

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

India supports 'policy...

freedom of navigation and overflight under international laws like UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)," said Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to travel to Brunei on a bilateral visit.

A joint statement issued after their talks said both leaders "reiterated their commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, as well as respecting freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce, consistent with international law, notably the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982."

It added that the two leaders urged all parties to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, particularly UNCLOS 1982.

Modi described Brunei as an "important partner" in India's 'Act East' Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision, and said his talks with the Sultan included ways to further cement bilateral ties and the two sides are going to further expand trade relations, commercial linkages and people-to-people exchanges.

"India and Brunei have deep historical and cultural ties. This year, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. On this occasion, we have decided to commemorate our relations as Enhanced Partnership," Modi said.

Their talks covered a range of topics including defence, trade & investment, food security, education, energy, space technology, health, capacity building, culture as well as people-to-people exchanges. They agreed to explore and pursue collaboration in areas such as ICT, fintech, cyber security, new and emerging technologies and renewable energy.

"We had comprehensive talks on various aspects of our ties to give a strategic direction to our partnership. We are committed to strengthening our cooperation in economic, scientific, and strategic sectors. We have decided to strengthen our cooperation in FinTech and Cyber Security along with Agri-industry, pharmaceutical and health sectors," Modi said.

"We discussed the potential for long-term cooperation in LNG. To strengthen our defence cooperation, we held a constructive dialogue on possibilities of cooperation in the defence industry, training and capacity building. To strengthen our cooperation in the Space sector, we have agreed on cooperation in satellite development, remote sensing, and training," he said.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues. They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called upon states to repudiate it.

They reiterated their commitment to work closely together in mutually beneficial areas to further strengthen the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"Reflecting on the excellent progress over the years in bilateral relations, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen, deepen and enhance partnership in all areas of mutual interest," said the joint statement.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction that the historic visit coincides with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and acknowledged that the deep-rooted friendship between Brunei and India has strengthened in various areas over the past four decades.

They acknowledged that Brunei and India share historical linkages that date back centuries, facilitated by cultural interactions and trade.

Both leaders agreed to further expand bilateral trade and economic ties in areas of mutual interest. They further underlined the importance of regular exchanges and dialogue which should be held through key platforms such as the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) as well as other relevant bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums.

They recognised the importance of food security and agreed to enhance cooperation in agriculture and the food supply chain through the sharing of knowledge, best practices and experience, said the joint statement.

The Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation to Brunei for continuing to host the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand Station, which has contributed towards India's ongoing efforts in the field of space.

Both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation at various regional and multilateral fora and work together for enhanced multilateralism reflective of contemporary realities.

The two leaders agreed on the urgent need to address climate change and enhance efforts in mitigating the adverse impacts from this rising challenge, in accordance with international climate objectives, such as the Paris Agreement.

Prime Minister Modi thanked Sultan and the entire royal family for the warm welcome and hospitality. He invited the Sultan to visit India.

The two sides also signed a MoU on Cooperation in the operation of Telemetry, Tracking and Telecommand Station for Satellite and Launch Vehicles.

Before leaving for Singapore, Prime Minister Modi described his visit to Brunei as "productive" and said it ushers in a "new era of even stronger India-Brunei ties" contributing to a better planet.

India ideal investment...

"Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India's reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. We also look forward to closer cultural ties," Modi posted on X soon after his arrival here.

"PM @narendramodi lands in the Lion city, Singapore today. Warmly received by Minister of Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam of Singapore. An action-packed agenda lies ahead," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a post on X.

Modi, who last visited Singapore in 2018, was accorded a warm welcome by the Indian community members when he arrived at the hotel. He interacted with the community members and witnessed a traditional dance performance. He also tried his hand at dhol.

"Thank you Singapore! The welcome was truly vibrant," he said in another post.

Modi will hold bilateral talks with Wong on Thursday and witness the exchange of several memorandums of understanding.

The prime minister will receive an official welcome at the Parliament House on Thursday and call on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

This visit comes days after Wong took over and Modi began his third term as prime minister.

