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PoK part of...

movie Hirak Rajar Deshe. It was quite a famous movie."
"But when Mamata ji came to power; Satyajit Ray was not there, otherwise, he would have made a movie named 'Hirak Rani', instead of 'Hirak Rajar Deshe'. Mamata Banerjee is the Hirak Rani," he said.

"Bengal is the land which gave us 'Vande Mataram' and national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' and played a key role in India's freedom struggle. Both the communists and the TMC tried to end nationalism and patriotism in Bengal," he said.

Hitting out at the TMC over various scams, Shah said, "No one will be spared even if Mamata Banerjee tries to protect them."

Shah slammed Banerjee for opposing the CAA and "taking out rallies in support of infiltrators" to appease her vote bank.

"Mamata Banerjee is spreading lies and canards about CAA. Why is she against refugees obtaining citizenship? She is supporting infiltration in Bengal but opposes Hindu refugees getting citizenship. She is taking of supporting infiltrators and mul-lahs," he said.

The Centre in March implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Referring to politics of appeasement by the TMC in Bengal, Shah said invitations for the consecration ceremony were sent to both Mamata Didi and her nephew (Abhishek Banerjee), but they chose not to attend it, "as they are afraid that infiltrators, who are TMC's vote bank, might get offended."

Hitting out at TMC candidate and sitting MP from Serampore Kalyan Banerjee for mimicking vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar, Shah said Mamata Banerjee and TMC leaders are known for flouting the Constitution.

A political row unfolded last year after Kalyan Banerjee mimicked Dhankhar during the opposition's protest on Parliament stairs, condemning the suspension of opposition MPs.

Criticising the TMC's resistance to central projects in Bengal, Shah said during the Congress-led UPA regime Bengal received around Rs 2 lakh-crore in a period spanning 10 years from 2004-2014.

"On the other hand, the Modi government in the last 10 years have provided a whopping Rs 9.25 lakh-crore. But this money did not benefit the common people as this fund was siphoned by TMC goons," he said.

Reacting to Shah's remarks, the TMC said the allegations of corruption are baseless.

"The BJP has lost this Lok Sabha polls and is now spreading canards against us. The people of this country have decided to give a befitting reply to the misuse of the BJP in this election," TMC leader Santanu Sen said.

Access to safe...

for Community Mobilization and capacity building of human resource with regard to Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the Action Plan for Summer season and directed for effective measures to meet the water demand.

Progress under Centrally Sponsored schemes, PMDP projects and various other key projects, works under Shri Amarnathji Yatra, UT Specific Action Plan for Water Sector and governance initiatives of Jal Shakti Department were also discussed.

Meeting was attended by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner; Jal Shakti Department; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Mission Director; Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Chief Engineers and other senior officers.

NIA chargesheets 10th...

Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) and magnetic bombs near Dhalli area. NIA took over the case on 30th July 2022.

Among the accused chargesheeted by NIA one is Faisal Muneer, identified as the main handler of the overground worker (OGW) network active in the border area villages of Kathua, Jammu. Faisal Muneer was working under the directions of designated terrorist, Pakistan-based Sajjad Gul, of the proscribed LeT terror outfit.

Further investigations in the case are continuing.

Greater Kailash Murder...

Greater Kailash. Registry papers, land maps, revenue record found from the residence of Gola Shah are also being scrutinized. Names of senior officers, prominent citizens figure during investigation into the case of illegal land sales, sources said, adding, "police is tightlipped over the matter."

Five killed in...

along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, police said, adding, they have arrested the driver:

An official said that girl identified as Saboora Raffiq (17) daughter of Advocate Mohammad Raffiq of Neel Banihal was crushed to death by a speedy truck near Court Complex Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway-44, when she was going to her school. The deceased was student of Girls Higher Secondary School Banihal.

According to relatives, young girl Saboora Raffiq was hit by a speeding truck near the court complex in Banihal and sustained critical injuries. She was immediately taken to SDH Banihal, where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered and investigations taken up, an official said.

