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Successful J&K polls success of Modi Govt policy; next step Assembly polls, statehood: Amit Shah

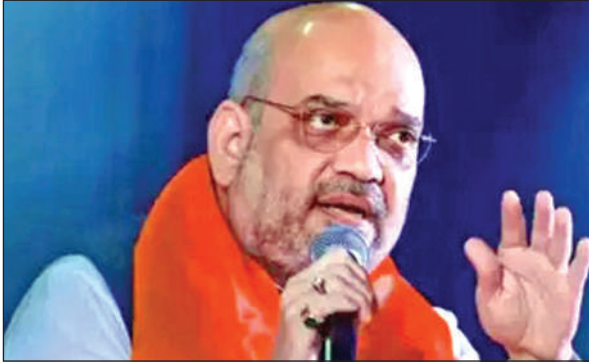
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the Modi government's Kashmir policy has been vindicated by the successful polling in Jammu and Kashmir, where even separatists have voted "overwhelmingly", as he assured that the assembly elections in the region will be held before September 30.

Once the elections are over, the government will start the process of restoring statehood to the Union Territory, Shah said in an interview to PTI late Saturday.

"I have said in Parliament that we will give the statehood after the assembly elections," he said, adding that everything is going according to plan, such as the surveys of the backward classes and delimitation exercise of the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies.

"We have completed the delimitation process.



'If speaking on Art 370, UCC, opposing Muslim quota is religion-based campaign, BJP will do it'

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has slammed the INDIA bloc's criticism of the Election Commission as a ploy to cover up for its impending loss in the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that the BJP will score a bigger win in opposition-ruled states due to a "positive mandate" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an interview with PTI, Shah claimed that his party has not resorted to any religion-based campaign but insisted that if canvassing against reservation for Muslims, and reaching out to voters on the abolition of Article 370 and implementing a Uniform Civil Code is religion-based campaign, then the BJP has done it and will continue doing so.

He dismissed the opposition's criticism of the Election Commission for its handling of poll data ■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Because the reservation can be given only after the delimitation process is completed. Because we have to know about the status of various castes (to give reservation). That has been done. Lok Sabha election is also over (in Jammu and Kashmir). Next is the assembly election which will also be held. We will complete the process before the Supreme Court deadline," he said.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of India to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024.

Commenting on the relatively high polling percentage in the Kashmir valley in the Lok Sabha elections, Shah said he believed that there has been a big change in attitudes there.

"Voting percentage has increased. Some people used to say that people of the

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

INDIA bloc wants to turn country's majority community into second-class citizens: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GHOSI/DEORIA/MIRZAPUR (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said INDIA bloc parties want to turn the country's majority community into second-class citizens and also alleged that "jihadis" across the border are supporting the Samajwadi Party and the Congress.

He attacked the parties of the opposition bloc, alleging they are planning to rewrite the Constitution to provide reservation on the basis of religion.

The prime minister was in Uttar Pradesh's Purvanchal region to address rallies in Ghosi, Deoria and Mirzapur in support of BJP and NDA Lok Sabha poll candidates contesting in the seventh and last phase of the general elections on June 1.

"In Pakistan, 'duas' (prayers) are being made for the INDI alliance of Samajwadi Party (SP) and



'Opposition alliance will give reservation to Muslims'

MIRZAPUR (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday branded the opposition INDIA bloc as communal and casteist, and claimed they have decided to change the Constitution to give reservation to Muslims.

While the SP-Congress is dedicated to vote bank, Modi is dedicated to rights of backward and the poor, he said addressing a poll meeting here in support of NDA alliance partner Apna Dal's candidate from Mirzapur Lok Sabha seat Anupriya Patel and Robertsganj Lok Sabha seat Rinki Kol.

"People of the country have identified the people of 'INDI alliance'. These people are staunch communal, casteist and dynast (parivar wadi). Whenever their government is formed they take decision on this basis," ■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Congress. Jihadis across the border are supporting them. The SP and the Congress are making an appeal for 'vote jihad'," Modi said in an apparent reference to a remark by an INDIA bloc candidate.

