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Tribunal upholds ban...**

tribunal accepted the home ministry's submission that the MCJK (Sumji faction), chaired by Ghulam Nabi Sumji, is known for its anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda, its members are involved in supporting terror activities and providing logistic support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides being involved in raising funds through various sources, including from Pakistan and its proxy organisations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, its members were also involved in supporting terror activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces and constantly asked the people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby, targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally-recognised fundamentals of Indian democracy.

In the third order, the tribunal confirmed the ban imposed on the four factions of the Jammu and Kashmir People's League -- JKPL (Mukhtar Ahmed Waza), JKPL (Bashir Ahmad Tota), JKPL (Ghulam Mohammad Khan alias Sopori), which is also known as Jammu and Kashmir People's Political League, and JKPL (Aziz Sheikh) led by Yaqoob Sheikh -- as unlawful associations.

While declaring the four JKPL factions outlawed under the UAPA on March 15, the MHA had said the groups were involved in supporting terror activities and spreading anti-India propaganda for fuelling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir, and their members were involved in mobilising violent protests in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir for perpetrating unlawful activities.

The members of the groups were also involved in stone-pelting on security forces, have constantly asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby, targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally-recognised fundamentals of Indian democracy, the ministry had said.

The tribunal, in its August 29 order, said: "From the elaborate material and evidence placed on record in these proceedings, this tribunal finds that there is ample justification to uphold the ban on the four factions of the JKPL and uphold the declaration of the four factions of the JKPL, namely JKPL (Mukhtar Ahmed Waza), JKPL (Bashir Ahmad Tota), JKPL (Ghulam Mohammed Khan @ Sopori) also known as Jammu and Kashmir People's Political League, and JKPL (Aziz Sheikh) led by Yaqoob Sheikh as being 'unlawful associations' under the UAPA."

Backbone of terrorism...

stone-pelting incidents and separatist-sponsored strikes becoming a history. "If a former home minister is saying that he was afraid of going to Kashmir in 2013, then one can well imagine the condition of a common man," the BJP leader said, praising the government for restoring peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the BJP in its manifesto has promised to wipe out terrorism and separatism completely, setting up fast track courts to give justice to the victims of terrorism, strengthening Village Defence Guards, monthly risk allowance to policemen, developing border belt and promoting border tourism, strengthening border security besides addressing the issue of illegally settled Bangladeshis and Rohingya infiltrators living in Jammu.

The BJP's manifesto has also promised several welfare measures for the security forces personnel like setting up of 'Sainik Colony' in each district, free land for the families of fallen personnel and free education for their children.

Cabinet approves Rs...

the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY, the statement said.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We are committed to ensuring accessible, affordable and top-quality healthcare for every Indian. In this context, the Cabinet today has decided to further expand the ambit of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY to provide health coverage for all citizens above 70 years. This scheme will ensure dignity, care and security to six crore citizens!"

According to the government, AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families.

All members of the eligible families irrespective of age are covered under the scheme. The scheme has covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, including 49 per cent women beneficiaries. The public has benefited to the extent of over Rs 1 Lakh crore under the scheme, the statement said.

AB PM-JAY scheme has witnessed continuous expansion of the beneficiary base, it said, adding that initially, 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families comprising the bottom 40 per cent of India's population were covered under the scheme.

In January 2022, the Union government revised the beneficiary base from 10.74 crore to 12 crore families considering India's decadal population growth of 11.7 per cent over the 2011 population.

The scheme was further expanded to cover 37 lakh ASHAs/AWWs/AWHs working across the country and their families for free healthcare benefits.

Vikram Sahay assumes...

His vast experience also includes assignments in the North East region. In his new role, Sahay's primary focus will be on enhancing taxpayer services in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, raising awareness of voluntary tax compliance, and addressing taxpayer grievances with greater efficiency.

