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Decision to transform...

approach which led Jammu to be the biggest sufferer," he added.

Modi said the Jammu region in particular faced "decades of injustice" at the hands of the three parties which not only defamed the Dogra legacy but also their rulers.

"The most corrupt Congress family is accusing the Dogra rulers to be corrupt," he said, adding it was the BJP which ended the "historic discrimination" and provided justice to the region during the last 10 years.

Referring to the setting up of various education and health institutions, including the IITs and AIIMS and infrastructure projects like tunnels, the prime minister said the Congress, NC and PDP inflicted "wounds on the people" by depriving them of their rights but the BJP reached them, irrespective of their religion, and rubbed balm on their wounds by giving them voting rights, reservations and empowering women.

"In coming times, Jammu's development will be further boosted. I want to tell the business community that the coming times will be full of opportunities for them," he said, adding "our efforts are on to bring more investment to Jammu and set up industry to provide jobs to the local youth in their own districts".

The Prime Minister said that earlier people close to the Congress, NC and PDP were the only persons who were getting jobs but "now every youth of J&K will get his right and honour under the BJP's rule".

"In the past 60 to 65 years, this region witnessed only destruction... Leave aside development, every sphere of life suffered. Modi is working sincerely to fill up all those pits of the past and will not leave any opportunity to address your issues," he said.

Modi also referred to the BJP's manifesto and the promises stating every section of the society, including Kashmiri migrant Pandits, refugees and women, will get what is their right besides a big push will be given to boost tourism in the region by completing various projects and identifying new destinations.

"Congress was considering border villages as the last villages of the country. We are treating such villages as first villages and are developing these under a vibrant village project," he said, adding the Jammu ring road on completion will not only address the issue of traffic jam but also benefit the tehsils.

The Prime Minister said the electric buses are running on Jammu roads, the Jammu railway station is getting modernized, the Jammu airport is being expanded, Bahu ropeway project completed, while Tawi river front project is going to be a major attraction.

The development of Gharana wetland, Surinsar lake and border tourism is also before you, he added.

Asserting the BJP wants empowerment of women, Modi said, "We will continue our efforts to help self help groups to make our sisters Lakshmi Didis in J&K. The women will also be given training and drones under the drone pilot scheme."

The campaigning for 40 assembly segments spread across seven districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur in Jammu region and Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts of north Kashmir is ending on Sunday evening.

He said Jammu and Kashmir people are looking forward to a government free of "corruption, terrorism and separatism" for peace and a better future for their children. He described the Congress, NC and PDP as the "biggest enemies" of the Constitution.

Referring to the 2016 surgical strikes across the border, Modi said, "The terror mentors know that if they do anything wrong, Modi will find them even in 'Pataal' (netherworld)."

Modi claimed at the rally that there was a massive enthusiasm among people for the BJP. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been at the receiving end of the rule of three families -- Congress, NC and PDP -- do not want them back."

"They do not want corruption, discrimination in jobs, terrorism, separatism and bloodshed. Instead, they want peace and a better future for their children," the prime minister said in his nearly 45-minute speech.

Modi said the people in Jammu and Kashmir want the BJP to form a government and the heavy polling in the first two phases reflects the mood of the people.

Alleging that previous governments discriminated against the Jammu region, the prime minister told the rally, "This is the city of temples. Do not waste this opportunity, a BJP government will be formed and it will address all your issues."

"This election is going to write a new chapter. Previously Congress, NC, PDP leaders and their families benefitted from their governments while you faced destruction," Modi told the rally.

"The Congress is the biggest party responsible for the loss of generations (to terrorism). From the time of Independence, the party's wrong policies encouraged inimical forces," he alleged.

Modi said ceasefire violations used to be a routine along the borders in Jammu because "they (Congress) used to show them white flags".

"The BJP government responded to their bullets with mortar shells to set their mind in the right position."

"Today is September 28 and you know a surgical strike took place on this day (in 2016). India sent a message to the world that this is a new India, and it strikes inside their homes," he said.

The prime minister said that after his government conducted the surgical strike, the Congress sought proof of it. "It is a party that speaks Pakistan's language on surgical strikes. Will you pardon the Congress for such language? The Congress does not respect those who lay down their lives for the nation," Modi said.

'Maulvi' in Jammu...

government got the dispute created, he said. The problem the Congress could not solve in 65 years was addressed within five years of Modi government coming to power, he said.

"That is why I say the Congress is the name of the problem. All the problems of this country have been given by the Congress," he said, targeting the party over terrorism, corruption, nepotism and Naxalism.

The BJP is the solution, he said.

Highlighting the improvement in law and order in Uttar Pradesh during his government, he asked people if they heard of any riot taking place during the past seven-and-a-half years of the BJP rule in the state.

