura; FIR 98/2023 under sections 307,341,323,34,201 IPC 4/25 Arms Act PS Arnia. The 3rd accused namely Kulbir Bhagat alias Rinku is also involved in a rape case of Police Station Bishnah.

The police was also successful in making recovery of the motorcycle and Scooty used in the commission of offence.

During preliminary questioning, all the accused confessed regarding their involvement in the firing incident, demanding ransom and committing the crime.

The police is also investigating the role of people who have provided logistic support to these criminals. Moreover police is also investigating the role of notorious criminal namely Arun Choudhary alias Abu Jatt, who is currently lodged at District Jail Kathua and role of his associates and also those people who are in touch with him. Besides police is also investigating the authenticity of few Social media updates including Instagram posts, said Jammu SSP Vinod Kumar.

### Amid row, RSS...

discrimination exists," he added.

With the help of technology and Artificial Intelligence, what did not happen can also be shown (as to have happened), he said.

Bhagwat's pro-reservation statement also comes in the backdrop of the Congress alleging that BJP and RSS are against the quota system.

In his response to Bhagwat's remarks on the matter, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed though the RSS is now saying it was not against reservation, it had earlier spoken about opposing the quota system.

Addressing a campaign rally at Daman and Diu on Sunday, Rahul said the

Bhagwat "makes a statement that RSS is not against reservation."

"It was he (Mohan Bhagwat) who had made a statement that he was opposed to reservation. Those who are against the reservation (policy) are joining their party (BJP). They welcome all those who are against reservation, and then he (Bhagwat) says he is not against reservation," Gandhi alleged.

Incidentally, in a sharp attack on the RSS, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had earlier said that when the organisation was founded in 1925, it had decided to announce the nation as a "Hindu country" and to scrap the reservations in 100 years, i.e by 2025.

Meanwhile, Bhagwat said good as well as bad things circulate on social media and it is not the quality of social media but that of the person who is using it, he said.

It is the selfishness of the person to circulate among people such made-up things and generate a controversy, but "we are not concerned with it" ("us se hamara koi sambandh nahi hai"), he said.

Such things happen during the ongoing election environment, he opined.

He said he gave the example as such instruments (like social media) do not have either good or bad qualities, adding that it was mischievousness.

Along with education, using it for people's welfare should be taught, he said.

Noted spiritual guru Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana Chinna Jeeyar Swami also spoke on the occasion.

### Some countries, Institutions...

respected the constitution. By abrogating Article 370, I granted the reservation rights to the SC/ST communities of Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said.

Accusing Congress of anti-SC/ST and anti-women, the Prime Minister said the BJP for the first time made a woman from a Scheduled Tribe, Droupadi Murmu, the President of India.

To defeat her, the INDIA bloc put all its efforts, said Modi, adding that they had also opposed a Dalit, Ramnath Kovind, as President.

The Prime Minister said the Congress wants to usurp 55 percent of the wealth of people, which people saved to inherit to their children and distribute among its "vote bank". "After squandering the resources of this country, these corrupt people now want to usurp private properties," Modi charged.

### Ramban land sinking...

from Nimnar Mohalla and Telka Mohalla, begun relocating to safer areas and temporary shelters provided by local authorities.

Rescue efforts by the Quick Response Team, SDRF and Police are underway, with medical teams deployed to assist affected individuals.

With continuous efforts underway, district officials are tirelessly overseeing rehabilitation efforts and the restoration of essential services. Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar and his team have been on-site since the onset of the incident, working relentlessly to address the crisis.

To address immediate needs, the administration is prioritizing the restoration of essential services and road connectivity. Additionally, relief measures under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) are being expedited to aid affected families.

Ramban deputy commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, who has set up a camp office near the affected site, said, "Around 100 families have been affected by the land subsidence. They have been shifted into government buildings and a Panchayat Ghar where they are being provided with water proof tents, food, water and beddings. We are also providing them with medical facilities."

He informed that the land subsidence has partially affected Pernote village besides causing extensive damage to a 500-m road stretch.

DC said that the connectivity between Ramban and Gool has been snapped following damage to the road, traffic of light motor vehicles has been diverted to an alternate link road.

"Responding swiftly to the road blockage on Ramban-Gool route at Pernote, we opened the Sumber-Digdole link road for light vehicles. This initiative ensured continued road connectivity and essential services for Gool sub division with NH-44," DC added.



Admin teams taking stock of the situation at Ramban on Sunday.

(Pics by Raja Rehber Jamal)

Ambulances and medical teams have been kept on a standby and those ill in need of specialised medical treatment are being sent by train via Sangaldan to Banihal, he added. The official informed that now restoration work has been initiated.

"We are waiting for the land mass movement to stabilise because men and machines have to be deployed for restoration work," he said.

The deputy magistrate further informed that experts from IIT and GSI reached to study the phenomenon and collect the evidences, beside make their recommendations. Furthermore, the emergency operation centre/camp office of the Deputy Commissioner/Chairman DDMA Ramban has been swiftly set up and is working to address the multifaceted challenges confronting displaced families.

This proactive measure underscores the administration's dedication to promptly alleviating the hardships faced by residents in the aftermath of the land subsidence and damages to residential houses in Pernote, Ramban.

The camp office operates as a central hub for coordinating relief efforts, ensuring that essential supplies, medical aid, and other forms of assistance reach those most in need. As the situation continues to evolve, the District Administration Ramban remains steadfast in its resolve to stand by the community, offering unwavering support and guidance every step of the way.

It is notable that on Thursday evening around 7.45 pm, 24 houses in Pernote village were damaged, a 500-metre stretch of a link road sunk and four HT electricity towers uprooted following the land subsidence.

The movement of traffic was stopped and residents of Pernote were rushed to safety. Border Roads Organisation commanding officer SK Gautam said, "The area has Murree formation and has red soil, akin to Joshimath. Presently, a mass movement is on. We have requisitioned men and machinery, which are on a standby. We are waiting for the mass movement to stabilise. Thereafter, the repair and restoration work of the affected stretch can be taken up."

Heavy rains had lashed the region, which is prone to land subsidence as the seepage of rainwater causes soil erosion. The affected road is under the 52-Road Construction Company (RCC) GREF of Beacon.

The area where land subsidence has taken place today, is 5 km from Ramban district headquarter. Meanwhile locals demanded permanent solution for their rehabilitation including allotment of Land, compensation and other facilities at the earliest.