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Crimes against women...

referring to the government's 'Sakhi Mandal' programme. Modi, who interacted with Lakhpati Didi at Jalgaon, released the Rs 2,500 crore revolving fund benefiting 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh self-help groups.

The Lakhpati Didi scheme is not only about boosting the income of women, but also about empowering future generations, Modi said.

"You must have heard that India is going to become the third-largest economy in the world. Women play a massive role in it. However, it was not the case a couple of years ago," Modi said.

"Women guarantee the prosperity of every home and every family. However, there was no one to guarantee help for the women," he said.

Women did not have property in their name, and if they had to take a loan from a bank, they could not avail it, he said. In such a situation, they were not able to build their own small business, he added.

"Therefore, I, your son and brother, resolved to ease your lives. We took decisions in the interest of women year after year," Modi said.

He said that of the 3 crore new houses that will be constructed under the government's housing scheme, most will be allotted to women.

Modi said women were the major contributors when Jan Dhan accounts were opened.

"The Mudra scheme offered loans to people without any guarantee, and 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of this scheme turned out to be women. Some people opposed this scheme, citing risk factors and claimed it might become (bad) debt. But I trusted the women and their honesty. Many have repaid their loans," he said.

Now, the upper limit for Mudra loan, offered to non-corporate, non-farm and small and micro enterprises, has been increased to Rs 20 lakh, the PM said.

"When I visited you during the Lok Sabha elections, I promised we would make three crore sisters Lakhpati Didi. This means women who work in self-help groups and have an annual income of more than one lakh rupees," he said.

In the last ten years, one crore Lakhpati Didi were made, and in just two months, 11 lakh more Lakhpati Didi were added, he said.

"Out of the newly added 11 lakh more Lakhpati Didi, one lakh are from Maharashtra," he said.

Modi also said Maharashtra needs the BJP-led Mahayuti government to continue for years to come to ensure the state's stability and prosperity.

"Maharashtra is the shining star of a developed India. The future of the state lies in more investment and job growth," he said.

Modi expressed his anguish over the Nepal bus accident in which 14 persons from Jalgaon district were killed. We sent our minister Raksha Khadse to Nepal, Modi said.

Modi recalled his recent visit to Poland and the respect people there have for the people of Maharashtra.

The PM said that during World War II, the Kolhapur settlement housed Polish refugees, including women and children, and the Polish people respect the people of Maharashtra for this gesture.

DPAP releases 1st...

Kaiser Sultan Ganai (Jin) from Ganderbal. Further, it said Ghulam Nabi Bhat would contest from Eidgah, Amir Ahmed Bhat from Khanyar, Nisar Ahmed Lone from Gurez and Peer Bilal Ahmed from Hazratbal. Amir Ahmed Bhat had recently contested the Lok Sabha polls from Srinagar but was unsuccessful.

The three-phased assembly elections for 90 constituencies in the Union territory will take place on September 18, 25 and October 1, followed by the counting of votes on October 4.

The seven names on AAP's list are Fayaz Ahmad Sofi (Pulwama), Mudasir Hassan (Rajpora), Sheikh Fida Hussain (Devsar), Mohsin Shafkat Mir (Dooru), Mehraj Din Malik (Doda), Yasir Shafi Matto (Doda West) and Mudassir Amat Mir (Banihal).

The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led party also informed the Election Commission about its 40 star campaigners for the polls.

The list includes the Delhi chief minister, his wife Sunita Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and party leaders Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha, Atishi and Imran Hussain.

Fourteen candidates have so far filed their nomination papers for the first phase of the elections covering 24 assembly segments - 16 in Kashmir and eight in the Jammu region -- since the issuance of the election notification on August 20. The last date for filing of nomination is August 27.

The constituencies going to polls in the first phase are Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, D H Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, and Pahalgam in the Kashmir valley and Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhaderwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban, and Banihal in Jammu region.

Don't field candidates...

on Saturday. Abdullah said his party promised to provide 200 free units of electricity if it comes to power and "they (PDP) also said they will provide 200 units".

"We said we will provide one lakh government jobs in the first year, they also put that in their manifesto. We talked about reopening (cross-LoC) routes, it is in their manifesto as well. We talked about keeping the doors of dialogue open and they also said so. Almost everything that my colleagues put in our manifesto, they also put it," he said.

On the PDP's offer, Abdullah said there was not much difference between the agenda of the NC and the PDP.

"They (PDP) said if the NC-Congress alliance accepts their agenda, they will not put up candidates. You have put all our agenda in your manifesto. You have already accepted our agenda and now there is not much of a difference between your agenda and our agenda. Then do not field candidates and come, we will build a better tomorrow for Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Ahead of his speech, NC leaders asked Abdullah to reconsider his decision to not contest the assembly elections. Party workers chanted slogans asking him to contest elections from Ganderbal, the family bastion of the Abdullahs.

Abdullah, however, said he does not know what the future holds.

"This is my first campaign meeting after the announcement of the assembly elections. It should have been in the constituencies going to polls in the first phase in south Kashmir. This may be a sign," he said.

