

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Clear fight between...

Abdullah, who was the chief minister then after a pact with Rajiv Gandhi. Where were you when our valley was drenched in blood?" he added. Shah said voting for Parihar and making her victorious is not just for peace, progress, and development but also to pay homage to the martyrs of this land, including her father and uncle.

Shah praised her family's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. "When people said she was too young for this candidacy, I reminded them of her family's martyrdom -- her father and uncle died for this nation. She will not only represent development but also be a strong voice against terrorism."

Shah said that if the Congress-National Conference alliance returns to power, "there will be shootings again, stone-pelting will resume, funerals for terrorists will be held again, the Tazia procession will be banned again, cinema halls will be shut down again, there will be attacks on the Amarnath Yatra once more, and the investment coming to Jammu and Kashmir will be replaced by unemployment."

He claimed the Congress, which once called the Abdullah family "traitors" and held them responsible for terrorism, had kept Omar Abdullah's grandfather in jail for years. "Today, to defeat Modi ji, Rahul Gandhi and Abdullah are saying 'ILU ILU' to each other."

Warning terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir; Shah said, "There is still time to turn back, otherwise the Indian Army and security forces are stationed here... you will be dealt with right here."

He said PM Modi has "strengthened" democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. "I want to ask Farooq Abdullah - your family ruled for three generations, but did the people of Jammu and Kashmir ever receive free medical treatment worth up to Rs 5 lakh? Modi ji has provided free treatment worth up to Rs 5 lakh to everyone, from the valley to the plains."

Recalling the party's long battle over Kashmir, he said, "Under the leadership of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, the Praja Parishad and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh fought against the idea of 'two flags, two Constitutions, and two leaders' in one country."

Shah alleged the Congress government, led by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, crushed the movement. "They used to say, even if stars fall from the sky, Article 370 will never be removed."

Taking a dig at political leaders' remarks on Article 370, Shah said, "Farooq Ji used to say that even if Modi ji becomes prime minister ten times, Article 370 cannot be removed. Mehbooba ji said that if Article 370 is removed, rivers of blood will flow. But our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi removed Article 370 and established 'one flag, one leader; and one Constitution' in the country."

He described Kishitwar as a land of martyrs. "Due to Congress' wrong policies, the decision on Jammu and Kashmir's future during partition was delayed due to Nehru's Sheikh-supporting policies," he added.

He further said that whenever there was a crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, the people of Kishitwar never hesitated to sacrifice. "During terrorism of the 1990s, every citizen here fought alongside the security forces and contributed to eradicating terrorism."

He launched a cathing attack against National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, saying he had "stooped" so low in his desperation that he had made unfounded allegations of Indian Army having links with terrorists.

Promising to bury terrorism so deep that it will not return for seven generations, Shah said a major security setup is being developed and Village Defence Guards (VDGs) and Special Police Officers (SPOs) are being restructured.

"Farooq Abdullah has lost control in his bid to win elections. In a recent statement, he said that the army and terrorists are linked. Everyone contests to win elections, but how low can Farooq Abdullah stoop in his attempt to secure a win?" Shah said at a public rally in Kishitwar on Monday.

Shah noted that the army operates in extreme conditions, enduring temperatures as low as minus 43 degrees. "Elections come and go, but to malign our armed forces does not behove someone of his (Farooq) stature," he said.

Shah also took potshots at National Conference leader Omar Abdullah's statement that Parliament convict Afzal Guru should not have been hanged. "This shows what will happen if they come to power," he said.

"Omar Abdullah says that Afzal Guru should not have been hanged. If this is the situation, what will happen once their government is formed? Stone-pelting will resume, funerals for militants will occur; attacks will escalate, and investment will stop.

"The Abdullah-Gandhi families may return to seek patronage of terrorism, showing no shame in doing so. But with Narendra Modi's government in power, nothing like this will happen," he said.

Shah also criticised the NC-Congress alliance, warning voters that their plans could jeopardise the region's security.

"They claim they will release all the terrorists from jails if they come to power. Is that what you want? This region has already suffered the worst of terrorism in the 1990s.

"Our candidate Shagun Parihar has lost both her father and uncle to terrorism. Whatever NC or Congress may plan, no force can revive terrorism in the Pir Panjal area under Narendra Modi's government," he said.

The Home Minister also highlighted the government's efforts to strengthen local security forces, including modernising weapons for Special Police Officers (SPOs) and Village Defence Guards (VDGs).

"We are restructuring SPOs and VDGs, giving them SLR rifles instead of outdated 303 models. Our priority is addressing their issues and forming a strong security ring to keep terrorism at bay," Shah said.

