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We will take...

delegation is scheduled to meet the home minister. Any non-political or senior people can meet Shah but no political delegation is meeting him, Sharma said. Shah is likely to be briefed about the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir by the top security brass as the Lok Sabha elections will be followed by the annual Anamath Yatra, which is scheduled to start on June 29 and conclude on August 19. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir might witness assembly elections after the yatra as the Supreme Court has given a deadline of September 30 to the Centre for holding these polls. Shah also asserted that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) belongs to India and the country will take it back "at any cost". Addressing back-to-back election rallies in Bihar's Sitamarhi and Madhubani Lok Sabha constituencies in favour of NDA nominees, the former BJP president also claimed that the Congress-led INDIA bloc was planning to rotate the PM's chair among its constituents if voted to power. "When Article 370 was scrapped, Rahul Gandhi had said that it would lead to bloodshed. Five years have elapsed and not a pebble has been hurled. But Congress ally Farooq Abdullah tries scaremongering by saying that we cannot take back PoK as Pakistan has atom bombs," Shah said at Sitamarhi. Sitamarhi district, bordering Nepal, is considered the birthplace of Goddess Sita.

"I wish to declare from the birthplace of Goddess Sita that Bharat and its 140 crore people fear no one. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is ours and it will remain so. We will take it back," he said.

The NDA government will also ensure full security along the India-Nepal border in its third term, he added.

Hitting out at the INDIA alliance for not announcing its PM candidate, Shah said the country needs a strong prime minister and not "one in every year".

"They (INDIA bloc) don't have a face for the PM's post. The country has decided to give Modi ji a third term. But, can you tell me who will be the INDIA bloc's PM candidate? They are not coming to power at any cost... but in case... will Mamata Banerjee become the PM or MK Stalin or Lalu Prasad? They have decided to rotate the PM's chair among themselves if they form the government," he said.

The BJP leader wondered if such a prime minister could be able to protect the country from a pandemic or a terrorist attack.

About Bihar, the union home minister said the state needs "vikas raj and not jungle raj".

He said RJD has joined hands with the Congress which opposed the Mandal Commission's recommendations and delayed the report of the Kakasaheb Kalelkar Commission of 1955 which was set up to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.

"The Congress ruled the country for 60 years but did not think about the welfare of 60 crore OBCs. Congress and RJD never thought of conferring Bharat Ratna on former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur... it was done by Modi Ji only," he said.

Accusing INDIA bloc leaders of being involved in "Rs 12 lakh crore corruption", Shah said the NDA government wants to end this menace.

Congress and RJD leaders did not attend the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya despite being invited because of their vote bank politics, he claimed.

Shah said that the NDA government has decided to develop 'Punaura Dham Mandir', a temple in Sitamarhi district considered to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita, as an international pilgrimage site.

"The NDA government is against cow slaughter... we will not allow it at any cost. Those found involved in cow slaughter will be hanged upside down during the third term of Modi Ji," he said.

Shah the Centre's decision to ban the Popular Front of India is correct as, he claimed, the PFI wanted to make the country an Islamic one.

Terrorist associate arrested...

which is part of the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency. Acting on a special input, a joint team of the Army, BSF and police established a checkpoint and apprehended terrorist associate Mushtaq Ahmad Lone at Lone Harie in Kupwara district, the officials said.

During the search, the security forces recovered two pistols with magazines, 10 hand grenades and 54 nine mm rounds from the possession of the accused, they said. A case has been registered against Lone, the officials said.

J&K Govt amends...

of Jammu and Kashmir excludes from the operation of the Act such categories of Gazetted Level Teaching/Faculty posts and/or any other posts, as may be identified by the Health and Medical Education Department, from time to time, for the purpose of engagement on academic arrangement basis under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Medical and Dental Education (Appointment on Academic Arrangement Basis) Rules, 2020 in all the Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, subject to the condition that such posts have been advertised at least once during the last five years and remained unfilled," reads Notification S.O. 296 issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department.

LG invites devotees...

dedicate themselves to the cause of equality, brotherhood, humanity and harmony.

The Lt Governor lauded the significant contribution of Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza ji in the field of education, social welfare and upliftment of the deprived sections of the society.

