

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Isn't J&K integral...

Bengal. To shield its extortionist and corrupt leaders, the TMC orchestrates attacks on central investigative agencies when they come here," he said.

Modi's comments come a day after an NIA team was allegedly attacked by a mob on Saturday when attempting to arrest two main suspects in a 2022 blast case in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district.

"The TMC is a party that disrespects India's constitution and Rule of Law," he said.

The attack on NIA on Saturday evoked memories of January 5 when a team of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was attacked by a mob in North 24 Parganas district's Sandeshkhali during a search at the house of TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh, who was later suspended, in connection with alleged irregularities in the public distribution system.

Modi mentioned that the situation in the state is such that "the court has to intervene" in various matters.

The prime minister accused the TMC government of impeding the implementation of the Centre's welfare schemes for the poor in the state.

"The TMC is not allowing the central funds to reach the poor people of the state. They want the central funds in their own account first. The syndicate Raj of TMC is going on across West Bengal. The TMC government is putting brakes on central schemes for the welfare of the poor," he said.

Claiming that the Enforcement Directorate has attached properties worth Rs 3,000 crore from corrupt leaders of the TMC in various corruption cases in Bengal, Modi said suggestions are being taken on ways to return the money to those who have given it.

"I guarantee you that the money looted by corrupt leaders will be given back to the poor people who had to give money to get jobs," he said.

Modi alleged that the opposition alliance is busy indulging in politics of lies and deceit.

"I am saying remove corruption; the opposition is saying 'save the corrupt.' I will ensure the corrupt are punished, and the poor get justice. After June 4 (when Lok Sabha poll results will be announced), more stringent action will be taken against the corrupt," he said.

The prime minister said, "The TMC, Left, and the Congress have formed INDI Alliance to protect the corrupt."

Referring to recent incidents in Sandeshkhali, where allegations of sexual abuse against TMC leaders emerged, Modi assured people that the culprits of Sandeshkhali will spend the rest of their lives in jail.

"The entire country has witnessed what happened in Sandeshkhali. Don't you think Sandeshkhali culprits should get strong punishment?" he remarked.

During a rally at Cooch Behar on April 4, Modi had said that the culprits of Sandeshkhali will have to spend the rest of their lives in jail.

Urging people to elect a strong and stable government, Modi said, "The stronger the central government, the stronger the trust of the world in Bharat."

"I work 24x7 for 2047. The past 10 years of the NDA government were dedicated to easing the lives of marginalized communities. You supported me, and I decided to transform the landscape of India. What you have seen in the last 10 years is just a trailer," he said.

Reaching out to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of the Jalpaiguri constituency, he said the BJP has facilitated the empowerment of all during the last decade, including the SC/ST community and women.

"TMC is against the interests of the poor and the SC/ST community," he said.

To woo lakhs of tea garden workers in the region, Modi blamed the TMC for being "responsible for the woes of the tea industry in West Bengal."

"TMC is against the interests of the tea garden workers of West Bengal and has consistently exploited them. The TMC leaders have bungalows, but the tea garden workers are deprived of benefits," he said.

The TMC dubbed Modi's allegations as baseless.

"The prime minister was speaking of corruption, but the BJP shelters corrupt people. And regarding attacks on central agencies, these agencies are working as frontal organisations of the BJP and are targeting TMC leaders," TMC leader Santanu Sen said. At the beginning of his speech, Modi expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in a storm in Jalpaiguri last week.

'Cong hostile towards....

the PM said, "You can understand the Congress' mindset from the statement of one of its very senior leaders who openly called for making south India a separate nation."

Modi, who was in the Bihar district to campaign for BJP candidate Vivek Thakur, said, "I wonder what hostility the Congress has towards popular sentiments. Its leaders did not turn up at pran pratishtha even though the temple at Ayodhya was constructed with donations made by the common people, not with government funds."

"When some of the Congress leaders came out in favour of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, they were slapped with expulsions," said the PM, in a veiled reference to Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who was sacked by the party after he criticised it for skipping the event.

