

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

PoK being part...

very strong. When I look at India-Bangladesh relations, I am very confident that in every area, that relationship is growing.
"So, I have a positive view, very positive assessment about what is happening there," he said.
Asked about the allegations that India lost its land areas to China during the BJP-rule, Jaishankar said, "In 1962, we lost 38,000 kilometers of land, but post-2000, I don't think you would be correct in asserting that we have lost land."
The minister said the one relationship that has undergone "a very very big change" during the last 10 years of Narendra Modi's government was the country's relationship with the Gulf, particularly with the UAE.
He said that after Indira Gandhi, no Prime Minister of India ever went to the UAE. "Modiji is the first Prime Minister after Indira Gandhi, who went to the UAE." Jaishankar said Modi had given time to really build up the relationship with the Gulf nations. India's relationship with the Gulf countries is "really very very strong," he added.

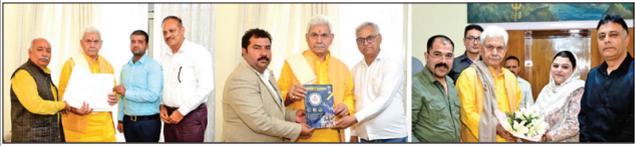
Modi to address...

and Union minister Jitendra Singh, who is seeking reelection from Udhampur-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency.
"Modi Ji is coming to Udhampur on April 12. Yogi Ji will come to Kathua on April 10. They will address mega rallies," Jammu and Kashmir BJP general secretary Ashok Koul told reporters in Udhampur.
Koul, who was campaigning for Jitendra Singh, said that PM Modi will address a big rally in Udhampur, in which people from Reasi, Nagrota, and Billawar will take part.
Preparations are going on in full swing for the two rallies, he said.
Union minister Jitendra Singh is seeking to retain the Udhampur-Kathua seat for the third time while the Congress has fielded Choudhary Lal Singh, who is facing ED heat in a money laundering case.
The entry of former minister G M Saroori in the electoral fray on the ticket of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has made it a three-cornered contest.
Though there are 12 candidates in the fray, the main fight is between the BJP candidate and his Congress rival.
The Union minister had retained the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in 2019, defeating Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh, the grandson of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh. In 2014, Jitendra Singh had defeated former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Lok Sabha seat.
Lal Singh, who rejoined the Congress on March 20, had won the Udhampur seat twice on the party ticket in 2004 and 2009.
Saroori, vice chairman of Ghulam Nabi Azad-led DPAP, is a former J-K minister who had won Inderwal assembly constituency in Kishtwar thrice between 2002 and 2014.
Polling will be held for the Udhampur-Kathua seat in the first phase on April 19, officials said.
As many as 16,233,195 registered voters -- 8,45,283 men, 7,77,899 women and 13 transgender persons -- will vote at 2,637 polling stations across the constituency which is spread over five districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua, the officials said.

Congress to release...

address public rallies in Jaipur and Hyderabad where they will also highlight the key elements of the manifesto.
In its manifesto, the Congress will lay emphasis on 'Paanch Nyay' or five pillars of justice, including 'Yuva Nyay', 'Naari Nyay', 'Kisaan Nyay', 'Shramik Nyay' and 'Hisssedari Nyay' as well as the guarantees made by it to the people as part of its poll promises for 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
For the first time, the Congress will also promise the youths the 'right to employment' as part of its poll manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and is mulling to propose stringent punishment for those responsible for paper leaks in examinations.
The focus on youths comes as part of Congress' bid to woo them ahead of the elections.
In the manifesto, the party will also propose a stringent law and punishment against those responsible for paper leaks in the country and will suggest measures to bring transparency in government recruitment, sources said.
The party manifesto would also focus on a legal guarantee to a minimum support price and caste-based census in the country. It is also likely to give thrust on welfare measures like providing financial assistance to marginalised sections of the society and ensuring that they get justice and be part of the state welfare measures.