"Puja Bhaishri is not only a spiritual leader but also a celebrated educationist and humanitarian. He is working with dedication for holistic development of individuals and communities across the globe. Education based upon human values is the life mission of Puja Bhaishri," the Lt Governor said.

Bhaishri has dedicated his life to share the eternal wisdom of Sanatan Dharma. He has set an example of how human beings can uplift their lives to be Yagya, an ongoing celebration, the Lt Governor added.

He said the vision of Puja Bhaishri has led to the establishment of education campuses in Gujarat under the motto-Vidya, Vivek, Vikas to foster sustainable development through value-based equal education for all.

Devka Vidyapeeth established by Puja Bhaishri is dedicated to girl-child education. Sandipani Gurukul, Vidya Sankul offers modern education rooted in ancient Indian culture, he further added.

Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, members of Vaishvik Sanskriti Parivar, senior officials of SMVDSB, Civil & Police administration and devotees from various parts of the country were present in large numbers.

NIA attaches multiple...

its efforts to destroy the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the National Investigation Agency has attached as many as seven immovable properties of a top terrorist belonging to the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist organisation," the statement said.

Since its formation in 2000 by Masood Azhar, the JeM has carried out several terrorist attacks in India including Jammu and Kashmir, the probe agency said.

The JeM was enlisted as a 'Designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation' by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1267 and the group's leader Masood Azhar was designated as a 'Global Terrorist' in 2019 by the UNSC.

The NIA had, just a week ago, attached six immovable properties of another top militant of JeM in Kashmir as part of its crackdown on terror operatives in J&K.

Nearly 67 pc...

ongoing general elections, a 66.14-per cent turnout was recorded. In the 2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per cent.

The EC said there is enhanced focus on to inform, motivate and facilitate voters in the remaining three phases of the parliamentary polls and state chief electoral officers have been asked to step up measures.

"The Commission strongly believes that partnership and collaboration are essential pillars of voter awareness programme. It's really heartening to see that on Commission's request, different institutions, influencers and celebrities having significant reach are working enthusiastically on pro-bono basis," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said.

A total of 379 seats across 23 states and Union Territories have voted in the first four phases of elections.

A high voter turnout, Kumar felt, would be a message from Indian voters to

the world about the strength of Indian democracy. He urged voters to cast their ballot in huge numbers, as voting day is not a holiday but a day of pride to participate in the festival of democracy.

The poll panel also listed out outreach efforts undertaken by various private and public bodies to enhance voter participation in the elections.

Banks, post offices, private entities and telecom platforms are using their public interface to encourage registered voters to turn up at the polling stations on various voting days.

Court directs SSP...

concerned as his brother-in-law resided at Akhnour.

He visited Halqa Patwari concerned, a number of times, and requested him to issue the Fard Intikhab. But instead of issuing the fard, the Patwari Halqa demanded Rs. 35,000 directly from him. Also, his tout Jatin called him number of times to pay the bribe money, if he wanted the fard.

The amount was negotiated at Rs.15,000 as advance payment for which he had been called by Jatin. A pre-trap verification was conducted by Inspector Sangeeta Salathia who submitted the report with the recommendation for registration of the formal case u/s 7 of PC Act 1988 and section 120-B RPC.

Accordingly, FIR No.05/2020 was registered at P/S ACB Central, J&K Jammu on May 10, 2022 against the Patwari and his tout and a trap team, headed by DySP Sagar Singh as TLO/IO, was constituted by SP P/S Central.

The ACB trap team laid a successful trap after completing the pre trap formalities, and caught the accused tout red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs.15,000 from the complainant, whereas patwari managed to flee from the spot i.e Panchyat Ghar Babliana, office of the Patwari concerned.

The trap was successful as per challan. The accused Jatinder Singh alias Jatin alleged to have demanded and accepted Rs.15000/- as bribe. The said amount has been recovered from front left pocket of accused Jatinder Kumar alias Jatin.

Court further observed that since in the PC Act case whole of the investigation and trial revolve around the demand, acceptance and recovery of bribe money as well as seizure of service record of the accused Public Servant which is most important and if the service record of the accused public servant is not seized and then for what purpose the accused will be charged, is the billion-dollar question to be answered in this case.

