

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

NDA has bagged...

hospital in Keonjhar and also another 500-bed hospital and medical college in Sambalpur. He said PF (provident fund) provision will be made for Kendu leaf workers.

Shah also accused the BJD government of insulting Odisha's pride, language, culture and tradition.

"BJP will give a young, energetic, hardworking and dynamic Odia 'Bhumiputra' (son of the soil) as chief minister if voted to power in the state," he told the gathering.

He said the new BJP government will provide jobs to two lakh people in a span of one-and-half-a-year.

Shah said: "Naveen Babu is forcing 'Babu shahi' (officers rule) on Odisha, and is assaulting the pride and dignity of the Odia people. He is throttling the culture and pride of the state.

Shah urged the people to elect a BJP government in the state to ensure speedy development and preservation of their rich culture. "A Bhumiputra will rule the land of 'Utkala Bhumi' and not a 'Tamil babu' if people vote for BJP," he said.

Alleging that the BJD government wants to convert the Jagannath temple to a commercial centre, Shah said that the mutts and temples have been "destroyed" in Puri and all four gates of the Jagannath temple are yet to be opened for the public.

"Even a conspiracy was hatched to halt the world-famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath," Shah alleged.

He also alleged that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is leaving no stone unturned to "loot mineral resources" of the state.

He said though Odisha has rich mineral resources, the state doesn't have a chief minister who can protect the state's resources. "The BJD government has also neglected western Odisha. BJP is committed for equal development of all parts of the state," the Home minister said.

J&K Govt approves...

Pay Commission recommendations shall be paid Dearness Allowance from existing forty six percent of Basic Pay to revised fifty percent of Basic Pay," reads an order.

As per an order issued by the Codes Division of the Finance Department, this revised DA will be included in the monthly salary starting from May 2024. Additionally, the arrears for the period from January to April 2024 will be paid in cash.

PC leader booked...

has sought a report from the Baramulla SSP over the incident.

The incident took place at a polling station in Baramulla's Pattan area where Ansari allegedly assaulted a polling official and a police officer; the officials said.

Two separate first information reports (FIR) have been registered against him under relevant sections of the Representation of People's Act, they added.

LG reviews functioning...

Hospitality & Protocol and Principal Resident Commissioner; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Bhupinder Kumar; Secretary Public Works (R&B); Achal Sethi, Secretary Law and other senior officers.

The Lt Governor emphasised on the measures to streamline the operations of the department and to make quantifiable goals to increase revenue.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the assets and ongoing tourism and guest house construction projects. He stressed upon maximum utilisation of guest houses for tourists, convention centres and conference facilities and provide one stop solution for tourism and hospitality related needs.

The Lt Governor called for promotion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives. He said the adoption of PPP model will enhance efficiency and generate additional revenue for the department.

The meeting also discussed the rental structure at various government-run guest houses and renovation of the infrastructure.

LG interacts with...

the tours, multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areas- Tourism, Traditions, Development, People-to-People connect and Technology is provided to the youth delegation," the Lt Governor said.



LG Manoj Sinha along with Youth Delegation from Maharashtra.

The Lt Governor highlighted deep spiritual, cultural, emotional and creative bond between J&K and Maharashtra. He said since Bhakti-Kaal, the two region's traditions are deeply rooted in devotional beliefs. He also informed the delegates that land has been provided to construct Maharashtra Bhawan in J&K UT.

The Lt Governor also motivated the students to dedicate themselves for project-based learning and they should aspire to provide solutions to the challenges of society. He also recalled the valuable contribution of great personalities of Maharashtra to nation building. Faculty members of NIT Srinagar and Nodal Officers were also present on the occasion.

Record turnout in...

activities, played a clandestine role in mobilising voters, highly placed officials monitoring the situation said.

According to them, the role of the JeI in significantly impacting the voting dynamics in specific areas like Chicloora, Soibug, Naidkhai, Chitti Bandi, Seelu, and Qaziabad cannot be denied.

JeI was part of the separatist amalgam of Hurriyat Conference which spearheaded poll boycott campaigns after its formation in 1993.

However, the socio-religious outfit, which was said to be the parent organisation of the pro-Pakistan terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, remained neutral after the division of Hurriyat between moderates and hardliners in 2003.

Former JeI chief Ghulam Qadir Wani recently said his organisation will participate in assembly elections if the Centre revokes the ban imposed on the outfit.