By improving these areas, Sahay aims to create a more transparent and responsive tax environment, helping build trust between taxpayers and the Income Tax Department. Principal Commissioner has highlighted the departments' commitment to further enhancing taxpayer services, aiming to streamline processes and improve accessibility for the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

ACB registers 10...

the Govt. Owing to the establishment of, prima facie, nexus of the criminal elements/land grabbers and the Revenue/Custodian officers/officials in alienation of Custodian land through fraudulent means, ACB has registered 10 formal case FIRs in PS ACB Central for investigation under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and fraud.

During the course of investigation, after obtaining the search warrants from the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu, search teams comprising ACB officers, Independent Witnesses, Magistrates were dispatched to around twelve locations throughout Jammu and its adjoining areas.

In addition to 10 FIRs registered, verification is still in progress to unearth the remaining usurped custodian land by land mafia in connivance with officers and officials of Revenue, Police and Custodian department.

Gandhi-Abdullah families...

Minister Narendra Modi towards the people of Kashmir, which has brought Jammu and Kashmir to this point. But now, the Gandhi-Abdullah families are saying they want to release prisoners, separatists and terrorists. The BJP will not let this happen. Why do they want to release enemies of the country who are locked in jail? Why do they want to disturb the peaceful Jammu and Kashmir again? Why do the Gandhi-Abdullah families have so much sympathy for drug traffickers, terrorists, and stone-pelters?"

Anurag Thakur added, "The three families, who deprived Jammu and Kashmir of its rights and acquired luxuries for themselves, and now is the time that their candidates will certainly lose in elections for the misdeeds. Omar Abdullah, who previously said he wouldn't contest the elections, is now running from two constituencies, and in both places, his condition is really weak. By revoking Article 370, the BJP has provided relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir: Valmiki communities, Gurkhas, refugees from West Pakistan, and Gujjar-Bakarwal communities have gained rights and reservation benefits. The National Conference, Congress and PDP want to snatch these rights from these communities and the agenda of these three parties is the same."

Anurag said, "Even after 60 years of Congress rule in the country, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi never came to play in the snow of Kashmir. It was only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi abrogated Article 370 that the Gandhi family is able to enjoy holidays in the valleys. And now, the Congress, National Conference and PDP want to reinstate Article 370 and push Jammu and Kashmir back into the fire of anarchy, terrorism, and separatism. Kashmir has suffered for decades due to the mistakes of the Gandhi-Abdullah families, and the region fell behind in economic development. Jammu and Kashmir has now witnessed development and peace, and hence, BJP will form the government here once again!"

Two JeM terrorists...

in Udhampur district on Wednesday, officials said. They said bodies of the two terrorists, believed to be from Pakistan, along with an M-4 carbine, an AK assault rifle, a pistol and large quantity of ammunition and eatables were recovered from the scene.

This was the first successful operation against the terrorists in the dense forest which witnessed over half-a-dozen encounters in the past six months, claiming the lives of a village defence guard on April 28 and a CRPF inspector on August 19.

The officials said one more terrorist is believed to be trapped in Khandara top area

and efforts are on to neutralize him.

More reinforcements were rushed and the operation was extended to adjoining Kudwah and Raichak, they said.

The operation was jointly launched by the Army and police in the early hours of the day and the first contact with the terrorists was established at around 12.50 pm, leading to a fierce gunfight, the officials said.

"Two terrorists neutralized in the ongoing operation at Khandara by troops of Rising Star Corps. Operations in progress," the Army said in a post on X.

BSF trooper injured...

not known immediately, they said.

"At about 2.35 am, an incident of unprovoked firing in the Akhnoor area from across the border happened and which was befittingly responded by the BSF. One BSF personnel sustained injuries in Pakistani firing," a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

He said the troops are on high alert and keeping a strict vigil all along the International Border and Line of Control.

The ceasefire violation between the two countries has been very rare ever since India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021. Last year, a BSF jawan was killed in Pakistan Rangers firing in the Rangarh sector; the first loss of life on the Indian side in more than three years.