Issuing a warning to terrorists, Shah stated, "If you have plans to spread terror, now is the time to rethink and leave from here. The Indian Army and other forces are prepared to bury you here."

Referring to the history of the Abdullah-Gandhi alliance, Shah recalled how Congress leaders had imprisoned Sheikh Abdullah, the NC founder, for sedition. "Indira Gandhi put Sheikh Abdullah in jail for years, and now his grandson Omar Abdullah is in an alliance with Rahul Gandhi.

"If Rahul Gandhi has the courage, he should bring back the White Paper that Congress introduced in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly against Abdullah," Shah challenged.

He expressed surprise at how the "lure of power" has drawn Congress and NC together.

"I am astonished as to what the lure of power can do. The Congress family, which labelled Sheikh Abdullah as anti-national and kept him in jail for years, now allies with Omar Abdullah to take on Modi Ji. This alliance is about regaining power; not public service," he added.

Shah assured voters that the Modi government would continue its efforts to eradicate terrorism, safeguard Article 370's abrogation, and protect reservations.

Shah also took a moment to congratulate para-athlete Sheetal Devi, who recently won a bronze medal in Paris Paralympics and was honoured with the Arjuna Award, for making India proud.

In Chanderkote, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleged that the National Conference, PDP and the Congress wanted to release terrorists and stone-pelters to plunge Jammu and Kashmir into a terror inferno again.

He said the Narendra Modi-led government would provide jobs to youths holding laptops and tricolour in their hands and would not allow these parties to revive terrorism.

"Jails are ready for stone-pelters," the home minister said, addressing his third election rally of the day here in Ramban district on the last day of the campaigning for the first phase of elections scheduled for September 18.

The home minister also strongly opposed the regional parties for advocating dialogue with Pakistan and the restarting of the cross-border trade, saying nothing of this sort is going to happen till terrorism is completely eliminated.

Referring to the J-K BJP manifesto for the assembly polls, he said a White Paper will be issued after the three-phase elections to ensure accountability for over 40,000 persons who lost their lives in terrorism over the past 35 years in the Union Territory.

"They (NC, PDP and Congress) want to release terrorists and stone-pelters and provide them jobs. I want to tell them that the Modi government will provide jobs to the youth who are holding laptops and tricolour in their hands," he said at the rally in support of party candidates - Rakesh Singh Thakur (Ramban) and Mohammad Saleem Bhat (Banilhal).

He said these parties are advocating dialogue with Pakistan and the restarting of cross-border trade along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir which was suspended in April 2019.

"I want to clarify that no talks will be held with Pakistan till the terrorism is over: Let (NC leader) Omar Abdullah do his best, no trade will be held with Pakistan till the terrorism is buried in the Pataaf (bottomless pit)," the home minister said.

"Your intention is to bring back terrorism which will not be allowed," he said criticising Omar Abdullah for saying that Parliament attack convicts should not have been hanged. "You are playing with fire because terrorism does not benefit anyone."

Shah referred to the NC manifesto and said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi supported it even as the regional party talked about bringing back Article 370 and the second flag.

"Do you need a second flag?" he said to the audience who replied in the negative by waving their hands.

"Rahul baba do whatever is in your power; Jammu and Kashmir will have only one flag and that is our beloved tricolour," Shah said.

"I want to ask you and the people in Kashmir; especially the Muslim brothers and sisters what Article 370 gave you except poverty, unemployment and terrorism.

"The Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs have no benefit of Article 370, and only these three families -- Abdullah (NC), Gandhi (Congress) and Mufti (PDP) -- used it for their political interests," he said.

He said they are talking about reviewing the reservation given to various communities

and "pushing youths into the fire of corruption".

"We will not allow divisive politics to run in J-K and this is our pledge," he said.

He asked the people to decide whom they should support. "It is an election between two powers, on one side is BJP and on the other are those who pushed J-K into the fire of terrorism, leaving more than 40,000 martyred.

"I want to ask both Farooq Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi whether they are ready to take responsibility for the loss of lives in terrorism. I know they will not," he said, adding "BJP has decided to issue a White Paper after elections to fix responsibility."

Referring to the setting up of various educational and medical institutions like AIIMS and the enhancing connectivity, he said the BJP facilitated industrial development and improved electricity supply but the opposition parties want to "throw J-K once again into the fire of terrorism by bringing back Article 370".

He said BJP is moving forward with its slogan of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas'.