"We are holding talks with the Centre. We want to get our ban removed and we want to play our role in society. If the ban is removed, we may take part in the elections," Wani had said.

Unlike the past when the voters mostly used to stay indoors, especially in pockets having separatist and terrorist influence like Sopore township which has not crossed single-digit voting in the past decades, the May 20 poll witnessed a completely different scene with brisk voting reported from all polling stations since the start of polling.

Baramulla district led the voting turnout with 3,93,566 voters casting their ballots followed by Kupwara (3,38,495 voters), Bandipora (1,53,006) and Budgam (1,22,569), according to the figures issued by poll officials.

In seven assembly segments of Baramulla, Uri recorded the highest 62.94 per cent turnout, followed by Pattan (60.01 per cent), Gulmarg (57.87 per cent), Rafiabad (57.38 per cent), Baramulla (52.15 per cent), Wagoora-Kreeri (49.77 per cent) and Sopore (44.21 per cent).

Similarly, in six segments of Kupwara, Handwara recorded the highest turnout of 72.04 per cent followed by Langate (63.60 per cent), Trehgam (62.56 per cent), Karnah (61.86 per cent) and Lolab (58.77 per cent).

Sonawari segment in Bandipora district was at the top with 62.32 per cent polling followed by Bandipora (59.20 per cent) and Gurez (ST) (40.81 per cent), while two segments of Budgam and Beervah recorded 52 per cent and 58.80 per cent voting.

The polling on Monday sealed the fate of 22 candidates, including National Conference vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah, separatist-turned-former minister Sajad Lone and two-time former MLA and jailed Awami Ittehad Party chairman Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid.

Abdullah attributed the high voter turnout in the constituency to the electorate's identification with his party's stance on the developments post the abrogation of Article 370 and unaddressed issues during the absence of popular governance since 2018.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti saw the high voter turnout as an expression of Kashmiri people's discontent with the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and the erstwhile state's reorganisation into two Union territories -- highlighting a shift towards using ballots to voice dissent instead of resorting to violence.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Jahanzaib Sirwal said the record-breaking turnout in Baramulla following a notable 38 per cent polling in Srinagar, underscores a significant political awakening in the region, signalling a shift towards embracing democratic values and rejecting past misgovernance.

"We strongly commend the nearly 59 per cent turnout on the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, which serves as a powerful endorsement by the people of Kashmir for the democratic values championed by the prime minister's visionary leadership.

"This historic turnout is a resounding rebuke to those political parties that have acted as brokers for years and a decisive rejection of Congress's disastrous policies in New Delhi," Sirwal said.

He said the turnout reflects the people's trust in the BJP's leadership and their desire for a peaceful, progressive Kashmir.

"The days of manipulation and misrule are over. Democracy has prevailed," he said, adding the people of Kashmir have spoken loud and clear; embracing democracy and rejecting the misgovernance of the past.

Sirwal said this turnout is not just evidence but an order of validation passed by the people of Kashmir for the establishment of democratic values under the leadership of Modi.

ACB books IAS...

dishonestly and fraudulently, by resorting to corrupt practices, in furtherance of a conspiracy; by abuse of their official positions, made allotments of evacuee land in violation to the prevailing rules and norms and also for their ulterior motives, maintained criminal silence by not taking action against the encroachers well in time thereby bestowing undue benefit upon themselves and the beneficiary allottees/encroachers with corresponding wrongful loss to the state exchequer.

The omissions and commissions on the part of officers/officials of the Custodian Department Kashmir: Revenue Department, the beneficiaries and others constitute offences punishable under section 5(1) (d) read with section 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006 and section 120-RPC. Accordingly FIR. 10/2024 has been registered in ACB Srinagar and investigation entrusted to DySP Rameez Raja.

INDIA bloc communal...

only "vaaris (successors)".

He also charged the RJD-Congress combine, which formerly ruled Bihar, with having brought disrepute to "the land which gave birth to first president Rajendra Prasad".

He pointed out that the state, in the 1990s, had become known for "irangdaari tax (extortion)" and the NDA, which has been in power for nearly two decades, was trying to "bring to a halt the trend of large-scale migration to other parts of the country for want of industries and job opportunities in Bihar".

