

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**  
**Article 370 abrogation...**

He also addressed the demands for restoring Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir after the revocation of Article 370 that led to the erstwhile State being reduced to the status of a Union Territory. "See, I speak with a sense of sanctity in Parliament, and while the J&K Bill was debated, I said, first we will have President's Rule, then the Bill will be fully implemented, followed by panchayat polls, delimitation, reservations, Assembly polls, and Statehood. I said this on the floor of Parliament," Shah said.

**Vikas posted as...**

reads another order. The DySPs posited in ACB include Narinder Singh from IR 16th Bn, Shwetambri Sharma from IR 15th Bn, Davinder Singh from HIG Doda, Mudasar Trambho from TRFC Pul-Shopian, and Imran Malik from Crime Branch, Jammu.

**Zero tolerance against...**

Meanwhile, a delegation of J&K Vocational Trainers Welfare Association on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor at Raj Bhawan and put forth various concerning issues of vocational training professionals.

Subsequently, representatives of Hockey Association, Bandipora, led by its President Irfan Malik, and delegations of residents from Budgam and Bijbehara also met the Lt Governor.

**Reject division; vote...**

communities based on caste and religion, whether it be Gujjars, Paharis, or Kashmiris. Interacting with people, he underscored his party's commitment to prioritizing development over division and emphasized the need to hold these parties accountable for their exploitation of the populace.

Azad said: "Both NC and PDP have merely exploited the people for years without contributing to their welfare. While the Mughals created gardens in Kashmir many years ago, I established the breathtaking Tulip Garden, drawing lakhs of visitors. Despite Kashmir being a Muslim-dominated region, there was no Hajj House until I initiated its construction. Over the years, I've facilitated the establishment of more districts, medical colleges, schools, stadiums, roads, and tehsils. I challenge them to showcase their developmental achievements, as they have only indulged in empty slogans, which they now conveniently forget. My sole agenda is development; I have never exploited people on the basis of religion or caste. Throughout my over 45 years in politics, no one can accuse me of corruption. My track record is transparent; I do not possess extravagant mansions."

Azad affirmed his departure from Delhi, driven solely by his dedication to serving the people. Without aspirations for personal gain, he pledged to prioritise the upliftment of the underprivileged.

Addressing critical issues such as youth involvement in militancy and drug abuse, Azad advocated for the creation of employment opportunities and the enhancement of infrastructure.

Recognising the youth as the cornerstone of the nation's future, he reiterated his commitment to fostering new leadership, exemplified by his support for young Lok Sabha candidates like Amir Bhatt from Srinagar and Adv Saleem Parry from Anantnag.

Azad unveiled the deceptive tactics employed by parties like NC and PDP, saying these parties bank on false promises and slogans to exploit the people.

He urged the public to reject these manipulative strategies and instead back parties committed to genuine development and progress.

Emphasising the need to steer clear of misleading rhetoric, Azad underscored the importance of informed voting.

Reflecting on the voting turnout in the Srinagar seat, he expressed disappointment at the lower-than-anticipated numbers, citing widespread disillusionment with the current government.

Azad underscored the pivotal role of increased voter participation in forthcoming phases, asserting that real change hinges on active engagement in the electoral process. Among others present on the occasion were, Vice Chairman G.M Saroori, Provincial President Mohd Amin Bhat, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Lok Sabha Candidate Adv Saleem Parry, DDC Bilal Deva and others.

**Devotes to experience...**

hillocks to keep the pilgrims safe. Drainage was also completed on the tracks for better outlet of rain water; Lt Gen Srinivasan said.

The DG said it is heartening to note that the BRO has become 'agency of choice' for construction of infrastructure, including roads in strategic, sensitive and inaccessible areas where the work is only possible for six months due to weather vagaries.

"We are considering ourselves fortunate by getting such projects. We are presently working on Nimu-Padam-Darcha road (in the Union Territory of Ladakh) which will connect Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh national highway, providing a third axis (apart from Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh which connects Ladakh to the hinterland)," he said.

He said the BRO constructed 13,000 feet high Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh was dedicated to the people in March, while over four-km long Shinku La tunnel at a height of 15,800 along Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road will be a reality soon.

The DG said the Char Dham and Amarnath yatra treks, restoration of connectivity in Sikkim, major part of Arunachal Pradesh frontier highway and Indo-Myanmar border fence are some of the major projects handed over to BRO.