Meanwhile locals and relatives are demanding strict action against the driver. They also demanded foot-over bridge for students to cross national highway.

In another incident, a driver lost his life in a road accident in Dalwas area of Ramban district last night, police said on Wednesday morning.

According to police, a truck bearing registration number PB35Q-4481, while on its way from Jammu to Srinagar, collided with a dumper bearing registration number JK 19A-0166 from behind.

The official stated that in the incident, an unidentified truck driver died on the spot, and the body has been taken to the district hospital Ramban for legal formalities.

The officials said that the driver and helper of the dumper, namely Mohammad Akram and Bahar Ahmad of Sumber Ramban, were injured and have been shifted to the District hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, the police have taken cognizance of the incident and started an investigation in this regard.

People will teach...

identified the political parties led by the Gandhi family, Mufti Mohammad's family, and the Abdullah family as being guilty of nepotism, terrorism, and corruption. He claimed these families prioritized their own interests over the well-being of Kashmir, causing significant harm to the region.

He also highlighted that these families' alleged affection for Pakistan has consistently threatened national unity.

Chugh emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the development and prosperity of Kashmir, focusing on trust and comprehensive progress for the region.

As a result, the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir has accelerated, and peace and harmony are being restored in place of terrorism.

Chugh said that the people of Kashmir now have faith in Prime Minister Modi, aspire for development, and yearn for peace. Consequently, the BJP is determined to hold the three nepotistic, corrupt, and terrorism-supporting parties accountable for the plundering and unrest in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chugh also gave a clarion call to the voters in Jammu and Kashmir to teach a life-time lesson to the families of Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis for depriving the people of development to fill their family coffers.

Addressing a number of public meetings in the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency, Chugh called upon people to send the three families out of J&K lock, stock and barrel for looting and ransacking J&K to promote their families.

"By dancing to the tunes of cross border forces the three families have done the biggest disservice to the people of J&K", Chugh said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered in a new era of progress and development. In the election it is time for people to lend their support to the progressive vision of the PM, he assed.

Chugh said J&K has transformed from terrorism to tourism. After ages the youth has new dreams in their eyes, he added.

The three families must be made to kick the dust for the bright future of J&K, Chugh added.

Security situation reviewed...

they said."...the discussions concluded with a reinforced commitment to ensuring

the safety and stability of the region and coordinate the ongoing anti-terror operations," the White Knight Corps wrote on X after the meeting.

The meeting assumes significance as it takes place in the backdrop of a major terrorist attack on a convoy of Indian Air Force (IAF) near Sanai top in Surankot area of Poonch on May 4, resulting in the killing of a soldier and injuries to four others.

Terrorists have also killed a government employee Mohd Razaq, brother of an Army personnel, at Kunda Top village in Rajouri's Shahdra area on April 22, and a village defence guard Mohd Sharief in Basantgarh area of Udhampur on April 28.

A breakthrough has evaded the security forces so far even as massive search operations are underway in densely forested areas of Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and adjoining areas, including Kathua and Reasi districts, to track down the terrorists behind the attacks, some of whom are believed to have infiltrated from across the border. The security review meeting is also significant in view of the Lok Sabha polls in Rajouri and Poonch districts which are part of Anantnag constituency that is going to polls on May 25.

Not doing Hindu...

on criticism of rituals at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The BJP's star campaigner also held a roadshow in Mumbai in the evening.

Speaking at a rally at Kalyan in Thane district, he said the Congress can never speak of development, but it can only create a rift between Hindus and Muslims.

"Development for the Congress is the development of those who vote for them. I expose this ecosystem, and I am blamed for (doing) Hindu-Muslim (politics)," he said.

The BJP stalwart referred to a 2006 remark of then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to hit out at the Congress.

"The Congress openly said the minorities have the first right over the country's resources. (Then PM) Dr Manmohan Singh said this, and I was present at the meeting, and I opposed it. The Congress wanted a 15 per cent budget allocation to the minorities, and divide the budget into Hindu budget and Muslim budget," the BJP stalwart alleged.

