

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Modi asks people...

ideology and you should be cautious of it," Modi said.

With such "Naxal ideology", he claimed that Congress leaders have attacked the Dogra tradition by levelling baseless allegations on Dogra rulers.

"The Congress is the largest corrupt family in the country and this family is the birthplace of corruption and its nourisher," he said, claiming that the opposition party is accusing the family of the Dogra rulers of being "corrupt".

Referring to Gandhi's campaign against hatred, Modi said in the name of "mohabat ki dukan", Congress leaders are selling the merchandise of hate.

"This is their old strategy. They do not see beyond their vote bank. That is why they widened the gap between the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir for decades and discriminated against Jammu," he said.

The Prime Minister said the BJP honoured the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, by announcing a holiday on his birth anniversary and "we connected Jammu with the path of development".

"Modi is working day and night for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas they (the Congress and the National Conference) never did any good for youngsters and destroyed their future. Not only Kashmir, the fire caused by them burned Jammu as well, while the country's enemies sitting across the border benefitted from it," he said.

The Prime Minister also paid tributes to Vijay Kumar, the driver of a bus that was attacked by terrorists in Reasi on June 9, resulting in the killing of nine people, including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori.

"During the cowardly attack on pilgrims some months ago, Kumar gave his life to save the pilgrims. Such an action inspires us," he said, adding that terrorism and separatism have weakened in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards peace and development. With your support, the region will be completely free from terrorism," Modi said.

He said the BJP's manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir polls has promised a "white paper" on terrorism to provide justice to terror victims.

"The divisive politics of the Congress, NC, PDP led to the suffering of our Kashmiri Hindus and Sikhs. Our manifesto also carries special announcements to ensure a better future for them," the prime minister said.

On restoration of statehood, Modi said, "From the foothills of Vaishno Devi, I am promising that statehood will be returned to Jammu and Kashmir. Not that I am saying this at a poll rally, but we have announced this in Parliament."

He slammed the Congress and the National Conference (NC) for "allowing" India's waters to flow across the border for seven decades and showing no nerve to construct dams for the utilisation of the resource that would have benefitted Jammu and Kashmir's farmers.

Modi said his government is continuously improving road connectivity in the region to tap the full tourism potential of the area.

"The governments run by the NC and Congress allowed our waters to flow across the border. They never dared to construct a big dam here. The Shahpur Kandi dam project remained untouched for years and as a result, thousands of hectares of land in Jammu became lifeless," he said.

He said if a BJP government was not formed at the Centre, the distressed farmers of Kathua and Samba districts would not have got a new lease of life with the Shahpur Kandi dam.

"Work on four hydro-power projects -- Pakal Dul, Kiru, Ratle and Kwar -- is going on at a rapid pace. This will not only benefit the region by improving power availability but also provide employment to youngsters," the prime minister said.

Accusing the NC and the Congress of meting out stepmotherly treatment to Reasi and Udhampur districts, he said a railway bridge over the Chenab river was proposed by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government but the two parties kept the file buried.

"You handed over the work to Modi and the BJP and we not only completed it but made it an attraction for people," Modi said, referring to the 1.3-km Chenab rail bridge located 359 metres above the riverbed (35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris) that forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, part of the ongoing prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project.

"This bridge, higher than the Eiffel Tower, brought the region in global focus," he said, adding that the government sanctioned a Vande Bharat train to Katra immediately after the project was rolled out.

"Today, two such trains are running between Delhi and Katra. The condition of the Katra and Reasi railway stations was poor but both have been modernised with new facilities," Modi said.

Road and rail connectivity has been improved to give an impetus to tourism, he said while pointing out that two erore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir last year, besides the 95 lakh pilgrims who paid obeisance at the Vaishno Devi shrine.

"The arrival of the tourists and pilgrims benefitted small businessmen, fruit vendors and farmers. We will further boost tourism in the region with the completion of various projects like the Devika and Tawi riverfronts," Modi said.

He also mentioned the youngest Indian Paralympic medalists -- Sheetal and Rakesh -- and said Katra played a big role in their success story.

