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Terrorism won't be...

the day. The home minister said whoever spreads terror in Jammu and Kashmir will get his answer at the gallows. "I want to ask you, whether (Parliament attack convict) Afzal Guru should have been hanged or not? The NC and the Congress are now saying he should not have been hanged..." he said.

"They want to release stone pelters and terrorists. Omar Abdullah gave up these dreams because you cannot do it. It is the duty of courts and we have enforced such laws that nobody will dare to hurl a stone anymore," Shah said at the first rally in Udhampur district's Chenani area.

The first phase of polling was held on September 18, followed by the second phase on September 25. The third phase, covering 40 Assembly seats in Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and the north Kashmir districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora, is scheduled to be held on October 1.

"This election is very important as Jammu and Kashmir was under the shadow of terrorism for nearly 40 years. If they (the NC-Congress alliance) win this election, it means the success of the Pakistan agenda," Shah said.

He alleged that the three "dynastic" parties pushed Jammu and Kashmir into terrorism and said as a result, 40,000 people were killed in 35 years and 3,003 days of civil curfew observed. But after the Modi government came to power and Article 370 was abrogated, there is no stone-pelting, firing or bomb blasts, Shah claimed.

"The NC, PDP and Congress want to revive terrorism. Whatever your wish, we will bury terrorism in 'pataal' (under the ground). No one has the power to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as the Modi government is there at the Centre," he said.

Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's assertion that the INDIA opposition bloc will put pressure on the BJP regarding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood after the election, Shah said, "Omar and Rahul are talking about statehood. When I revoked Article 370, I made a promise of returning statehood to Jammu and Kashmir immediately after the election.

"Modi has also promised it from his public rallies in Srinagar and Jammu. Statehood can only be restored by Parliament and Modi is ruling there," he said.

The home minister asserted that statehood will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir and it will be done by the Modi government.

Targeting the Gandhis, Abdullahs and Muftis, Shah said the three families ruled Jammu and Kashmir for 75 years but failed to strengthen democracy at the grass-roots level in the region.

"It was Modi who conducted the panchayat and local body polls to give representation to 30,000 people unlike the three parties who were only concerned about 87 Assembly seats. We have put an end to corruption," he said.

The home minister also slammed the NC and the Congress for talking about restoration of Article 370 and said even the next three generations of their leadership would not be able to fulfil this promise.

At the Udhampur rally, Shah said Article 370 was the biggest cause behind terrorism not only in Kashmir but in the Jammu region as well.

"This election is being watched by the world as it is happening under one Constitution and our beloved flag. On one hand is the BJP, which has buried terrorism in 'pataal', and on the other are the NC, Congress and PDP, who want to restore Article 370 and revive terrorism," he said.

These parties have talked about releasing stone pelters, dialogue with Pakistan and resumption of cross-border trade, he said, adding, "This is not the Abdullahs' rule, this is the Modi government and no such thing will be allowed."

Referring to Gandhi's recent jibe at Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, whom he described as "king", Shah said, "Rahul baba is saying outsiders are ruling Jammu and Kashmir. He was referring to the LG. Those guiding him might not be well versed with the history of Jammu and Kashmir, because the longest tenure of central rule in the region had happened during the rule of his grandmother (former prime minister Indira Gandhi) and father (Rajiv Gandhi)."

"It was your grandmother's father, Jawaharalal Nehru, whose mistake resulted in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir being under the occupation of Pakistan..." he added.

Shah also slammed Gandhi for his reported remarks on the BJP's defeat in Ayodhya in the Lok Sabha polls and said he should be ashamed as it was Modi who ensured a rightful place for lord Ram inside a temple in Ayodhya after more than 500 years.

He said Modi provided justice to the Jammu region, which faced discrimination for 70 years, and ensured the inclusion of the Dogri language in the list of official languages.

Addressing a poll rally at Jasrotia in Kathua district, Amit Shah extended an olive branch to the terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir and asked them to give up arms and come forward for talks with the government or be prepared to get neutralised at the hands of security forces.

"For vote-bank politics, they (opposition parties) are asking for talks with terrorists. If they want to talk, let them come forward after giving up arms. In the north-east, 10,000 people have surrendered," he said

"Give up arms and come for talks, otherwise our forces will hunt you down," the home minister said, pledging to bury terrorism in "pataal" (under the ground).