Shah alleged that the National Conference and the Congress which ruled J-K for decades together "murdered development and the future of youth, women, Scheduled Tribes and other sections by not giving them their rights".

Amit Shah asked senior Congress leader Sushil Shinde to visit Kashmir along with his children and grandchildren, saying the BJP government has secured the place by burying terrorism.

Shah was referring to former home minister's recent remarks at the launch of his memoir that he was scared while visiting Lal Chowk, the nerve centre of Srinagar during his ministerial stint.

You might have heard a tall Congress leader Shinde from Maharashtra who said that he was afraid of visiting Lal Chowk. I want to tell him that he should come with his children and grandchildren now.

"Koi tumhara baal bhi baka nahi kar sakta' (no one can harm you) because we have secured Kashmir by burying terrorism," the home minister said addressing an election rally here in Ramban district.

Referring to former Congress president and leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi's frequent visits to Kashmir in the recent past, he said, "Rahul Baba is roaming on bike, having ice-cream and throwing snow balls on his sister (Priyanka Gandhi) and at the same time abusing (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi.

"You are abusing Modi but it was not possible during your government. We have buried terrorism so you reached there with your (Bharat Jodo) yatra. It was possible because the BJP-led government is in power at the Centre," Shah said.

Referring to Ekta Yatra led by the then BJP president, Murlu Manohar Joshi, in December 1991, Shah said he along with Modi were part of the yatra which was supposed to unfurl the tricolour at Lal Chowk but was stopped at Ramban.

"We spent two days in Ramban and later a helicopter was made available for us to unfurl the tricolour in Lal Chowk. The situation has changed and now Ganesh Chaturthi and Jammashitami are observed, and Tazia (procession by Shia community) taken out and there was no riot," he said.

Addressing an election rally at Gulabgarh in Padder-Nagseni assembly segment of Kishitwar district on the last day of campaigning, Shah said the National Conference-Congress alliance will not be able to form the J-K government.

"Today, I promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir; including this region which has a history of sacrifices following the eruption of terrorism in 1990, that we will bury terrorism to such a deep level that it will never surface again," the home minister said.

"National Conference and Congress have made promises like releasing terrorists from jails after the formation of their government. In front of Maa (Machhal Mata's) shrine, I am saying to you that this is Modi's government and no one has the courage to spread terrorism on the soil of India," he said.

Shah said the BJP government has strengthened the village defence guards and Special Police Officers who are being provided modern weapons, replacing the old .303 rifles with self-loading rifles.

Targeting Farooq Abdullah, he said when terrorism erupted in J&K in 1990's, he was enjoying in London.

His son Omar Abdullah, Shah said, is in the meantime giving contradictory statements on contesting elections.

Sometimes Omar Abdullah is saying that he will not fight elections in the Union territory; but later he came out to submit his nominations from two seats, the home minister said. His defeat is certain from both seats, he said.

Shah further said that the prime minister has encouraged leadership among the youth by holding elections to all tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions to strengthen grassroots democracy.

The events were attended by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, former MP Janyang Tsering Namgyal, Janki Nath Manhas, Pradeep Parihar and BJP's candidate for the Paddar Nagseni Assembly constituency, Sunil Sharma, among other BJP candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Those filled with...

are targeting India's unity and integrity intending to divide the country. Those filled with hate are not leaving any chance to defame India and Gujarat," he alleged.

Modi further said he was insulted, jeered, and mocked by the Opposition in the last 100 days of his third term as the PM, but he focused on finishing the government's development agenda during this period.

"When every Indian is striving to take the country forward, some filled with negativity want to destroy the unity and integrity of the country. They want to divide (do tukde, tukde of) the country. Amid a row over Rahul Gandhi's remarks on reservation in the US and the Congress' poll tie-up with the National Conference, Modi said certain people filled with hate are not leaving any chance to defame the country.

"You have heard they want to bring back article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir; they want to bring back two Constitutions and two laws in (poll-bound) J&K," Modi said.

Modi said in the first 100 days (of the BJP government's third term), they (the opposition) made fun of him, and jeered and insulted him. "People were surprised by my silence," the prime minister said.

Modi said he has decided to sacrifice himself for the people.

"If I live, I live for you, if I struggle, I struggle for you, and if I sacrifice myself, it will be for you," he added. The BJP has accused Rahul Gandhi of making "anti-reservation" remarks in the US and termed them as "treason". Gandhi, at the prestigious Georgetown University in the US, had alleged that the Lok Sabha elections were not fought on the same footing.

"The Election Commission was doing what they wanted. The entire campaign was structured so that Mr Modi could carry out his agenda across the country, with different designs for different states," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha had claimed.

