

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Congress created Kashmir...

vote-bank politics. Even its manifesto has the Muslim League imprint," Modi charged.

Pitching the 2024 polls as a fight between 'stability and instability', the PM pointed out that on one hand there is the BJP-led NDA whose aim is to take big decisions for the country and on the other there is the Congress and INDIA whose sole objective is to fill their own pockets on coming to power.

The BJP's star campaigner maintained the INDIA bloc symbolises instability and no one better than Maharashtra can explain the importance of a stable government.

Modi claimed Maharashtra was ignored when INDIA grouping parties (a reference to its earlier avatar UPA led by the Congress) were in power at the Centre.

Attacking the erstwhile Uddhav Thackeray government (November 2019-June 2022) without taking its name, the BJP stalwart said when INDIA constituents formed a government in Maharashtra (under the banner of Maha Vikas Aghadi or MVA), they worked only to advance the interest of their families and friends.

"They played with the future of the people and demanded 'commission' for development projects and without commission they would stall these projects, be it a new airport or any other venture. They stalled the Jalyukt Shivar programme (water conservation scheme launched by BJP-led government) and irrigation projects," the PM alleged.

"They had opposed the Samruddhi Expressway (between Mumbai-Nagpur) as well, stalled a refinery project in Konkan, Mumbai Metro work and even after getting funds for PM Aawas Yojana they stopped giving homes to the poor. They had only one aim -- bring commission or stall projects," he noted.

Modi asserted the 'Mahayuti' government, consisting of the Shiv Sena, the BJP and the NCP, is working round the clock and started taking forward stalled projects after assuming office in June 2022.

The PM said Dalits, tribals and backward communities consider the Modi government as their own. A major chunk of the beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana (related to cooking gas), free ration and other government welfare schemes are Dalit, tribals and OBCs.

Attacking the 1885-founded organisation further, Modi questioned, "Which party boycotted the consecration ceremony of Ram temple... which party did not give the Bharat Ratna to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar for decades?"

The top BJP leader said in the last 10 years, the ruling NDA has provided solutions to problems that prevailed in the country.

The PM noted Naxalism has weakened not only in Maharashtra, but across the country. Gadehiroli, once known as a Naxal-hit district, is now experiencing development and is home to steel industries.

Modi attacked the DMK, which rules Tamil Nadu, and alleged INDIA alliance partners are threatening to divide India again.

"They are talking about dividing South India. INDIA alliance partner DMK is talking about finishing Sanatan and linking Sanatana Dharma to malaria and dengue. And the Congress and fake Shiv Sena (referring to Uddhav Thackeray-led faction) are calling the same people for rallies in Maharashtra," said the BJP's star campaigner.

The PM praised Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and said he and the Shiv Sena are taking party founder late Bal Thackeray's ideology forward with vigour.

He said wood from Chandrapur was used for construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and new Parliament building in Delhi.

Speaking at the rally, Shinde slammed the Congress and asserted the party does not have the right to come out with a 'jahirnama' (manifesto) and instead it should ask for 'mafinama' (forgiveness). Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis sought votes for BJP candidate Mungantiwar and Modi to ensure further development of the country.

Cong, NC finalise...

Doda, was contesting from Anantnag.

On claims that Azad has said that he has not decided on where he would contest, Abdullah said his remarks would appear to be "dishonest" as his party has made announcements about the seats.

"If he is not contesting, it would suggest that the BJP has calculated that his

contest from (Anantnag) would be detrimental to their chances," Abdullah said.

"Either way, it is shaping up to be an interesting election and the BJP is pulling out all the stops in Kashmir to bring various parties on a single platform. The visuals of the BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh coming out of Altaf Bukhari's residence in Srinagar make it obvious what the BJP and its allies are going to do there. Our interest as allies is that the BJP's plans fail entirely in all six seats," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said.

He exuded confidence that the situation was in the favour of the INDIA bloc in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh and the opposition alliance would win all six seats.

Abdullah also dismissed Prime Minister Modi's claim of the BJP winning 370 seats and NDA 400 in the Lok Sabha polls, saying it shows that he is "rattled".

The PDP has named candidates for three seats in Kashmir, fielding Mehbooba Mufti against Ghulam Nabi Azad in Anantnag. The Congress has named Lal Singh as its candidate from Udhampur to take on Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

22 candidates in...