He said the BJP has strengthened grassroot-level democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, which is now moving forward on the path of development after suffering immensely due to terrorism for more than three decades.

"The NC and the Congress provided protection to terrorism for 40 years.... We have finished terrorism and opened new avenues of development for Jammu and Kashmir, which is marching forward along with the other parts of the country. We will not rest till terrorism is buried in 'pataal'," the home minister asserted.

Won't allow shadow...

the NC-Congress alliance has been wiped out. Come October 8, the BJP will form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir," Shah said.

The counting of the votes polled in the Jammu and Kashmir election will be taken up on October 8. The home minister took a jibe at Abdullah for contesting the election from two seats, after changing his decision not to enter the poll fray till Jammu and Kashmir continues to be a Union Territory, and said this is the outcome of fear.

"Under fear, he said he will not fight (polls) till statehood is restored but changed his mind and announced his decision to contest the election from Ganderbal. Again, the fear of defeat made him file his candidature from another seat (Budgam)," Shah said. The home minister promised a special recruitment drive for youngsters in Jammu and Kashmir and said "we want to arm our youngsters to safeguard the country".

Trend of 2...

Spokesperson, Advocate Sunil Sethi, spokespersons, Abhijeet Jasrotia, Arun Gupta, Vineet Joshi, and Media In-Charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra were also present at the press conference.

Tarun Chugh said that the people have accepted the Prime Minister's message, which is reflected in the large voter turnout.

Earlier the voting percentage ranged between four and eight percent, today it has increased to sixty percent, and the credit for this goes to Modi government, Chugh said, adding, "People coming out of their homes to vote is a victory for democracy, and this is proof of the public's trust in the country's constitution."

Chugh criticized family-based politics in Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "The era of family-run parties is coming to an end and now, the decision will be made by the people, not by a member of a specific family".

He said that Omar Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi are "confused" and claimed that they are trying to mislead the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

He also claimed that when Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister; and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Union Home Minister.

"The mistakes of the National Conference and Congress are responsible for the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits," Chugh said.

He said that BJP government has taken strict action against terrorism.

Criticizing the National Conference's manifesto, he said, "They say they will release terrorists, but we will not release even a single terrorist."

Chugh said that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will be restored under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Omar Abdullah sometimes says he won't contest elections, sometimes says he won't trim his beard, but then contests elections from two constituencies," he said, adding, "Omar will lose both seats".

Chugh described the Congress-National Conference alliance as an 'expired injection' stating that these parties have lost public trust.

He said, "Rahul Gandhi is not a leader; he is a reader; he is reading a speech written by the National Conference."

Six labourers rescued...

soil. Heavy machinery was deployed to rescue the remaining two labourers, they added. District Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Samba, Vinay Kumar Sharma were present at the site, overseeing the rescue operation.

The workers after the incident were taken to the Trauma and Emergency Department of AIIMS Vijaypur. The Doctors immediately responded to the situation but despite of multiple resuscitation attempts and immediate medical attention, two of the workers named Lal Singh from Reasi District (Age - 35 years) and Shobin Kumar from Bihar (Age - 28 years) were declared dead on arrival.

The four others hospitalised are Sahib Kumar-26 years from Bihar, Dharmendra Kumar-36 years from Bihar, Dheeraj Sharma-26 years from Jammu and Kiran Kumar-48 years from Udhampur. According to hospital authorities, they are receiving specialized care and are being closely monitored by a team of doctors and trauma specialists. Authorities have expressed their condolences to the families of the deceased while ensuring that the injured workers will continue to receive the best medical care possible in the Institute.

Gurez developed in...

under my leadership as Chief Minister and Union Health Minister. They have done nothing for the people," Azad said, adding, "Now, they are attempting to fool the people once again for votes.

He challenged these parties to showcase their developmental work in Gurez and other regions, where people continue to suffer due to a lack of basic facilities.

"If they have truly worked for the people, I urge them to come forward and present the progress they claim to have made. The reality is that people are still facing hardships, and it is time to hold these parties accountable for their years of neglect." Azad cautioned the people not to get exploited again by false promises and slogans.

"Those who live in palaces and have won elections from here should visit Tulail Gurez and see the condition of these people. They don't have proper drinking water, mobile towers, road connectivity, or electricity. How can they sleep at night?"