Whether the accused will be charged for the offence under section 7 of PC Act and put them for trial on the basis of statement of the complainant and other witnesses cited in the charge sheet or whether the accused will be charged for the offence under section 7 of PC Act as per the seizure memo, which the investigating officer has seized during the investigation.

Court further observed that in the present case, as per the charge sheet accused public servant Patwari Arish Parvez has been charge sheeted with the allegation that he had demanded Rs. 35,000 as bribe from complainant. Harmit Singh and later through his tout namely Jatinder Kumar alias Jatin.

Similarly, accused Jatinder Kumar @ Jatin has been charge sheeted with the allegation of being a tout of accused Patwari Arish Parvez he had demanded and accepted Rs.15000 on his behalf as bribe from complainant Harmit Singh.

Court further observed that as there is no recovery of service record of accused public servant Patwari Arish Parvez is explicit from the final report submitted in-terms of section-173(2) of Cr.PC and it is, explicit that during investigation an error apparently appears to have been committed by the Investigating Officers who had investigated such a serious case with out seizure of service record of accused public servant, So, on the basis of this error and documents placed on record and the statements recorded either under section-161 of Cr.PC is not in a position to frame charges against the accused persons, notwithstanding the fact that recovery of bribe money affected from the accused Jatinder Kumar alias Jatin has not been disputed and the question which assumes importance and significance is whether due to the error of I.O in preparing the charge sheet, accused can be discharged on this count only. The answer is in negative because for the lapse of I.O the case of the ACB cannot be thrown to the dust bin at this stage rather the Court is empowered to take notice of this lapse and the error committed is curable and can be rectified by the I.O, but this does not give a cause to the accused persons to seek discharge.

It is apparent that investigating officers have failed to perform their statutory duties and committed error while conducting investigation. A proper and fair investigation on the part of the investigating officer is the backbone of the rule of law. A proper and effective investigation into a serious offence and particularly in a case like this assumes great significance.

Now the question before this Court is whether a further investigation would be permissible for setting the things straight on record.

The Court is not merely to act as a tape-recorder recording evidence, overlooking the object of trial i.e. to get at the truth. It cannot be oblivious to the active role to be played for which there is not only ample scope, but sufficient powers conferred under the Code. It has a great duty and responsibility i.e. to render justice, in a case where the role of the prosecuting agency itself is put in issue and is said to be hand in glove with the accused, parading a mock fight and making a mockery of the criminal justice administration itself. Such a direction, thus, can be issued where there had been complete failure of justice and in a case where the investigating and prosecuting agencies were found to have not performed their role in the manner it was expected to do.

AI-based facial...

facial recognition system at Navyug Tunnel Qazigund to identify and track individuals involved in criminals activities, including history sheeters, drug peddlers, OGW (over ground workers), absconders and members of banned organisations etc," a police spokesman said.

He said the AI-based facial recognition system is an integral part of the smart policing initiative.

"By leveraging this advanced technology, police not only aim to track down criminals more effectively but also contribute to the broader framework of intelligent and proactive policing," the spokesman said.

The implementation of the AI-based facial recognition system marks a pivotal role in the region's commitment to ensure public safety and combat crimes effectively, he said.

Voter excitement in...

iss desh me ab tak koi mai ka lal paida hua hai jo CAA ko khatam kar sake? "These people are Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. They have been living in the country for a long time as refugees and were victims of the partition of the country done on the basis of religion," he said.

Modi addressed three more back-to-back election rallies in quick succession in Bhadohi, Jaunpur and Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh, targeting the Congress and the Samajwadi Party.

In Bhadohi, where the two parties are backing a Trinamool Congress candidate as INDIA bloc partners, the prime minister accused them to trying out West Bengal's "TMC politics" in Uttar Pradesh. The brand, he claimed, represented politics of appeasement and harassment of Dalits and women.

In Pratapgarh, he said the opposition INDIA bloc wants to appoint five prime ministers in five years and predicted that the alliance will disintegrate after June 4, when the Lok Sabha election results are out.

"Khata khat khata khat," he said in Hindi, suggesting that it will happen rapidly -- and also mocking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for using the phrase to claim that a fixed stipend would flow into the accounts of poor women if his party comes to power.

