!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Congress kept Kashmir...

Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose TMC like the Congress is part of the INDIA bloc, Modi said though the Calcutta High Court has cancelled the OBC certificates given to Muslims in the last 10-to-12 years, she is not ready to accept the verdict.

"Till I am alive, no one can snatch the reservation for Dalits and tribals," Prime Minister Modi asserted while campaigning for Dharambir Singh, the BJP's candidate from the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha seat that goes to polls along with the nine other constituencies in the state on May 25.

The INDIA bloc is "extremely communal, casteist and nepotist," he said while alleging that when the Congress was in power, it did not allow the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"In Haryana, everybody says 'Ram Ram'. People say 'Ram Ram' after every 10 steps," Modi told the gathering at his third rally in the state.

"But if the Congress has its way, it will arrest those who say 'Ram Ram'," he said. Till the time the Congress was in power, it did not allow the Ram temple to be built, Modi alleged while slamming it for rejecting the invitation for the consecration ceremony of the temple in Ayodhya.

The prime minister alleged that an "advisor" of the 'shehzada' -- a reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi -- has revealed that if the Congress comes to power, it would want to put a lock on the Ram temple. The Congress has "insulted our 'astha' (devotion)", he said.

In this election, "you will not only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future," Modi told the rally in which Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini was also present.

"On one hand is your tried and tested 'sewak' Modi. Who is on the other side, one does not know," he said, targeting the INDIA bloc.

"The alliance is talking about having five PMs in five years, with a PM for each year. Can a country be run like this," Modi asked and added that at 'chaupals' in Haryana, people will come up with "5,000 jokes" of the INDIA bloc's "five PM project".

SCs, STs and OBCs have been given reservation by the Constitution but "they want to snatch it and give it to those who do vote jihad", he said.

"You must have seen in newspapers and on TV and social media... the high court of West Bengal has given its judgement. In Bengal also, INDI alliance, their conspiracy and anti-reservation mentality against reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs has been busted," Modi said.

"What did they do in Bengal? They gave OBC certificates to Muslims overnight in Bengal," he said.

The reservation which should have been given to OBCs was being given to Muslims and that to too 'ghuspathaiyes' (infiltrators), Prime Minister Modi alleged.

He said that the high court has cancelled the OBC certificates given to Muslims in the last 10-to-12 years. "Had there not been the court, then what would have happened. What could our downtrodden, Dalit and adivasi brothers and sisters do? You look at the mentality of the INDI alliance. The Bengal CM has announced that she would not accept the HC verdict. She would give OBC reservation to Muslims," Modi said.

"The Congress, the TMC, and the IND alliance and all its outfits strongly stand by their vote bank," he said.

The Calcutta High Court, in its verdict on Wednesday, struck down the OBC status granted to "77 classes" in West Bengal and noted that "religion indeed appears to have been the sole criterion" for declaring these classes as OBCs.

After the first three phases of polling for the Lok Sabha elections, Modi said, the INDIA bloc started making grounds for whom to blame for their defeat. It has targeted the Election Commission on electoral data and electronic voting machines (EVMs), he said.

"Their (INDIA bloc) government is not going to come for 'saat janam' and every vote given to the Congress is going to waste," Modi said.

On the Congress raising the One Rank One Pension (OROP) issue, Modi alleged that the party had deceived ex-servicemen by depriving them of OROP for many decades. The Congress is full of hatred for the army and soldiers, he charged.

Modi said it was his government which implemented OROP with an involved outlay of Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

Over 18.36 lakh...

the age of 100 years will cast their ballots in the PC.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2,338 polling stations across the Anantnag- Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency. Four election staff, including Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 9,000 polling staff, including reserve will be deployed on duty. There are 19 Border Polling Stations in the districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The polling will be held from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm and before that there shall be a mock poll in presence of polling agents. Voting will continue even after 6.00 pm, if the voters queue is still there in the Polling Station premises.

Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like Drinking Water, Electricity, Toilet, Ramp, Furniture, Verandah/Shed etc. Wheelchairs shall also be provided. The Ballot Units will also have a list of contesting candidates in brail script. Wherever required, there shall be separate queues for the senior citizens and specially abled persons so that they are facilitated in every polling station. Additionally, there shall be a voter help desk, manned by the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO) to extend necessary help whenever required.

There will be 17 polling booths managed by women (called as pink polling stations), 15 polling booths manned by specially abled persons and 8 Polling Booths managed by youths. Also in order to spread message about the environment, there will be 15 green polling stations.

The purpose behind these special polling stations is to spread awareness among certain sections of society viz. women, specially abled, first time young voters and to motivate them to come forward and exercise their right to vote.

In order to facilitate the voters and also to increase voter turnout ratios, all voters have been provided with voter information slips with information like Polling Station name, date & time of poll, serial number of voter in the list, his full name, QR code but not the photograph of the voter. Hence, Voter Information Slips will not be allowed as proof of the identity of voters. Proof of identity will be any documents out of 12 documents, including EPIC. The BLO concerned has distributed 100% voter information slips.

The citizens can also view details of the Polling Station, Parliamentary Constituency, and get the contact details of the Booth Level Officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services, through Voter Helpline App (VHA). This mobile app is available on the Google Play store and Apple App Store

The documents which can be used for voter's identification in addition to Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), included Aadhaar Card, MGNREGA Job Card, Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour, Driving License, (vi) PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt,/PSUs/Public Limited Companies, Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, issued by M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.

It is pertinent to mention here that EPIC card is NOT mandatory for voting. If some voter has misplaced his/ her EPIC card, any of the above mentioned documents can be used by him at the Polling Station.

With the aim of spreading awareness among the voters, Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) emerged as a comprehensive programme aimed at reinforcing voter education and promoting active participation in democratic process. The need for SVEEP arises from the Election Commission of India's unwavering commitment to ensuring the participation of every voter in this monumental celebration of democracy.

During the last few months, through various modes, SVEEP activities were undertaken in very nook and corner. Various activities like appeal messages in print, electronic and social media, through hoardings, banners, radio jingles etc carried out. Street plays, use of social media influencers and icons was also done. Because of all these, the voter turnout is expected to be higher than the last Lok Sabha election.

Home voting for above 85 age and those with disability more than 40 % would be held at door steps for all those who have applied for the same.

More than 600 journalist and cameraman of print, electronic and social media platforms have been provided with pass to cover the polling without compromising secrecy of vote and without having any inconvenience to poll process.

Voter Turnout App will be used to display estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Parliamentary Constituency entered by the RO. The media can also use the same application to capture estimated voter turnout data. Approximate voter turnout data of each phase of the elections will be displayed through this app.

There will be two hourly reporting of voting percentage from 9.00 am to the end of poll. The concerned ARO and RO will share the data with media accordingly. The updated figures shall also be placed in voter turnout app. These figures are always subject to, normally upward correction as the final confirmed figures are collected after receiving the statutory forms from all Polling Stations. So till these final figures are known, figures on Voter Turnout App are to be always tentative.

All the polling stations in Anantnag- Rajouri will have CCTV type cameras for live webcasting to control rooms established at District and CEO office. The cameras will be positioned in such a way so that they don't violate the secrecy of vote. There are few polling stations which falls in communication shadow areas. Suitable alternate arrangements in the communication shadow areas by providing Satellite Phones, Wireless sets, and Special Runners etc have been put in place. Candidates/ Political parties need to obtain prior permission for campaigning purposes, they seek online permission on Suvidha app and Portal. Till date, election officers have accorded permission for 1920 applications and rejected 303.

In the entire Union Territory, from the date of announcement of Elections, material/ cash of around Rs. 94.797 crore has been seized. Cash, liquor, drugs and other freebees have been seized by various enforcing departments. Major department-wise seizures included seizures by Police Department valuing Rs 90.831 crore, Income Tax Department 42 lakh, Excise Department 1.01 crore and Narcotics Control Bureau has seized drugs worth 2.32 crore respectively.

The public campaigning in areas of the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency shall conclude at 6.00 PM on the evening of 23rd of May, 48 hours before the elections, (closing poll hour) also known as the silence period or pre-election silence, is when all campaign-related activity is supposed to be halted, and no one, including persons like citizens, journalists, politicians, are allowed to partake in any such public activity.