The candidates, who are in the fray included Jagdish Raj from Bahujan Samaj Party, Jugal Kishore from Bharatiya Janata Party, Naresh Kumar Chib from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), Raman Bhalla from Indian National Congress, Ankur Sharma from Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, Swami Divya Nand from Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front, Rattan Lal from Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference, Shikha Bandral from National Awami United Party, Qari Zaheer Abbas Bhatti from All India Forward Bloc, Ganesh Choudhary from Hindustan Shakti Sena besides Atul Raina, Bansilal, Perseen Singh, Dr Prince Raina, Raj Kumar, Satish Poonchi, Surinder Singh, Shabar Ahmed, Principal CD Sharma, Karanjit, Naresh Kumar Talla and Vicky Kumar Dogra as Independent candidates. Independent candidate Roop Krishen Dhar has withdrawn his nomination before today's deadline. The Constituency is going to elections in second phase of General Elections to be held on April 26, 2024. Meanwhile, the process of allotting election symbols to the contesting candidates was also completed today by the Returning Officer, Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

Congress should clear...

the citizenship rights to West Pakistan refugees, which have been restored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi or if they come to power they will snatch away their rights. Similarly, he said, the Congress Party should also make it clear whether they are opposed to giving citizenship rights to Valmikis and as has been done by Prime Minister Modi or they would again revert back to the earlier position and take away the rights of the Valmikis and leave their children in the lurch to continue serving in menial jobs regardless of however high their qualifications they may achieve.

Dr Singh said, the Congress leaders are fooling the innocent masses by performing theatrics and mocking the BJP Karyakartas by making personalised remarks because they have no ideological stand.

Dr Jitendra also alleged that in the vast constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, the Congress Party is trying to divide the society on communal lines by taking one stand on this side of River Chenab and taking exactly opposite stand on the other side of River Chenab. He said, we will go to each and every household and expose the doublespeak policy of the Congress Party. Accompanying Dr Jitendra Singh during the day-long tour were former Minister and MLA Pawan Gupta, local PRIs, Panches, Sarpanches and prominent BJP leaders.

ACB produces charge...

of demanded bribe of Rs 8,000 but the accused again demanded Rs 4,000 for release of son," official added.

"On the said complaint Anti-Corruption Bureau laid a trap. Sget. Mohd Sultan then Munshi, Police Post Chinore, Jammu was caught red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount which was recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," official said adding that after completion of investigation and obtaining sanction for prosecution from competent authority, the charge sheet was produced before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu for judicial determination.

The next date of hearing is fixed on April 23, 2024, official said.

Haryana governor visits Srinagar's Lal Chowk

We want J&K to move forward on path of development: Dattatreya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Monday visited the historic Clock Tower in Srinagar's Lal Chowk city centre during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dattatreya visited the Lal Chowk city centre this evening and also clicked pictures near the famous Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), which was renovated last year under the Srinagar Smart City Project and has become a major attraction for tourists.

Speaking to reporters, the Haryana governor said he felt very happy to visit the city.

"I came here when I was Railways minister in Vajpayee government. I got to visit the Lal Chowk and it



gave me a feeling of immense happiness," he said.

Dattatreya said now there is peace and calm in the Kashmir valley, which is a matter of immense happiness. "We want Jammu and Kashmir to move forward on the path of development," he added.

Later, the Haryana governor also visited the under

construction martyrs memorial at Pratap Park here.

"I visited the martyrs' memorial and paid tributes to our martyrs," he said.

Dattatreya said he would visit Kheer Bhawani temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Tuesday. He is also scheduled to participate in the Navreh Mohatsav here the same day.

CAA: Nobody will lose citizenship: says Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAMAKKAL (Tamil Nadu): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asserted that no Indian, irrespective of their faith, will lose citizenship with the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

He charged the opposition Congress and DMK with "creating confusion" over the issue.

Rajnath was speaking after taking out a roadshow here in support of the party's Namakkal candidate for the April 19 Lok Sabha elections, KP Ramalingam.

A town in western Tamil Nadu, Namakkal is located about 400 km from state capital Chennai.

The BJP always implemented what it promised and the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370 and the CAA were such assurances, he said.

"We promised a citizenship act, and we did it. I want to clarify that any citizen of India--whether they are Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew--nobody's citizenship will go away," he said.

"The DMK and Congress are creating confusion on the matter," he alleged.

On the abolition of triple Taluq, he said "mothers and sisters" from any faith are "our mothers and sisters."

"Any atrocity against our mothers and sisters of any religion--we stand with them and we proved this by ending triple taluq," he said.

There was no difference between BJP's words and deeds and this manifested in the form of implementation of promises including the Ram temple.

"Ram Lalla has left his hut and arrived at his palace," he said about the shrine that was consecrated in January,

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi participating in the event.

The country has made rapid strides under PM Modi's leadership, in areas including economy and defence.

"India is no longer a weak country. As Defence minister I want to say-- we have strong confidence in the country's army, air force and navy. If someone even bats an eyelid, our army is ready to give them a fitting reply," Singh said.

Gone are the days when India was reliant on imports to meet its defence needs and today everything was made in the country, including fighter jets, he said.

Public welfare was also being given utmost importance by the NDA regime and various measures like assistance to farmers, construction of toilets were examples of these.

JYBT to organize Maa Chandi Paath, Shree Ramayan Paath at Haridwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The "Chaitra-Vasant Navratri Parav-2024" is set to begin from Pratipada Tithi of Shukla Paksha in the Chaitra Month, starting on Tuesday, the 9th April, 2024, and concluding on Wednesday, the 17th April, 2024.