"They made the country proud after training here with the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi. Plenty of opportunities are available here and it is Modi's promise that those will be utilised to the fullest," the prime minister said.

He also talked about the Delhi-Katra expressway and under-construction roads and railway tunnels, and said once these projects are completed, connectivity will be improved further; benefitting all sections of the society, especially farmers and horticulturists.

Seeking support of the people for his party, the prime minister said Jammu and Kashmir will be taken to new heights of development.

The Prime Minister launched a seathing attack on the Congress and NC alliance following remarks by Pakistan's defence minister regarding Article 370 and accused the coalition of pursuing the neighbouring country's agenda.

Modi claimed that Pakistan's agenda fosters violence and unrest.

The Prime Minister asserted that Article 370 cannot be reinstated in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising that "no power on Earth can bring back Article 370".

"You must stay vigilant. You have to be cautious. Every vote for the Congress facilitates the implementation of the manifestos of the National Conference and the PDP. What are they announcing?"

"They will restore Article 370 and bring back the era of violence and bloodshed. Maybe there is no enthusiasm about the alliance of the National Conference and Congress here, but the neighbouring country is very excited. 'Unki balle balle Pakistan mein ho rahi hai' (They are being celebrated in Pakistan)," Modi declared at a massive rally in Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishnodevi cave shrine.

The prime minister pointed out Pakistan's open support for Congress and NC, and said, "Nobody talks about them here, but they are in currency there. Pakistan is happy with their manifesto. Pakistan's defence minister has openly supported the Congress and the National Conference.

"He said the agenda of the National Conference and the Congress on Article 370 and 35-A is the same as that of Pakistan. This is what their ministers are saying," he said.

Modi said Pakistan itself has exposed the NC and the Congress, showing that the two parties want to implement the bordering country's agenda here.

"The agenda of Pakistan, which has destroyed generations and bled us in Jammu and Kashmir, is being implemented by these people here. The Congress and the NC have worked in a direction for decades that suited Pakistan," he said.

Addressing his second rally of the day in support of BJP candidates in the newly formed Shri Vaishnodevi constituency in Reasi district, Modi said, "They (Congress-NC alliance) aim to revive Pakistan's old agenda. Today, they want to implement the same old agenda of Pakistan."

Sending a clear message to Pakistan, he said, "Modi wants to convey to them in stern language that we will not allow Pakistan's agenda to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir: No power on Earth can bring back Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir."

The prime minister addressed a rally early in the day in Srinagar summer capital. It was after 10 long years that Modi addressed a rally in Katra, where he had flagged off train service in July 2014.

Modi emphasised the BJP's commitment to national development, urging voters to support a government dedicated to this cause.

"For the BJP, there is nothing as big as the country. Our priority is the development of the country. You have to vote for a government here that is committed to its promises," he added.

Pakistani defence minister Khawaja Asif sparked a political controversy by claiming that the Pak government and the Congress-National Conference alliance were on the same page regarding the restoration of statehood and special status in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K will run...

and this has been proven after the statement from Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif," Reddy told reporters here.

He further claimed that the NC, Congress and People's Democratic Party (PDP), under Pakistan's influence, aim to push J&K back into an era of terrorism, hartals, bandhs and unrest by advocating for the restoration of Article 370.

"These parties do not want to see development in J&K. Their sole aim is to remain in power at any cost, even if it means seeking Pakistan's assistance... Jammu and Kashmir will be governed by the Constitution of Dr B R Ambedkar, not by Jinnah's constitution," he said.

Reddy emphasised that the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has placed J&K on the path of development and restored peace by abrogating Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

"A record number of tourists are now visiting J&K after the restoration of peace," he added.

"There are no hartals, no bandhs, and no stone-pelting in Kashmir now. Terrorism has almost been eliminated," Reddy said, further accusing the NC, Congress and PDP of trying to revive terrorism and separatism. "The BJP will never allow that to happen," he added.

Pak, Cong always...

in Kashmir," he said. Pakistan Defence Minister Asif has said that the Shehbaz Sharif government and the Congress-National Conference alliance in Jammu and Kashmir were on the same page on the issue of restoration of Article 370.