The PM also said that while his government boldly acted against "anti-women" practices like 'triple talaq', the Congress and its allies were busy denigrating Sanatan Dharma.

"The festival of Ram Navami is approaching. Do not forget the sins of these people," said Modi, who also claimed there was 'sir futavval (infighting)' within the INDIA bloc in which "one senior leader has refused to take part in campaign unless he is projected as the Prime Ministerial candidate".

Modi also lauded Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president, and Sushil Kumar Modi, who is battling with cancer and has excused himself from poll-related activities, for their efforts in pulling Bihar out of the 'jungle raj', a term often used to denote the lawlessness that prevailed when Bihar was ruled by the RJD-Congress combine.

"In those days, our mothers and sisters were fearful of venturing out of homes," alleged Modi, taking forward the declamation of Kumar who spoke before him, that "people did not go out of their homes after dusk" in Bihar until the change of guard in 2005.

Kumar, who returned to the NDA in January, and has sought to maintain a "secular" image, also claimed "clashes between Hindus and Muslims were more common before we took over. In the new atmosphere of peace, Muslims too supported us in a big way. We got more than 50 per cent of their votes in 2010 assembly polls".

The PM was also visibly pleased when the Bihar CM predicted a 400-plus tally for the NDA.

The PM said, "All surveys show that we are heading for a massive victory. Some may wonder why I am still working so hard. I am not one who would rest on his laurels. I was born into a poor family and will not rest until I wipe out poverty from the country. The first 10 years of my government have been a trailer. Our growth engine is on the runway. It must now take off."

In an apparent reference to the Congress' complaint to EC that the use of the "Modi ki guarantee" phrase was a violation of the Model Code of Conduct, the PM said he was able to deliver on promises because he had "pure intent and firm resolve".

"The glory of India is being sung (bharat ka danka baj raha hai) far and wide, be it New Zealand or Africa. This has not been achieved by Modi, but by the power of your vote which installed a strong government," said the PM.

Woman killed, 5...

One of the buses hit two motorcycles before hitting the other bus, the official said, adding that four more private cars crashed with the buses at the scene.

Manjeet Kour, a resident of Panthkot, who was travelling on a motorcycle along with her husband, succumbed to injuries on way to hospital, the official said.

The condition of her husband was stated to be "critical", the official said.

Four more persons, including two motorcyclists, were also injured in the accident and are undergoing treatment at Government Medical College Hospital Kathua, the official said.

J&K Police warns...

services, departments and members of the general public that a fraudster (who is being identified) is using a mobile phone number 8891979985 and is falsely posing as Sh R R Swain DGP J&K," the Jammu and Kashmir Police wrote on X.

"This fraudster is asking (for) money from different people including colleague police officers who he thinks can fall into his trap. While legal action under law is underway, friends, colleagues and even relatives are requested to be vigilant about this person as well as such persons in future," it added.

India shedding remnants...

spiritual legacy. We must pledge to uphold the high values and follow the righteous path," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also congratulated Kusum Mohale Smriti Sanatan Nyas on publication and greeted the people on the eve of Navsanvatsar.

Women SOG team...

and their presence will help us tackle on-ground challenges in a better way as they work shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts," the SP said.

Meanwhile, the presence of women police personnel on Sidhra bypass, Kunjwani and Gujjar Nagar, caught the eye of the commuters who welcomed the development.

"This is election time and a strict vigil is being maintained which is very good for all of us. The presence of women personnel, especially at checkpoints, makes women travellers feel comfortable," Daleep Kumar, a resident of Jammu city, said.

Police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength across the constituency spread over 18 assembly constituencies, including 11 in Jammu district, three each in Samba and Reasi districts, and one in Rajouri district.

More than 17.68 lakh electors are registered in the Lok Sabha constituency where a total of 23 candidates are in the fray with BJP's Jugal Kishore looking to score a hat-trick of wins. His main opponent is Congress candidate and former minister Raman Bhalla. A total of 2,416 polling stations are being set up for the voters in the constituency with authorities focused on securing the area with intensified area domination by police and paramilitary forces.