DIG SSB, PoJK...



Various delegations calling on LG Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

Association Bahu Fort, All J&K Accounts Assistant (Panchayat) Union and College Teachers Association Jammu called on the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan.
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also released a publication of activities of Shriyansh Helping Hand Foundation.

Govt extends working...

J&K," reads an order. The order states that on Saturdays reporting time shall be 9 am and relieving time will be 1:30 pm.

Cong failed to...

poll plank for the BJP-led NDA in the 2019 general elections.
"The world watches in amazement as our global standing undergoes a sea change. We are able to defend ourselves. Our advice is sought by the world in important matters. We are the fifth largest economy, have launched a successful lunar mission and were applauded for holding the G20 summit," he said.
"But, you all are mistaken if you think all this was made possible by Modi. It was made possible by your vote," said the prime minister, who termed his achievements in the last 10 years as a "trailer".
Modi also sneered at the opposition INDIA bloc and, in an indirect reference to Delhi partners Congress and Aam Aadmi Party, said "those who used to hurl corruption charges at each other, used to demand jail terms for each other, have come together in the name of fighting Modi".
"Should the corrupt not be in jail? I say remove the corrupt, they say defeat Modi," said the PM.
Modi, who addressed his first election rally in Bihar since the announcement of the polls, also lambasted the Congress-RJD combine for "opposing the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya and continuing to heap scorn on the shrine".
He also accused the alliance of "opposing" Bharat Ratna to OBC stalwart Karpoori Thakur and election to the President's post of "dalit" Ram Nath Kovind and "tribal woman" Droupadi Murmu, in an apparent attempt to transcend the BJP's image of pro-upper castes.
Jammu, a reserved constituency, has been represented twice by Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), who has shifted base to late father Ram Vilas Paswan's Hajipur, passing over the mantle to brother-in-law Arun Bharti.
The prime minister, who true to form greeted the people in their local dialect, said in his opening remarks, "I miss the presence of my friend Ram Vilas Paswan who was here with us in the last elections. But, I am glad to see that my little brother Chirag is taking his mission forward".
Among those present at the rally was Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, also the JD(U) president, who assured the PM that the NDA will win "all 40 seats" in the state, even as he wished the latter a return to power with a 400-plus tally.
In his speech, Modi showered encomiums on Kumar, who returned to the NDA about a couple of months ago.
The prime minister credited the JD(U) leader with turning Bihar around, and also recalled his "unblemished" tenure as railway minister, in contrast with the "seam-tainted" term of arch-rival Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, whom Modi did not mention by name.
"The NDA government thinks in terms of setting up new industries. On the other hand, you have those under whom kidnapping for ransom had become an industry," alleged Modi, in a reference to the lawlessness that characterised the RJD's decade-and-a-half rule in Bihar.
"The NDA wants to lighten up every nook and corner with LED bulbs, while the 'ghamandiya' (arrogant) coalition wants to push you back to the lantern age," said the PM, referring to the RJD's poll symbol.

DB directs Estates...

with Advocates Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan, M. Zulkarnain Choudhary and Syed Majid Shah appearing for the petitioner whereas Sr. AAG SSS Nanda appearing for UT of J&K, the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh further directed that the Director Estates, Jammu and Director Estates Srinagar both shall also hear all these 43 persons individually before any such order is passed. In other words, both the Directors will pass specific individual orders in respect of each and every 43 persons aforementioned after hearing them and such separate individual orders shall be placed on record by the next date of hearing.

The Division Bench further directed both the Directors of Estates Department that they will also inform the Court, how much rentals these 43 persons had been paying with supporting documents/ receipts since the time they ceased to hold the offices on the basis of which they were allotted these official accommodations and why they have not been charged rental at commercial rates since they are not holding any office as of now.

