

Heebha
Multispeciality Institute
Dr. Shitiz Gupta
M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery)
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon
Dr. Shikha Dhawan
M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae.)
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
24-A, Shastrī Nagar
(at Dr. Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jammu.
☎ 9419114877

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Every inch of PoK belongs to India: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
KHUNTI (JHARKHAND): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the Congress for "raising question mark" on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and asserted that every inch of it belonged to India and no force can snatch it.

"Mani Shankar Aiyar is telling us to respect Pakistan as it possesses an atomic bomb. Few days ago, INDIA alliance leader Farooq Abdullah said do not talk about PoK as Pakistan has an atomic bomb. I want to tell the Congress and INDIA alliance that PoK belongs to India and no force can snatch it," Shah said at an election rally in Jharkhand's Khunti.

He said, "I do not know what has happened to the Congress. A resolution was passed unanimously in Parliament that PoK is part of India. You (Congress) are now putting a question mark



on PoK by talking about the atom bomb. B-JP's stand is clear that every inch of PoK belongs to India and it will remain with India."

He said Congress preserved Article 370 for 70 years but Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured its abrogation.

Urging people to vote for the BJP, Shah said the JMM-led alliance in Jharkhand was neck-deep in corruption.

"JMM-led alliance indulged in Rs 300-crore land scam, Rs 1,000-crore mining scam,

Rs 1,000-crore MNREGA scam, Rs 40-crore liquor scam. We will not allow the JMM-led alliance to digest poor people's money," he said.

Referring to the recovery of about Rs 350 crore from the premises linked a Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand and Rs 35 crore from the domestic help of an official linked to Congress Minister Alamgir in Jharkhand, he said the money belonged to people of Jharkhand which was "being looted by Rahul Baba's party" but will be

given back to the masses. He accused the JMM and Congress of doing "vote-bank politics".

"Congress created obstacles in building Ram Mandir in Ayodhya for 70 years whereas PM Modi constructed the temple in five years...Rahul Baba did not come to Ram Mandir consecration as he was afraid of his 'vote bank'," he said.

"I want to ask Rahul Gandhi why the Congress failed to appoint any tribal President during its rule," he said while taking a jibe at the grand old party and INDIA alliance.

Shah said under the Congress regime, Maoists exercised rights on 'jal, jungle and jameen (water, forest and land) in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "After you made Modi

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Congress propagates Pak agenda in India: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and accused the opposition party of furthering Pakistan's agenda by questioning surgical strikes and the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Addressing a rally in Poonch, Chugh said every inch of Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India.

"Nowadays, the people of Pakistan are supporting 'Rahul baba'.

The reason being that whenever the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government conducts surgical strikes on Pakistan, kills Naxalites, terrorists, and implements the CAA law, Rahul Gandhi raises questions," he said.

"If Pakistan's agenda is being propagated in India,



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh addressing a rally in Poonch on Friday.

it is because of Rahul Gandhi's Congress party," Chugh said.

"Every child of the country should sacrifice their life for Kashmir," the BJP leader said.

He also alleged that if the Congress came to power, it might put a 'Babri' lock on the Ram temple which "will not be

forgiven by the people".

In a dig at the Congress, Chugh said the party had kept Article 370 intact but as soon as Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge for the second time, he scrapped Article 370 and made Kashmir an integral part of India forever.

"Today, a new era of

development and trust is visible here," he added.

Chugh also attacked Gandhi for "vacationing abroad" and said that in contrast, Modi has been continuously serving the nation for 23 years without any leave first as a chief minister of Gujarat and then as prime minister.

SSP Jammu for strong action against land grabbers, drug peddlers

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar on Friday has asked the officers on the ground to take a strong action against the land grabbers and drug peddlers.

SSP Jammu said this while conducting a surprise inspection of Police Station Domana.

During the visit, he was accompanied by SP Rural Jammu, Brijesh Sharma and SHO Domana, Insp. Arun Sharma.

During his surprise visit he conducted casual inspection of the police station and checked various registers which are currently being

maintained in all the police stations of Jammu District, as part of proactive policing, viz. Drug Addict/Peddler Register, NCR register, Property/ Land Dispute Register, Women Help desk Register, Festival Register and Gangster register etc. All registered were found properly maintained.

Thereafter he was apprised regarding the functioning of the police station and the emerging challenges in dealing with the drug addicts in the area which have become a menace for the society.

He appreciated the entire team for disposing

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RO Jammu PC reviews counting plan

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Election Officer Sachin Kumar Vaishya, also the Returning Officer for 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, convened a meeting on Friday to review the plan for counting on June 4.

SSP Dr Vinod Kumar, Assistant Returning Officers, various election Nodal Officers and Director IT (DIO NIC) Jammu, Sanjeev Kapoor were present in the meeting.

The RO led a comprehensive review of arrangements concerning operations, logistics, equipment handling, signage installation and security.

Director IT Sanjeev Kapoor was assigned the responsibility of training the counting staff, including AROs and Micro Observers, for the Electronically Transferred Postal Ballot Management System (ETPBMS). Training is set to commence from May 13.

