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We removed Art...**

judgment in the Shah Bano case in 1985. He said the Congress never dared to ban the practice of instant triple talaq due to vote-bank politics. Hitting back at the Congress for claiming the BJP will change the Constitution in its third term in office, Modi said the opposition party could not implement the statute book in the entire country during its decades-long rule.

The PM asserted he was committed to the Constitution and ensured its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir by removing Article 370 which provided special status to the erstwhile state.

"Congress leaders are now claiming the Constitution is in danger and reservation will be abolished. In reality, the Congress could not implement the Constitution in the entire country during its 70-year rule. Our Constitution was not implemented in Kashmir...It was Modi who did it because Modi is committed to the Constitution," emphasised the BJP stalwart.

The PM hit back at the opposition INDIA bloc over its "BJP will change the Constitution" narrative and referred to the then-Congress government's decision to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling in the Shah Bano Case of 1985.

He said Muslim women have suffered under the Congress rule due to the party's vote-bank politics.

"Congress shehzada (referring to Rahul Gandhi) is now roaming with (copy of) the Constitution book. In the Shah Bano case, it was your party's government which overturned the judgement of the Supreme Court, which works as per the Constitution. Where was your respect for the Constitution then? You changed the SC ruling and deprived Muslim women of any security," said Modi.

In 1985, the SC had ruled in favour of Shah Bano, a Muslim woman from Indore who had sought maintenance from her husband after divorce, but the then-Congress government under PM Rajiv Gandhi overturned the judgement through an Act.

Modi said his government's 2019 decision to abolish the practice of instant triple talaq has given security to not only Muslim women, but their families too, as they used to remain tense about what will happen to their daughter if the husband gives her instant divorce.

"You never dared to stop triple talaq due to vote-bank politics. But, I am not worried about the vote bank. I don't run the country on the basis of victory or defeat in elections. I just wanted to give security to my Muslim daughters. I was able to save the lives of lakhs of women and their families with that decision," said Modi.

On the decades-long issue of Ram Temple, the BJP's star campaigner maintained its construction in Ayodhya should have started the very next day India got its independence in 1947.

"But, our country had to fight for the temple for 75 years. The Congress tried to even change laws to ensure it (temple) never comes up. It was finally built after an SC verdict. But, when the temple trust invited them (Congress) for 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration ceremony), they did not honour the invitation just to appease their vote-bank," claimed Modi.

Give in writing...

nor will it allow the Congress to do so. In his first public address in Gujarat as part of the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in his home state, Prime Minister Modi said that as long as the BJP and he remain, the reservation granted to SC/ST/OBC and economically weaker sections will be safeguarded and not harmed.

"I challenge the shahzada(a reference to Rahul Gandhi) of Congress, as well as Congress party and its supporters to announce that they will never misuse reservation in the name of religion, nor will they play with the Constitution or give reservation in the name of religion.

"Let the Congress and INDI alliance give a guarantee in writing -- because they cannot be trusted -- that they will never give reservation in the name of religion. They should also give a second guarantee that they will never touch reservation given to SC, ST, OBC and general category. They will never do so, will never give it in writing," Modi said.

"I challenge Congress and its ecosystem to declare they would not give reservation to minorities by altering Constitution."

He said in 2024, the Congress and the INDIA bloc have come out with a lie, and are flashing the Constitution to spread fear that it will be changed and reservation given to the SC, ST, OBC and EWS will be taken away if the NDA comes to power.

"A completely fabricated gossip," Modi said, as he accused the Congress of spreading a false narrative.

"Congress and its people should listen carefully that this is Modi. As long as Modi is alive, I will never let you play the game of reservation in the name of the Constitution."

Modi said the SC, ST, OBC and the poor from the general category have got reservation under Constitution, with the blessings of Babasaheb Ambedkar, and nobody can take away even a part of it.

"Your (Congress) intention is to give reservation to the Muslims in the name of religion.

"I can say this with confidence -- and I say this on record in front of the world - that as long as the BJP and Modi remain, the reservation given by Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution to the SC, ST, OBC and common man (EWS) will be safeguarded and will not be harmed," he said.

Bomb threat to...

"Nothing objectionable" was found during searches by authorities which later declared it a hoax.