The latest ceasefire violation comes days ahead of the first phase of the three-phase assembly elections scheduled on September 18. The second phase of the elections will be held on September 25 followed by the third phase on October 1.

Show cause notices...

Elections will be carried out with the highest standards of professionalism and diligence," the DEO emphasised. He further stressed the importance of strict adherence to Election Commission of India guidelines throughout the electoral process.

Chugh strongly condemns...

entire Congress party continues to support his statements without any condemnation. Are there no voices within the Congress with the sense of dignity to challenge such anti-national comments? Are there no leaders in the Congress who take pride in our country? Their silence reflects the intellectual and moral bankruptcy of the party's leadership."

He continued, "Rahul Gandhi's divisive remarks and anti-national stance have once again exposed the true face of Congress. His ongoing statements on anti-reservation and anti-India agendas pose a serious threat to the unity and security of our nation. His damaging statements abroad, which undermine India's reputation, cannot be tolerated. The BJP remains fully committed to safeguarding national security and ensuring the protection of reservations for marginalized communities. As long as the BJP stands strong, no one will abolish reservations or compromise the integrity of our nation."

"It is becoming increasingly evident that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party have aligned themselves with forces that seek to weaken India. Whether it is supporting divisive agendas in Jammu and Kashmir or making anti-India remarks on international platforms, Rahul Gandhi has consistently undermined the nation's unity. His stance on abolishing reservations further highlights Congress's long-standing neglect of the SC, ST, and OBC communities. Congress's betrayal of these communities is well known, and their promises are mere empty promises aimed at securing electoral gains. If Rahul Gandhi's intentions were sincere, the Congress government would have addressed these issues during its tenure."

Chugh also referred to Rahul Gandhi's false claim that the NDA government seeks to abolish reservations, calling it a blatant lie. "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the reservation system has been strengthened for the welfare and upliftment of Dalits, backward classes, and tribal communities. The Congress party, on the other hand, has consistently failed to deliver on its promises to these communities", he added.

Chugh further criticized Rahul Gandhi for his baseless claim that the Sikh community in India is not allowed to practice their religion freely.

"Such statements are factually incorrect and deeply insulting to the Sikh community, which has played a pivotal role in preserving and protecting India's cultural heritage. It is unbecoming of a leader of the opposition to make such reckless and false claims", he added.

He also referred to Gandhi's misleading comments on the India-China border issue during his US visit and said, "Rahul Gandhi's statements do not reflect the reality of the situation and seem designed to please his anti-India allies. It is shameful that someone who holds the post of Leader of the Opposition of the nation continues to tarnish India's reputation on foreign soil."

Chugh also referred to a recent headline in an American newspaper that questioned, "Is Rahul Gandhi from India or Pakistan?" This observation reflects the disturbing tone of his remarks abroad, which appear more aligned with anti-India forces than with the nation's interests.

"Rahul Gandhi's behavior has become a source of national embarrassment, and his repeated attempts to malign India on the global stage are an insult to the country and its people who take pride in our country", he said.

Chugh condemned Rahul Gandhi's persistent anti-national statements and false narratives, calling them a disgrace to India's democratic values. "His actions are a black mark on Indian democracy. The BJP strongly condemns his divisive politics and reaffirms its commitment to the unity, security, and prosperity of India. The BJP believes in a 'Nation First' approach and takes immense pride in our nation", he said.

Kharge announces five...

also get their rights as enshrined in the Constitution, he added.

The five guarantees were read out by the Congress president in presence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and other senior Congress leaders, including K C Venugopal and Subodh Kant.

Kharge said there were one lakh jobs vacancies in Jammu and Kashmir but the current dispensation appointed by the BJP-led Centre is not filling them as "they want to keep people of Jammu and Kashmir poor".

"We will fill these vacancies. They did not bring any industry, hence no job creation. We will focus on tourism and manufacturing. More than 4,400 government schools have been closed in the past several years. We will reopen them as we will focus on education," the Congress president said.