"I have not come to snatch mandate from someone nor give mandate, the decision lies with the party and the party president. But I will say this thing that we will not take a decision without consulting the party workers," he added, regretting the decision of giving mandate to former MLA Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar in 2014.

Last year, the NC expelled Jabbar for six years for indulging in anti-party activities.

Abdullah said he has always tried to serve the people of Ganderbal in various capacities.

"You people gave me a lot of respect and love. I cannot forget that you sent me to Parliament thrice. You let me serve you as an MLA for six years. Had I listened to you in 2014, I would have been your MLA till 2018, even if in opposition. Now only God knows what will happen in future. But we have to work hard," he said.

Abdullah asked his party workers to remain cautious during the polls.

"Money will be distributed like water in these elections. A number of agencies will distribute money but you have to remain cautious about the people who join our ranks but work against us," he said.

NC, PDP can't...

pursue the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir to its "original status", and advocate for confidence-building measures (CBMs) and regional cooperation between India and Pakistan.

In August 2019, the BJP-led government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"It is impossible for them (NC and PDP to restore Article 370). They are trying to fool the people. It (the abrogation) was done by the parliament. It is a constitutional amendment and more than that in the name of Article 370, discrimination has been happening here," the BJP women's wing president said.

She said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered a lot due to some separatist political parties but now the younger generation wants to live a peaceful life and hopes to see development in this region for which "BJP is the only solution".

Srinivasan said both the NC and PDP would be defeated in the upcoming assembly elections and "whatever they are saying about restoration of the Article 370 or renaming Shankaracharya hill will not help them because now the people understand that they are doing politics for the sake of their family members".

She said the women wing of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP is proactive and its members did a "tremendous job" during the Lok Sabha elections this year.

The members are organising booth-level and assembly-wise events to connect with women voters. Over the past 10 years, they have helped various government initiatives, especially centrally sponsored schemes, reach the most remote areas, significantly benefitting women, she added.

Srinivasan said the Mahila Morcha would like to connect with more beneficiaries of government schemes, especially women. It would like to make people aware about their property rights that came with the abrogation of Article 370 and the reservation ensured to the scheduled caste community.

Wanted gangster escapes...

late Saturday, they said. Various police teams have been constituted to nab the criminal who is wanted in multiple cases of attempt to murder, theft, rioting and Arms Act in Samba district and Punjab, officials said.

By allying with...

cooperation between India and Pakistan. Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were last held in November 2014.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganised the erstwhile state into two Union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress-led opposition alliance 'INDIA bloc' includes both the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) led by Mehbooba Mufti.

Illicit drug trade...

strategy and said instances have come to the fore wherein e-commerce platforms, delivery through drones and telehealth services were used in the narcotics business.

"In the last 10 years, the performance of NCB has improved significantly and the fight against drugs has become stronger. We have succeeded in taking the fight to its logical conclusion, but a lot of work is still left to be done," he added.

Shah, who is on a 3-day visit to the state, virtually inaugurated the zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau in Nava Raipur at the beginning of the meeting.

The zonal office will play a key role in checking the illicit drug trade not only in Chhattisgarh but also in the entire region. "We have set a target to establish NCB in every state," he said.

Among those present were Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy CM Vijay Sharma, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai as well as officials of various departments, the official said.

Bukhari vows to transform Chanapora constituency with comprehensive infrastructure development



JJKAP President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari interacting with people.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday outlined his transformative vision for the Chanapora constituency during a visit to Rawalpora, including Astaanpora, Bagh-i-Mehtab 2, Bank Colony, and nearby areas.

His campaign began with a visit to the revered shrine of Sufi saint Syed Muhammad Jaffar Kubravi (RA) at Astaanpora Rawalpora, where he paid his respects before engaging with local residents. Addressing the electorate, Bukhari emphasized his deep connection to the constituency, asserting his familiarity with the area's challenges and his commitment to its development.

"This constituency is my home. I am well aware of the problems here and have

a clear vision to transform it into a thriving, well-developed area," Bukhari stated.

He outlined a comprehensive plan to enhance infrastructure, foster economic development, create job opportunities, and support youth activities.

During his visit, Bukhari listened attentively to residents' grievances, which included infrastructure deficits, official apathy, and a lack of essential facilities. In Astaanpora, he was informed of a severe water supply crisis, while Bagh-i-Mehtab 2 residents reported poor road connectivity and dilapidated roads. The lack of a drainage system was a significant issue across Rawalpora. Bukhari promptly addressed these concerns, speaking with top officials to ensure these issues receive immediate attention. Bukhari highlighted the core agenda of the Apni Party, which was founded to ensure sustained peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 and the revocation of J&K's statehood in August 2019. He emphasized the party's role in protecting land and job rights for J&K's residents and urged voters to support the Apni Party for a brighter future.

Appealing for public support, Bukhari expressed his determination to implement his vision and bring about positive change.

His day-long visit was marked by interactions with prominent party leaders, senior workers, and a large group of supporters, underscoring the growing momentum for his campaign.