He lambasted the Nehru-Gandhi family, which he referred to as "Congress' royal family", for "keeping mum" over controversial remarks made by its leaders and allies against people of Bihar in states such as Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

"Your vote is not just for electing your local MP but also to make your PM strong," said Modi, who also claimed that migrants from Bihar were treated well in Gujarat when he was the CM of that state.

The PM also launched indirect attacks on leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav, who he said were "born with silver spoons".

"The nation cannot move forward with the sins of the INDIA bloc, which stands for corruption, appeasement politics, represents the 'tukde-tukde' gang and a perverted mindset that heaps scorn on Sanatan Dharma," he said.

"This is the reason why the INDIA bloc was exhausted in the very first phase of the elections. In the subsequent phases, it was battered. In the remaining two phases, the trend will continue, and on June 4 when votes are counted, the results will come as a big blow to the intentions of the opposition alliance," he claimed.

Modi claimed that the opposition alliance did not look like a political front.

"It appears to be a congregation of scammers, who are together responsible for corruption scandals worth Rs 20 lakh crore," he alleged.

Modi claimed the parties of the opposition alliance have three common "evils".

"They are all communal, casteist and dynastic... to a degree that is severe, cent percent," he claimed.

Modi also bristled at the opposition's criticism of welfare schemes run by his government, alleging that his opponents had "bundles of notes stashed away in Swiss banks" and could not understand the plight of the common people "the way I do, having been born in a poor family".

"They were opening accounts in Swiss banks, while the people of India were starving," he alleged.

Referring to Tejashwi Yadav, whom he did not mention by name, he said, "I am told that the 'vaaris of jungle raaj' has been saying I will be advised bed rest after the Lok Sabha elections. The 'shehzada' of Congress says he wants to see me in tears. His party openly chants slogans like 'Modi teri kabr khudegi' (your grave will be dug)."

"These people have a counterpart in Uttar Pradesh (an allusion to Akhilesh Yadav) who says I have reached the end of my life and hence contesting from Varanasi," said Modi, adding that the remarks showed lack of sensitivity on the part of those "born with silver spoons, who have never known what is a life filled with struggles".

He said the leaders of the INDIA bloc were furiously hurling "abuses and curses" at him as June 4 was approaching.

"They cannot accept that Modi is getting elected by the people of the country for another five-year term," he claimed.

In his speech, the PM also made a reference to the much-talked-about feast Gandhi had enjoyed at Lahu Prasad's residence last year.

"Those who refused the invitation to the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya had no problems in sharing a meal with the corrupt," he said.

Modi also referred to Champaran as Mahatma Gandhi's "karma bhoomi" and his own roots in Gujarat the "jannabhoomi (place of birth)".

The Congress betrayed his ideals upon coming to power and devoted itself to promoting the interests of one family," he alleged.

"I have spent my first 10 years in power filling the potholes left by the Congress. I intend to speed up progress in the next term," said Modi as he spoke about his thrust on welfare measures like toilets for women "who had to suffer physical ailments because of the absence of this very basic of all amenities".

At his second rally in the Mahrajganj constituency, the PM seemed alarmed at the sight of several youngsters climbing on poles to catch a glimpse of him.

"You all must get down. The country needs young people like you. If you fall and hurt yourself it will cause me anguish. I will not commence my speech until you get down," Modi said and sought their "forgiveness" if "my admonition has made you feel humiliated".

Uplifting poor, developing...

is rising, and many villages still lack proper road connectivity. In some areas, I witnessed wooden electricity poles and bridges. These conditions are unacceptable, and we must work tirelessly to improve them."

He further stressed his decision to step away from national politics to focus on the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I left national politics solely to uplift the poor people of this region. My mission is to ensure that every individual has access to the basic amenities they deserve and to bring sustainable development to even the most far-flung areas," he stated.

Azad criticised the current government's actions, stating, "The present government snatched away our rights, our statehood. It was me who fought against that decision in parliament while other MPs of regional parties remained silent. Today, they are fooling people by promising to bring back Article 370. Those who are in the India Alliance had supported the government in revoking the article, how can you expect them to support its restoration?"

Highlighting the hardships faced by the youth, Azad added, "Today, our youth have to compete with outsiders to get even small jobs, which is an injustice. The same protective laws still exist in other states of India. If we come to power, we will reintroduce the Roshni Scheme and ensure laws that secure jobs and land for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Azad emphasised that the people of Jammu and Kashmir desire change, and his party is committed to delivering it.