The Division Bench further observed and directed that it goes without saying that while passing such separate orders in respect of the aforesaid occupants, the authorities shall keep in mind the provisions of the J&K Estates Department (Allotment of Government Accommodation) Regulations, 2004 and also various orders passed by this Court including the order passed by this Court in CM No. 7467/2022 and CM No. 7468/2022 in WP(C) PIL No. 17/2020.

When this much publicized PIL came up for hearing, Advocate SS Ahmed drew the attention of the Division Bench towards the latest status report dated February 23, 2024 and apprised the Division Bench that almost all the over-staying ex-legislators have their own residential houses at Jammu / Srinagar cities but the Estates Department is not evicting the said occupants because of political clout being enjoyed by them being close to the seat of power.

Advocate SS Ahmed specifically highlighted the cases of former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta, Ex-Minister Sajjad Lone, and vociferously argued that dual standards have been adopted by the Estates Department on political considerations and law of the land has been thrown to winds and evictions were earlier carried out selectively.

After heated arguments from both the sides, the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh while parting with the order further directed the Estates Department to complete the aforementioned exercise within a period of one month from today and the authority shall also furnish details by way of filing an affidavit before this Court on or before May 8, 2024 along with the relevant documents with regard to the action taken viz-a-viz individuals mentioned in the report.

NC, PDP have...

not the minister. When I was chief minister, I did not get any support from the BJP. You know who those political parties are and they also must know that before pointing fingers at others, they should look at themselves first."

The PDP had a political alliance with the BJP, with both late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti serving as chief ministers and Omar Abdullah of National Conference was a Minister of State in the Vajpayee-led government in 1999.

Azad criticised the practice of labelling opponents as A, B, or C teams, attributing it to fear and asserting the importance of voter choice in elections.

"... People who fear a particular person, they start attacking him. It's survival of the fittest. If people vote for me, let them vote. Let them select who can represent them in the Parliament," he said.

With the Supreme Court's directive to conduct assembly elections by September 30, Azad's decision to prioritise the Lok Sabha polls underscores his commitment to engaging with critical issues in the region which included complete restoration of statehood, land and job rights and electricity issues.

On his decision to file nomination, Azad, who severed his five-decade-long ties with the Congress, reasoned that he was not sure when the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held and hence decided to contest the Lok Sabha polls.

"I have one habit of taking risks and I've another habit of fighting from the front. I don't escape beyond the shadow of somebody else. I fight from the front, whatever the consequences may be," he asserted.

He said that while his agenda was assembly elections but in-between so many developments had taken place and he thought parliamentary elections are approaching and he should focus on that first.

Amid speculation that his party could be aligned with the BJP, Azad refuted these claims, asserting his independent stance and history of non-collaboration with the BJP during his tenures.

Asked about the allegation that the BJP is trying to divide the votes in (south) through DPAP, the veteran politician said he can pose a counter question to those leveling such allegations that they were cutting the votes of the DPAP.

Criticising the delimitation process in Jammu and Kashmir, Azad labeled it as impractical, particularly questioning the formation of the Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri constituency, which he termed as a "non-practical exercise and done without any application of mind".

"I've been told that it was done on Google. Thank God, there are not the parts from the other side (Pakistan). If you're doing delimitation on the basis of Google, then God save us.

"It takes 18 hours to reach from Poonch district headquarters to Anantnag, including night halt. Which constituency in the world is where two areas are so far away from each other," he said.

On his electoral prospects from the newly-carved Lok Sabha seat, Azad said he welcomed all the political parties who were participating in the elections. "I want democracy to flourish and reach out to the public. Now the voters have more choices to elect their leader."

Besides restoration of statehood, he said the party would like to address the power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Thermal power projects are the need of the hour and this is the issue I want to raise in Parliament. Otherwise no industry will opt for this place."

Lone should do...