Speed Fest India set to thrill Jammu with car racing event



BSR MotorSports' key figures Shivek Tyagi briefing media.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: The city of Jammu is gearing up for an exhilarating experience as it prepares to host the inaugural Speed Fest India from August 30 to September 1 at the prestigious MA Stadium. This groundbreaking car racing event promises to be a major highlight for motorsport enthusiasts across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the press at the Press Club, BSR MotorSports' key figures Shivek Tyagi, Aryaman Sharma, and Shakunt Walia unveiled the details of the first edition of Speed Fest India. The three-day event is set to feature a mix of high-octane car races and engaging cultural activities, reflecting a blend of speed and tradition.

The event will be inaugurated by the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who will serve as the Chief Guest. The opening ceremony will also be attended by notable officials, including the Divisional Commissioner, Director of Tourism, Deputy Director of Tourism, and District Sports Officer.

The festivities will commence on August 30 with a historic rally starting from MA Stadium at 6 PM and concluding at the Hari Niwas Palace. This rally will set the tone for the subsequent days of high-speed action.

On August 31 and September 1, the MA Stadium will transform into a racing haven from 8 AM to 6 PM with the Auto Cross format. Participants will compete in various categories on a specially prepared tarmac surface, utilizing a Time Attack format to heighten the excitement and challenge.

In addition to the thrilling races, the event will feature cultural performances by local folk artists, along with a handcraft and flea market

Pulwama District implements robust measures for Free, Fair and Transparent Elections

STATE TIMES NEWS PULWAMA: As the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly-2024 draw near, Pulwama District Administration has adopted a comprehensive strategy to ensure a seamless and transparent voting experience. With dedicated teams and meticulous planning, the district is committed to upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

A key component of these preparations is the establishment of a 24/7 control room, equipped with advanced voter helplines. This platform empowers citizens to report any electoral misconduct in real-time, ensuring a transparent and accountable election environment. The control room responds promptly to reports, maintaining the integrity of the election process.

To further ensure adherence to election regulations, Flying Squad Teams and Static Surveillance Teams are operating around the clock. These teams are tasked with swiftly addressing any violations, reinforcing the commitment to a fair electoral process.

The district's Media Certification and

Monitoring Committee (MCMC) is actively monitoring print media, television, and social media networks to combat the issue of paid news. This vigilant oversight is crucial in preserving unbiased media coverage and ensuring that voters receive impartial information.

In addition, specialized teams have been deployed to manage permissions related to election campaigning. This ensures that all campaign activities are conducted within legal parameters, promoting fairness and respect for democratic practices.

Nodal officers have been appointed with specific responsibilities to streamline the electoral process. These officers are overseeing the training of election personnel, ensuring they are well-prepared to manage their duties. They are also responsible for managing Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and coordinating the logistics of transporting election materials.

Each Assembly constituency in the district has a designated distribution and receipt point, facilitating effective management on both pre-poll and poll day. This system ensures the efficient distribution of electoral materials, contributing to a smooth voting process. Strong rooms and counting halls are being prepared in strict accordance with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines.

As Pulwama District approaches the Assembly Elections-2024 during the first phase, its extensive preparations reflect a deep commitment to the democratic process. The District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has initiated proactive measures and strategic planning to deliver an election that is smooth, transparent, and fair.

Pulwama District is poised to play a pivotal role in upholding the democratic ideals of the nation, ensuring that every vote is cast and counted with the utmost integrity and precision.

Election Control Room, District Pulwama Toll-Free Numbers: 1950, 1800 180 7057, Phone Number: 01933 241043, Mobile Numbers: 94194 83813, 94194 83814, Mail ID: eecontrolroompulwama@gmail.com.

Mega Health Camp for children held at Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Bhai Mohar Singh Sahib



Doctors examining patients during the camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS POONCH : A free mega health camp for children was successfully organized by Dr. Jalpreet Kaur at Gurudwara Bethak Mahant Bhai Mohar Singh Sahib, located near the District Hospital in Poonch. The camp, which took place on 25-08-24, aimed to provide essential healthcare services to children in the community.

The camp saw an overwhelming response, with over 200 children receiving free consultations and medicines. Dr. Amarjeet Singh, child specialist and Dr. Sahil Sharma MO also provided expert medical advice and care to the young patients. Their dedication and expertise

ensured that each child received the attention and treatment they needed.

The event was inaugurated by Miss Prasanjeet Kaur, IAS, who praised the initiative and emphasized the importance of accessible healthcare for children. She was joined by prominent dignitaries, including Sardar Surjan Singh and Sardar Babir Singh, as well as other members of the Gurudwara committee.

Dr. Jalpreet Kaur expressed her gratitude to the community and volunteers who contributed to the camp's success. "Our goal was to reach out to as many children as possible and provide them with the healthcare they deserve," she said. "The support from the community and the Gurudwara committee was invaluable."

The camp not only provided medical services but also raised awareness about the importance of regular health check-ups for children. The organizers have expressed their intent to hold similar camps in the future to continue serving the community.

The event was well-received by the local residents, who appreciated the efforts of the doctors and organizers in making healthcare accessible to all, especially those in need.