"For more than 70 years, they have raised slogans and fooled the people with emotional appeals while the poor continue to suffer. We must work for them, as they have been fully ignored by the governments", he added

Reflecting on his own tenure, Azad noted, "I had only two and a half years in office, yet I was able to deliver many essential services. But now, we will do even more for the people of Gurez."

He also lauded the Indian Army for their unwavering support of the people of Gurez.

"At least the Indian Army, which is here to protect the people, must be appreciated for safeguarding our borders and assisting locals by providing them with essential facilities, especially during the harsh winter months," Azad remarked.

He said he will bring back the Roshni scheme, which was designed for the benefit of the poor. He also highlighted his efforts to fight against government land eviction orders and assured the people that he would introduce a law in the future to protect local land and jobs.

"No outsider should be able to buy land or take jobs here. This is a conflict state, and priority should be given to locals, as they cannot compete with outsiders," he added. Among others present on the occasion included Nasir Lone candidate, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Provincial Gen Secretary Shafiq Shabnam and others.

PoK going to...

Flour in Pakistan now costs Rs 500 per kilogram, while PM Modi provides free ration to 80 crore Indians and free healthcare up to Rs five lakh. Pakistan is sinking, but India is advancing. Pakistan is a sinking ship," Adityanath said.

"On one side there is India and on the other side there is Pakistan, there is a shortage of food there, naturally, beggar Pakistan is not able to handle itself today. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is raising its voice for separation from it. It is saying that we also had the right to participate in the J&K elections. You have to give a good message through elections," he added.

Escalating his attack on Pakistan, the senior BJP leader said Balochistan is saying that our chemistry does not match with Pakistan.

"Because Pakistan is the enemy of humanity, it is a cancer of humanity. The world must be freed from this cancer," he added.

Adityanath, who addressed rallies in Chhamb, R S Pura and Ramgarh, in Jammu as part of the BJP's campaign, said the large turnout of voters has shown that they have rejected the dynastic rulers and their divisive politics.

"The results will be a slap on the faces of the NC, PDP and Congress," he said, urging the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure BJP's victory.

Adityanath further said the people of Jammu and Kashmir "want a democratic government".

"They want to connect to the national mainstream and want to work for the development and progress of the region and the country," he added.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, the chief minister said, "The people from various parts of the world are watching here how peaceful polls are being conducted in Jammu and Kashmir in a festive mood. They have enjoyed it. This is because of the government of the day which created such a situation."

Adityanath said that Modi made Kashmir a world tourist destination, which registered a record high footfall of tourists in the valley.

He praised Modi for opening the Kartarpur Corridor, allowing the pilgrims from India to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan.

He also highlighted the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir, now regarded as a "tourism capital" rather than a "terrorism capital."

Adityanath lashed out at the Congress for entering into a pre-poll alliance with the National Conference (NC).

He asked Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether he and his party support the restoration of Article 370, release of detainees and other issues included in the manifesto of the National Conference.

"I want to ask Congress leader Rahul Gandhi whether he supports the National Conference's decision to have a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir? Does Rahul Gandhi support the National Conference's demand to bring back Article 370 and 35A and push Jammu and Kashmir into an era of unrest and terrorism? Does the Congress support promoting separatism again by talking to Pakistan at the cost of the youth of Kashmir?" he asked.

The chief minister criticized the National Conference, People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress for allegedly "ruining Jammu and Kashmir for 70 years".

He accused them of supporting terrorism in the 1990s while enjoying vacations in Europe and England. "It was the Modi government that gave voting rights to West Pakistan refugees and the Valmikis, who were denied these rights by the previous governments in J&K," Adityanath said.

He also referred to a time when the BJP needed permission to hoist the tricolour in Lal Chowk, stating, "today, the national flag flies high there".

Adityanath emphasized the significance of the ongoing assembly elections, calling them historic. "The results will be a slap on the faces of the NC, PDP and Congress," he said, urging the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the BJP's victory.

In Ramgarh, Yogi Adityanath accused the Congress, the National Conference and the PDP of turning Jammu and Kashmir into a "warehouse" of terrorism and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi permanently destroyed this "nursery of terrorism" with the abrogation of Article 370.

He said once the BJP forms a government in this Union territory, it will ensure the establishment of a state like that of Maharaja Hari Singh, whose boundaries extended to Kabul. "PDP, National Conference and Congress had turned Jammu and Kashmir into a warehouse of terrorism. With the scrapping of Article 370 by Prime Minister Modi, the nursery of terrorism has been permanently closed," Adityanath said at a public rally in the Ramgarh border area of Samba district.

