

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Modi hits out...

the opposition and they have always disappointed the people. "Parliament is not a platform for a party. Parliament is the revered highest body for the country. Therefore, it is imperative that parliamentarians have certain seriousness for this. So much of resources are being devoted here. Every second here should be utilised for the country," the prime minister emphasised.

In a swipe at the Opposition, Modi said they have a "secret boon" that whosoever they wish bad for, ends up doing well, as it has happened with PSUs such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Criticising what he called was "ostrich approach" of the Opposition, the prime minister said they are not able to see the trust of people as they are so steeped in distrust.

The prime minister said the Opposition's bad language and constant nitpicking works like a "Kala Tika" to ward off bad omen.

He said all the target institutions of the Opposition's criticism invariably shine which he asserted was their "secret boon".

"Whoever they wish bad for, ends up doing well," he said.

Prime Minister Modi recalled the attitude of the Opposition towards the developments in the banking sector and said they tried their best to spread misinformation and confuse the people.

However, the net profit of the public sector banks increased two-fold, Modi said.

He also touched upon the phone banking scam which pushed the country towards an NPA crisis and said the country has revived itself from this and is now moving forward.

Modi also gave an example of HAL, saying bad things were said by the Opposition about the aerospace behemoth.

He said HAL is touching new heights of success and has registered the highest-ever revenue.

He also said the Opposition spoke ill about LIC which is now "growing stronger with each passing day".

My tip to those interested in stock market - invest in govt companies and your money will grow, Modi said.

"The Opposition does not believe in the capabilities and dedication of the nation," Modi said.

The prime minister noted that a few days ago he had said that in his third term, India will become the third largest economy in the world.

As a responsible Opposition, the prime minister said, they should have questioned the government on their roadmap to achieve this goal or at least provided suggestions "but that was not the case".

If the Congress thinks this will happen on its own then it has no vision, he said.

Hitting out at the Congress and its allies, Prime Minister said they trusted Pakistan more whenever a terrorist attack took place but never paid heed to the feelings of the citizens of the country.

Modi said the Congress and its allies have a history of not trusting the inherent strength of India and its armed forces, but they reached out to separatists in Kashmir.

"Whom did they believe? Pakistan used to attack our borders, they used to send air strikes and then Pakistan would shrug off its responsibility, it never took any responsibility. They had such love for Pakistan that they used to believe Pakistan immediately," the prime minister said.

"Pakistan used to say terror attacks will take place and talks will also take place. They even went to the extent to believe that if Pakistan is saying, it must be true," he said.

Modi said Kashmir was burning in the fire of terrorism, but the Congress government did not believe the common man.

"They used to trust the Hurriyat, they used to trust the separatists, they used to believe those who carried the Pakistani flag," he said.

The prime minister said when India carried out surgical strikes on terrorism, and air strikes, the Congress and its allies did not believe the armed forces, they trusted the claims of the enemy.

Modi said the opposition possessed an amazing magnetic power to lap up every word spoken against India and amplify it across the country.

PM vows to...

our 'jigar ka tukda' (piece of our heart). The problems of Manipur are presented in such a manner as if they had begun in the recent past," Modi said.

"Some may or may not be here, but we will find a solution to this challenge together," the prime minister said after the opposition staged a walkout midway through his speech.

"I would like to assure all the citizens of the country that peace will prevail in Manipur, soon. I would like to assure the people of Manipur, especially women, that the country is with you. The parliament is with you," Modi said.

He said Home Minister Amit Shah had apprised the House of the situation in Manipur in great detail on Wednesday.

Man arrested for...

Offences Wing of the Crime Branch Jammu, a spokesperson of the agency said.

He said a case under sections of the Ranbir Penal Code was registered at the Crime Branch Jammu police station in 2012 following a complaint by a person that he was duped of his hard earned money by a gang on the pretext of arranging government jobs for his children.

The spokesperson said Handoo had been evading his arrest for the last nine years by constantly changing his locations.