He highlighted his past tenure as an example of effective governance, citing numerous developmental projects. These included the creation of new districts, the construction of roads, and the establishment of important infrastructure such as the Hajj House, Yatiri Bhawan, tulip gardens, schools, universities, degree colleges, hospitals, and medical colleges.

He asserted that continuing this development is his primary aim and agenda.

Among others who were present on the occasion were G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Adv Saleem Parray Candidate, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson and others.

BJP holds protest...

demands a time-bound inquiry into the district administration Shopian's failure to prevent this incident. The party believes that the administration's negligence led to the untimely death of Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh, and they are calling for accountability and justice," the party said in a statement issued after the protest.

Bhat, while addressing the protesters, said stringent measures were needed to ensure the safety of the BJP leaders and workers in the region.

He called upon the authorities to take swift action and address the security lapses that have put the lives of political leaders at risk.

Illegal construction of...

hatched among themselves as well as with Hilal Ahmad Rather, intentionally remained silent spectators and did not perform their duties, as a result of which beneficiary succeeded in the construction of 5th storey with porch without obtaining permission as well as in violation to the sanctioned plan thereby caused wrongful loss to gov-

ernment exchequer.

These acts of omission and commission on the part of officers and officials of Enforcement wing, then Chief Town Planner and then Vice Chairman of JDA as well as beneficiary namely Hilal Ahmad Rather and others constitute offences punishable under section 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006 & section 120-B RPC. Further investigations in the case are going on.

ACB books Horticulture ...

notified vide No. DHPM/701/153/2828-39 dated 23.07.2001 with last date as 09.06.2001 extended up to 29.09.2001. In response to this offer, 595 applications were received with a 1st premium installment of Rs 25,000/- . the statement added.

The probe revealed that the draw of lots in the allotment of shop sites, as contained in the notification, was dispensed with and allotments were arbitrary. The Area Marketing Officer Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Dammoo has even resorted to forgery for accommodating the preferred beneficiaries. Instead of recovering premiums from allotted beneficiaries, Area Marketing Officer Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Dammoo enlisted the beneficiaries who had not even applied within the stipulated time, including his own son and brother-in-law. The probe conducted revealed that forty-eight (48) such beneficiaries have been enlisted in the years 2009, 2012, 2013 & 2014 despite cutoff date on 29.09.2001 on same premium Rs. 100,000/- fixed in the year 2001 while the rate of the land increased manifold in the meantime.

The probe also revealed that officers/officials of Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Department kept the matter under dormant till 2009. The allotments were made in disregard to the terms and conditions notified for the purpose. It has also been found that possession and release hold rights of the shop sites have been conferred to the beneficiaries without receiving third installment of premium of Rs. 50,000/- which was one of the pre-requisites of the terms & conditions of the allotment issued by the Department. The then Deputy Director Horticulture & the then Area Marketing Officer Sopore issued allotment orders in favour of 591 applicants without realizing full premium amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh, the outstanding towards the allottees as on 30.06.2021 was Rs. 1,21,88,000/- .

The involved officers/officials of Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Department Kashmir under well-knit conspiracy hatched amongst themselves &with the beneficiaries, by abuse of their official positions, dishonestly and fraudulently in lieu of pecuniary gains, managed application forms for shop sites at Fruit and Vegetable Market Nowpora, sopore years the cut off date and issued allotment orders in their favour in disregard to the notified terms and conditions which also include their relatives, depriving deserving ones, thus conferred undue benefit upon themselves and the beneficiaries. They deliberately did not take any prescribed panel action against defaulting allottees & did not realize the requisite premium amount well in time, which ultimately resulted into the corresponding loss of Rs. 1,21,88,000/- to the state exchequer 30.06.2021.

The acts of omissions& commissions on the part of accused persons then Deputy Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Dept Kashmir namely, Mohammad Sultan Teli, then Area Marketing officer; Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Dammoo, the beneficiaries & others constitute offences punishable u/s 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K PC.Act, Svt; 2006 & sections 465,468,471 & 120-B RPC. Accordingly, Case FIR No 06 /2024 was registered in P/S ACB Baramulla and investigation was initiated. Immediately after registration of the case searches were also conducted at the residences of the accused public servants during which various incriminating documents pertaining to the matter were also recovered and seized.

Further investigations in the case are going on.

Action unfolds in...

is a testament to the region's potential as a filming destination.