Modi accused the Congress and its allies of neglecting the refugees over the years because they were not part of their own "vote bank".

"The Congress and the SP tried to spread lies in the name of CAA. They tried to push Uttar Pradesh and the entire country towards riots," he claimed.

"You are frauds... you forced the country to burn in the fire of communalism," he said, claiming he had "exposed" the opposition.

At the rallies, he listed development projects undertaken in the state and praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's handling of law and order.

"Terrorists accused of explosions were pardoned. Sleeper cells were given the cover of politics. Due to this attitude, terrorism rose across the country," Modi said, attacking to former CM Akhilesh Yadav whom he called SP's "shezada", or prince.

The SP and Congress are two parties but have one "shop" where they sell appeasement, lies, dynastic politics and corruption, he charged.

"They have come with a triple dose of appeasement. They want to snatch the reservation granted to the SC, ST and OBC and give it to their vote bank. The INDI alliance wants to take half your property and give it to its vote bank. They want to divide the country's budget and allot 15 per cent of it for the minority," Modi said.

"We got the Ram temple after a wait of 500 years. The entire country is happy, every Indian living across the world is happy. But these 'parivarwadis' are hurling abuses. The 'shehzada' of the SP and his uncle call the Ram temple useless," he said.

In Bhadohi, the PM lashed out at what he called were attempts to bring West Bengal's "Trinamool Congress politics" to Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress and the SP are backing a TMC candidate in this parliamentary constituency. Modi called this a "political experiment", a trial of "TMC politics" in the state.

"TMC politics means murder of Hindus, harassment of Dalits and adivasis, atrocities on women. So many BJP leaders were killed there and TMC MLAs say that they will kill Hindus by drowning them in river Ganga," he said.

The TMC politics included the "poisonous arrow of appeasement", calling Ram temple "impure", banning Ramnavami celebrations, sheltering Bangladeshi intruders and "vote jihad", he alleged, picking on a term used by an SP candidate.

"Why does the TMC abuse people going from UP and Bihar to Bengal. Babua, at least ask your bua (aunt) about it. After abusing them, she comes and seeks votes from the people of UP," he added, referring to TMC leader Mamata Banerjee.

In Pratapgarh, the prime minister said the INDIA bloc sought to replace a stable government with one that will have five prime minister over five years.

"The Modi government will definitely be formed after June 4 but the INDI alliance will disintegrate 'khata khat khata khat'," he said, mocking Rahul Gandhi without taking his name.

"These people will run away 'khata khat khata khat' after the elections. Only we will remain. I guarantee that I will work day and night to serve you," he said.

And, referring to Gandhi and Yadav, he said the "shehzade of Lucknow and Delhi" will leave for a vacation abroad.

Running a country was not easy for people born with privileges, he said, taunting the Gandhi family over the loss of Amethi in the last election. "They have gone from Amethi and will go even from Rae Bareli," he said.

PDP's Srinagar candidate...

from Pulwama police station SHIO (station house officer) and duty magistrate, thereby jeopardizing his security and the security of other persons, the complainant said, adding the delayed response of the PDP district president over the violation was not satisfactory.

Para was also served a notice by the J&K election department earlier this month, objecting to his statement asking youngsters to consider the general elections as a "referendum". However, the PDP leader defended his remark, in his response on May 10, and said his statement that the "ensuing election is no less than a referendum" only points towards the importance of the polls.

Jammu records season's...

region triggering heat wave conditions, they said.

According to the officials, the day temperature in Jammu city was nearly two degrees above the season's average and 0.9 degrees higher than Wednesday's temperature of 39.3 degrees Celsius.

The city also recorded a minimum temperature of 24.6 degrees Celsius, which was 0.5 degrees above normal.

In Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, the maximum temperature reached 36 degrees Celsius and the minimum was recorded at 22.5 degrees Celsius. The summer capital, Srinagar, experienced warmer days with a maximum temperature of 28.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.6 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department predicted generally dry weather with possible thunderstorms in isolated areas on May 16-17. Cloudy skies, light rain and thunder are expected at scattered locations in the late afternoons of May 18 and 19, it said.