CEO launches Voters...

belong and then in the final step they have to validate himself/herself and submit the details.

After this a new web link with the certificate of the voter will appear from where they can download it.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO urged the electorate across J&K to visit SVEEP'k.in and take the Voters Pledge and download their 'Certificate of Commitment'.

Meanwhile , the Chief Electoral Officer also launched the theme song 'Vote Ka Tyohar', aimed at motivating voters to cast their votes in the Assembly Elections, which begin on 18 September 2024 across seven districts of both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The release event took place at the conference hall of Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, in the presence of college students and several dignitaries.

The CEO appreciated the efforts of the students and the Principal of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, for their contribution in making the song a success.

He emphasized the importance of voting and the role of the youth in ensuring high voter turnout. He encouraged students to actively participate in the electoral process and urged all eligible voters to exercise their democratic right.

The theme song was produced by Rangyug, a renowned performing arts organization committed to promoting social change and self-realization through theatre as part of the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Campaign and was choreographed by the students of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The project was directed by Deepak Kumar, with lyrics penned by Dr. Liaquat Jafri and music composed by Pankaj Nardhan and S. Amarjeet Singh.

Those present in the events included, Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP J&K; Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media J&K; Principal Dr S P Sarawat; Deepak Kumar, Director Rangyug, Hemant Vaid OSD Media and SVEEP; Siddheshwar Bhagat, Scientist NIC and officials of Jammu Smart City.

Cong releases manifesto...

lakh vacant government posts by issuing a job calendar within 30 days.

The manifesto promises to revive special border recruitment for police, fire brigade and forest protection force. It also promised to revive the scheme for allotment of 30 per cent construction work-related contracts to unemployed engineers' groups.

"We will simplify the verification process for all government jobs, passports and other purposes by making them time-bound and simplified to check undue harassment," the manifesto reads.

Khera said Jammu and Kashmir's "heart has been wounded" over the past 10 years and time has come to heal these wounds.

"The long night has ended and a new dawn is upon us. Haath badlega Jammu aur Kashmir ke haalaat. The Congress will heal the wounds," he said.

Khera repeated the poll promises made by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during his visit to the Union Territory last week.

"During the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the women of Jammu and Kashmir put forth their concerns to Rahul Gandhi and other leaders. We have promised Mahila Samman programme under which we will give Rs 3000 monthly assistance to the woman head of the family. An interest-free loan of rupees five lakh will be given to women self-help groups," the Congress leader said.

He said health insurance of Rs 25 lakh will be provided to each family.

The Congress spokesman said a minority commission will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir within 100 days of coming to power. He said the promise made by former prime minister Manmohan Singh with regard to the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits will also be fulfilled.

Khera alleged the Union Territory has been turned into a "graveyard of dreams" in the past 10 years.

Khera said the manifesto was compiled by 20 district committees constituted for the purpose of knowing the issues of the people on the ground.

"We have given guarantees and these are the right of the people. This is our promise and we will fulfil it," he said referring to the manifesto.

Asked about Congress' stand on restoration of Article 370 -- "the main election plank of its ally National Conference -- Khera said a committee will be formed for drafting a common minimum programme for the INDIA bloc government in Jammu and Kashmir.

"As far as Article 370 is concerned, our stand is clear and reflected in the CWC resolution on the issue," he said.

Abdullah frustrated with...

corruption and failing to deliver on its promises during its rule.

Removal of Article 370 marked a significant turning point for Jammu and Kashmir; fostering investment, job creation, and stability, Chugh added.

Police flags fake...

law to hold the responsible individuals accountable. "It has come to our notice that a fake Facebook account has been generated using the name of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone. This fraudulent act is a serious violation and an attempt to mislead the public," it said.

"Immediate legal action is being initiated against the perpetrators involved in this unlawful activity," police said, adding that they take such cyber offenses very seriously.

People are advised to be cautious and report any suspicious online activity to the authorities, the statement said.

"We also urge citizens not to engage with or follow any such fraudulent accounts. For any official communication or information, please refer to the verified and legitimate social media accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police."

J&K deserve real...

reliable electricity, employment opportunities, quality education, and better healthcare. These are the pressing needs of the hour," Azad asserted.

He said "Since my college days, we have been hearing these slogans, which have done nothing but exploited the people. Political parties, after coming to power; have used these slogans as a convenient excuse for their lack of development," he added.

Azad said that the people of J&K, often innocent and unaware, have been misled by these narratives, but now is the time to see through such political games.