Kashmiris. "As far as 1987 is concerned, I strongly believe that even today, the biggest CBM (confidence-building measure) towards Kashmiris will be an FIR in which Farooq saheb, Congress leaders and bureaucrats are named for rigging the election." Lone told reporters in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

"I understand what you are saying. I have heard this. As per his will, Lone saheb should do whatever he can," Abdullah said replying to a question on Lone's remarks.

Responding to another question on PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's remarks on contesting elections in Kashmir, he said, "Can I stop anyone from contesting elections? It is a free country. Any one can contest."

Dr Abdullah was on a campaign trail in support of Congress candidate Raman Bhalla as part of the INDIA bloc.

Meanwhile, Farooq Abdullah downplayed the differences between his party and the People's Democratic Party over a seat-share arrangement in the Kashmir Valley and exuded confidence of winning from Anantnag-Rajouri in the Lok Sabha elections.

Abdullah's comment came after People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the National Conference left her party with no option but to contest on three Lok Sabha seats, including Anantnag-Rajouri, in Kashmir.

The People's Democratic Party and the National Conference are both constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc.

"I am not the owner of the People's Democratic Party. Please go and ask them," Abdullah said when asked about Mehbooba's remarks.

Replying to another question about the National Conference's fate in Anantnag-Rajouri after Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief and former chief minister of the erstwhile state, threw his hat in the ring, Abdullah said, "Inshallah, we will win. I will give it to you in writing."

Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a meeting of National Conference workers the in Ramban district.

He also campaigned for the Congress candidate in the Udhampur-Kathua seat, saying, "We are standing strong in favour of the INDIA bloc to save the Constitution of India".

Calling the Lok Sabha elections a "collective fight" to protect India's Constitution and unity, he said, "They (BJP) want to scrap the Constitution of India on one side. On the other side are people who have put their lives at stake to save the Constitution. It is our collective fight to save India."

Chugh fires AAP's...

"You were in jail because of scams, betrayal and bribery. Unfortunately, press conferences are being done by putting Arvind Kejriwal's picture parallel to those of BR Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. Both these personalities are being disrespected by this act. On one hand, it's a person involved in a liquor scam and on the other hand, are those who never took a step back in the freedom movement of the country. On the one side, it's the person who formed the Constitution and on

the other side it's the person who doesn't follow the Constitution", he added.

CS reviews implementation...

about the batches of police officers from each wing who had got the required training and education about new laws.

He called for designation of a senior Police Officer as a single point contact for implementation of these laws across J&K. He observed that this Nodal Officer should address all the issues and facilitate between different wings of police department in adoption of all the changes made in these laws within the stipulated timeframe.

He asked about the changes to be made in Police Manual here. He told them to look into the need for issuing the SO's for meeting the purpose within deadline. He sought suggestions from members of the steering committee about the efforts made so far and the way ahead to make maximum out of the available time.

In his presentation, the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, threw light on different initiatives taken by the local administration in this pursuit, so far. He revealed that the three pillars of our strategy in implementation of these laws rest on capacity building and training of the staff, requirement of additional manpower, if any and the requirement of upgradation of hardware and technological interventions to be made.

It was also revealed that the committees and study groups were constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these laws in the UT.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam had been recently notified by the MHA for their implementation from July, 2024. These are going to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

Modi Govt's benefits...

has the confidence to dream that her child can also grow up on the strength of hard work and rise to the highest position.

"This essence of democracy has been realised for the first time under the ten year regime of Prime Minister Modi, said Dr Jitendra and added that this has drastically changed our mindsets and our social behaviour, particularly in districts like Ramban and Banihal where different communities live together and are also ready to stand by each other.

As far as Ramban and Banihal are concerned, regardless of the composition of the population, similar and equal benefits and resources have been provided. There has been a series of tunnels and bridges including Maitra Bridge and Jhula Bridge built in Ramban which was in demand for several years. Similarly in Banihal, there is not only a rail tunnel but also a new tunnel through Pir Panjal which will make the travel time easier. At the same time, Banihal is going to be an important link of the railway connecting it with the rest of the country. This, he said, will change the entire approach and will lay the foundation for future political, social and economic equitability in distribution of resources and benefits.