A chargesheet against the accused, including Handoo, was filed in a court in 2014 for judicial determination after allegations of cheating and fraud were substantiated and proved against them during the course of investigation, he said.

Handoo is the eighth absentee arrested by the Crime Branch Jammu in different cases in the past nine weeks, the spokesperson said.

Two security personnel...

personnel and as many civilians -- have been hospitalised and their condition is stated to be stable, the officials said. The search operation in the area is underway, they said.

LG invites industry...

platform to spread awareness about government schemes, policies and to explore new business opportunities in the sector, he added.

At the Expo, the Lt Governor shared the key interventions of UT administration to facilitate the growth of MSMEs in J&K.

"MSMEs are the backbone of industrial growth and equitable development. Our commitment to industries, Small and Medium Enterprises and institutional support as well as infrastructural facilities in J&K is showing results," the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the immense potential of the MSME sector in Jammu & Kashmir, the Lt Governor said, as many as 2.81 lakh MSMEs have been registered on the Udyam portal in last 3 years, reflecting the sector's remarkable growth trajectory, he added.

He said, the Districts like Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kulgam, Bandipora are recording unprecedented growth of micro and small units. The number of new enterprises in small towns is growing faster and realizing the dreams of new entrepreneurs, he added.

The Lt Governor underscored the important role of Small and Medium Enterprises in skilling of youth, promotion of One District One Product (ODOP) and handicraft and handloom sector in the UT of J&K.

Micro and small enterprises have also become a powerful medium for socio-economic change for women entrepreneurs. Today, more than 74,000 SMEs are being run by women in Jammu and Kashmir, the Lt Governor said.

For the promotion of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, the UT Administration had also taken an important decision and increased the total procurement of Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings from MSMEs to 25 percent, he added.

The Lt Governor also launched the One District One Product (ODOP) Box of J&K UT. He said, all the districts of J&K are being developed as export hubs and efforts are being made to take the One District One Product Box launched today to the global market.

More than 40 exhibitors, supported by JKTPO, are participating in the 9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023, showcasing their innovative products, services, and solutions across diverse sectors.

The Lt Governor also visited the stalls installed by MSMEs and other stakeholders displaying local products from UT of J&K.

Rajnish Goenka, Chairman, MSME Development Forum; Alexander Rybas, Trade Commissioner of Russian Federation in India; Dr Deepak Vohra, Indian Diplomat; Dr Sharad Kohli, National Board member, MSME Development Forum, foreign and domestic business delegates, investors, entrepreneurs and representatives of MSMEs were present on the occasion.

Tricolour hoisted atop...

"Ghanta Ghar and Lal Chowk Srinagar are very iconic places which are being decorated by Tiranga under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign," Khan said.

Several places across the city and the Union Territory are being decorated as people are celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by taking out Tiranga rallies, he added.

Asked about the developmental works underway for several months in the Lal Chowk area the commercial hub of the city, Khan said the project is in its final stage and will be inaugurated before Independence Day.

"We have almost finished the work at Lal Chowk; it is a matter of four-five days more. The finishing touches, which include installation, light fittings, etc. are being done. We will finish the entire work before August 15 and it will be inaugurated before that," he said.

CJ visits Budgam...

at "Pareesha" performed a heartfelt group song dedicated to the Chief Justice and other guests. The lyrics resonated with gratitude and a collective vision for a brighter tomorrow. The performance left a lasting impression, showcasing the spirit and potential of the young generation.

Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M.K. Sharma; PDJ Budgam, Khalil Choudhary; SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Geelani; Superintendent, Child Care Home, CWC, Chairperson, Budgam, and other senior officers of the district administration as well as members of judicial fraternity were also present on the occasion.

Labourer electrocuted in...

"Hussain's death is the result of negligence on the part of the Power Development Department," he said, demanding the registration of a murder case against the concerned official and a government job to the family of the deceased.