14 places identified...

strategy to tackle drug menace with primary focus to create awareness among people and secondly rehabilitation of drug addicted youth who are treated as victims,"



SSP Jammu Vinod Kumar addressing press conference on Sunday.

the SSP said.

"Police has recently opened a state-of-the-art drug rehabilitation centre which is equipped with all facilities and a qualified staff," he added.

Seeking active support of people in eradicating the drug menace, he said even if any police personnel was found involved in drug peddling, strict action will be taken against such persons as per the prevalent laws.

"Of the total cases, police has busted the forward and backward linkages of 27 cases and attached three properties of notorious drug peddlers while similar action is on cards against others," he said, adding the investigations have so far not revealed a direct link of narcotic smugglers across the border.

The SSP said the police are also keeping surveillance on former Over Ground Workers of terrorists to ensure that they are not recycled and get involved in narco-terrorism.

"There was no instance where drug smugglers used luxurious vehicles...in fact, most of the arrests were made from public transport," he said.

He said that separate teams have been constituted in view of the Lok Sabha polls, while additional manpower have been deployed at checkpoints to ensure free and fair elections.

Azad for focus...

Azad urged voters to prioritize the collective interests of the nation over narrow identity-based affiliations.

The former Chief Minister stressed the importance of focusing on the growth and progress of regions and communities, advocating for a shift in parliamentary discourse towards substantive issues.

Azad also voiced concerns over the exploitation of local resources and emphasized the need for fighting for both land and jobs protection, as well as the restoration of statehood. He strongly asserted that the people of J&K cannot tolerate external entities seizing control of local land and job opportunities. These issues are central to the people's economic prosperity and cultural integrity, he added.

He promised to fight for these issues in Parliament and ensure the voices of the people are heard.

Azad reiterated DPAP's commitment to fostering growth and prosperity in J&K. He pledged to prioritize the establishment of additional colleges, schools, hospitals as also need for expanded road networks to improve connectivity and facilitate economic development.

Azad denounced other parties for exploiting voters with false promises. He particularly targeted the Congress for its lack of attention to crucial issues affecting the people.

He expressed concern over the sudden appearance of parties seeking votes, despite being absent from the people's problems for the past decade.

He singled out the Congress, accusing it of neglecting vital issues and resorting to abusive rhetoric instead of meaningful dialogue.

He said, 'Congress's only job seems to be to abuse us, but why don't they speak on real issues? Where is their performance, he asked.

Azad urged people to cast their ballots in favor of G.M. Saroori in the upcoming elections.

Recognized for his unwavering integrity and vocal advocacy, he emphasized Saroori's honesty and dedication to amplifying the voices of the people.

He assured voters that Saroori possesses the qualities needed to effectively address their issues and champion their interests on the national stage.

Among others present on the occasion were included R.S.Chib Gen Secretary, Jugal Kishore Sharma Provincial President, Vinod Mishra Gen Secretary, Ashwani Khajuria Distt President, Brig Mohan Sharma Provincial GS, Priti Khajuria Secretary, Pritam Kotwal, Gourav Chopra Distt President Jammu, Kulwant Chib Provincial GS, Anoop Khajuria Coordinator, Sanjeev Dubay, Rozy Begum, Saksham Sethi, Kuldeep Manhas, Shannu Sharma, Shameem Begum, Sardar Tej Bahadur, Pawan Kumar and others.

Venugopal reviews Cong's...

prevailing political situation in the region, the spokesman said.

Udhampur and Jammu Lok Sabha seats will go to polls on April 19 and April 26, respectively.

"Venugopal got input about the coordination amongst various units of the party at different levels and with the alliance partners for an effective campaign in favour of Choudhary Lal Singh (Udhampur) and Raman Bhalla (Jammu)," the spokesman said.

He said the AICC coordinators apprised him about the "successful" conduct of the campaign in complete coordination and the "positive mood" of the people to bring about change this time in both the constituencies.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh is eyeing a third term from Udhampur while his colleague Jugal Kishore is also looking for a win for the third consecutive term from the Jammu constituency.