"Should the country be run like this? The Congress divided the country in the name of religion earlier, and now wants to do the same thing. If the INDI alliance comes to power, they would divide the country on religious lines....we have to keep the country together....is it good to divide Indians? he asked the gathering.

Accusing the INDI alliance and "Congress' shehzade" (apparent reference to MP Rahul Gandhi) of doing politics of appeasement, the PM claimed Karnataka had become a "laboratory" of giving OBC quota to Muslims.

"They plan to do this in the entire country. Congress leaders speak of vote-Jihad. I am being blamed for (doing) Hindu-Muslim (politics), but I am only exposing the Congress and INDI alliance's plans to divide people on the basis of religion and their appeasement politics. More than my image, unity of the country is important," the PM added.

Modi dared the "nakli (duplicate) Shiv Sena" of former CM Uddhav Thackeray to make Congress MP Rahul Gandhi speak "five lines" in favour of Hindutva ideologue and freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

"(1993 Mumbai blasts convict) Yakub Memon's grave is decorated, and invitation for the Ram temple is rejected," the PM said in a swipe at the Congress over its decision to skip the idol consecration event in Ayodhya.

After his government conducted a surgical strike and an air strike on terrorist bases, Pakistan stopped giving the threat of using nuclear weapons, but Congress leaders are now saying the neighbouring country should be respected because they have the atom bomb, Modi said, referring to a reported remark of former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar.

At the first rally of the day at Pimpalgaon Baswant in Nashik district - the PM said splitting budget on religious lines was a dangerous idea.

"We give benefit of welfare schemes to everyone. But the Congress wants division and distribution of budgets based on religion. They divided the country on the basis of religion and are doing it even today," stated the BJP's star campaigner.

The PM pointed out that Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, was firmly against religion-based reservation in jobs and education.

"When I was the chief minister (of Gujarat), the Congress (then heading UPA government) had brought up this proposal (to earmark 15 pc of budget for minorities). The BJP strongly opposed this move and hence it could not be implemented. But the Congress wants to bring this dangerous proposal again (if voted to power)," Modi warned the gathering.

Without naming NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Modi said, "An INDI alliance leader from Maharashtra knows the Congress is losing badly (in elections). So, he has suggested that small parties merge with the Congress so that it can get the status of the principal opposition party."

"Merger of small parties with the Congress is sure to happen. When duplicate Shiv Sena (referring to Sena UBT headed by Uddhav) merges, I will remember Balasaheb Thackeray's words that if the Shiv Sena becomes like the Congress, he will shut down his party. Now, the duplicate Shiv Sena will cease to exist. The duplicate Shiv Sena has crushed all dreams of Balasaheb Thackeray," he said.

The PM asserted Ambedkar was against religion-based quota, but the Congress wants to take away reservation rights of SCs/STs/OBCs and give them to Muslims. "Modi is the chowkidar (watchman) of rights of deprived sections of society and will never let the Congress take away their rights. Modi will not let budget distribution or quota on the basis of religion," the BJP stalwart declared.

Dindori, Nashik, Kalyan and Bhiwandi are among 13 seats going to polls on May 20.

Not necessary to...

of some grave offence," he said, adding that reasons to believe cannot be on strict interpretation of commission of offence.

"Adjudication must precede arrest," the bench said, adding that it will examine the question of "reason to believe" and "grounds of arrest" under the Customs Act and the GST Act.

The top court said while there were instances of high-handedness by the GST authorities, there were also cases of wrong-doing on the part of tax payers, and it will take into account all these aspects when giving its decision.

The petitioners who have challenged various provisions of the Customs Act and the GST Act have alleged gross misuse of arrest provisions under both the laws. They have claimed they are being threatened and coerced to pay liability without following the due procedure under the laws.

Section 69 of the GST Act deals with the powers of arrest, while section 104 of the Customs Act of 1962 allows an officer to arrest someone if they have reason to believe the person has committed an offence.