Referring to Sikkim where a glacier outburst caused massive damage to infrastructure, he said the connectivity was restored for light motor vehicles in northern Sikkim beyond Chungthang , while efforts are on to restore the connectivity in rest of the affected areas shortly.

"A 600-km-long portion of Arunachal Pradesh frontier highway is with BRO and down below, the work on Indo-Myanmar border fence is underway. Not only on the mainland, our footprints are there in Andaman and Nicobar islands where our task force is working on a road to provide connectivity to the southernmost location, the Indira point," he said.

He said the BRO is working on the projects to ensure their completion within the time-frame despite various challenges like weather and inaccessibility of the areas.

**BRO BREAKS THROUGH...**

Srinivasan expressed the hope of completing the strategically important project within the next couple of years.

Sungal, connecting Akhnoor and Poonch, is the second of the four tunnels on the strategic national highway 144-A, also known as the golden arc road, having achieved the milestone.

Earlier, the 700-metre Naushera tunnel achieved the breakthrough on January 28, while the tunnelling work inside 260 meter Kandi and 1.1 km Bhimber Gali is in progress.

"This is a great moment for all of us as the Jammu-Poonch link, advancing rapidly, is on track for completion in the next couple of years," Lt Gen Srinivasan told reporters at the breakthrough ceremony of the Sungal tunnel.

Without naming Pakistan, he said this road is strategically very important in view of the "nefarious activities" of the neighbouring country which is backing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The border areas of Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor are vital defence locations and when you are providing better connectivity, it automatically helps in enhancing defence preparedness," Lt Gen Srinivasan said.

The BRO chief said both Naushera and Sungal tunnels will be completed by the end of this year.

"After completion of the vital road project, the time travel between Jammu and Poonch will be reduced by almost half from the present eight hours. The road widening and the four tunnels will provide all weather connectivity and provide a safe journey to the people," he said.

He said the 200-km Akhnoor-Poonch section of the highway will drive the overall economic prosperity of the border region.

"The better roads will pave the way for massive development with investors coming forward with big projects," he said.

The officials said the progress of the national highway has taken pace and the project is expected to be completed by 2026.

"BRO is spearheading crucial road projects to connect remote areas with major centres in the Jammu-Poonch region," the BRO chief said.

Asked about the defence infrastructure along the Line of Control (LoC), the DG said its development is a continuous process and the BRO is committed towards the strengthening of defence infrastructure by building and upgrading strategic roads all along the International Border; LoC and Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The BRO and its Project Sampark are steadfast in their commitment to "create, connect, care and save lives" of the citizens of its area of responsibility, he said.

"It believes in the adage 'Roads Build Nation' and rededicated itself to the construction of border roads infrastructures to spur socio-economic progress," he said.

**People trust Modi's...**

eruption of terrorism. Chugh remarked on the recent polls in the region, highlighting that these elections marked a significant milestone following the abrogation of Article 370. He highlighted a notable increase in voter participation and a complete absence of untoward incidents

throughout the day, attributing this success to the effective governance under the BJP party.

"Following the abrogation of Article 370, these elections represent the first major polls conducted in large numbers, with not a single untoward incident reported throughout the day," Chugh said, adding. "There was no polling station that witnessed zero per cent polling. No law-and-order incident was reported anywhere. This historic voter turnout is a direct response to those who incessantly invoked China and Pakistan, attempting to sow discord and undermine our efforts."

Chugh highlighted the end of the era of family politics, represented by the Abdullahs and Muftis, noting a substantial increase in voter turnout compared to previous administrations.

"Under our rule, democracy has flourished throughout Kashmir, with people demonstrating their belief in the democratic process through their enthusiastic participation in the electoral process," he added.

"This surge in voter turnout is a direct response to those who opposed the abrogation of Article 370," Chugh said, adding. "People came out in large numbers to cast their votes in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and the constitution. I commend the hard work by all the stakeholders for free, fair, peaceful and smooth conduct of the polling. It is heartening to see the huge surge in voting percentage in the biggest festival of democracy."

**150 Kanals govt...**

"We have been getting information about the vicinity becoming a drug hotspot, and during investigation it came to light that the SIDCO land is under illegal encroachment. A strategy was chalked out and accordingly the police along with civil officials moved into the area," SSP said.

He said the police party was attacked by stones and sharp-edged weapons by the anti-social elements, resulting in injuries to some personnel.

Despite resistance, the police moved in using teargas and baton charged to clear the area, the officer said, adding that a case was registered and further investigation is on to arrest those who attacked the police party.