Officials said that the initial probe suspected a "deeper conspiracy" by a terror group during the Lok Sabha elections, adding that there is suspicion that the threat mail was sent by an ISIS module.

The Delhi Police's anti-terror unit special cell has traced the domain of emails to Russia and it is suspected to have been formed with the help of the dark web - an encrypted online content that allows individuals to hide their identity and location from others.

The National Investigation Agency may also take up the probe since the role of a terror group is suspected and the "conspiracy" angle may lead to a pan-India investigation, an official said.

Law enforcement authorities went into a tizzy as police and fire services started receiving a flurry of calls from schools at 6 am on Wednesday.

Delhi Public School (Mathura Road), DPS (Saket), Sanskriti School, Amity School (Saket), DAV (Model Town), DPS (Dwarka) and St. Mary School (Mayur Vihar) were among the education institutions that received the threat email on Wednesday.

A senior Noida Police official told PTI that the email threat was received in seven schools in the satellite city.

It was only an hour or so since parents had dropped off their children when they received messages from the school authorities informing them about an e-mail threatening the safety and security of the students.

Parents rushed to pick up their children and school authorities scammed to bring the students to safety, moving them outside the buildings, while police personnel with sniffer dogs sanitised the premises.

With over 130 schools receiving the bomb threat via email, Delhi Police faced a daunting task as it rushed its dog and bomb squads from one school to another and there was no time to be wasted. The city police went into an overdrive and the situation lasted till evening.

Police said that the number of schools that received the threat may go up as they were compiling the list.

According to a police officer, the email ID from which the threat was sent is 'sawariim@mail.ru'. Sawariim is an Arabic word extensively used by the terror outfit Islamic State (IS) in their propaganda videos over the past several years, the official said. "Kill them wherever you meet and drive them out of the places from which they drove you. There are many explosive devices in the school..." reads the identical email sent to all schools.

The officer said that the email also contained "aayate (verses) of the holy Quran". "The main agenda of sending such threat emails in bulk is to create panic and wage a cyber war by some terror group," an officer, who did not wish to be named, said.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of law for offences like conspiracy and threat by the Special Cell and a dedicated team formed to conduct the investigation, an official said.

Two stranded foreign...

conditions and made a call for their evacuation, Station House Officer of the Khalsi police station Nisar Ali said.

Ali, who led the rescue mission, said they received the distress call at around 10:30 am and immediately moved towards the Nabtakla cliff.

After covering 30 km in a vehicle, the rescue team trekked the dangerous path

between Ang and Hemis-Shukpachan for nearly two hours, before reaching the stranded tourists, who were then safely evacuated and brought to the Khalsi police station, the officer told reporters.

Both the tourists were in good health and later, left for their hotel in Leh, he said.

Baramulla police attaches...

we seized properties in Uri on court orders. These properties belong to seven terror handlers who are based in Pakistan," he added.

Meanwhile, security agencies have widened the ambit of the search operation to Kathua district to track down two groups of terrorists involved in the killing of a village defence guard in Udhampur district.

A Village Defence Guard (VDG) was killed in a brief encounter with terrorists in remote Panara village in Chochru Gala heights early Sunday, following which a hunt was launched jointly by the police, army, and CRPF.

The search operation, which entered the fourth day on Wednesday, is ongoing in Basantgarh, Bani and Seoj areas of Udhampur and Kathua districts, officials said, adding there has been no fresh contact with the fleeing terrorists.

As per sources, the movement of one group has been reported in the upper reaches of Udhampur district while the other group is seen to have moved towards Bani, Daggar and Kindli areas of Kathua district.

The movement of one of the groups was picked up from Allo Top and Seoj high altitude dense forested areas in Udhampur, they said.

More security personnel have deployed in these areas to strengthen the cordon in the large high-altitude forest belt between Udhampur and Kathua, they said.

Apart from the use of choppers, UAVs, and drones for surveillance, additional forces have been moved into these areas to intensify the efforts to track down and neutralise the terrorists, they said.

Several persons have been detained and are being questioned, they said.

On Monday, Additional Director General of Police (Jammu zone) Anand Jain said two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infiltrated from across the border.