"Dangai ya toh jail mein hain ya jahannum ki yatra pe ja chuke hai (Rioters are either in jail or have been killed)," he said. "The BJP means a guarantee of security. The BJP means a guarantee of good governance, employment and development under Modi's leadership," he said. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the double-engine government executed various projects in Haryana including infrastructure, metro and highways, and asked people to bring back the BJP in the state for accelerated development. "The Congress, INLD, AAP will not want development to take place because if it happens their shops will be shut and their divisive politics will end," he said. Haryana goes to polls on October 5 and results will be declared on October 8.

People will reject...

first 2 phases of elections".

BJP will form government on its own in J&K, he said.

"PM abrogated Article 370 and established peace in J&K but 3 families Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis want to bring back Article 370 and want death and destruction here," he said.

The Abdullahs, the Muftis, and the Gandhis will be wiped out in these elections as people have come to know their intention, he said.

Sunil Sharma also said that people are with BJP and peace and development in J&K. He appealed to the people to vote for BJP for bright future of J&K.

Head Constable martyred...

sustained bullet injuries," a police spokesperson said.

According to security officials, a deputy superintendent of police (operations) was also injured in the encounter. The exchange of fire started around 5.30 pm when security forces launched a joint cordon and search operation in the forested village following information about the presence of a group of terrorists inside a house, the officials said.

As the forces approached the target house, the hiding terrorists opened fire, prompting retaliation by the security forces, they said, adding the area has been put under a tight cordon with the induction of the reinforcements from adjoining security camps.

The officials said there was a brief lull after the initial firing and the exchange between the two sides intensified after the fall of the dusk with hiding terrorists making desperate attempts to break the cordon by taking advantage of darkness.

The area has been illuminated and modern gadgets including drones deployed to keep a close watch, they said. They said intermittent exchange of firing was going on when last reports were received.

Target to plant 1 lakh saplings achieved under 'Green SVEEP' initiative in J&K: CEO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant stride towards fostering a culture of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship among electorates, Jammu and Kashmir Election department on Saturday achieved the set target of planting 1 lakh plant saplings during the J&K Assembly Elections 2024 across the 90 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) under 'Green SVEEP' initiative.

As per the statement released from the office of Chief Electoral Officer, till date 100323 saplings have been planted so far, with 5854 plants planted in the last 24 hours. Nearly, 99 per cent plantation has been achieved in the polling stations of Udhampur and Poonch districts while Doda and Reasi covered 97 per cent plantation target, the statement further reads.



CEO P K Pole chairing a meeting.

It was informed that out of 20 districts, 10 districts achieved 90 percent and above coverage of plantation drive in their respective polling stations. As per the details, 6133 plants were planted in Udhampur (4 ACs) district, 5882 in Poonch (3ACs), 7760 in Doda (3 ACs), 8164 in Reasi (3 ACs), 4900 in Budgam (5 ACs), 2073 in Samba (3 ACs), 2920 in Shopian (2 ACs), 2107 in Ganderbal (2

ACs), 4646 in Kulgam (3ACs), 9098 in Baramulla (7 ACs), 4704 in Pulwama (4ACs), 2826 in Kishtwar (3 ACs), 6290 in Srinagar (8 ACs), 7954 in Anantnag (7 ACs), 7431 in Rajouri (5ACs), 2121 in Ramban (2 ACs), 4709 in Kupwara (6 ACs), 4782 in Kathua (6 ACs), 2120 in Bandipora (3 ACs) and 3653 in Jammu (11 ACs).

Speaking on this achievement, Chief Electoral Officer

Art 370 can be restored only by Govt of India: Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI/JAMMU: Asserting that Article 370 can only be restored by the Government of India, chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad, took a dig at the National Conference (NC) and the Congress over the "restoration of statehood" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have already committed to restoring the statehood, he said.

Azad said that people are enthusiastic as they are participating in elections after ten years.

"Neither the National Conference nor the PDP spoke in Parliament on

Article 370 and statehood. I spoke on it. The prime minister and the home minister had said they would restore statehood," Azad told reporters here.

Azad, responding to a question about the demands of the NC and the Congress to restore statehood and Article 370, further said, "Article 370 can only be restored by the Government of India, not any state."

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi warned the BJP-led Union government Wednesday, vowing that the opposition INDIA bloc will "hit the road and use full force" both inside and outside Parliament if Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is not restored after the assembly elections.

Azad, who was campaigning for his party's candidate in the Bani Assembly of the Kathua district, said there is immense enthusiasm among people for the polls. "There is huge enthusiasm among the people as they are participating in these elections after ten years," he added.

Azad addressed a public meeting in Bani, where he appealed to people for unity and urged them to vote for development and progress. He urged people not to be "exploited" by false promises and slogans.

"By voting for the DPAP, we believe the people of Bani can pave the way for a prosperous and inclusive future," he said, adding, "Together, we shall rebuild Jammu and Kashmir."