He said the successful drive busted the drug hotspot, dealing a blow to the anti-national elements linked to narco-terrorism.

An industrialist welcomed the drive and said the land belonged to the State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO) but was turned into a 'drug hotspot' over the years by the encroachers.

A joint team of revenue officers and police retrieved prime state land from illegal encroachers in the area which had become a hotspot for drug activities. As many as 13 FIRs were lodged against these drug peddlers since 2021.

The land, approximately 100 metres away from the national highway valuing crores of rupees, has been handed over to the industries department.

Anti-encroachment drive was launched in Bari Brahamana under the close supervision of Samba Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

**Ram Rajya will...**

in Ayodhya. You saw, that work was also done. Now I have started feeling that Lord Ram has now come out of his hut and entered his palace, hence I have a firm belief that Ram Rajya will begin in India," he said.

Explaining the concept of Ram Rajya, he said, "If I talk about Ram Rajya, it does not mean that I am talking about any theocratic state. Ram Rajya means that a sense of responsibility and sense of duty should be developed among the common people. If a sense of duty is not developed, and there is only a sense of rights, then Ram Rajya cannot come.

"You should read the whole story of the Ramayan and see that Kaikeyi did not have a sense of duty but only sense of rights due to which the whole crisis had arisen, and Lord Ram had to go to the forest," he added.

The defence minister said that politics means a system that takes the society towards the right path, but the irony is that in independent India the word 'politics' has lost its meaning.

He said, "I believe that India needs such politicians who can re-establish the lost meaning and spirit of the word politics in the Indian political system."

Without naming anyone, he said, "In the field of politics, I believe that the crisis of credibility should not arise under any circumstances. There should be no difference between the words and actions of leaders. Whatever the leader says, he should do it, only then there will be no crisis of trust in Indian politics."

Asserting that he never gives assurance to people, he said, "At the age of 26, when I was contesting the assembly elections, I had given some assurances once or twice. After that a thought arose in my mind that I have given assurances to the public so that we can get votes, but I have doubts whether I will be able to fulfil these assurances or not.

"The truth is that despite becoming an MLA, I was not able to fulfil some assurances, that is why I vowed that if I contest any election, I will not give any direct assurance to the public."

However, Singh also said that the party he belongs to had not only accepted the crisis of credibility that had arisen in Indian politics as a challenge, but also won over it.

"I am saying this so that someone can pick up our election manifesto and look at it. Whatever promises we made in it, we have fulfilled them," he added.

Referring to the abolition of the triple talaq system by the BJP government, Singh said, "If it is a question of triple talaq, I know many people will say why are you interfering in the matter of another religion.

"The question is not about religion. I believe that be it Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jew, anyone, everyone's mother is like our, irrespective of the religion they follow. If we feel that she is being tortured, then to hell with politics... we don't worry about it. We will stand up to protect that sister and daughter. That is why we ended the practice of triple talaq," he added.

Polling in Lucknow will be held on May 20 in the fifth phase. Singh is vying to win the seat for the third consecutive term.

**Greater Kailash Murder...**

Parshtom Singh, Sandeep Charak, Vikas Singh, Ravinder Kumar Gupta alias Gola Shah and Rajat Jandyal son of Ravinder Gupta. A case under sections 307/323/447/147/IPC was registered against these accused at Gangyal police station. On April 30, a 39-year-old man in Greater Kailash, was attacked in the presence of police over a land dispute. The SSP Jammu, Dr Vinod Kumar, had immediately ordered the suspension of incharge Police Post (IC/PP) Greater Kailash PSI Puneet Sharma and attachment of SHO Inspector Harmonder Singh.

According to FIR, the deceased Avtar Singh son of Balbir Singh of Kaluchak was attacked by a group of goons when he objected to forcible possession of a plot he had allegedly purchased long back.

**Deployment of force...**

of forces to our border and they did it at the time when we were under COVID lockdown," he said.

Jaishankar said "India responded by counter deployment of forces" and for four years now, forces have been deployed ahead of the normal base positions at Galwan.

"This is a very abnormal deployment along the LAC. Given the tension between the two countries... As Indian citizens, none of us should disregard the security of the country...it is today a challenge", he said.

There is also an economic challenge, he said, which is due to "neglect of the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors in the previous years".

"Why is Indian business buying so much from China... Is it good to be so dependent on some other source?" he asked.