He said the strength of the two groups, as per preliminary investigation, is between four and six and the security forces are working on various inputs to flush them out. According to official sources, the terrorists had reached Basantgarh from adjoining Kathua district after managing to sneak into this side from across the border and were heading for Chenab Valley when they were confronted by the police and VDG members. The Bani-Basantgarh route from Kathua used to be a well-defined route for terrorists to Doda and Kashmir after their infiltration along the International Border (IB) until two decades ago.

Eviction of Ex...

the UT Administration and Advocate Supriya Chouhan appearing for the PIL, observed and directed that in view of ongoing election process, although the court had directed the Estates Departments to conclude the process by May 8, 2024. However, the Division Bench allowed the authorities to conclude the same after the election process is over and directed the Registry to list the main matter on June 5, 2024.

It may be recalled that the Division Bench on April 3, 2024 had issued significant directions requiring Estates Department to make all 42 over-staying politicians to appear before the Director Estates Jammu/Srinagar in person or through virtual mode for giving the written response along with the documentary evidence if any, in support of continuation of accommodations of allotment at Jammu/Srinagar or otherwise within 10 days from the date of receipt of these notices.

The Division Bench had further directed the authorities to pass specific individual orders either for cancellation of accommodation and eviction therefrom or allotment thereof by giving specific reasons for doing so. Further the Division Bench had clarified if the accommodation of any individual mentioned in the report is continued, specific reasons supported by necessary materials, must be provided before this Court so that this court will examine as to whether the authorities have taken an appropriate and fair decisions as regards the Govt accommodation being presently provided to these 42 political persons.

Needless to mention herein the Estates Department pursuant to the directions of the Division Bench dated April 3, 2024 has already issued show cause notices to 42 occupants including Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Deputy Chief Ministers Muzaffar Hussain Beigh and Kavinder Gupta, Former Ministers Sajad Gani Lone, Moulvi Imran Raza Ansari, Sat Sharma, GM Saroori, Sunil Sharma, Abdul Gani Vakil, Abdul Majid Paddar, Hakeem Mohd Yaseen, Former MLAs/MLCs Ravinder Raina State President BJP, RS Pathania, Pardeep Sharma, Family of Lt Rajesh Gupta, Vibod Gupta, Daleep Singh Parihar, Ravinder Sharma Neelam Langeh, Shoib Nabi Lone, Haji Abdul Rashid, MS Pandit Puri, Raja Manzoor, Nizamuddin Bhat Ex-VC J&K Muslim Specified Waqaf and Waqaf Properties, Mir Mohd Fayaz (Ex-MP), Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, Abdul Rahim Rather, Bashir Ahmed Dar, Mohd Amin Bhat, Sofi Yousaf, My Tarigami, Yasir Reshi, Surinder Ambardar, Mohammad Abbas Wani, Political Persons namely Shafiq Mir Chairman Panchayat Conference, Shilpi Verma, Tariq Hussain Keen, Shiekh Ishfaq Jabbar, Zahid Hussain Jaan, SS Channi, Sonaaulah Lone, Reyaz Ahmed Mir and ors. The Estates Department in its application sought the extension of the ground that in view of the enforcement of model code of conduct, there may be legal impediment in calling the 42 occupants and passing orders of merit, in furtherance of directions passed by the Division Bench on April 3, 2024.

Seven accused including...

In the attack, Avtar Singh suffered severe head injuries and he was taken to Government Medical College hospital Jammu, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Ganguly police have registered case FIR (39/24) under section 307/323/447/147/IPC.

Deceased Avtar Singh, father of 8-month old child was scheduled to return to New Zealand to join his family on May 12. He had come to Jammu to take along his parents.

Avtar Singh was working with McDonald at New Zealand. Yesterday, he joined his father Balbir Singh to save their plot measuring 1 kanal 3 marla land from land grabbers, when he was attacked on head.

In his last statement, Avtar Singh has termed land grabbers and police responsible for attack on him.

Avtar has posted two videos on his facebook page before dying. "Corruption has deep routed into the system and so we have lost young blood and alone bread earner in the family, said Avtar's cousin. The family is waiting for Avtar's wife and 8-month old child to arrive in India as they are in New Zealand. The cremation is scheduled to be held on May 3.