These nine days are dedicated to the worship of the Nine Forms of Maa Durga Ji: Maa Shailputri, Maa Brahmacharini, Maa Chandraghanta, Maa Kushmanda, Maa Skandamata, Maa Katyayani, Maa Kalaratri, Maa Mahagauri, and Maa Siddhidatri.

Each day of the festival is devoted to the worship of these avatars.

The Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust is organizing the event, with Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, briefing about its importance.

He said the Trust will organize "Maa Chandi Paath" and "Shree Ramayan Paath" at its Haridwar Bhawan, commencing from Tuesday, 9th April, 2024, and culminating on Wednesday, the 17th April, 2024. These events will include chanting of Vedic Hymns and other Hindu religious rituals for the welfare and prosperity of families associated with the Trust and the general public.

He invited devotees to participate in the "Maa Chandi Paath" and "Shree Ramayan Paath" at Haridwar Bhawan. Devotees can seek blessings of Maa Durga Ji by attending the event physically or by participating remotely.

A special program will also be organized at Haridwar Bhawan on 17th April, 2024, to celebrate "Ramnavmi Parav" with grandeur, he said adding that devotees who are

unable to physically attend the event in Haridwar due to unavoidable circumstances can participate remotely by becoming Yajmaans.

They can fill out a prescribed form to become a part of the event, and on the culmination of "Maa Chandi Paath" on 17th April, 2024, Navratri Parshad will be sent to their home addresses, Pawan Shastri said.

He added that the Trust has arranged for live telecast of the program on their Facebook page, enabling devotees to watch the "Navratra Poojan" at Haridwar from anywhere.

For detailed information and inquiries, interested individuals can contact the provided helpline numbers 94191-93645, 94196-62100, 99063-97638, 95969-55663, Helpline No. 70511-22990 (Jammu), 98971-28391 (Haridwar).

JU hosts Seminar on "Open Data Initiatives and Note of Librarians"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) University of Jammu (JU), led by Prof. Sangita Gupta, organised an engaging seminar centered around "Open Data Initiatives and Note of Librarians."

Renowned expert Prof. Manoj Kumar Joshi, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kurukshetra, delivered an insightful presentation.

Prof. Joshi, acknowledged for his expertise, provided profound insights into the importance of open data activities and their direct



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

influence on librarians. He dwelt on various aspects of open data, covering its defini-

tion, relevance, and contemporary applications in librarianship.

The seminar underscored how open data endeavors are reshaping the accessibility

Lt Governor greets people on Navratri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the beginning of Chaitra Navratri Festival. In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, I extend my warm wishes to everyone for their success, happiness and well-being. Chaitra Navratri marks the beginning of the New Year and symbolise the triumph of truth, righteousness and virtue over evil. I also extend my felicitations to our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters who are celebrating Navreh. May this festival strengthen bonds of brotherhood and inspire us to dedicate ourselves to the service of humanity. I pray to Maa Durga to shower her blessings on all".

BJP not announcing candidates for 3 LS seats in J&K, fearing defeat: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Tuesday said the BJP has acknowledged its rejection and defeat in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections across Jammu and Kashmir by not announcing candidates for Poonch-Rajouri-Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla Parliamentary Constituencies.

Addressing prominent workers of National Conference at Barnai (Bantalab), Sadhotra Sadhotra exuded confidence about INDIA bloc sweeping the polls in all the parliamentary constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir at the strength of its goodwill and track record of public service before the rule of the double engine government. The National Conference Additional General Secretary called upon the sagacious voters to support the INDIA bloc candidates, Raman Bhalla Jammu-Reasi and Ch Lal Singh Kathua-Doda Parliamentary Constituencies in the ensuing elections.

Baru asks party cadre to secure every vote in Parliamentary election

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior leader J&K BJP & former Councillor JMC chaired a meeting of senior party functionaries of Ward 41 in Talab Tillo.

Sanjay Baru was accompanied by Chaman Lal Bhagat BJP SC Morecha District President, Jatin Sethi, Ashok Wazir, Jatinder Khajuria, Onkar Verma and K.L. Sharma.

Sanjay Kumar Baru, while interacting with the prominent activists, sought detailed reporting of preparations regarding Parliament elections.

He asked the party activists to work with zeal & passion to strengthen the party & to confirm the win of BJP's MP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma in coming elections. He also asked party activists to give their best and secure every vote in Parliamentary



Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior leader J&K BJP chairing a meeting.

election.

Sanjay Baru asked the local party cadre to concentrate on strengthening the Booth as it is the basic unit of polling in elections and "Booth Jeeta, Chunav Jeeta" mantra need to be kept in mind.

Sanjay Kumar Baru said that the party has set a target of registering a remarkable increase in the vote share this time and to achieve the desired result, everyone has to put more efforts. He said that

better coordination in all the party functionaries from top to bottom is the utmost requirement for smooth and more effective working.

Baru further said that the people in the Jammu-Reasi parliamentary constituency are convinced that it is only the BJP and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who have a real concern for the development and welfare of the poor and needy and will support and vote for BJP.