**Cong plotting to...**

from it," Modi said, adding that this was the reason his government introduced Ayushman Bharat scheme for providing healthcare to the poor and set up AIIMS hospitals in various places including one in Jharkhand's Deoghar.

He said his government has been providing food grains free to 80 crore people and promised to continue this for the next five years, if voted to power.

Referring to the UPA administration, Modi alleged that during the "Sonia Ben government", food grains were subjected to rot but not distributed.

Citing instances of recovery of huge cash found at premises linked to Congress leaders in Jharkhand, the prime minister asserted that the JMM-led alliance in the state is neck-deep in corruption.

"JMM and Congress dance to the tune of 'Shahi Parivar'. I will not allow thieves to sleep peacefully," he said, adding that no corrupt people would be spared.

Modi also said that Jharkhand was devoid of benefits of its minerals including mica in Koderma, but it was his government that ensured that tribal areas get the mineral funds for development.

"During the Congress-JMM regime people got nothing, no benefits of mica were accrued to people. But Modi has ensured Rs 12,000 crore to Jharkhand under District Mineral Fund," he said.

He charged the JMM-led alliance in Jharkhand with patronising infiltrators who were grabbing the land of tribal women by marrying them.

"INDIA bloc has openly announced Vote-Jihad against Modi," he said.

The prime minister said he has resolved to make three crore women 'lakshpati didis'. The Lakshpati Didi scheme of the central government is aimed at training women in self-help groups so that they can earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum.

Referring to Jhumi Telaiya, a town in Koderma that shot to fame for the maximum

number of requests for songs for then Radio Ceylon and Vividh Bharti, Modi said it is "more beautiful than its name" and apologized for the delay in arriving.

The prime minister's rally was initially scheduled at 9 am which was postponed to 1.30 pm and finally started around 5 pm.

He said, "I have brought blessings of Bholebaba from Kashi. I filed my nomination and after filing nomination, this is my first public meeting."

A strong government keeps the interest of its people while a weak government as those headed by the Congress weakens the nation, Modi claimed.

Modi was campaigning for Union minister Annapurna Devi who is contesting from Koderma Lok Sabha seat, BJP ally AJSU Party's candidate Chandra Prakash Chaudhary from Giridih Lok Sabha constituency and BJP nominee for Gandey assembly seat Dilip Kumar Verma.

Jailed former Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren is contesting bypoll to Gandey assembly segment which comes under Koderman Lok Sabha constituency. The elections to these seats will be held on May 20.

**Modi files nomination...**

A local spokesperson of the BJP said Modi gave the party's office bearers the 'mantra of victory' and asked them to make people aware of his government's schemes.

Modi also told them to ensure that every booth records at least 370 more votes than it did in the last general election, in celebration of the abrogation of Article 370.

After filing his nomination, Modi posted on 'X', "Filed my nomination papers as a candidate for the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. It is an honour to serve the people of this historic seat. With the blessings of the people, there have been remarkable achievements over the last decade. This pace of work will get even faster in the times to come."

"I am honoured by the presence of our valued NDA allies in Kashi today. Our alliance represents a commitment to national progress and fulfilling regional aspirations. We will work together for the progress of India in the years to come," he added.

In a separate post in Hindi, the prime minister said, "Heartfelt gratitude to my family members in Kashi... The love and blessings I have received from all of you in the last 10 years have inspired me to work with full determination. With your support and participation, I will continue to work with new energy for the all-round development of this place and the welfare of the people in my third term as well. 'Jai Baba Vishwanath'!"

BJP president J P Nadda and Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Anupriya Patel and Ramdas Athawale were among the leaders who flanked Modi as he emerged from the collectorate after filing his papers.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma, NCP leader Praful Patel, TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan, Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular founder Jitan Ram Manjhi and Rashtriya Lok Moreha chief Upendra Kushwaha were present at the collectorate.

Uttar Pradesh minister and NISHAD party chief Sanjay Nishad, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party chief Omprakash Rajbhar, RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss, Tamil Maanila Congress chief G K Vasani, BJP leader Devanathan Yadav, BJDJS president Thushar Vellappally and Asom Gana Parishad president Atul Bora were also there.

Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar did not attend the event due to health reasons.

Before he filed his nomination, Modi posted in Hindi on 'X', "My relationship with Kashi is amazing, inseparable and incomparable... all I can say is that it cannot be expressed in words!"

