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INDIA bloc talking...

"Will the Punjab government again be run from jail. Do you want such a government?" he asked the gathering and asserted that the state's development was his priority.

Targeting the Congress and the INDIA bloc, of which the party is a member, Modi said nobody knows the real face of this alliance better than Punjab.

He said it was the same alliance that inflicted the "maximum wounds" on Punjab. After India's freedom, it gave the wound of Partition and then the wound of instability for self interest and a long period of unrest, the prime minister said.

"They fuelled separatism in Punjab. Then they got the massacre of Sikhs done in Delhi. Till the time, the Congress remained in power at the Centre, it used to protect the rioters," he said and added that "it was Modi who got files of the anti-Sikh riots opened."

"It was Modi who ensured punishment to the guilty," the prime minister said and added that the Congress and the 'jharowali party' -- referring to the AAP -- have a problem about this. "Therefore, they abuse Modi day and night," he said.

Referring to the role of Sikhs in the Ram temple movement, Modi said the first person to fight for building the Ram mandir was a Sikh. "He fought for the Ram temple. And, when the consecration ceremony took place (in January), his descendants attended the event," he said.

Modi said when Amarinder Singh headed the Congress government in Punjab, the party wanted to run his government through "remote control".

"But Captain Amarinder Singh refused to obey the orders from 'Delhi ke shehzade' (Rahul Gandhi)," he said.

Singh was a patriot and he gave priority to national security because Punjab is a border state, and refused to take the "anti-national orders", Modi said.

"What was the result? 'Congress ke shahi parivar (the first family of the party)' and the 'shehzade' removed him (Singh) from the post of Punjab chief minister," he said.

Singh was unceremoniously removed from the CM post by the Congress in 2021. He later quit the party and joined the BJP.

Attacking the AAP, Modi said, "Unfortunately, today also an attempt is being made to run (the Punjab government) through remote control."

Slamming the Congress, Modi said its problem is that it does not have "aastha (faith) in Bharat".

"The shehzada goes overseas and defames the country. He says 'Bharat toh rashtra he nahi hai'. That is why they want to change the nation's identity," he said.

Modi said that the 2024 election is an election of giving leadership to the country. On one side there is the BJP and the NDA that have a clear vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and on the other is the INDIA bloc that is extremely "communal, casteist and nepotist", he said.

Modi also said that the two INDIA bloc parties are trying different ways to fool people. "They show themselves as friends in Delhi, while abuse each other in Punjab," he said.

The Congress and the AAP are contesting the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi in an alliance. In Punjab they are fighting the elections separately.

"People have understood that these two shops have one shutter," Modi said.

Recalling the late Gurdasur MP and actor Vinod Khanna, the prime minister said he was his very good friend. "We worked together for a long time. He (Khanna) was always attached to the ground," Modi said.

Being a minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government at the Centre, his contributions are even today discussed, he said. "He built many bridges and many roads. People even today appreciate his work," the prime minister said.

Court timing change...

Timing will work from 09: 00 AM to 3:30 PM with half an hour break from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM whereas Court timing from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with the half an hour break from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM.

Sat phones, special...

Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch, a contingency plan has been worked out to deal with cross-border shelling though chances are negligible given the ongoing ceasefire between India and Pakistan that came into effect in February 2021, officials said.

Some polling stations fall in communication-shadow areas and alternative arrangements have been put in place in such areas with satellite phones, wireless sets and special runners being provided in case of a crisis.

In 2019, the Anantnag constituency had a turnout of just 9.8 per cent. And so perhaps, in a marked contrast to the fervent campaigning witnessed in other constituencies, the area has seen relatively subdued rallies.

However, the Poonch and Rajouri regions, known for high voter turnouts, have seen hectic campaigning with all parties getting their top leaders to campaign.

Originally slated for May 7, the Election Commission postponed polling in Anantnag-Rajouri citing adverse weather conditions.