LG felicitates medallist Sheetal Devi, Rakesh Kumar



LG Manoj Sinha felicitating Paris 2024 Paralympics Bronze Medallists, Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar at Raj Bhawan Jammu on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met and felicitated Paris 2024 Paralympics Bronze Medallists, Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, at Raj Bhawan. The Lt Governor congratulated the Para Archers from UT of J&K for their incredible performance

at Paris 2024 Paralympics. Interacting with the Para Archers Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, the Lt Governor said that their hard work, dedication and remarkable achievements in International games have made the nation proud. "Your exceptional performance will inspire the young generation,"

the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor also felicitated the Archery Coach Abhilasha Chaudhary and extended his best wishes to the athletes and the coach for their future endeavours. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and other senior officers of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

Pakistan must realise cross-border terrorism against India will invite consequences: India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UNITED NATIONS: In a strong retort, India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its "fingerprints" are on terrorist incidents across the world and the country should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will "inevitably invite consequences".

India exercised its Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday in response to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

"This Assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning. A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalanandan said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

She asserted that as the world knows, Pakistan has long employed cross-border terrorism as a weapon against its neighbours.

"It has attacked our Parliament, our financial capital Mumbai, marketplaces and pilgrimage routes," she said, referring to the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terror groups.

"The list is long. For such a country to speak about violence anywhere is hypocrisy at its worst," Mangalanandan said.

In his address, Sharif raised the Kashmir issue, as expected, and said that to "secure durable

peace", India should reverse the Abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue.

He said India has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual "Strategic Restraint Regime".

Responding to this reference "to some proposal of strategic restraint", India asserted that there "can be no compact with terrorism. In fact, Pakistan should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will inevitably invite consequences."

Reminding the international community that this was a nation that for long hosted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Mangalanandan said Pakistan's "fingerprints are on so many terrorist incidents across the world, whose policies attract the dreads of many societies to make it their home."

"Perhaps it should come as no surprise that its prime minister would so speak in this hallowed hall. Yet we must make clear how unacceptable his words are to all of us. We know that Pakistan will seek to counter the truth with more lies. Repetition will change nothing. Our stand is clear and needs no reiteration," she said.

India stressed that it is even more extraordinary for a country with a history of rigged elections to talk about political choices, that too in a democracy.

"The real truth is that Pakistan covets our territory, and in fact, has continuously used terrorism to disrupt elections in Jammu and Kashmir, an inalienable and integral part of India," the young Indian diplomat said.

She said it is ridiculous that a nation that committed genocide in 1971 and which persecutes its minorities relentlessly even now, "dare speak about

intolerances and phobias. The world can see for itself what Pakistan really is." A Pakistani diplomat went on to respond to Mangalanandan with a Right of Reply.

Describing India's assertions as "baseless and misleading", the Pakistani diplomat said the United Nations Security Council, through numerous resolutions, has unequivocally called for a free, impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. Every year, Pakistan's leaders, on expected lines, make references to Jammu and Kashmir in their UNGA speeches and India fields its young diplomats to deliver hard-hitting retorts to Islamabad's rants.

Two dead, one injured as car plunges into Chenab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons, including a girl, were killed and another injured when their car skidded off the road and plunged into Chenab river in Doda district on Saturday, police said.

The accident took place near Garsoo village around 1.45 pm when the trio were travelling to their Drabshala village in Kishtwar district, they said.

A rescue operation was launched immediately after the car rolled down over 200 feet before hitting the riverbed, police said.

Imran Hussain (35) and Sumaiya (17) were found dead on-the-spot, while Iqra Bano (16) was rescued in a critical condition and subsequently evacuated to the hospital, they said.

CS reviews upgradation, realignment of important roads



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday held a detailed meeting with the stakeholders to take stock of the steps being taken for improvement and realignment of some of the important road projects as per the standards of NHAI.

The meeting was attended by the senior functionaries from J&K government including ACS Jal Shakti/FC Revenue; ACS, Forests; Principal Secretary, APD; Divisional Commissioner, K a s h m i r / J a m m u ; Secretary, R&B; Secretary, Revenue; concerned Deputy Commissioners; RO, NHAI; concerned Project Directors besides other officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had a project wise appraisal of progress made on this account, so far. He enquired about the issues and the details of all other possible solutions devised by the agency along with the revised costs to be incurred on them.

Dulloo impressed upon the concerned to make public-interest the paramount driving force while going ahead with the decisions of implementing these road projects. He maintained

that such projects are devised make commuting a better experience.

He took note of the changes proposed by NHAI and sought feedback from other participants about the best possible mechanism to implement them on ground.

Regional Officer, NHAI, RS Yadav, gave a detailed presentation on the current length and status of each road project. He also threw light on the status of environment, forest, RoB, and other clearances to be sought for execution of these projects.

The meeting was apprised of the need of land acquisition for these projects. It further gave an overview of the bridges, flyovers, viaducts or tunnels to be made in each of the alignment proposed for the given project.

The existing road length and infrastructure was also deliberated upon besides discussing various options for saving the travel time.

Moreover, development of inter-district connectivity, significance with respect to tourism, chainage-wise green field/brown field sections and other strategic concerns were discussed for each of these projects to be taken up for development in the UT.