Officers were also instructed to oversee barricading and parking

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.2°C Min: 25.0°C
Humidity
Max: 57 Min: 39
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 23.5°C Min: 13.8°C
Humidity
Max: 68 Min: 58
Sunset : 19:18 Hours
Sunrise : 05:35 Hours

Freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom to support separatism: Jaishankar

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: By allowing political space to Khalistani separatist elements, the Canadian government is sending a message that its vote bank is "more powerful" than its rule of law, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

In an exclusive interview to PTI late Thursday, Jaishankar said India respects and practices freedom of speech, but that does not equate with freedom to threaten foreign diplomats, extend support to separatism or allow political space to elements advocating violence.

The External Affairs Minister also wondered how people with dubious backgrounds are being allowed to enter and live in Canada, referring to Khalistani supporters among the Sikh



migrants from Punjab.

"In any rule-based society, you would imagine that you would check people's background, how they came, what passports they carried etc," he said.

"If you have people whose presence there was itself on very dubious docu-

ments, what does it say about you? It actually says that your vote-bank actually is more powerful than your rule of law," he said.

The Indian diaspora in Canada is about 1.8 million strong and there are another one million Non Resident Indians residing in the country. The Indian diaspora, mostly of Sikh ethnicity, is considered an influential bloc in Canada's politics.

Ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". India has been maintaining that the main

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Reject exploiters; vote for progress, peace: Azad

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday urged the people to take charge of initiating a transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a public meeting in Chackpahroo, Azad emphasized the vital necessity of abolishing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the region, citing it as a critical step towards fostering lasting peace and stability.

He criticized the past administrations, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), for



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public meeting in Chackpahroo.

the unjust detention of individuals under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and also fake encounters. He referred to his personal investigations during his tenure as Chief Minister, which uncovered

cases of innocent civilians being falsely implicated as terrorists. He said: "If the government claims there is normalcy, they should revoke AFSPA. Also, many youths were

detained under PSA during NC, PDP rule. When I became Chief Minister, a deputation of vegetable vendors and their families met me, claiming that those who were killed were innocent, falsely portrayed as terrorists by the police. Upon investigation, the truth emerged that they were indeed innocent, and I ensured that the responsible officers were put behind bars. If my government comes to power, I will never exploit the people and will ensure justice."

Azad referred to a video where an ex-chief minister was confronted by

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LS polls will convey J&K people's expression to rest of India: NC's Mehdi

STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL : The National Conference candidate from the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, has said he will not participate in the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir as the institution of the state assembly has been "undemocratically degraded" after the abrogation of Article 370.

Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said the parliamentary elections are important means to convey the expression of the J-K people about Article 370 to the rest of the country.

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Congress 'anti-Hindu', its track record 'loot, appeasement, dynasty first': Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that the Congress is "anti-Hindu" and that its track record is of "loot, appeasement and dynasty first".

Modi, who addressed election rallies in Hyderabad and Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituencies in Telangana, expressed confidence that "those who opposed CAA, UCC and those who talk of 'vote jihad' will be defeated on June 4" when the results of the Lok Sabha polls are declared.

"Today, India is a digital power, fintech power and the world's fifth largest economy, he said.

Recalling that bomb blasts



used to take place in the country 10 years ago, he said such terror attacks don't take place now. He also recalled the bomb blast at Dilsukhnagar in Hyderabad in 2013 and wondered if first-time voters of the present election are aware of it.

Targetting the Congress on reservations, Modi alleged that the national party is "anti-Hindu" and it knows religion-based reservations are unconstitutional.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi mockingly as 'shehzade' (prince) of Congress, he said the Congress leader started off with "mohabbat ki

dukaan' before polls which lost steam as elections approached, and is now "poisoning society by speaking of supporting the 'tukde-tukde gang'".

In a veiled reference to Congress leader Sam Pitroda's recent remarks, he said the 'shehzade's advisor' who lives in America described South Indian people as looking like Africans, which the PM claimed implied that Telangana people look like Africans.

"You know why, because he doesn't like your skin colour. Now Congress will decide based on skin colour who is African and who is Indian," he claimed.

Alleging that the Congress's "hatred" towards

Hindus and their culture was "being exposed" daily, Modi said the leader who tutors 'shehzada' also said that Ram temple should not have been built at Ayodhya.

"He has declared that construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya" and celebrating Ram Navami is against the idea of India," Modi claimed.

"I go to temple with great pride. He has given certificate that even this is anti-national," he further claimed. "Do you perform puja on Ram Navami or not? Do you want to go to Ayodhya for darshan? Are you going to commit anti-national activity (with worship)?" he asked.

"Congress wants to make Hindus second-class citizens

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Colour-coordinated theme-based polling booths set up in Srinagar



STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To create a "festival-like environment" on the day of voting, poll authorities in Srinagar district have prepared 32 theme-based polling booths that are colour-coordinated as per its message.

Polling booths in pink, red, blue have been prepared as per their theme i.e women voters, PwD voters and young voters. Eight polling booths have also been set up to go with its theme of environmental sustainability.

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Srinagar will vote to elect its Lok Sabha MP in the fourth phase on May 13.

The 32 polling stations will have vibrant and colourful message boards, so that voters experience a festival-like environment, besides promoting participatory and inclusive voting in Srinagar, said Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar.

"...the District Election Office, Srinagar has made polling stations

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