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

The aggregate turnout in the four Lok Sabha seats, including Udhampur and Jammu, which have already gone to polls was around 59 per cent.

Over 26,000 displaced...

auxiliary ones in Jammu, one in Udhampur and four in Delhi.

Assistant Electoral Returning Officer (AERO) Dr Riaz Ahmed urged the Kashmiri migrant voters to participate in the election.

"All necessary facilities, including water and shelter, have been arranged. The Election Commission has also provided a pick-and-drop facility for the voters, available from 6 am to 6 pm, focusing on areas with higher concentrations of migrants," the AERO said.

The authorities, amid tight security, handed over polling materials, including EVMs, to polling parties at Women's College in Jammu. The security forces and election parties are being deployed to their respective stations, the officials said.

The Anantnag constituency is preparing for a competitive electoral showdown with nearly 18.36 lakh voters, including 9.02 lakh women, set to vote at 2,338 polling stations.

Twenty candidates are vying for the seat, with the main contest between PDP chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and prominent Gujjar leader and former minister Mian Altaf Ahmad of the National Conference (NC).

Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas, backed by the BJP in the Pir Panjal region, hopes to challenge both the PDP and the NC.

The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), led by former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, has fielded Mohammad Saleem Parray for the seat.

Suspicious movement along...

following reports of "suspicious movement" along the International Border (IB), the officials said.

The operation group commenced its search operation in the Bein-Lalachak forward area along the IB on Friday after reports of movement of some suspicious people, they said.

The 'Black Panther' Operations Command Vehicle was also used during the searches as security personnel combed farmlands and bushy areas besides villages, the officials said. Personnel also checked identification documents of people living close to the border. The operation is underway and many forward villages, including Manguchek, Sadechek, Regal and Chahwal, have been searched.

ACB registers 2...

PC Act. Svt. 2006 was registered in PS ACB Baramulla against Abdul Majid Sheikh alias Malla, the then Patwari (now posted as Girdawar Qanoongo Circle Nowshera Tehsil Boniyar) and investigation was initiated. Immediately after registration of the case searches were also conducted at the residence of the accused during which some cash of ₹3.80 lakh beside other incriminating documents were also recovered which were seized on spot.

During the course of this DA verification it surfaced that the suspect has purchased immovable property in the shape of proprietary land of more than 16 Kanals from many persons falling under different survey Nos at Wahigund Kunzer from time to time and these properties have been fraudulently mutated by way of two oral gift deeds in order to evade applicable stamp duty & registration fee etc.

It was found that the accused Girdawar in league with revenue officers/officials namely 1) Bashir Ahmad Reshi S/o Ghulam Qadir Reshi R/o Kanloo, then Patwari Halqa Wailoo, Kralpor; 2) Manzoor Ahmad Khanday S/o Abdul Ahad Khanday R/o Ultkoo, Kawarhuma Tangnang, then Patwari Halqa Wailoo Kralpora and 3) Altaf Hussain Khan S/o Saifullah Khan R/o House No. 112-A Balgarden, Srinagar; then Naib Tehsildar Wailoo Kralpora had illegally and fraudulently entered two different oral gift mutations vide No. 117 dated Nil & No. 123 dated 15.01.2015 in mutation register of the revenue record of Patwari Halqa, Wailoo Kralpora, Kunzer in utter violation of laid down norms in vogue.

The verification conducted further revealed that the above named officers/officials in league with suspect beneficiary have made illegal insertions in revenue record by

changing actual mutation No. 117 into 117/1, and then mutation No. 117 was fraudulently given to questioned oral gift mutation in the register, by incorporating additional page into original mutation register; thereby land measuring 05 Kanals & 07 Marlas was shown orally gifted to suspect, his wife as well as his son which was actually purchased by Abdul Majid Sheikh @ Malla against substantial consideration amounts.