Kharge reiterated that the party will strive for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir while promising to restore a bi-cameral legislature in the Union territory. "We will strive to get statehood for J-K. The bi-cameral House will be restored. They (BJP) keep asking how we will do it? When people are with us, we will do it as it is people's power," he added.

Both archers will...

and determination, CEC said that when principles of equality and equity are upheld, disability is not seen as an obstacle but as an opportunity for developing additional strengths to overcome challenges.

He added that Sheetal Devi at such a young age is an inspiration for youth and PwDs, encouraging them to engage in both sports and participation in the festival of democracy.

EC Gyanesh Kumar while congratulating the paralympians, said that their journey is an inspiration for PwDs and being ECI national icons would help in encouraging voter participation.

EC DR S.S Sandhu lauded the champions for their dedication and determination, encouraging them to continue being a role model for many, particularly youth and PwDs.

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole, also lauded the ECI for recognising Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar for their extraordinary journeys from the small towns of Jammu & Kashmir union territory.

Pertinently, Sheetal Devi was announced as ECI National Icon just before the announcement of General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 on 16 March, 2024. At just 17 years old, Sheetal Devi became India's youngest Paralympic medalist. Her accomplishments include gold medals in both Individual and Mixed Team events at the 2023 Asian Para Games, a silver medal at the 2023 World Archery Para Championship, and multiple accolades at the Asian Para Championship.

Rakesh Kumar who was announced as the National Icon for PwDs today has represented the country twice in archery in the Paralympic events at Tokyo and Paris. He has won Gold medal in the mixed team event at the 2023 World Archery Para Championship and in Asian Para Games 2022-23. He also clinched a silver medal in the Individual and Men team at Asian Para Games 2022-23.

Official suspended in...

perform his duties is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect and attached with the Additional Deputy Commissioner (K), Srinagar till further orders.

The order further stated that 'the Additional Deputy Commissioner (K), Srinagar shall conduct the detailed enquiry into the dereliction of duties and misconduct of the Officer. He shall submit the comprehensive report to the DEO Srinagar within a week.

Meanwhile, the DEO Srinagar has warned all Officers and Officials deployed for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024 to be careful and perform their duties diligently. He said the action against the Officer has been taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the ongoing Election process in the District.

J&K BJP chief terms 'fake' order asking supporters to welcome Er Rashid

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir B-JP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday described as "fake" an order on the party's letterhead asking the party workers in the valley to attend the welcome rally of Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid.

Rashid walked out of Delhi's Tihar Jail on Wednesday, a day after he was granted interim bail till October 2 in a terror funding case so that he can campaign in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

Raina termed the act as the handiwork of "frustrated opposition" and said that he has requested the Election Commission to register FIR in "the political fraud".

"Political propaganda by frustrated opposition... This fake letter is being circulated in Kashmir Valley, this is nothing but a political Propaganda by frustrated Opposition. No such order issued from my office. I have requested @ECISVBEPP to register FIR in the political fraud," Raina took to X to issue the clarification and attached the fake order.

Er Rashid walks out of Tihar jail on interim bail

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid walked out of Tihar Jail on Wednesday, a day after a court here granted him interim bail till October 2 in a terror funding case so that he can campaign in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls. Talking to reporters outside the jail, he said that he would continue to fight for his people. Rashid's sons and supporters welcomed him after he walked out of the prison.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, has been in jail since 2019 following his arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror funding case.

"He was released from jail at 4.15 pm," said a senior prison official.

Amit Shah raps Rahul over his quota remark

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah came down heavily on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday for his remark on reservation, and said it has once again brought to the forefront the Congress' anti-reservation face.

Sending a stern message to Gandhi, Shah said that as long as the BJP is there, neither can anyone abolish reservation nor can anyone mess with the nation's security.

Shah's comments came after Gandhi told students of Georgetown University in the US that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which he said is not the case right now.