#SinghamAgain, an upcoming Bollywood film, is leading the charge, with its crew working tirelessly to capture the essence of Srinagar's vibrant culture and stunning landscapes. The film's presence in the valley is expected to boost local talent and provide a platform for regional stories to be told on the national stage.

As the cameras roll and the action unfolds, Srinagar is once again buzzing with excitement, signaling a new era in Jammu and Kashmir's cinematic journey.

Should a leader...

prevent the establishment of 'Ram Rajya' in India.

Singh said that under the Congress rule, banks ran into losses but under the BJP government, all banks recorded huge profits.

He also attacked the Congress, stating that the grand old party was promising reservations on the basis of religion, which is not permissible under the Constitution.

Singh said all prime ministers of the Congress had promised to eradicate poverty and failed but under Modi rule, 25 crore people have been brought out of poverty.

Attacking the JMM-led alliance and jailed former chief minister Hemant Soren for "plunder of wealth", he said corruption peaked in Jharkhand under the present regime and without the CM's patronage it was not possible.

He appealed to the people to show the "exit door" to the ruling coalition in the state. "The CM who mysteriously went missing for 24 hours, which is unprecedented in India's history, is languishing in jail," he said, while referring to Hemant Soren.

Singh said although INDIA bloc accuses BJP of misusing ED and CBI against opposition but these agencies could seize only Rs 32 lakh under the previous Congress regime, whereas under Modi government, they seized Rs 1 lakh crore besides property worth Rs 22,000 crore.

"In our party, if any worker or leader is found indulged in corruption, he will be sent to jail. Nobody could raise an accusing finger at any of the CMs of BJP-ruled states," he added.

We should have a sense of pride that uniform gives us authority, responsibility to serve people: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The Director General of Police J&K R.R. Swain today visited Reasi District of Jammu Zone and reviewed the security scenario of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Shivkhori shrines in a meeting at DPL Reasi. He held an interaction with Jawans and officers, shared his vision for the force and underlined the expectation

of the people from J&K Police. During the visit, he also inaugurated different facilities for officers and officials of Reasi.

Accompanied by ADGP Law & Order Vijay Kumar, the DGP was



DGP R R Swain handing over tablet to a beat officer.

received by ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, DIG UR Range Rayees Mohammad Bhat, DC and SSP Reasi. While addressing the officers and personnel during the interaction, the DGP highlighted the sense of pride and responsibility that comes with wearing the uniform and serving the people. "I want to share some points which I feel like sharing repeatedly at various levels.Being men in uniform, we should have a sense of pride that the uniform gives us the authority and responsibility to serve the people.Very few people get this opportunity to serve with such authority and responsibility," the DGP stated. He reiterated that from leaders to the last rank in the force, everyone must work with utmost responsibility to uphold the legacy of being the one of best police force of country in fighting terrorism, narcotics, and crimes, while also providing necessary support and help to people in need.

The DGP also informed the personnel about the allocation of funds aimed at upgrading the accommodations for police personnel. He expressed his desire to form sub-committees at different levels to ensure that these funds are utilized effectively and in a time bound manner.

Chairing the officers' meeting at DPL Reasi, the DGP engaged in detailed discussions with jurisdiction officers about the countermeasures required to thwart anti-peace attempts. The meeting emphasized the importance of robust and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of people.

"Anyone found aiding those who seek to harm peace and development will be dealt with firmly under the law," the head of J&K Police underlined in the meeting.

The meeting besides the visiting officers was attended by ADGP Jammu Anand Jain, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat, DC Reasi Vishes Paul Mahajan, SSP Reasi Mohita Sharam, CO IRP-Ist Bn Anita Sharma, Principal STC Talwara Jameel Ahmed, Dy. CO CRPF 126 Bn Ommath Chatraj, 2 I/C CRPF 6th Bn Rajesh Sharma and other jurisdictional officers.

The DGP alongwith other senior officers paid rich tributes and laid floral wreaths at the Martyr's Memorial and also inaugurated different facilities that include SSP office Reasi, new PCR building, and Cyber Cell at DPL Reasi.

He also distributed tablets among Beat officers and Close User Group (CUG) numbers among the jurisdictional officers at the District Police Lines Reasi.

He also launched a song against drug abuse by Singh Gurjeet in collaboration with J&K Police Reasi titled "Nasha Kadi Ni Karna".