It has also found that similarly, another oral gift mutation No. 123 was illegally and fraudulently inserted in Parti-Patwar register by said revenue officers/officials by showing land measuring 14-Kanals & 05 Marlas orally gifted to suspect and to his brother which was too purchased by suspect Abdul Majid Sheikh @ Malla against substantial consideration amount. Therefore, in both the cases, the involved revenue officers/officials were having ample knowledge that the said land properties were not actually been orally gifted to the suspect beneficiary or to any one of his family members but have been purchased for consideration. As such, the entry in this regard in the revenue record by unduly showing them as orally gifted was illegal, fraudulent and in contravention to laid down norms.

The verification conducted as such revealed that the above named revenue officers/officials, by abuse of their official positions and under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with the suspect beneficiary Abdul Majid Sheikh @ Malla have paved a way to evade the applicable stamp duty as well as registration charges, thereby conferred huge undue pecuniary gains upon themselves as well as to beneficiary with commensurate loss to Government exchequer. Accordingly, a separate FIR No 08 under section 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act Svt-2006 and sections 467, 468,471,120-B of RPC was registered at ACB PS Baramulla and investigations were initiated against all three revenue officials including the beneficiary accused namely Abdul Majid Sheikh @ Malla resident of Wahigund Tehsil Kunzer. Further investigations in both cases are going on.

Rain brings relief...

reduced the temperature, providing a respite for both pilgrims and residents suffering from the heatwave.

During the day, Katra, the base camp for the pilgrimage, recorded a temperature of 36.4 degrees Celsius, which is 1.8 degrees above the normal in the day. By the evening, the temperature had dropped to 32 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu, the daytime temperature reached 40.1 degrees Celsius, which is 2.1 degrees above normal. However, it fell to 32 degrees Celsius in the evening due to the moderate winds.

The minimum temperature recorded was near normal at 29.7 degrees Celsius, but still 4.7 degrees above the average.

Jammu has been experiencing heatwave conditions for the past week, with temperatures crossing the 40-degree Celsius mark for the first time this season on May 16.

Courts to observe...

Batote, Gool, Banihal and Ukhral in District Ramban and Bani in District Kathua, shall observe 15 days summer vacations w.e.f. June 10 to 24, 2024 (both days inclusive)," Registrar General Shahzad Azeem said in an order.

"The Principal District and Sessions Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates of concerned Districts shall make suitable arrangements for disposal of urgent criminal business arising during the period of such vacation in the areas within their respective jurisdictions," the order added.

India would have...

to border security during the last 10 years, a period in which "our comprehensive national power has grown immensely", Doval said on Friday.

The national security advisor said India is changing very fast and, in the next 10 years, "we will be a USD 10 trillion economy and the third largest economy" that he called a "major achievement".

He said India will have one of the largest workforces and be a hub of high-technology artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing and various other areas of defence and security manufacturing.

The country, which was an importer of arms, exported USD 2.5 billion worth of arms until March 31, emerging as a big exporter because of the government's policy of self-reliance and Atmanirbhar Bharat, Doval said.

In this changing India, prosperity guarantees security to some extent and increases vulnerability in much larger areas, he said.

"All these are ingredients of national power or what the Chinese call comprehensive national power. Your economy, your geographical expanse, your geo-strategic positioning, defence forces, technological achievements, and India's comprehensive national power will be very high," he said.

Measures be taken...

their parents have "reached out to us, expressing their fear and anxiety following a series of troubling events".

The Indian students, particularly those from Kashmir in Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, were "caught unaware of the mob violence" and are "desperate to return home", it said.

"Given the gravity of the situation and the urgency of ensuring the safety and well-being of our fellow citizens, we earnestly request the Ministry of External Affairs to take immediate steps to facilitate the evacuation of Indian students stranded in Kyrgyzstan. Their safe return home should be a priority to prevent any further distress or potential harm," the letter said.