"They (the alliance) have made it an election issue. Pakistan and the National Conference-Congress alliance are on the same page in Jammu and Kashmir to restore Article 370 and 35A," Asif was quoted as saying in an interview.

Khawaja's comments have come amid the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections that are being held for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A five years ago.

Article 370 gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and Article 35A gave special rights and privileges to its "permanent residents".

On August 5, 2019, these two provisions of the Constitution were abrogated by the Narendra Modi government and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

HC transfers 26...

Judge, Katra as Sub Judge, Jammu; Zahoor Ahmad Ganaie, Secretary DLSA, Pulwama as Special Mobile Magistrate, Trehgam; Junaid Intiyaz Mir, Sub Judge, Surankote as Judge Small Causes Court, Srinagar; Wangial Tsering, Special Mobile Magistrate, Kargil as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kargil; Majid Farooq Mir, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), has been posted as Sub Judge, Baramulla; Mohammad Ishtiyag Alam Baba, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Forest Magistrate, Srinagar; Javed Ahmad Parray, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Secretary DLSA, Baramulla; Kamiya Singh Andotra, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Secretary DLSA, Kathua; Imran Haneef Khan, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Special Mobile Magistrate, Baramulla; Rimpi Rani, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Special Mobile Magistrate, Bhaderwah; Babar Hussain, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal; Rafaqat Hussain, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Secretary DLSA, Poonch; Easar Ul Nabi, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Special Mobile Magistrate, Budgam; Ch. Ghulam Murtaza, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as City Judge, Jammu; Sidhant Vaid, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon his adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Sub Judge, Katra; Amandeep Kour, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua; Shama Sharma, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), as Secretary DLSA, Rajouri; Priyanka Mahajan, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), is posted as Secretary DLSA, Ramban; and Masarat Jabeen, Civil Judge (Junior Division) upon her adhoc promotion as Civil Judge (Senior Division), has been posted as Special Mobile Magistrate (PT&E), Srinagar against the available post.

J&K assembly elections...

peace, progress, tourism in J&K and do not want terrorism and unrest to come back to Kashmir".

Only BJP is guarantee to peace, development and prosperity of J&K and people will fully support BJP as Modi has proved this by his works since 2014, he said.

Gadkari said that GoI has undertaken several development works in J&K since 2014 worth thousands of crores.

"The road infrastructure works in J&K has been done three fold in the past 10 years as compared to works done since 1947," the Union Minister said, and added, "The road infrastructure works worth Rs 2 lakh crores have been done in J&K in the past 10 years". Tunnels worth Rs 1 lakh crore have been sanctioned for J&K and the work on these has been going on, he said. "There are a total of 27 tunnels and 10 have been completed and work on 17 has been going on," Gadkari said.

Work on 3 tunnels between Jammu-Rajouri and Akhnoor has been going on, he said. New Ring Road for Jammu and Srinagar is also coming up, he said.

"In coming days, the travel time between Delhi and Katra will be 6 hours and travel time between Delhi and Srinagar will be of mere 8 hours after the completion of ongoing works," Gadkari said.

Kathua terror attack...

conduct a magisterial enquiry and will submit a report on the incident of the terror attack in Saída-Sohal area of Hiranagar. During the terror attack, two terrorists were killed, and Constable Kabir Dass lost his life in the line of duty," Hiranagar Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Rakesh Kumar said.

Kumar, who issued a public notification regarding the probe, visited the site to record statements and gather evidence from individuals with knowledge of the incident's circumstances.

"This notice informs the general public and interested persons that anyone wishing to provide information or evidence related to the case in the form of written or oral statements should do so before September 23," he added.

NC, Congress alliance...

an anti-national alliance has been dancing to the tunes of Pakistan forces to fool the people of J&K.

In the past also it was clearly demonstrated by the Abdullahs that they would rather follow the agenda dictated by the Pakistan ISI to deprive J&K to its due development and progress. "It has been the foremost agenda of the Abdullahs and the Gandhis to keep J&K on the boil so that their vested political interests are protected at the cost of the common man in J&K", he said.