Holding public meetings, conference, interviews etc. is also to be stopped. This is done to give the voters a peaceful break from being influenced by campaigns so that they may make a considered decision while voting. Political Advertisements in print media can only be done only after Media Certification and Monitoring Committee's (MCMC) prior clearance. Sale of liquor, even from licensed shops, is also banned.

Till date, 143 grievances have been received on CVIGIL app and more than 60 % have been resolved in time and others are under resolution. For filing Model Code of Conduct Violation cases by Citizen, C-VIGIL app provides time-stamped evidentiary proof of the Model Code of Conduct/ Expenditure Violation by empowering every citizen to click a photo or video using his or her Smartphone.

To monitor various election-related activities and also check Model Code of Conduct compliance, a Command and Control Room has been established at the CEO office in Jammu and Srinagar. Similar mini-control rooms have also been established in every DEO office which are functioning 24 x 7. All electronic media channels, social media platforms are monitored here, any violation so detected, is reported and the concerned RO/ ARO issues notice. Apart from looking for MCC violations, the Control room also has live feed of all 100 % Polling Stations and GPS vehicle tracking of all vehicles being used for poll parties.

As per the latest instructions of Election Commission of India, Special Polling Stations have been established for Migrant Voters of Kashmir Division.

A total of 26 Special Polling Stations have been established with 21 polling stations in Jammu, 4 in Delhi, and 1 in Udhampur District respectively. Special Polling Station-wise extract voter list will be with BLOs.

"The Election Commission of India is committed to provide basic facilities in all the polling stations and give better experience to voters. Voters are requested to participate in maximum number in the biggest festival of largest democracy of the world."

Campaigning for LS...

her defeat in the 2019 Lok sabha polls.

With record-high polling in Srinagar and Baramulla, political observers feel that the south Kashmir constituency will also register a higher-than-expected voter turnout.

The aggregate turnout in the four Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir that have already gone to polls was around 59 per cent.

The polling in Anantnag-Rajouri was earlier scheduled for May 7 but was deferred by the Election Commission (EC) due to inclement weather in the region.

Authorities had received more than 2,200 applications from the contesting candidates and political parties, seeking permission for various electioneering activities.

While 1,920 applications for rallies, roadshows and meetings were approved, 303 pleas were rejected on various grounds.

Mufti is facing a tough challenge from prominent Gujjar leader and former minister Mian Altaf Ahmad, who is the National Conference (NC) candidate.

Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas will be hoping to turn the table on both the PDP and the NC after he managed to get the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) support in the Pir Panjal region.

The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) of former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has fielded Mohammad Saleem Parray from the seat.

BJP has already...

and Akhilesh Yadav will not even get four seats," said Shah, addressing a poll meeting in Siddharthnagar in support of Domariyaganj BJP candidate Jagdambika Pal.

In another rally in Sant Kabir Nagar, Shah named several leaders from the opposition parties and accused them of nepotism.

"Lalu Prasad Yadav wants to make his son the chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray wants to make his son the chief minister, Sharad Pawar wants to make his daughter the chief minister, Stalin wants to make his son the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee wants to make her nephew the chief minister and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son Rahul Gandhi the prime minister," he said, adding, someone who works for his family is not going to work for a constituency.

Shah asserted that the PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) is a part of India and the BJP will take it back.

"Leaders of Pakistan say that PoK is theirs. Congress leaders also say that they (Pakistan) have an atom bomb. BJP people are not scared of atom bombs. PoK is and will remain part of India and we will take it back," he said.

He said the opposition was attempting to end reservation for SC/ST and OBC in order to appease their vote bank.

"Rahul Baba and Akhilesh Yadav you have been blinded by vote banks politics. We will finish reservation on the basis of religion and give it back to the ST/ST and OBCs," he said.

He also pointed out that the INDIA bloc did not have any prime minister face and claimed that the alliance, if it comes to power, will have five PMs. "Can the country run like this?"