My aim is...

but when I look at the present situation people are under immense pressure. People are running here and there seeking employment and manual jobs. This is what we have been reduced to," he said.

Azad assured that he will come back with the golden era if voted to power and promised development of the Chenab valley.

Azad said that there is no area left that he didn't connect with the roads and provided hospitals and schools.

Azad is on a ten days visit of Chenab valley where he meet dozens of delegations and addressed several public programmes.

On Thursday he visited Kapra, Ghati Morh and Karehi Chinta blocks.

"My aim is to uplift the rural economy and provide source of living for all. We have huge potential in the Chenab valley and it is rich in natural resources and I have a plan ready for it," DPAP Chairman said.

He said it is important for the workers to strengthen the party cadre at grassroots level.

"I am asking you all to get ready and reach out to people at their doors and ensure they are becoming part of this caravan of peace and development," he said.

Among others who were present in the meetings were Mohd Aslam Goni Working Committee Member, Rtd IGP PR.Manhas Zonal President, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Asif Gattu Distt President DPAP, Vishal Chopra, Farooq Shikari Provincial Gen Secretaries and others.

Afghan national linked...

over to police for further legal action the next day.

The official said an FIR under various sections of the UAPA and the Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance was registered against the accused on the information of the Army, the official said, adding his questioning revealed that he was associated with terror group 'Al-Badr' and had come to this side for a piece of the area without generating any suspicion due to his disability.

Meanwhile, a local court on Thursday granted the police 10 days remand of the Afghan national for questioning. Wahab was produced in the Munsiff court in sub-division Mendhar, where police sought his remand for questioning, the official said.

Abdullahs, Muftis joined...

and stones, they talk about progress and development, he added.

Chugh said Abdullahs and Muftis are bent upon taking J&K back to the stage of violence and disturbance, but now their anti-national designs will not succeed because people have woken up to their wicked political plots.

Centre tables bill...

the Election Commission (EC) early next year when Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey demits office on February 14 on attaining the age of 65 years.

His retirement will come just days before the likely announcement of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls' schedule by the EC. On the past two occasions, the commission had announced parliamentary elections in March.

The apex court in its March verdict had aimed at insulating the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners from the Executive's interference.

It had ruled that their appointments would be made by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime minister, LoP in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph, in a unanimous verdict, held that this norm will continue to hold good till a law on the issue is made by Parliament.

Before the Supreme Court ruling, the Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners were appointed by the President on the recommendation of the government.

Reacting to the government's move, senior advocate Prashant Bhushan said that even if the bill is passed in Parliament, it would be "unconstitutional" in his view and it was likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said he has always maintained that the government will overturn any Supreme Court order that it doesn't like and this is a dangerous situation that can impact fairness of elections.

The proposed panel will have two BJP members and one from the Congress, and therefore, whoever is selected to the poll panel will be loyal to the ruling party, alleged Kejriwal, who is also Aam Aadmi Party's national convener.

Congress general secretary organisation K C Venugopal hit out at the government over the bill, calling it a "blatant attempt at making the Election Commission a total puppet in the hands of the prime minister (Narendra Modi)".

"What about the Supreme Court's existing ruling which requires an impartial panel? Why does the Prime Minister feel the need to appoint a biased Election Commissioner? This is an unconstitutional, arbitrary and unfair Bill - we will oppose this on every forum," Venugopal said on social media platform 'X'.

Congress MP and the party's whip in Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah want to control the Election Commission by bringing the bill.

Surrender of sovereignty...

can repeal Article 370). Was this process permissible or not?" Justice Kaul asked Shah.

The senior counsel replied there may be different perceptions on the issue and the question would be whether Article 370 was temporary or became permanent as the Constituent Assembly was not there to remove it on August 5, 2019.

The petitioners have repeatedly said the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir alone could have recommended the abrogation of Article 370 and, since it ceased to exist after drafting the state Constitution in 1957, the provision acquired a permanent status. They have maintained that Parliament arrogated to itself the power of abrogating the constitutional provision, an act that was unconstitutional.