Chugh said the BJP takes strong exception to this dangerous alliance of the Pakistan forces with the NC and Congress and cautioned the people of J&K against falling into this anti-national trap at a time when voting has started for the Assembly elections.

J&K youth becoming...

merry by snatching your rights," he said.

"Today, the campaign happens late in the night. Now, the people are celebrating democracy. Youth have found confidence in democracy again, they feel their vote, their democratic right, can bring change. This hope is the first step towards empowerment," he added.

Modi sought to strike a bond with the audience as he began his speech in Kashmiri. "myanen saarni kashir bayen te baenen chu myoan saetha saetha namaskar. Kyah haal chaal chu? (greetings to all my Kashmiri brothers and sisters. How are you?)" he said, amidst applause by the people.

The prime minister made a slew of announcements for the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir if the BJP was voted to power. These included the restoration of statehood, Rs 10,000 annual assistance to farmers, Rs 18,000 annual assistance to the woman head of every family, and enhancing the health insurance from the existing Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh.

"We have promised in Parliament that we will restore J-K's statehood. The BJP will fulfil this commitment," he said.

He said the goal of his government is the fast progress and speedy development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have come here with the message of this sentiment. I can see today Kashmiri brothers are saying 'khushaamdeed' (welcome) PM, I also thank them from the bottom of my heart," he said.

Referring to the ongoing assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said it was a festival of democracy in which people have broken records in the first phase of voting that was held on Wednesday.

"Yesterday, seven districts went to polls in the first phase. For the first time, voting took place without the shadow of terror. It is a matter of pride and happiness that people came out to vote in such large numbers," he said.

The Prime Minister said the huge participation of people in the elections shows

that their aspirations have touched new heights.

"Today, the world is witnessing how people in J-K are strengthening the democracy in India. For this, I congratulate the people," he added.

Continuing his tirade against the Gandhi, Abdullah and Mufti families, the PM said these families feel they have a birthright to "rob" the people.

"Their political agenda has been to deprive people of their rights. They have only brought fear and chaos. But, J-K is not going to remain in the grip of these three families. Now, our youth is challenging them. The youth that they did not allow to progress, the same youth is now challenging them," he said.

Referring to the three decades of turmoil in Kashmir, Modi said the valley had remained shut for 3,000 days.

"What are these family parties doing? They say they will bring back the old times. In the last 35 years, Kashmir was closed for 3,000 days which is eight years of bandhs. In the last five years, Kashmir has not closed even for eight hours.

"Now, tell me, do you want to bring back those old days? Do you want strikes and bloodshed again? Do you want our daughters and OBCs to lose their rights? They want cinema halls closed, they want trade to suffer losses, they want wrongdoings in recruitment," he added.

Vowing to defeat the powers which are conspiring against Jammu and Kashmir, and to end terror in the Union territory, the prime minister said he wants to provide employment opportunities.

"It is the promise of Modi, I will not allow the destruction of Jammu and Kashmir. For the restoration of peace, I am making efforts with honesty. You can see schools and colleges are functioning normally across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Youth now have pens and books and laptops, not stones, in their hands. We don't have news of fire in schools anymore. We now hear news about setting up of AIIMS, IIT and other intuitions," he said.

He linked the incidents of violence to the previous governments of the Congress, NC and PDP, saying these parties "sold hatred in their political shops".

"The schools which were burned in Kashmir were with the fire sold at their shops. No new schools were built. No academic activity took place for months together in the schools, colleges which were spared during this period," he said, adding "for their own benefit, these families destroyed the future of our youth".

He also blamed the three parties for "injustices" done to the minorities, including Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs, in the valley.

"Kashmiri Pandits have played a great role in communal harmony and Kashmiriyat. But, three families have ruined them, and injustices have been done to Sikhs. They have been partners in all the excesses committed on them," he said.

BJP workers protest...

Modi. I am a worker of the BJP. We were stopped at the gate," he said.

Mudasir Ahmad, BJP district secretary, Kupwara, said the workers had risked their lives to come to the rally.

"We came here risking our lives. I brought 50 vehicles but am standing on the road. We came to catch a glimpse of Modi ji and listen to him," he said.