"The coordinators shared the grass root feedback about the political situation that people are fed up with BJP and its policies," the spokesman said.

Sharma and Gupta also apprised the AICC leader about the feedback on the party's manifesto and the response of the people to the 25 guarantees in the 'Nyay Patra'.

CEO visits Ganderbal...

components of the ongoing election process including Transport plan, training to poll staff, Material Management, AMF, manpower, SVEEP, MCC, material management, Special Polling Stations, status of special polling stations, media monitoring etc.

Highlighting the significance of Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) at polling stations, the CEO underscored the importance of creating a conducive environment for voters to exercise their democratic rights freely and fairly. He emphasized the need for rigorous sanitation drives at polling stations, along with plantation initiatives in open spaces by roping in Forest department and social forestry. He also emphasized to provide adequate furniture in all polling stations on the poll day.

While reviewing the status of activities conducted under SVEEP, the concerned Nodal Officer informed that robust voter awareness campaigns are being held to bolster voter turnout and inclusivity across the district.

The CEO emphasized for conducting SVEEP activities in Higher Secondary Schools, colleges activating Electoral Literacy Clubs and other areas where voter turnout remained low in past elections. He also exhorted for conducting innovative activities under SVEEP to ensure that every eligible voter is empowered to exercise his franchise.

Interacting with the nodal officers, The CEO reiterated the importance of strict adherence to ECI guidelines and robust media monitoring to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process. He directed the officers to exhibit exemplary commitment, dedication and sincerity while discharging their election duties, recognizing their

pivotal role in facilitating free, fair and peaceful elections.

Meanwhile, the CEO visited the Strong Room and had a detailed inspection of arrangements being put in place for safety, surveillance and security of EVMs.

He also inspected the functioning of District Election Control Room, Social Media Monitoring Cell and Medial Monitoring room and enquired about the daily activities of these teams.

SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad, Deputy District Election officer, SDM Kangan, ACR Ganderbal, GM DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, ARTO and other concerned were present on the occasion.

PDP names candidates...

support me so that we can take the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to Parliament," she said.

"My appeal to all people of the constituency -- from Anantnag to Rajouri and Poonch -- is to come together as we are passing through a critical stage. People cannot talk. Talking has become a crime. If someone raises voice, he is labelled as anti-national," she added.

On her party contesting against INDIA bloc partner National Conference, Mufti said she had left the ball in NC president Farooq Abdullah's court.

"We had left the decision to Farooq Abdullah. We would not mind even if they had contested all the seats but they should have at least consulted us. They should not have demeaned our party and workers by saying they will see our behaviour in Lok Sabha polls before deciding on alliance for Assembly elections," she said.

Congress denied district...

cause because they were more concerned about securing their ministerial berths by keeping their masters in good humour.

In the last 10 years after Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister, Dr Jitendra said, there has been a continuous attempt to make up for the lapses of the past and to ensure equitable development of all the regions. As a result of this, he said, for the first time after independence today we have a network of roads in the region and one can drive down from Jammu to Billawar in just about two and half hour which was unimaginable before 2014.

As for the popular demand for Bala Sundri tunnel, Dr Singh said, this too was ignored by the earlier governments. Only after Prime Minister Modi came, this project got approved but was delayed for certain reasons and now it would be taken by the National Highway Authority of India , he said.

Former Dy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh ,Senior BJP leader Satish Sharma, DDC Narain Dutt Tripathy, Neeru Rajput, Vikram Singh, BJP President Darshan Singh, Prem Aziz, Romy Khajuria,Jangbir Singh, Inderjit Samyal, Sanjit Khajuria, Kuldeep Abrol, Basotra, Chhotu Khajuria, among others, participated in the rally.

Man booked under...

Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan and lodged in district jail Udhampur under the PSA, a police spokesperson said.

"Singh is a notorious criminal who is named in over half-a-dozen cases, including those related to attempted murder, at Katra police station between 2011 and 2023. He was also found motivating youth to join him," the spokesperson said.