Sources informed that those who have been arrested include Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah, Kuldeep Charak, Purshotam Singh, Suraj Singh and Vikas Singh. Former SSP Sheikh Mehmod was also detained. However, he left police station late night on personal bond citing his medical condition, sources said. Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah's son is reportedly in Delhi. As his name also figures in the FIR, he has been asked to return and surrender, sources said.

BJP will not...

publicly and keep repeating them. They say if (prime minister Narendra) Modi gets majority for the third term, he will scrap reservations. They circulated my fake video. We have been in power for ten years, Modi did not remove reservations, nor will he ever do it," the BJP leader said.

The PM used his majority in Parliament to scrap Article 370 and ban triple talaq, construct the Ram temple in Ayodhya and introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, he said.

"I have come to give you Modi's guarantee that as long as there is even one BJP MP in Parliament, we will neither remove the reservation for STs, SCs and OBCs, nor will we allow the Congress party to do so," the Union minister added.

Targeting Congress president Kharge over his statement at a rally in Janjgir-Champa on Tuesday, Shah said, "Kharge ji says, if Modi comes to power, the poor will be destroyed. I want to ask Kharge ji, didn't 25 crore poor people benefit when they were brought out of poverty? Isn't giving ration to 80 crore poor people beneficial for the poor? Didn't the poor benefit due to the construction of 12 crore toilets, giving of gas cylinders to our mothers, providing tap water in their homes and treating seven crore people (through health insurance)?"

Why the Congress president was lying for the family, he further said.

"Kharge ji, you do not know that they do not care for anyone....As Congress suffers a defeat on June 4 (when results of the Lok Sabha elections will be announced), the brother-sister duo will remain safe, but the 80-year-old Kharge ji will be blamed," Shah said, in apparent swipe at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

If Modi gets another term as prime minister, Naxalism will be uprooted from Chhattisgarh in two years, the home minister vowed.

Accusing the previous Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in the state of encouraging Naxalism, he said after the BJP came to power under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy CM Vijay Sharma (who holds Home

portfolio), 95 Naxalites were eliminated in four months, 350 others arrested and many surrendered.

PM Modi eliminated Naxalism from Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in five years, but it survived in Chhattisgarh as the Baghel-led government was in power, Shah claimed.

"Our brave security forces killed 29 Naxalites recently and yesterday killed another ten Naxalites. But Bhupesh Kakka (as Baghel is called) terms it a fake encounter despite Naxalites having accepted that they suffered a huge loss. Congress people are not ashamed. Congress has been nurturing terrorism and Naxalism in this country for years to win elections," the Union minister alleged.

Congress leaders rejected invitations for the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony in Ayodhya because they feared they would lose their vote bank, Shah said.

"The invitation was sent to Congress leader Sonia ji, Rahul Baba and Kharge ji...but they declined it because they feared for vote bank. Vote banks are important to them," he said.

Modi has brought about a huge transformation in the country in the last ten years, and has an agenda for 25 years, the BJP leader said.

Rahul Gandhi tried to discourage people from taking anti-coronavirus vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, Shah alleged.

"Did you (people of Korba) have to pay for vaccine? Modi ji protected the country from coronavirus by administering vaccine to the people. At that time, Rahul Baba used to say don't get vaccinated as it is 'Modi vaccine'. It is good that you do not listen to him. You took the vaccine...Then one night, in the dark, he and his sister went and got vaccinated. Rahul Baba, you should be ashamed as you did politics over a pandemic," Shah said. Modi has "hit a century" in the first two phases of the general elections and the BJP will head towards 400-plus seats in the third phase, he said.

Korba will go to polls on May 7.

Modi got Russia...

Dhan accounts," he said. Singh said that in the next five years, the BJP will take its development works forward at an even faster pace. "SP is coming to an end. SP is a finished party. If you ask about Congress, after 10 years, it will also end like the dinosaurs," he said attacking the opposition.

Jammu-Srinagar NH...

9.30 am after debris were cleared at Mehar, Dalwas and Magerkote. The opening of the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, provided relief to hundreds of people, including tourists, who were stranded in the twin capital cities following its closure.

Multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks blocked the highway at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal tunnels during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, prompting suspension of the traffic, the officials said. Meanwhile, the Mughal road -- an alternate road linking Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district -- remained closed for the fifth day on Tuesday owing to snowfall in Peer Ki Gali and adjoining areas, they said. The traffic on the road usually remains closed during winter months due to snow accumulation. The road was recently cleared for one-way traffic but fresh snowfall between Friday and Monday again closed it.

DPAP will courageously...

region's future, emphasizing that the election of MPs based solely on community affiliations would inevitably lead to neglect and marginalization of other communities.

He urged the electorate to reject this brand of politics and emphasized the importance of unity for the progress and prosperity of the region and the state at large.

The DPAP Chairman said: "If we choose MPs based on religion or caste, how can we expect justice for all communities? This politics is dangerous, and that's why we are not progressing. I have never engaged in politics based on religion or caste. When I built a hospital, it was for all. When I built roads, these were for all. We shouldn't divide people; we have to unite everyone and develop the entire region. As CM, I focused on development, not on the basis of religion but for those who deserved."

Azad reiterated his commitment to catalyzing progress and prosperity in the region, if his party will come to power.

He described Adv Saleem Parray as the ideal candidate to represent the aspirations and concerns of the region in Parliament, while highlighting his dedication and advocacy skills as instrumental in echoing the voices of the constituents.

He said: "Adv Saleem Parray is young and educated. My aim is to see youth join mainstream politics, so that those who exploited them for years with one family politics should get a lesson, that J&K is not only theirs but these Kashmiri youth also deserve to be in politics and win elections to serve the public. NC and PDP only sold self-rule and autonomy for years; they don't speak on development. Now they are fooling again with false slogans. We should be aware and reject them."

Azad said, "I have had many offers to get elected to the Rajya Sabha upon my retirement from various parties. However, my priority lies in working for the betterment of J&K and lifting my people out of the current crisis. The discontent among the people is palpable; they yearn for development and peace."

President Murmu pays...

Shri Hanuman Garhi temple, Ayodhya," the president's official X handle said in a post on the microblogging platform. Earlier in the day, the president was received at the Ayodhya airport by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

This was Murmu's first visit to Ayodhya since the newly-built Ram temple's consecration ceremony was held on January 22.

CS reviews progress...

functioning. He asked about the progress made, inter alia, in clearance of backlog driving licenses to be dispatched to the applicants.



CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Wednesday.

Dulloo also asked about the initiatives being taken up by the department towards traffic management on roads. He took note of the action initiated by the officers against repeated offenders of traffic rules and called for stern action against habitual violators, including cancellation of Driving Licenses or Registration Certificates of their vehicles. The Chief Secretary assessed implementation of Transport Subsidy Scheme and enquired about the response of transporters towards it. He had a detailed discussion on various novel initiatives aiming at reforming and transforming the transport sector in the UT. He enquired from the concerned officers about the progress made in ITMS based bookings meant for bringing respite to commuters, installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Platform (VLTP), ITMS for rural areas, City Surveillance System and Integrated Road Safety Database for marking dark spots leading to accidents on roads. Regarding framing of different policies for smooth functioning of the department, Dulloo sought status report on formulation of Registered Vehicles Scrapping Policy, Electric Vehicles Policy, Accident Victim Fund, implementation of recommendations of SC Committee on Road Safety and reconstitution of Road Safety Committees. Reviewing working of JKRTC, the Chief Secretary asked about the impact of inclusion of new bus fleet for the travelling public, especially in unconnected rural areas. He enquired about the cost and earnings of the running JKRTC Buses/Trucks. Secretary Transport, Neeraj Kumar, in his presentation, threw light on different aspects of working of the department. He informed the meeting about the performance of the department till date besides highlighting different plans in pipeline. The meeting was also informed about the physical status of Transport Bhawan being raised at Bemina in Srinagar; 95 percent work of which is completed. Regarding progress on the Institute of Driving, Training & Research (IDTR), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and Inspection and Certification Centre (ICC) at Samba, it was revealed that the work is going on in full swing and likely to be completed within the stipulated time frame. The meeting was further informed that the department is going to implement e-challans fully besides clearing pendency with regard to collection of fines. Besides, road safety measures with utilization of AI are also being planned for implementation in the UT.