"If that machinery (Constituent Assembly) was to be recreated, then Article 370 could be removed?" Justice Kaul asked.

The senior lawyer said for complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, one had to get rid of the Instrument of Accession signed on October 26, 1947 as well as Article 370, and execute a merger agreement.

Shah wondered whether one can proceed on an assumption that the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir would have recommended to the Union of India the abrogation of Article 370 so it "completely integrates" with the country.

Justice Khanna voiced his reservations on the use of the term "completely integrates", saying the integration had already taken place as per Article 1 of the Constitution.

CJI Chandrachud said though there are restraints on the power of Parliament to make laws for states on subjects falling in the state list, the distribution of legislative powers does not affect the fact that the sovereignty vests in India.

"Restraint on the power to enact legislation is implicit in the scheme of the Constitution because we don't have a unitary state. But does that retract from sovereignty? No. It's just a fetter on Parliament," the CJI said, adding concurrence is not something unique only with regard to the country's relationship with Jammu and Kashmir.

He said there are various shades of concurrence required under the Constitution and they don't reflect on the sovereignty of the Union.

Referring to Article 246 A, which relates to Goods and Services Tax, the CJI

said this is a classic case where the Union of India or Parliament can do nothing without the concurrence of states.

"Article 246A has completely redefined our notions of sovereignty as states are given a vital role in financial matters," he told Shah, adding "Our notion of parliamentary exclusion from states has been an evolving exercise. But one thing is clear, the sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir was ceded completely to the Union of India."

During the day-long hearing, Shah said limitations were provided in Article 370 itself with regard to the powers of Parliament to make laws for Jammu and Kashmir and, if the Centre intended to make any law on a subject, which was not covered under the Instrument of Accession, concurrence of the state government was required.

He said special status was accorded to Jammu and Kashmir because there was no merger agreement and the state's autonomy had to be maintained.

Shah argued the then Governor of Jammu and Kashmir had committed a "serious constitutional misconduct" in 2019 by recommending the abrogation of Article 370 to the President.

He said people of Jammu and Kashmir have been divided for a long time as one part went into Pakistan, the other is with China and the remaining part is here.

The Shaksgam Valley was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963 when the two countries signed a boundary agreement to settle their border differences. Aksai Chin and Shaksgam Valley are part of Chinese administered territory in Jammu and Kashmir which India claims as its own.

"We are being sandwiched by all forces being applied," Shah said and referred to the division of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.

Shah concluded his arguments after which senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan commenced his submissions on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference and others.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume on August 16.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh- were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Aug 11 last...

the last date of admission to Undergraduate Programmes for Semester 1" of B.A/B.Sc/B.Com/ BBA etc in all the Government Degree Colleges (Summer/Winter Zone) of UT of J&K affiliated to the University of Jammu/ Kashmir, Cluster University of Jammu/ Srinagar, as well as autonomous colleges viz. Govt. College for Women, Parade Ground Jammu, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar and Govt. Degree College, Baramulla is 11th of August, 2023 midnight. The detailed schedule can be viewed on Samarth portal (<https://jkadmission.samarth.ac.in/>).

Traffic on NH...

with the rest of the country, remained closed for more than 18 hours following a massive landslide near Maroog in Ramban district around 3 am on Wednesday, they added.

The officials said the restoration work was hampered several times during the day by frequent shooting stones from the hillock overlooking the highway which was, however, partially opened late in the evening for stranded vehicles.

A traffic department official said fresh traffic was allowed from both Jammu and Srinagar this morning after clearance of all stranded vehicles.

The officials further said that with the opening of the highway, authorities allowed the 37th batch of Amarnath pilgrims to set out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley in a convoy of 33 vehicles around 3.30 am.

They added that 422 devotees are on the way towards the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district, while 577 pilgrims are heading for the Pahalgam base camp to undertake the yatra from the traditional route in Anantnag district.