On May 9, the top court had told the Centre that any arrest under the GST Act should not be on mere suspicion but based on cogent material and in adherence to proper procedure.

It had said the material upon which an arrest is made should be verifiable by a magistrate.

The court had earlier directed the Centre to not use "threat and coercion" during search and seizure operations against traders for recovery of GST and instead persuade them to clear the dues voluntarily.

On May 2, the top court had asked the Centre to furnish details about the issuance of notices and arrests effected under the provisions of the GST Act, saying it may interpret the law and lay down appropriate guidelines to avoid harassment of citizens by depriving them of their liberty.

It voiced concern over the "ambiguity" in section 69 of the GST Act that deals with the powers of arrest.

The top court had said it would interpret the law to "strengthen" the concept of liberty.

Man facing multiple...

and highlighted his involvement in various serious offenses.

A warrant of arrest under the PSA was issued against him by the Jammu district magistrate based on a dossier submitted by the police, he said and added Kumar is lodged at the Central Jail in Kot Bhalwal.

So far this year, police in the Akhnoor sub-division have detained 18 offenders under the PSA and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, besides attaching properties worth crores, the spokesman said.

CAA gets rolling...

neighbouring countries.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it a "historic day", saying the decades-long wait of those who faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is over.

Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over the certificates to the 14 people after their applications were processed online through a designated portal, an official spokesperson said.

This comes in the midst of the general elections which started on April 19. The last phase of polling will be held on June 1 while the counting will take place on June 4.

The CAA was enacted in December 2019 for granting Indian nationality to persecuted Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.

After the enactment, the CAA got the president's assent but the rules under which

the Indian citizenship was granted were issued on March 11 this year after over a delay of four years.

While granting the citizenship certificates, the home secretary congratulated the 14 applicants and highlighted the salient features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

Secretary Posts, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Registrar General of India and senior officers were also present during the interactive session when the certificates were issued.

Home Minister Shah said the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian brothers and sisters who fled religious persecution in the three countries have started getting Indian citizenship and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled the promise made at the time of the country's independence.

"I express my gratitude to Modiji for giving justice and rights to these people who suffered for decades. I also assure all my refugee brothers and sisters that the Modi government will give citizenship to all of them through the CAA," he said on X in Hindi. "Modi's guarantee...the guarantee of fulfilling promises."

The CAA rules envisage the manner of application form, procedure for processing applications by the District Level Committee (DLC), scrutiny and grant of citizenship by State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC).

"In pursuance of these rules, applications have been received from persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have entered into India up to December 31, 2014 on account of persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution," the spokesperson said.

The DLCs chaired by Senior Superintendents of Post or Superintendents of Post as designated officers, on successful verification of documents, have administered the oath of allegiance to the applicants.

After processing as per rules, the DLCs have forwarded the applications to SLEC headed by Director (Census Operation). Processing of application is completely done through the online portal.

The empowered committee, Delhi, headed by Director (Census Operation), Delhi, after due scrutiny, has decided to grant citizenship to 14 applicants. Accordingly, Director (Census operation) granted certificates to these applicants, the spokesperson said.

The passing of the CAA in 2019 sparked protests in different parts of the country with agitators terming it "discriminatory". Over a hundred people lost their lives during the anti-CAA protests or police action in various parts of the country.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been maintaining that no one can stop the implementation of the CAA as it is the law of the land. He accused opposition of misleading the people on the issue.

Army illuminates border village with solar lights in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: Located just 600 meters from the Line of Control (LoC), the Dabbi village in Poonch district comes alive after dusk, thanks to the army which has installed solar-powered lights to provide succour to the villagers.

The project was undertaken under operation 'Sadhbhavana' (goodwill) and was completed in a short period, an army official said.

Dabbi village in Balakote tehsil of Mendhar Sub-division is one of the worst affected villages by the cross-border shelling over the years and lacked street lights.

To improve the living conditions in Dabbi village, solar-powered lights were installed in areas frequented by locals to further augment the electrification process of their village, the official said.