"This (INDIA bloc) group is saying that if they come to power, they will reimpose Article 370 in Kashmir. They will repeal the CAA (Citizenship (Amendment) Act) which gives citizenship to the victims of Partition. Whose agenda is this... this is what these anti-India forces want?" he said.

Hitting out at the bloc, Prime Minister Modi claimed the "INDI jamaat" has been abusing him for his opposition to reservation on the basis of religion.

The prime minister listed three "big conspiracies" of the opposition bloc and said, "First, the people of INDI alliance will change

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Train traffic partially hit as two wagons of goods train derail in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two wagons of a freight train derailed near Jammu on Sunday, causing disruption in the train traffic between Jammu and Katra railway stations for over an hour, officials said.

The mishap occurred at Sangar near Manwal on the outskirts of Jammu city this afternoon when the goods train was moving to Jammu from Udhampur, they said.

The officials said two wagons of the freight train derailed, blocking two of the three railway lines complete-

ly, prompting the authorities to stop rail traffic between Jammu-Udhampur and



Jammu-Katra.

However, the third line was through and partial traffic was restored on the track within one and half hours, the officials said, adding a crane was rushed from Katra station to realign

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

In rare move, Govt extends tenure of Army Chief by one month

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande will continue to serve in the post till June 30 with the government on Sunday extending his tenure by one month, in a rare and unusual move that came amid the Lok Sabha polls.

Gen Pande was to retire from service on May 31.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved one-month extension in service of Gen Pande, the defence ministry said.

The extension to Gen Pande came nearly five decades after the then Indira Gandhi-led government extended the tenure of Army Chief Gen G G Bewoor by one year in early 1970s in first such instance.

In view of extension given to Gen



Bewoor, the next in line Lt Gen Prem Bhagat, known to be a fine military officer, retired from service without becoming the Army Chief, according to military experts.

"The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on May 26 approved the extension in service of Chief of the Army

Staff Gen Manoj C Pande for a period of one month, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31) that is up to June 30 under Rule 16 A (4) of the Army Rules 1954," the defence ministry said.

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, currently serving as the Vice Chief of Army Staff, is the senior-most official after Gen Pande.

The senior-most official after Lt Gen Dwivedi is Lt Gen Ajay Kumar Singh, the Southern Army Commander.

Both Lt Gen Dwivedi and Lt Gen Singh are course mates.

Lt Gen Dwivedi, who has vast operational experience along the frontiers with China and Pakistan, assumed charge as Vice Chief in February succeeding Lt

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Constable booked under NDPS Act dismissed in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: A police constable booked last year under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was dismissed from service in Reasi district, an official said on Sunday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Reasi) Mohita Sharma ordered the dismissal of selection grade constable Tariq Hussain Shah for his prolonged unauthorised absence from duties and alleged involvement in drug trafficking, a police spokesperson said.

Shah was booked under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances Act at Jammu's Bakshi Nagar police station last year.

In her detailed factual report, Sharma observed that the charges of violations of police rules and regulations, absenteeism, grave misconduct, indiscipline and negligence were proved against the constable, making him unfit to serve the department.

"The stern departmental action of dismissal has been taken after the delinquent cop did not pay heed to series of signals, attendance notices and show cause notices which were served upon him," the spokesperson said.

Seven newborns die in hospital blaze in east Delhi; owner arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Seven newborns were killed and five injured in a massive fire at a private neonatal hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar that was allegedly operating illegally with an "expired" licence and no clearance from the fire department, according to officials.

Police said on Sunday they arrested the hospital's owner Dr Naveen Khichi and Dr Aakash, who was on duty at the time of the incident on Saturday night.

According to a report submitted by the District Magistrate (Shahdara) to the Delhi Divisional Commissioner, there were 12 babies admitted in the hospital at the time of the incident. While one died on the spot, 11 were shifted to a hospital in the vicinity where six were declared dead on arrival.

The deceased children included four boys and three girls. All were 15 days old except one boy aged 25 days.

The bodies have been

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Pakistan using terrorism against India as instrument of state policy: Union Minister

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday accused Pakistan of using terrorism against India as an "instrument of state policy" and said under the Modi government, India has sent a clear message to the neighbouring country that it will eliminate terrorists in its territory.