Adityanath, who hit the campaign trail in support of party candidates Devender Kumar Manyal and Chander Prakash Ganga contesting from Ramgarh and Vijaypur assembly seats, said the abrogation has brought peace, progress and development to Jammu and Kashmir.

Accusing the Congress of being anti-Hindu, he said, "The party has committed the sin of weakening Hindus, resulting in the eruption of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir." He further claimed that during the Congress governments at the Centre, with the support of ruling parties in Jammu and Kashmir, terrorist incidents were a daily occurrence, stone-pelting was rampant, and Kashmir was bearing the brunt of such a situation. "This was not hidden from anyone. It was the reality of that period," Adityanath said. But after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah took charge at the Centre, terrorism is "now breathing its last" in Jammu & Kashmir and stone-pelting has completely stopped. "It is history now. This is not just a change, but this is a solution."

NC-Cong have...

the occasion. Following Omar Abdullah's remarks about Rahul Gandhi, it has become evident that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown their trust in the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said.

Irani said that after years of struggle, the BJP's leadership has transformed Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370, opening up new possibilities for the region. She mentioned that after the abrogation of Article 370, an investment of Rs 24,000 crores has been made in Jammu and Kashmir. The Modi government has established major institutions like AIIMS, IIT, and IIM. Furthermore, 300,000 youths in the region have availed Rs 8,000 crores under the Mudra scheme, she added. Smriti Irani said that once the BJP comes to power, each elderly woman in J&K will receive Rs 18,000 annually. One third of the seats will be reserved for

women in Assembly. She noted that the BJP has made 25 promises for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, which will be fulfilled after forming the government. She highlighted that 84,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed in Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, the Modi government will provide two free gas cylinders annually to women in the region. Five lakh youth will be given employment opportunities, and those taking the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission exams will receive Rs 10,000 assistance for two years, she said.

By voting for...

it to fill their coffers and deprive the people of J&K of development and progress. The Investments for infrastructure have followed, extension of highways, construction of roads, establishment of educational institutions, and building of medical facilities in Jammu & Kashmir, tourism has flourished and the region has seen a tourism boom with 2.11 crore tourists visiting in 2023.

This has increased revenue and created many employment opportunities.

From being the capital of terrorism, J&K has now become the capital of tourism.

Under PM Modi's leadership, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been eradicated, replacing stones in the hands of youth with laptops. The youth of J&K have turned their backs on terrorism. Now it's only being sponsored by Pakistani agents. There has been more than 75 percent decline in terrorism because the youth are looking for growth and prosperity. They do not want to play in the dirty hands of Abdullahs and Muftis.

The Government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism has led to significant improvement in security.

ST: BJP claims a lot of development took place in UT after the abrogation of Article 370 while opposition parties say since then miseries of people in the UT have increased.

Ans: Again, this is just to blame for the sake of it, without any grounds. Since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, J&K has seen growth manifold. This has led to the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Constitution, enabling the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system and extending key central laws, which promote grassroots democracy and social justice. The Modi government has guaranteed proprietary rights for women and initiated several major infrastructural projects, including the Chenab Railway Bridge, Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel, and Delhi-Katra Greenfield Expressway. Lavender Farming under the 'Aroma Mission' has substantially increased farmers' incomes. Since the abrogation, Jammu & Kashmir has attracted investment proposals worth over ₹81,000 crore, fueling economic growth through new policies aimed at boosting investment and development. The establishment of the region's first IIM and IIT in Jammu along with AIIMS in Awantipora and Vijaypur, has provided world-class education opportunities. GI tags have been awarded to various local products like Saffron and Basohli Paintings, preserving cultural heritage and boosting exports. All these and many such initiatives by the government have improved the lives of people in J&K in many ways.

ST: What measures will the BJP take to ensure the welfare of vulnerable groups in Jammu & Kashmir?