Over 4.28 lakh pilgrims have so far paid their obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine since the commencement of the 62-day yatra on July 1.

LIC Q1 results: Net profit surges fourteen-fold to Rs 9,544 cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: State-run Life Insurance Corp of India (LIC) recorded a 14-fold year-on-year jump in net profit at Rs 9,543.7 crore for the first quarter of FY24, even though the country's largest insurer has been witnessing a shrink in its market share in terms of new business premium.

The super-normal growth in net profit is primarily attributed to a base effect and a change in accounting entry, involving a transfer of funds from non-participating policies to shareholders account as a part of accretion on the available solvency margin, according to a regulatory filing.

In the previous fiscal's June quarter, LIC's net profit was Rs 682.9 crore.

Sequentially, the company's profit has fallen 29%. In March 2023 quarter, the net profit stood at RS 13,427.8 crore.

During the first quarter, LIC's net premium income increased to Rs 98,362.7 crore from Rs 9,8351.7 crore in the same period of previous fiscal. However, LIC saw a decrease of 25% in net premium from ₹1.3 trillion in March quarter of FY23.

LIC's total premium income for the June quarter stood at Rs 98,363 crore, a marginal y-o-y increase.

LIC collected Rs 60,224 crore in new business premium during April-July, down 22.11% as compare to same period of last year. LIC's stock closed 0.29% down at Rs 642.10 apiece on the BSE on Thursday.

"Our overall expense ratio has become better and our margins are stable on year-on-year basis," said Siddhartha Mohanty, chairperson, LIC.

"During the first quarter of this financial year, we have achieved increase in our Non-Par product mix as a percentage of the overall individual business. Further, our efforts to improve persistency across cohorts are beginning to show results. Simultaneously we continue to work on strategies for diversifying the channel mix."

LIC's total individual business premium for the quarter ended June increased to Rs 62,773 crore from Rs 60,007 crore for the comparable period of previous year registering a growth of 4.61%.

LIC's total assets under management (AUM) increased by Rs 5.09 trillion to Rs 46.11 trillion as on 30 June 2023, as compared to Rs 41.02 trillion on 30 June last year. According to a 27 July Mint report, LIC witnessed the highest ever gains in the first quarter of a fiscal year, worth approximately \$3.16 billion, or Rs 25,900 crore. According to a research by Mint based on regulatory filings of 300 companies, in April-June, LIC sold shares in at least 87 leading Indian companies worth Rs 25,900 crore-the highest ever for LIC in the first quarter of a financial year.

Through share sales, LIC has booked a profit of Rs 30,000 crore in the first quarter alone, surpassing all past records for the first quarter of a fiscal year, according to a person aware of the development.

Reasi Admin hoists National flag at World's Highest Railway Bridge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In connection with celebration of "Mari Maati Mera Desh campaign" District Development Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal today hoisted National Flag at World Highest Railway Bridge in Reasi district.

District Development Commissioner Reasi paid a rich tribute to the brave martyrs who have selflessly laid down their lives for the nation. The event held at World Highest Railway Bridge. The DDC Reasi, in her address, emphasized the importance of remembering and honoring the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers in service to the nation.

Students drawn from different schools presented a scintillating show based on patriotic themes and Nationalism. The whole environment was filled with patriotic spirit as the students sang patriotic songs and performed cultural activities.

People from all walks of life and different age groups thronged the venue and hailed the District Administration for organizing the Mega Cultural event to celebrate the greatness of the National Flag.

Pertinent to mention here that National flag was also hoisted at the height of 415 metres from the bed of River Chenab and 40 metres from the track on bridge.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC expressed profound gratitude to the martyrs and their families, recognizing their courage and commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty. DDC emphasized the importance of preserving their legacy, ensuring that their sacrifice remains a guiding light for generations to come.

Deputy Commissioner appreciated the organizers for hosting such a grand event. DDC said such cultural events are of great importance for promoting patriotism, harmony and mutual brotherhood in the Country.