The official said his dossier for PSA was prepared on the directions of Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma and sent for necessary detention order to district Magistrate.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson said a drug peddler was arrested along with three grams of heroin and an electronic weighing machine during a surprise checking of vehicles at Sullu near Katra town in the district.

Pardeep Singh was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and further investigation is on, the official said.

Police attaches properties...

He said the land belonged to Mohd Lateef (18 Kanals and 6 Marlas), Sadar Din (9 Marlas) and Aziz Din (12 Kanals).

The property was identified belonging to proclaimed offenders during the course of investigation conducted by Police, the spokesperson said.

Make special efforts to eliminate caste, gender discrimination: Bhagwat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VADODARA: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday called for the need to make special efforts to eliminate discrimination over caste and gender in society.

The RSS chief was speaking at an intellectuals' meet in Vadodara on the second day of his two-day Gujarat visit.

On Saturday, he had attended a similar programme in Bharuch in south Gujarat, stated a release from RSS.

In his address to intellectuals, Bhagwat said 'Sajjan shakti' (noble power) should be organised and made active for social changes through harmony, family education, adherence to rituals, environmental protection, awakening of indigenous values and education in civic duty.

"Special efforts should be made to eliminate caste and gender differences in society, and special experiments should be done to create a network of Sajjan shakti," the release said, quoting him.

During the meet, people working in fields like health, environment, art, literature, and social change expressed their thoughts and opinions about their projects, it said.

On the occasion, the release stated, RSS leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi said that being the bearer of the world's most ancient culture and tradition, it has been "our tradition to solve the problems arising in society from time to time through spirituality, education, art, and industrial power".

Bhagwat will stay overnight in Ahmedabad before leaving the state on Monday morning, it added.

Modi's guarantee is 24-carat pure gold: Rajnath Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee as 24-carat pure gold and said there is distrust among people about the guarantees of the Congress.

He said Prime Minister Modi delivers whatever he says and people of the country are its witness.

"PM Modi's guarantee is 24-carat pure gold whereas there is a distrust among people about the guarantees of the Congress," Singh told reporters at a press conference here.

The Lok Sabha elections are due in the state on April 19 and 26.

He said that people do not trust the Congress' guarantees because they made big promises but could not deliver them.

The senior BJP leader said the speed with which work is being done makes every person feel that the country's future is bright.

If there is any credible political party which has no difference between its words and deeds, then it is the BJP, he added.

"Not only in India but abroad, there is no question mark on the credibility of the government. The commitments made in the manifesto were fulfilled in letter and spirit, whether it was Ram Mandir or the Citizenship Act or Triple Talaq or abrogation of Article 370," he said.

Singh said the 10 years of BJP rule at the Centre have proved to be golden from socio-economic, political, strategic, constitutional and cultural point of view.

There is a positive sentiment in the country about India's success which was seen never before. Fiscal deficit has reduced, exports are increasing, investment is on the rise, inflation is being controlled, opportunities have also increased and income has increased, he added.

Singh said the NITI Aayog has said that after several financial forums 2014, 25 crore people have come out of the poverty line and there has been a record reduction in the NPA of the bank.

Targeting the Congress, he said it is the same party which could not provide bullet proof jackets, helmets and other essential materials that were required and is making such promises today in its manifesto.

Elaborating about the defence challenges, the minister said there are many challenges from the defence point of view, including cyber war and unconventional warfare.

"It is important that India be prepared for all this and we will work from this perspective. If India is strengthening from a defence point of view, it is not for attacking any country in the world but for its own security," Singh said.

"India's history has been that the nation has neither attacked any country in the world nor taken an inch of land. This has been the character of India," he added.

He said India wants to maintain good relations with all its neighbouring countries and is also of the view that they will respond in the same manner.

Stating that he had recently asked people how it feels to have elections again and again, Singh said people want that election should not happen again and again.

He said that a committee was formed under the vision of Prime Minister Modi and former President Ramnath Kovind to study 'One Nation, One Election'.