Ans: The BJP has plans in place for uplifting vulnerable groups in Jammu & Kashmir. We will triple the pensions for old age, widows, and disabled persons from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000, ensuring these groups can lead a life of dignity. For the landless, the government will provide a free allotment of Marlas of land through the Atal Awas Yojana. We will expand the Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme by increasing the health insurance coverage by an additional Rs 2 lakhs, raising the total to Rs 7 lakhs per family. This will ensure families to have access to quality and affordable healthcare. For farmers, the BJP government will enhance the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme by giving Rs 10,000 annually, with the existing ₹6,000 along with an additional Rs 4,000. Electricity tariffs for agriculture will be reduced by up to 50 per cent, making it more affordable for farmers. Under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, free electricity to households along with an additional subsidy of Rs 10,000 for solar instruments will be given. A scheme for relief from outstanding electricity and water bills will be implemented. The 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' will ensure access to clean drinking water. For government employees, especially those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the BJP will ensure reservation in promotions, enhancing their career prospects. A dedicated transfer policy will also be created for SC employees and others working in the Kashmir Valley to address their specific needs. These initiatives will ensure the BJP's commitment to inclusive governance for the most vulnerable populations in Jammu and Kashmir and improved quality of life for all.

ST: What is your call for the voters of Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing elections?

Ans: We urge the voters of Jammu and Kashmir to support the BJP's vision of peace, development, security, and stability. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India; the region represents the spirit and strength of our nation. We need to take a strong stand for nationalism and unity in the region, against divisive forces who aim to destabilise the peace and harmony of J&K. By voting for the BJP, the people are voting for a stronger and united India. There is a need for the people of J&K to support the BJP for a stable, secure, and prosperous future, where development, good governance, and an improved quality of life are guaranteed for all citizens.

Priyanka to address...

the morning and then address a gathering in Bishnah, Jammu. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader Rahul Gandhi have been campaigning hard for the polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana. They have addressed several poll meetings till now. Elections in Jammu and Kashmir are being held in three phases. Voting for 24 seats was held in the first phase on September 18. The next phase of polling for 26 seats was held on September 25. Voting for the third phase would be held on October 1 while results would be declared on October 8. The polling for the Haryana Assembly polls is to be held on October 5. The counting of votes will take place along with Jammu and Kashmir on October 8.

IT Deptt to...

platform for taxpayers to raise their concerns and seek timely resolution to issues related to income tax matters," an official release said. It said the drive will be conducted in two phases from October 3 to 5 and October 7 to 10 at the Aaykar Bhawan at Rajbagh here. Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K, Vikram Sahay will supervise the camp. "The Income Tax Department is committed to fostering a positive and collaborative relationship with taxpayers. By providing a dedicated platform for grievance resolution, the department aims to enhance taxpayer satisfaction and promote a smoother tax filing experience," Sahay said. Understanding the need for prompt and efficient redressal of taxpayer concerns, the department is pursuing this special drive that shall focus on resolving various grievances, including rectification of assessments, duplicate PAN issues, e-Navaran queries and grievances, he added.

Drug peddler arrested with 2kg of Ganja

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a breakthrough in the ongoing crackdown on drug-related activities under Operation Sanjeevani , Miran Sahib Police Station has registered a case FIR No. 97/2024 U/Ss 8/20/60 NDPS Act and arrested one individual involved in the illegal possession of narcotics.

The accused persons was identified as Surinder Kumar @Kali S/O Amar Nath R/O Makhan Pur Bishnah , was apprehended with a substantial quantity of nearly 2Kg of ganja in his possession & one Maruti Car bearing Registration No. JK02AJ -6846 also seized in the instant case.The arrest comes after a targeted operation by the Sub Division Police R.S.Pura aimed at curbing the flow of drugs in the area.

Police is actively pursuing further investigations into the case, with a focus on unraveling the broader network of suppliers and distributors that may be linked to the accused and is looking into all angles and the source of this narcotic supply to ensure a thorough crackdown.

The arrest marks a step forward in the fight against drug trafficking in the area, with police urging the public to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activities that could help curb this growing menace.

Unidentified male body found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An unknown male person age about 50-55 years was run over by train ECR Rack No. 14605 (DN) at KM 2.30 near Tunnel Number 01 (Jammu side) Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu under the jurisdiction of PP GRP Bajalta and died on spot. The dead body of the said deceased person shifted to mortuary room of GMC Jammu for postmortern/identification. The body is of age about 50-55 years; colour-blackish and appearance wearing army colour T-shirt & Blue trouser. Anybody having any clue about the identity/residential particulars of the said deceased may contact GRP Jammu on Telephone Nos.0191-2474946 and/or Mobile No. 6005784806/8803701148 and PCR GRP Jammu Helpline No. 1512.