"We trust in the prompt and decisive action of the Ministry in safeguarding the interests and security of Indian citizens in Kyrgyzstan. We request that proactive measures be taken immediately to ensure the well-being of these students," it added.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) should "collaborate closely" with the respective government and diplomatic mission to "facilitate the safe passage of Indian students out of harm's way", the association said.

"Your swift intervention in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the students, their families, and the students' body," it added.

The Indian Embassy had on Thursday also posted on X that the "situation in and around Bishkek is normal and stable today. Flights to India are operational".

"Embassy is in contact with Medical Universities in Kyrgyzstan to address concerns of Indian students. They can reach out to the Embassy for any assistance at 0555710041 and 0555005538," it said.

Cong leaders tried...

of Lok Sabha elections, I can tell you the results. The sixth round of voting will take place tomorrow. Modi ji (who heads the NDA) has already bagged more than 310 seats."

He also claimed, "Lalu ji's party (RJD) will not be able to open its accounts. The INDIA alliance will face a humiliating defeat in this election".

Shah alleged that Congress and RJD were against the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya from the very beginning.

R K Singh, Union Minister for Power and Renewable Energy, is pitted against CPI(M-L) Liberation's Sudama Prasad who is in the fray as a 'Mahagathabandhan' nominee. Sudama Prasad is the CPI(M-L) Liberation sitting MLA from the Tararai assembly seat. Singh, former union home secretary, has been representing the Arrah Lok Sabha seat since May 2014. Voting will take place in Arrah on June 1.

Advisory issued on...

Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA), the FES department issued advisory for preventive measures to be taken from Fire Safety point of view in the public interest to minimize the losses due to fires.

The advisory reads as; Remove flammable materials such as piles of dust, leaves, sticks and cardboard from your living area as they may ignite under strong direct sunlight.

Keep your cables tidy and do not overload sockets; Give the electric panels/ gadgets rest and cooling breaks after intervals.

Trip off the electricity of the houses when out of the premises. Avoid placing electric cables under furniture, carpets etc and near plastic sheets or flammable objects.

Store matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach to avoid any mischief by children.

Avoid cooking during peak hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately. Douse the cigarette butts with water and place them in a fire-proof container to safely dispose of after you are sure they have gone out. Don't toss them on the ground.

Extinguish fire pits and campfires when done. Pay attention to local ordinances for trash burning. Use caution when using flammable liquids.

Don't throw lit cigarettes carelessly out of your moving car.

Don't leave the trash/stubble in burning condition. Farmers shall avoid burning of trash/stubble. In case of urgency it shall be completely burnt in their presence and ensure that there is no chance of its re-ignition of fire.

Member Secy JKLSA pays visit to IIM Jammu



Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary of JKLSA during visit to IIM Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), visited the campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, where he was welcomed by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. Present on the occasion was Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu.

During the visit, Amit Gupta expressed his appreciation for the facilities at IIM Jammu, stating, "I am impressed by the infrastructure and academic environment here. This visit has been insightful."

Prof. Sahay emphasized the institute's commitment to educational excellence, economic transformation, and development of Jammu and Kashmir, saying, "We are delighted to host Amit Kumar Gupta at the IIM Jammu Jagti Campus."

Prof. Jabir Ali mentioned, "We at IIM Jammu are committed to educational excellence and the development of the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir."

The visit included a comprehensive campus tour, with insights into IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art facilities and academic offerings.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Mendhar, Lassana, Bhata, Dhurian, Draba and Surankote will remain affected on May 26 from 7 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Rajouri, Poonch, Siot and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 6 am to 12 noon. Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Jogpur, Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 25 and 27 from 5 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to Kanhal-I, Kanhal-II, Industry-I and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Gulzar gets Addl charge of CEO, TDA Sonarnag, Farooq transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday given additional charge to Gulzar Ahmad, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, of the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tourism Development Authority (TDA), Sonarnag. "Gulzar Ahmad, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tourism Development Authority (TDA), Sonarnag, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," read an order issued by Sanjeev Verma Commissioner/ Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD). "Further, Farooq Ahmad Baba, JKAS, CEO, TDA Sonarnag has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD," it added.