Shah alleged that Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav have tickets booked for a vacation abroad once results of the Lok Sabha polls are announced, unlike Narendra Modi who works tirelessly for the nation.

"On the one hand, there is Rahul Gandhi who leaves for Italy, Thailand and Bangkok and on the other hand, there is Narendra Modi who has not taken any leave for 23 years and even spends his Diwali with soldiers on the border," he said.

Shah said the BJP ensured OROP (One Rank-One Pension) scheme for the retired army personnel and asserted that India will become the third largest economy in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah on Thursday also addressed a poll rally in Khalilabad of Sant Kabir Nagar in support of Praveen Kumar Nishad, who is contesting on a NISHAD party ticket, a partner of NDA.

There, he accused the opposition of stalling the construction of Ram Temple for over 70 years and attributed its construction to Modi.

"This election is between the one who constructed Ram Temple and those who opened fire on Ram Bhakts," he said.

On the abolition of Article 370 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "Article 370 which was protected by the Congress and Samajwadi Party was removed by Narendra Modi in 2019 and Kashmir was made a part of India forever. No one dares to explode bombs there."

Shah alleged that in the erstwhile SP government "goonda raj" was rampant in Uttar Pradesh, and it was Yogi Adityanath, the current CM, who set all goons right.

Polling in Domariyaganj and Sant Kabir Nagar will be held in the sixth phase of ongoing Lok Sabha polls on Saturday.

No innocent person...

that under his leadership, no civilian will face false allegations or charges.

He promised to protect daughters, sisters, and young boys from harassment.

He said, "In my government, I ensured justice to people, irrespective of caste or religion. Our youth, especially girls, should be able to move freely. Today I received many complaints that police is picking up innocent civilians; this must stop. You are further alienating them. In my government, youth will be given the full freedom to live their lives. This drug menace has harmed our society, and we will ensure better education and jobs."

Azad criticised the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for their silence on critical issues such as Article 370 during parliamentary sessions.

He said that the three MPs from these parties failed to speak up when he protested in parliament, showcasing a troubling pattern of inaction.

"They are deceiving the people," Azad declared.

He said: "They remained silent even on the land eviction order when the government attempted to bulldoze houses and seize land. It was our intervention that halted the government's actions."

Azad also accused the NC leaders of using religion and caste to divide the population.

"At the national level, a party tried to split Hindus and Muslims. Now, these parties are attempting to divide Pahari, Kashmiri, and Gujjars", he said, asking how an MP can do justice to other communities when they campaign and speak against each other.

He warned of the dangers of such divisive politics, stressing the importance of unity in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This style of politics is harmful and damaging for the people of J&K. We must unite and work for everyone. Our focus should be on bringing people together, not creating divisions."

Azad pointed out the lack of development during the periods when the government was primarily run by the NC and other parties.

He emphasised that he had only two and a half years in power, during which he initiated significant projects and reforms.

"They did no development, but only exploited people with slogans of self-rule and autonomy, which they eventually forgot. They did no justice to the poor. Where are the jobs? Where are the schools, colleges, districts, and tehsils? What did they achieve? Nothing," Azad said emphatically.

Azad assured the people that if he returns to power, he will focus on eradicating poverty and unemployment.

He recounted his previous achievements, including the rapid completion of key projects, the sanctioning of hospitals, colleges, and universities, and the provision of jobs. Notably, he mentioned the completion of the Hajj House and Yatri Niwas in just six months.

"We will bring back that era of progress and development," Azad promised, reaffirming his commitment.

He reiterated his commitment to fostering peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and urged the electorate to support Adv Saleem Parray in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, citing his credentials as a promising, educated, and mature candidate.

He exuded confidence that Parray would champion the concerns of the people with the same fervor and dedication as himself.

108-foot flagpole...

The dedication of the 108-foot flagpole at Kaman Post commenced with a stirring address to the crowd.

A speaker eloquently recounted the illustrious history of India's national flag, tracing its transformation throughout the years. The guest of honour then officially inaugurated the flagpole, a senior official said.