Acquisition of pvt property by State unconstitutional if proper procedure not followed: SC

NEW DELHI: Compulsory acquisition of private properties will be unconstitutional if proper procedure is not established or followed before depriving a person of their right to property, the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

In a significant verdict, the top court said even the statutory scheme of payment of compensation in return for acquisition of private properties will not be justified if the due procedure is not followed by the state and its instrumentalities.

While making the observations, a bench comprising justices PS Narasimha and Aravind Kumar dismissed the appeal of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

The civic body had approached the top court challenging the judgement of a division bench of the Kolkata High Court which had quashed acquisition of a property at Narkeldanga North Road in the city for constructing a park.

The high court had held that the civic body had no power under a specific provision to go for compulsory acquisition.

"We are of the considered opinion that the High Court was fully justified in allowing the writ petition and rejecting the case of the appellant-Corporation acquiring land under Section 352 of the Act. The impugned judgment does not brook interference on any count," the top court said in its judgement.

"Under our constitutional scheme, compliance with a fair procedure of law before depriving any person of his immovable property is well entrenched," Justice Narasimha said in the 32-page judgement .

"Again, assuming that Section 363 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act provides for compensation, compulsory acquisition will still be unconstitutional if proper procedure is not established or followed before depriving a person of their right to property," it said.

It said undue emphasis is laid on the provisions of compensation to justify the power of compulsory acquisition, as if compensation by itself is the complete procedure for a valid acquisition.

"While it is true that after the 44th Constitutional Amendment, the right to property drifted from Part III (fundamental rights) to Part XII of the Constitution, there continues to be a potent safety net against arbitrary acquisitions, hasty decision-making and unfair redressal mechanisms," it said.

The Article 300A (right to property) of the Constitution says that "no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law" and it has been characterised both as a constitutional and a human right.

"To assume that constitutional protection gets constricted to the mandate of a fair compensation would be a disingenuous reading of the text and, shall we say, offensive to the egalitarian spirit of the Constitution," it said.

It said there are seven sub-rights which can be identified.

"These are: i) duty of the State to inform the person that it intends to acquire his property - the right to notice, ii) the duty of the State to hear objections to the acquisition - the right to be heard, iii) the duty of the State to inform the person of its decision to acquire - the right to a reasoned decision, iv) the duty of the State to demonstrate that the acquisition is for public purpose - the duty to acquire only for public purpose,

"v) the duty of the State to restitution and rehabilitate - the right of restitution or fair compensation, vi) the duty of the State to conduct the process of acquisition efficiently and within prescribed timelines of the proceedings - the right to an efficient and expeditious process, and vii) final conclusion of the proceedings leading to vesting - the right of conclusion."

These seven rights are foundational components of a law that is in tune with Article 300A, and the absence of one of these or some of them would render the law susceptible to challenge.

Over 400 properties attached by NIA since 2019, most belonging to terrorists, Naxals

NEW DELHI: Over 400 properties, including multiple bank accounts and cash worth crores, have been attached by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) across the country since 2019, most of them belonging to terrorists, Naxals, separatists and their supporters, officials said on Thursday.

Of the 403 confiscated and attached properties, 206 have been attached by the Ranchi branch of the federal probe agency which is the highest, they said.

The properties include multiple bank accounts and a significant amount of cash belonging to Naxals and their aides among others, spread across mainly in Bihar and Jharkhand, the officials said.

A total of 100 other properties belonging to terrorists and their supporters were attached, forfeited or confiscated by the Jammu branch of the NIA, they said.

The Chandigarh branch of the anti-terror probe agency has attached 33 properties belonging to separatists and their supporters, the officials said, adding that in addition to these "two properties belonging to banned Khalistani leader Gurbatwar Singh Panun have been confiscated".

These properties were attached or confiscated during 2019 and May 16, 2024 by the NIA have helped in dismantling the network and infrastructure of terror and Naxal outfits, they said.

The properties belonging to the workers and supporters of banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) have also been attached or confiscated by the NIA, the officials said.

As many as 22 properties have been attached by the New Delhi branch of the NIA, 27 (including eight confiscated ones) by the Kochi branch, five by Mumbai, four by Hyderabad, three by Chennai and one by Lucknow branch, they added.