DC reviews implementation, progress of HADP in Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: District Development Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma on Friday reviewed the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) scheme in the district, here at a meeting held in the meeting Hall of the DC office complex.

At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer S. Madan Gopal Singh welcomed District Development Commissioner Samba along with all participants and put forth a comprehensive update on the advancements made in implementing the HADP across various sectors. He highlighted the promotion of vegetables/ Exotic Vegetables under Open and Hi Tech Protected Cultivation, alongside efforts made to encourage farmers to take up cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic plants. Additionally, initiatives promoting the production of Millets, Mushroom, Commercial Floriculture, and oilseed projects were emphasized, aiming to diversify farmers' income streams.

The Chair reviewed and discussed the list of eligible beneficiaries for the final Selection/approval of extending scheme benefits under Agriculture and Allied sectors, under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. The applications were received online on HADP portal, of which 1669 proposals were selected seeking benefits under different components of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. The meeting noted a significant response to the HADP scheme, with a surge in applications exceeding the allocated targets which underscores the program's effectiveness in engaging and empowering local farmers. The DDC reiterated the importance of scaling up the coverage of allied sector schemes, including Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning and Marketing and Sericulture. The emphasis was placed on extending benefits to more beneficiaries, thereby maximizing the impact of the HADP programme across the district. The DDC called upon all stakeholders to make collaborative efforts towards fostering sustainable agriculture and rural development in Samba district. He also impressed upon the Banks to prioritize the sponsoring of loan cases with proper hand holding to the beneficiaries. Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and other members of the committee attended the meeting.

GCET initiates week-long series of awareness programs on "Protecting Children from Tobacco"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The NSS Unit of Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET) has initiated a week-long series of awareness programs on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" under the auspices of upcoming No Tobacco Day and as part of the "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan".

These programs were launched under the guidance of the principal, Prof. (Dr.) Sameer Sharma. While engaging with the students, Prof. Sharma emphasized that Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan aims to eradicate all forms of harmful addictions, including alcohol, tobacco, and drugs from society. She highlighted that this campaign is a critical nation-building initiative, focusing on fostering healthy and disciplined youth and under this abhiyan you have to make not only your community, family, friends but also yourselves drug free. The awareness program commenced at the college campus, where engineering students from various branches took a pledge against drug abuse and addiction. They displayed self-made slogans and placards reflecting the event's theme. During an interactive session, Dr. Raman Gupta, Programme Officer, NSS encouraged the students to spread awareness among the general public and to abstain from drug addiction. He explained that addiction becomes problematic when it cannot be controlled and poses a risk to one's health. Further, the other events included under this campaign are poster making, slogan writing and quiz competition. The event was organized by student coordinators Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma, Ishmeet Singh Vagisha Khajuria, Divyansh verma Abhinav Sharma and Dhanush Dalmotra. The principal of the college applauded the efforts of the team NSS for organizing such kind of awareness programmes.

Introduction of B.Com programme from Academic session 2024-25 at GDC Purmandal

STATE TIMES NEWS

PURMANDAL: GDC Purmandal affiliated with University of Jammu is introducing Bachelor Degree in commerce from Academic session 2024-25.

Recognizing the importance of this step, the affiliated university, University of Jammu, conducted a thorough inspection of the college facilities and academic standards to ensure for the commencement of commerce stream in the college.

A university team headed by Director CDC Prof. Rajiv Rattan visited GDC Purmandal and assessed various aspects of the college, including infrastructure, faculty strength and administrative capabilities. The team had an extensive interaction regarding the subject with Prof. Raj Shree Dhar, Principal of the college, Dr. Jatinder Kour [Department of Commerce] and other faculty members of the college. Following the inspection, the university officials provided their consent for the initiation of the commerce stream from coming session. It opens up new opportunities for students interested in pursuing career in commerce related fields.