Accompanying Dr Jitendra Singh in this tour were former MLA Ramban Neelam Kumar Langeh, BJP District President Ramban Rajeshwar Kumar, BJP State Executive Member Ramesh Sharma, former Distt President Rakesh Kumar, General Secretary BJP District Ramban Mohd Saleem Bhat, Shah Navaz, DDC members, Sarpanches, local PRIs and prominent activists of the region.

India successfully carries...

reliable performance, as confirmed from the data captured by a number of range sensors deployed at different locations.

The Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), carried out the flight test of the missile that has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, SFC and the armed forces for the successful test flight and stated that the successful development and induction of the missile will be an excellent force multiplier for the military.

"Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with the DRDO, conducted the successful flight-test of new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha at around 1900 hours on April 3," the ministry said. "The test met all the trial objectives validating its reliable performance, as confirmed from the data captured by a number of range sensors deployed at different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point," it said. The launch was witnessed by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, the Chief of Strategic Forces Command and senior officials from the DRDO and the Indian Army.

Gen Chauhan and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of the SFC and DRDO for the successful flight test.

Last month, India successfully carried out the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) under its 'Mission Divyatra'.

India has been developing capabilities to intercept hostile ballistic missiles both inside and outside the earth's atmospheric limits.

Prerna gets addl...

adjustment in the General Administration Department.
"Further, Prerna Puri, IAS, Commissioner, Secretary, Information Technology Department, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, JakeGA, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," it added.

IAF's Apache attack chopper makes emergency landing in Ladakh; both pilots safe

NEW DELHI: An Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) made an emergency landing during an operational sortie in Ladakh and it sustained damage due to "undulating" terrain and high altitude, the IAF said on Thursday.
The IAF said the incident took place on Wednesday and both the pilots on board are safe.

It was the first such incident involving an Apache chopper in the IAF, military officials said.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident.
The IAF had procured 22 Apache attack helicopters and the chopper that had to make the emergency landing was based in the Pathankot Air Force station in Punjab.

"An IAF Apache helicopter carried out a precautionary landing during an operational training sortie in Ladakh on April 3. During the process of this landing, it sustained damage due to undulating terrain and high altitude," the IAF said in a brief statement.

"Both the pilots on board are safe and have been recovered to the nearest airbase. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause," it said.

People familiar with the incident said the chopper made the emergency landing at a high-altitude place between Leh and Thoise.

The Apaches are extensively operating from Leh and Thoise air bases while carrying out operational sorties in eastern Ladakh.

The people cited above said the two pilots sustained minor injuries in the incident.

India had finalised a contract in September 2015 to procure 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinooks choppers from the US at a cost of around USD 3 billion.

The first batch of Apache choppers was inducted into the IAF in 2019.

The AH-64 Apaches hold the reputation of being the world's one of the most advanced and proven attack helicopters.

The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons which include air to ground Hellfire missiles.

Security forces conduct area domination patrol in Rajouri ahead of LS polls

RAJOURI: Police and paramilitary forces on Thursday conducted an area domination patrol (ADP) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri town and peripheral areas ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, officials said.

The exercise was jointly organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force. "In order to strengthen the inter-forces coordination as well as for area domination and familiarisation in view of the parliamentary polls, a long area domination patrol was taken out in Rajouri town and peripheral areas," a police officer said. Starting from District Police Lines (DPL) in Rajouri, the patrol passed through different areas of the town and those on its periphery.

It was led by senior officers of the forces, he said. During the exercise, locals were asked to inform the security forces about any suspicious movements or objects, he added. The Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in five phases on April 19 (Udhampur) and April 26 (Jammu), May 7 (Anantnag-Rajouri), May 13 (Srinagar) and May 20 (Baramulla). The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.