"The time has changed. We must realise that these slogans are only meant to benefit those who want to grab power, and once in power, they do nothing for the people." Azad said, adding that if given the opportunity again, his party will focus on massive developmental work in the region, ensuring real progress and prosperity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that his party was the only one that actively fought against the land eviction order; while no other political party seemed concerned.

He said that this issue was critical, as over 70 lakh people were at risk of becoming landless. "We stopped the bulldozers," Azad asserted, underscoring the party's commitment to protecting the people's rights.

He also criticised other parties for avoiding discussions on development and instead resorting to fear-mongering with false statements.

"People are more aware today," he said, urging citizens to question these parties about their track record when they were in power.

"What development did they bring to Jammu and Kashmir during their tenure?" he asked.

Azad raised the alarming issue of youth being drawn into drug abuse, questioning why no party is addressing this pressing concern.

"This is a far more important issue that affects the future of our society," he stated.

Azad reaffirmed his commitment to uplift the underprivileged by announcing a series of ambitious initiatives aimed at empowering the poor:

His key promises included the revival of the "Roshni Scheme" for electrification, a new scholarship programme for poor students, free education, and a focus on job creation.

Azad declared, "My sole mission is to uplift the poor. We need to build more schools, roads, and hospitals, and for that, we require the people's support."

Highlighting the party's strength, Azad said that they have 22 dedicated candidates, and their goal is to become a strong political force capable of forming the government and serving the people. He said, "We are committed to restoring normalcy and development in Jammu and Kashmir within six months". He also announced key initiatives including the revival of the Roshni Scheme, scholarships for poor students, free education and job opportunities for the youth.

3 families kept...

370, changing the fate of the deprived sections of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said the people of J&K were disconnected from the nation, but after the BJP came to power; the region's destiny began to change.

Thakur said that when the BJP came to power in 2014, it took decisive steps to eliminate the biggest curse imposed by Congress in the form of Article 370. Finally, on August 5, 2019, this curse was eradicated forever.

He emphasized that Article 370 blocked development, reservation, and basic facilities, but instead, it fostered separatism, terrorism, and stone pelting.

Thakur criticized the three families-- Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis -- for failing to provide essential services, despite being in power for decades. The Valmiki community was brought to Jammu and Kashmir for sanitation work, yet they were denied education and reservation, barring them from reaching higher positions, he said.

Thakur also highlighted how the rights of the Gujjar-Bakarwal community were ignored, with no reservation provided to them in the Assembly. Furthermore, refugees from West Pakistan were denied the right to vote, he said.

He also pointed out that there has been an investment of Rs 25,000 crores so far, and an additional Rs 75,000 crores will be brought in J&K.

Thakur discussed several government schemes, including the notable Jal-Jeevan Mission. He urged the people to vote for the BJP in large numbers to continue the development process and prevent the resurgence of separatism, terrorism, and stone-pelting, aiming to make Jammu and Kashmir prosperous and developed.

J&K polls: 40...

the elections. In 2014, the last time assembly elections were held in the erstwhile state, 831 candidates had contested the elections. Of the total, 274 had contested as Independents.

This time, there are 367 candidates for the 43 seats going to the polls in the Jammu division, where the BJP has a strong base, while 541 are slugging it out for 47 seats in the Valley.

On an average, there are five Independent candidates for each of the 47 assembly segments in Kashmir. This number drops to 2.93 per constituency in the Jammu division.

The Sopore assembly segment -- once a hotbed for militancy and the epicentre of election boycott campaigns in Kashmir -- has the highest number of Independent and total candidates.

There are 22 aspirants in the fray, 14 of whom are Independents.

The Sonawari segment in Bandipora district has 20 candidates in the fray, including 11 Independents. The area has a strong presence of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami. Amid this glut, there are four constituencies where there are zero Independent candidates. These are Budhal, Kangan, Ramangar and Srigufwara-Bijbehara.

The Srigufwara-Bijbehara seat in Anantnag district has three candidates in the fray. Doda West, Nowshera and Ramgarh each have one Independent candidate.. There are 15 candidates in the fray in the Ganderbal segment.

The three-phase elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The results will be declared on October 8.

Multi-tier security...

polling stations or polling booths," he said.

The IGP said, "Jammu and Kashmir police have made proper arrangements to ensure that the elections are free, fair and held in an atmosphere free of fear. The thing to appreciate is that a maximum number of people should be able to exercise their voting right and take part in the democratic process. It will be our endeavor always to provide a secure environment so that people come to vote in large numbers." Birdi said the security grid is alert and vigilant to thwart any attempts to destabilize the situation in the valley.