In a post on X, Shah said, "Standing with forces that conspire to divide the country and making anti-national statements have become a habit for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party."

He added that whether it was supporting the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference's "anti-national and anti-reservation agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir or making "anti-India statements" on foreign platforms, Rahul Gandhi has "always threatened" the nation's security and hurt sentiments.

"Rahul Gandhi's statement lays bare the Congress's politics of causing rifts on the lines of regionalism, religion, and linguistic differences. By speaking about abolishing reservations in the country, Rahul Gandhi has once again brought the Congress's anti-reservation face to the forefront," Shah wrote.

The Union home minister said the thoughts that were in the Lok Sabha leader of the opposition's mind have eventually found their way out as words.

"I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that as long as the BJP is there, neither can anyone abolish reservations nor can anyone mess with the nation's security," he said.

SFs recover arms, ammunition from forest in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from a forest area in the Keran sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Based on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched in Keran Sector, Kupwara, the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Indian Army posted on X.

Searches in the indicated area have led to the recovery of a very large cache of arms ammunition and explosives including AK 47 rounds, hand grenades, RPG rounds, material for Improvised Explosive Devices and other war-like stores, it said.

Focus on comprehensive primary healthcare to patients visiting PHCs: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday took a meeting of National Health Mission (NHM) to take appraisal of the progress achieved under different programmes run under this mission.

Besides Secretary Health and Medical Education and MD, NHM, the meeting was attended by Director SKIMS; Principles of Medical Colleges; Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary impressed to make the primary healthcare more robust and comprehensive as there are around 4000 such facilities in the UT.

He asked for verifying the modalities whether the increased number services, free drugs and diagnostic tests are available in these Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres across J&K. He asked for submitting a report shortly to him on this regard.

Dulloo also enquired about the status of the screening of population for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) as set under the programme. He called for pacing-up this process to meet the targets.

While taking note of the tele-services made available to the population he asked for creating necessary awareness among masses besides checking the quality of such services extended to the beneficiaries. He also directed for having critical analysis of the services offered and the kind of beneficiaries availing them.

The Chief Secretary further observed that the DNB seats offered in different institutions should be optimally utilized and in no case should these be left vacant. He asked for taking measures to stop the practice of leaving these courses halfway by the admitted candidates.

Advisor Bhatnagar chairs Governing Body meet of JKMPB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chaired the Governing Body meeting of the J&K Medicinal Plant Board (JKMPB) at Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Advisor held detailed deliberations with the Governing Body regarding strengthening of medicinal plants sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting also focused on advancing the medicinal plants sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Advisor called upon the members and other stakeholders to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between concerned departments for implementation of support policies and programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector.

While reviewing the progress of various ongoing projects of the National Medicinal plants Board, the Advisor called upon the concerned executing agency to speed up the pace of works for timely completion of the project. He also instructed the concerned officers to ensure optimum utilization of the Post Harvest Management Unit at Bhaderwah.

Regarding registration of farmers, Advisor Bhatnagar stressed on simplifying the process of registration so that interested farmers do not face difficulty in registrations. During the meeting, CEO JKMPB presented detailed account of various ongoing activities of the board. He highlighted that the Board remains committed to promoting conservation, cultivation, trade, and export of medicinal plants through strategic and coordinated efforts.

He apprised the board members about overview of Central Sector Scheme of Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants and its components like Conservation of Medicinal Plants, Establishing Herbal Gardens (Institutional, Community and School Herbal Gardens), IEC Programs, Seminars (State/National/International), Training /Capacity Building Programs for Farmers, Research and Development (Research in Medicinal Plants/Quality Assurance), Forward and backward linkage in supply chain management of medicinal plants (Integrated component), Establishment of nurseries for Supply of Quality Planting Material (Promoting Cultivation), Infrastructure for Post-Harvest Management and Marketing (Drying Sheds, Storage Godowns, Value addition infrastructure (Processing units) and Quality Testing), Buyer Seller Meets, Species Specific Campaign.