Ahmad said they left their livelihood to meet the prime minister. But there was no use coming here, he said.

"If there was no space, then they should not have invited the people. We were better off at home then. This is not right," he added.

Modi, LG pay...

of society even after retirement. In this hour of grief, we are with his family," the prime minister said while addressing an election rally.

"Saddened by the demise of Mohammad Shafi Pandit ji. He had an illustrious career as a bureaucrat and served with distinction. He will be remembered for his significant contributions to public service and civil society. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and admirers in this hour of grief," Lieutenant Governor said in his condolence message.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo also condoled the demise of Mohammad Shafi Pandit

In his condolence message, Dulloo remembered Pandit as a very passionate officer who has been there to extend his advice and guidance whenever he was accessed for the same. He termed him a problem solver who had optimum solution for every problem at hand.

He called him a very compassionate officer who was precursor in starting government sponsored coaching classes for civil service aspirants. He made out that he chiselled the career of many youngsters by encouraging them to join the civil services and would be remembered by them for his mentorship for all times to come.

Dulloo further remembered that he met him a couple of times and raised different issues of public importance. He called him a philanthropist par excellence who had changed the lives of many for better.

Later the gathering observed 2 minutes silence and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

MS Pandit, an IAS officer of 1969 batch was among the pioneers of erstwhile J&K Cadre. He was a veteran bureaucrat who held various important positions in the State as well as Centre including the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and later the Chairman J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) towards the end of his career.

All senior officers participated in this condolence meeting and prayed for the peace of the departed soul. They also showed their sympathy for the family and also prayed for their patience to bear this irreparable loss.

Congress slams Pak minister for statement on Art 370, raps BJP for raking it up

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress leader Pramod Tiwari Thursday warned Pakistan against interfering in India's internal matters, slamming the country's defence minister for his statement that the Shehbaz Sharif government and the Congress-National Conference alliance were on the same page on the restoration of Article 370.

He said that instead of giving such statements, Khawaja Asif should focus on protecting their citizens from "starvation and poverty".

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha also criticised the BJP for talking about Asif's statement in the election campaign, "It appears that the BJP and Pakistan's establishment are reciprocating each other's interests," he told reporters here.

"We warn Pakistan against interfering in India's internal matters. Instead of giving such statements, ministers of Pakistan should focus on protecting their citizens from starvation and poverty," Tiwari said.

The timing of the Pakistani minister's absurd statement and the BJP's reaction to it are a clear indication that there is a tactical understanding between them, the Congress leader said.

He tried to corner the BJP over matters related to Pakistan and mentioned the 2016 Pathankot terror attack and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stopover in Lahore in 2015 to meet then PM Nawaz Sharif.

Tiwari questioned the Modi government's decision to invite the Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to investigate the Pathankot terror attack, citing concerns about national security and sovereignty.

"That decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi allowed Pakistani officials to access sensitive information about India's military installations," he said.

Tiwari criticised Modi's "uninvited" visit to Lahore to attend a family function of Nawaz Sharif. "That move was perceived as a sign of weakness and a lack of diplomatic protocol," he said, adding that such actions compromise India's stance on terrorism and undermine the country's interests.

Tiwari also strongly condemned the recent threatening statements made by BJP leaders and its allies against Rahul Gandhi.

"We have lost beloved leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi to terrorism, and now, BJP Minister 'Jai Chand' Raveet Singh Bittu has labelled Rahul Gandhi the 'number one terrorist'. This is not only unacceptable but also reveals the fundamentalist and irresponsible language used by these leaders," he said.

"Shiv Sena MLA and BJP MLA have gone to the extent of threatening Rahul Gandhi, saying he'll meet the same fate as his grandmother. This is a chilling reminder of the violence and intolerance that's becoming increasingly prevalent in our country," he further added.

"As a nation, we must recognise the collective responsibility to condemn such hate speeches. The prime minister's silence on this issue is deafening and implies consent. By not speaking out against these threats, the PM is, in effect, endorsing this language of hatred," the Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said.



Senior AICC Leader & MP Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari addressing press conference in Jammu on Thursday.