"Pakistan is a country which has consciously and continuously practised the use of terror as an instrument of state policy," said Puri while speaking to reporters here.

"Ever since Modi ji came

(to power), those who were into cross-border terrorism have got a message," he said. Puri also held the Congress responsible for the anti-Sikh riots in 1984.

It was not a riot, it was a massacre, he said.

Puri said the Congress is yet to seek a "proper apology" for the 'Operation Bluestar'.

Operation Bluestar was a military operation carried out in 1984 to flush out militants from the Golden Temple.

Puri said that in 2014 when Modi took over, the country's economic position stood at 11 spot. "It has now

reached the fifth position".

The Union minister said at present, the country's GDP is USD 3.95 trillion and would soon surpass that of Japan which is at the fourth spot.

The country's capital expenditure is growing by 30 per cent every year, he said.

In the interim budget, the capital expenditure was earmarked at Rs 11 lakh crore, he said.

When the Congress was in power from 2004 to 2014, the urban spending was Rs 1.70 lakh crore, he said, adding that During the

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Bangladeshi national held near LoC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: A Bangladeshi national appearing to be mentally challenged was detained in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Pallaanwalla area of Akhnoor sub-division here, officials said on Sunday.

An army patrol party saw the person, who seemed to be a vagrant, at Lower Kot Maira in Khour area on Saturday and immediately detained him for questioning, they said.

The person, who disclosed his name as Taffajjal Bablu (36) of Alupotti Natore area of Bangladesh, was handed over to police for

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Large parts of India swelter under intense heat, Jammu records 42.5 deg C

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: People in large parts of India sweated through a deadly heat wave that tested power grids and disaster preparedness of states on Sunday, Maharashtra's Akola imposed Section 144 until May 31, prohibiting public gatherings while Jammu records 42.5 degree Celsius.

A 'red' warning has been issued for Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat, indicating a "very high likelihood" of heat illness and heat stroke for all age groups.



Rajasthan's Phalodi was the hottest place in the country for the second consecutive day, recording a maximum temperature of 49.8

degrees Celsius. A day ago, the city hit 50 degrees Celsius -- the highest temperature recorded in the

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Cash, liquor, drugs worth Rs 95 Cr seized during Lok Sabha polls in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Election authorities in Jammu and Kashmir seized about Rs 95 crore worth of cash and other freebies like liquor that were meant for influencing the minds of voters during the staggered elections to five Lok Sabha seats in the Union territory.

The polling in Jammu and Kashmir was completed on Saturday as Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency voted for their candidates.

While the voter turnout in the three constituencies of Kashmir has broken decades-old records, attempts were made by some candidates to influence the voters across the

union territory using money, liquor and other freebies, officials of the election department said here.

"From the date of announcement of elections to the Lok Sabha, we have so far seized material and cash with a total value of Rs 94.797 crore," the officials said.

Police played the most active role in checking the use of money and freebies as it accounted for Rs 90.83 crore seized during the campaign, they said.

"Cash, liquor, drugs and other freebies have been seized by various enforcement departments. Major department-wise seizures included seizures by the 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 officials added.

In an effort to ensure a level playing field to all contestants, the authorities took action against over 40 government employees who were allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct.

Election authorities received 143 grievances on CVIGIL app out of which over 80

have been resolved while the remaining are under the process of resolution.

To monitor various election-related activities and also check Model Code of

Conduct compliance, the election authorities had established a command and control room at the CEO office in Jammu as well as in Srinagar.

"Similar mini-control rooms were also established in every DEO office which were functioning round-the-clock. All electronic media channels, social media platforms were monitored here. Any violation so detected was reported and the concerned RO/ARO issued notice," the officials said. They said apart from checking for the MCC violations, the control room also had live feed of all polling stations and GPS vehicle tracking of all vehicles being used for poll parties.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 42.5°C Min: 24.5°C

Humidity
Max: 44 Min: 17

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.7°C Min: 15.7°C

Humidity
Max: 63 Min: 29

Sunset : 19:29 Hours
Sunrise : 05:25 Hours