HC directs JNV not to deny admission to students on ground of previous schooling from different area

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi High Court has directed the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya to ensure that students are not denied admission on grounds that they do not belong to the districts in which the particular school is situated.

Justice C Hari Shankar quashed the decision on not to admit a student in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, and said the child is entitled to be admitted in Class 6 of the 2024-25 academic year and continue to be educated there.

The high court passed the order on a petition by a child, who studied till Class 5 in the Navyug School at Peshwa Road of the national capital, seeking admission in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6.

The school denied admission to the girl student on the ground that she had done her schooling in New Delhi district and not in the Mungeshpur area of the North West district.

It was contended by the school authorities that admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, was available only to students who had studied in Class 5 in the Mungeshpur area.

The high court noted that a similar issue was earlier dealt with by another bench of the high court and, while the matter is pending with a division bench, as an interim measure, the student in the previous petition was allowed to continue studying in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur.

"The JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya) is, therefore, directed to ensure that, hereinafter, the (previous) judgment … is complied with, and students are not refused admission into the JNV on the ground that they do not belong to the districts in which the JNVs are situated, without driving every student to litigation," Justice Shankar said.

The high court further said the decision not to admit the petitioner in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, is quashed and set aside.

"The petitioner is entitled to be admitted to the JNVM (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur) in Class 6 in the academic year 2024-25 and to continue to be educated in the said school. This shall, however, be subject to the outcome of … (appeal) pending before the division bench," it said.

In the previous judgment, the high court held that the decision of the respondent (authorities) to exclude Central and New Delhi districts from the ambit of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and not granting an opportunity to students of those districts for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas under the urban quota, was "clearly arbitrary", leading to inequality and clearly hit by Article 14 of the Constitution.

Punjab: Modi attacks AAP, calls Bhagwant Mann as 'kagzi CM'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATIALA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a fierce attack on ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab, saying that drug trade is flourishing in the state and the government is in debt.

Addressing his first election rally in the state for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Modi said Punjab has given leadership to the country in various sectors - from agriculture to industry.

He then attacked the Aam Aadmi Party, saying industries are now leaving Punjab while drug trade is growing. "The entire government is running on debt."

The government writ does not run here while sand and drug mafia, and shooter gangs' rule, Modi said.

"All ministers are enjoying and the 'kagzi CM' (chief minister just on paper) is always busy marking his presence in the 'Delhi darbar'," Modi said. "Can such people undertake development in Punjab."

He also attacked the AAP and the Congress for fighting the Lok Sabha polls together in Delhi and against each other in Punjab.

"In Punjab, they are fighting against each other in elections just to show people. Delhi's 'fiercely corrupt party' and the party which is guilty of anti-Sikh riots are doing a drama of fighting against each other (in Punjab)."

Pune RTO begins process to cancel temporary registration of Porsche involved in fatal crash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUNE: The Regional Transport Office has started the process to cancel the temporary registration of the Porsche car that fatally knocked down two techies while allegedly being driven by a 17-year-old boy in Pune, an official said on Thursday.

The electric luxury sports sedan - Porsche Taycan - was imported in March by a dealer in Bengaluru before being sent to Maharashtra on temporary registration.

When the car was taken to the Pune RTO, it was found that a certain registration fee had remained unpaid. The owner was asked to pay the amount to complete the paperwork. Since the fee was not paid, the permanent registration of the vehicle was pending, officials had said earlier. The high-end car, allegedly driven by real estate developer Vishal Agarwal's teenage son, who the police claim was drunk at the time, hit two software engineers, killing both, in the city's Kalyani Nagar in the early hours of Sunday. While the boy has been remanded to an observation home till June 5, his father is in police custody till May 24.

"There is a provision in the Motor Vehicles Act that if such an accident happens in which a minor was driving the car, the registration certificate can be revoked for 12 months. We have now started the process to cancel the temporary registration of the car and a notice to this effect has been issued to the registered owner of the car," said Sanjeev Bhor, RTO officer. He said the car had been allotted a temporary registration as it was brought from Bangalore to Pune. "However, driving a car on the road without a proper registration number is an offence," he said. The luxury car was seized by the police after the accident.