He said that the initiative of the Army to illuminate Dabbi village with solar lights to alleviate living conditions has resulted in 19 households and 129 villagers getting access to reliable street lights.

The residents now have uninterrupted lighting in the majority of the area including near the local masjid, a shrine, a school and a track leading to their animal 'dhoks' (sheds).

Moreover, the provision of lights has allowed for the establishment of community spaces, fostering social cohesion, the official said.

He said the effort by the Army allows families to function efficiently at night.

"This project under military civic action has yielded dividends to the people illuminating hope, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the village."

Introducing TrueTalks, official Truecaller Community to connect users across the globe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Truecaller, the world's leading global communications platform, announces the launch of TrueTalks Community to connect and engage with people across the world. The community serves as a platform to bring together Truecaller users to interact with each other, share feedback, post suggestions for new features, get notified about the latest scams, get instant support with their problems, learn more about Truecaller and even share their personal experiences.

Anyone can become a member of the community by signing up with a valid email address and display name. You do not need to be a Truecaller user to join TrueTalks, however our 383 Million+ Truecaller users can instantly access TrueTalks from a shortcut within the app. Among others, community content is designed to raise awareness about the brand offerings, talk about the best way to protect yourself from unwanted communication or even connect you directly with several Truecaller executives.

As the person responsible for building and growing the community, Rohit Ghalasai, the Community Manager at Truecaller said: "We have been testing TrueTalks with a few thousand members and I am excited to see the level of conversations already. Our aim is to engage with our users more effectively, gather insights to enhance our existing product, create a platform for information exchange about the latest scams and new trends in technology. I welcome everyone to join TrueTalks and make the most of it."

Truecaller has been responsive to thousands of user queries irrespective of the mediums on a daily basis with the help of a robust customer support team. Now with the community platform users from across the globe can interact with our teams and other members to share ideas, insights, problems and much more. TrueTalks is currently available in English only, however, we will be adding support for additional languages soon.

CUET-UG: Over 75 pc attendance on day one, minor hiccups due to change in exam centres

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: More than 75 per cent attendance was recorded on the first day of Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG on Wednesday as the National Testing Agency (NTA) concluded exams for over 25 lakh subject combinations at hundreds of centre across the country, official said.

However, the tests in four papers scheduled at 258 centres in Delhi were postponed to May 29 due to logistical issues beyond the control of NTA, it said.

The NTA also asked the candidates who are scheduled to appear in the examination in Delhi on May 16, 17 and 18 to download revised admit cards saying that the centers were changed due "unforeseen administrative" reasons.

The third edition of the country's largest test is being conducted in hybrid mode for the first time. The exams of four subjects -- including Chemistry, Biology, English and General Test -- were scheduled on Wednesday.

The offline tests will be conducted between May 15 and May 19, followed by computer-based tests for other subjects between May 21 and May 24.

Several students from across the country reported hiccups at the examination centers. At some centers in Faridabad, the exams scheduled on Wednesday were also postponed to May 29.

"On Day one, the NTA successfully concluded tests for 25,91,014 combinations, completing 44.71 pc of the CUET (UG) examination. Meticulous planning went into this year's examination, ensuring that candidates who opted for multiple subjects were scheduled at the same centre.

"To avoid any inconvenience, the first two shifts were held in the same examination room. Additionally, sufficient breaks were provided between shifts to facilitate candidates with multiple subject selections," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, NTA.

According to the NTA, a total of 11.4 lakh candidates were scheduled to take the exam at 2,157 centres in 379 cities on day one.

While 6,43,752 candidates appeared at 1,640 centres for Chemistry exam, 3,63,067 candidates took Biology exam at 1,368 centres, 8,62,209 candidates took English paper at 2,077 centres, and 8,62,209 candidates took General Test paper at 2,077 centres. University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar, who is handling CUET along with NTA, said, "This is a landmark achievement by NTA in conducting CUET-UG in such large numbers on a single day, and NTA deserves kudos for their meticulous planning and for making sure that the test went off well today at such a large scale in pen-and-paper mode."