According to the spokesperson, there were four proposers for Modi's nomination -- Pandit Ganeshwar Shastri, long-time RSS functionary Baijnath Patel, Lalchand Kushwaha and Sanjay Sonkar.

All four, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, were present at the collector's office when Modi submitted his papers.

The prime minister held a dazzling roadshow in Varanasi a day back and vowed to do a lot more to serve the holy city in his third term. He spent the night in the city.

Modi posted a clip from the roadshow on 'X' and said, "The love and blessings that my family members of Kashi showered on me during the road show has become an unforgettable moment in my life."

In another post in Hindi, he said, "My day started with paying respects to Maa Ganga in Kashi... I prayed to Maa Ganga for happiness, prosperity and health for Kashi residents as well as my family members across the country. 'Jai Maa Ganga.'"

In a post on 'X' in Hindi, Adityanath said, "The 'charioteer of Amrit Kaal' of India, respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is striving for prosperity of 140 crore Indians, filed his nomination for the Lok Sabha election from Varanasi today. Every resident of Kashi is committed to making their beloved MP, the respected prime minister, victorious with record number of votes."

Voting in Varanasi will take place in the seventh phase of the Lok Sabha election on June 1. The Congress has fielded its state unit president Ajay Rai from the seat and the BSP has nominated Athar Jamalari.

**Terror Case: SIA...**

The SIA sleuths conducted searches at 11 locations in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian districts in the early hours, the officials said.

"These searches were conducted by SIA in connection with ongoing investigation of case FIR No 87/2024 of PS Bijbehara, pertaining to the killing of non local street vendor Raja Sah on 17 April 2024 at Jablipota, Bijbehara to ascertain larger criminal conspiracy behind this killing," they said.

During searches various articles, including mobile phones, electronic gadgets and documents, relevant to the ongoing investigation have been seized. The seized articles shall be forensically examined and analysed during investigation in the case, the officials added.

**Two Pakistani intruders...**

resident of Karachi, was arrested from Milan de Khni village near the LoC in Pallanwala area of Khour on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday.

He was seen moving in a suspicious manner by a police party and was taken to the local police post where he disclosed his identity and claimed to have inadvertently crossed from across the border; the officials said.

They said a case under relevant sections of law was registered against the arrested person and further investigation is on.

In Kathua district, the officials said a joint search operation was launched by police, army and BSF at village Juthana in Rajbagh area Tuesday morning after villagers informed presence of five suspected terrorists who were looking for food. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain along with Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora reached Kathua to supervise the anti-terror operation. According to villagers, a group of at least five suspected terrorists entered into a house and sought food. However, they fled the scene after getting suspicious that their movement was reported to the security forces, they said.

Meanwhile, Police in Pallanwala area apprehended one person from Pakistan ( Name not confirmed) age 30/35 from village Millian Di Khui(Sanwan) Police Station Khour. On reliable information, Police brought the said person at Police Post Pallanwala and started the investigation. During the investigation the said person claimed that he is from Karachi Pakistan and crossed LoC and came this side. A case FIR No 23/2024 under section 2/3 E & IMCO Act has been registered against him at Police Station Khour.

**Water bodies' pollution in Doda: NGT allows request to file report in 8 weeks**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a matter regarding pollution of water bodies in the Bhardarwah valley in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has allowed the deputy commissioner's (DC) request to file a time-bound action plan within eight weeks to remediate the situation.

The NGT has also directed the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) to file a fresh report disclosing the action taken for imposing fines on the entities responsible for causing the pollution.

The tribunal was hearing the matter regarding the issue of water pollution because of increasing pollutants and the absence of a proper sewage system.

In its previous order, the green panel had directed the DC to file a "time-bound action plan" to remediate the situation and the J&KPCC to impose a fine on the "defaulting body".

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said none of the directions were followed and the DC sought further eight weeks to file the report.

The bench also noted that in the documents submitted before it, the authorities had taken different stands.

"The stand of the DC, Doda is that Neeru is a nallah, whereas the report of the J&KPCC clearly states that Neeru is a river. Member secretary of the J&KPCC has also stated that Neeru is a sacred river of that area known as Neel Ganga, a tributary of the Chenab river," the tribunal said.

In an order passed last week, it allowed the DC's request and directed the J&KPCC member secretary "to file a fresh report and disclose the action taken for the imposition of environmental compensation (EC) on the defaulting body".

"Let these reports be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing (on August 21)," the tribunal said.