"I look forward to my discussions to deepen our Strategic Partnership with Singapore, particularly in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalization, and sustainable development," Modi said ahead of his departure from New Delhi.

"The leaders will review the progress of India-Singapore Strategic Partnership and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement said ahead of his departure for Brunei and Singapore.

Modi is accompanied by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other government officials.

He would call on Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Lee will host a lunch for Modi.

Modi will also meet with Singaporean business leaders and interact with those in the country's semiconductor ecosystem.

This visit will build synergies in the semiconductor ecosystems of Singapore and India. Both PMs will visit a semiconductor manufacturing facility, officials said.

They said MoUs will be signed for cooperation in manpower skilling in the semiconductor sector.

From skilling centres to training and recruitment by Singapore firms, this will help India's youth with better skills and opportunities, officials added.

Modi is accompanied by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other government officials.

ECI enforces exit...

Therefore, in exercise of the powers under sub-section (1) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951, and considering the provisions of sub-section (2) of the same section, the Election Commission hereby notifies the period between 7:00 A.M. on September 18, 2024 (Wednesday), and 6:30 P.M. on October 5, 2024 (Saturday), as the period during which the conducting, publishing, or publicizing of exit polls by any means, including print or electronic media, or dissemination in any other manner, shall be prohibited in connection with the aforementioned general elections.

Furthermore, it is clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter, including the results of any opinion poll or other poll survey, in any electronic media, is prohibited during the 48-hour period ending with the conclusion of polling in connection with the aforesaid general elections.

Ex-militants openly...

He was accompanying the party's candidate from Lal Chowk assembly constituency Ajaz Hussain during filing of nominations.

Referring to the elections manifestos released by the NC and the PDP which promise restoration of Article 370 and statehood, resolution of Kashmir issue, and talks with Pakistan, Madhav said the two regional parties want to take J-K back to its old, trouble-filled days.

"I want to remind the people of J-K that the NC, PDP and others have brought up manifestos which will take J-K back to old, trouble-filled days," he said, adding, new parties, new leaders will emerge in the Kashmir valley, while in Jammu region, the BJP will emerge as a representative of peace and development.

He said a new government, led by the BJP, will be formed in J-K.

Asked about many young faces contesting the polls, the BJP leader said this is the strategy of the people of J-K as they want new leadership.

"A good number of youth are coming forward and they should be supported. This state was under the grip of two families, those two families need to be shown the door. This state needs to be rid of those families," he said, referring to the families of NC president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Asked whether the BJP will ally with any party if there is a fractured mandate, Madhav said the BJP will emerge as the single largest party, but "if there is such a situation, we will discuss it afterwards".

He welcomed the entry of former members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) into the election fray.

"There is space for everyone in a democracy. We welcome everyone who wants to come forward to contest elections through democracy. But, no one should contest the polls using the support of terrorists and ex-militants. The polls will be held peacefully and in a transparent manner. That is the assurance of (Narendra) Modi, like the Parliament polls were conducted in a transparent manner.

"Many people (former members of JeI) have realised that elections are conducted here in a free and fair manner. So, that is why they have come forward to contest, and we welcome everyone who wants to contest," he added.

The BJP national general secretary said Union Home Minister will address an election rally in Jammu region on September 6. "After that, the prime minister and other leaders will also visit," he said.

Congress dancing to...

J&K as the youth have started looking for new job avenues after giving up the misleading way of stones and guns.

He said jobs for the youth and women empowerment are the top priority of the BJP in J&K. Chugh said for more than 70 years the Congress, with NC and PDP, has been depriving people of J&K of development and progress. "The BJP promises to turn a new leaf for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he added.

CS chairs high...

to be trained and should not be found wanting in any respect. He said that flood response manual should be circulated among all the concerned and should be studied deeply.

Regarding the Decision Support System, CS said that it should be upgraded and supported by Digital Risk Data Base which is an inventory of all the resources, infrastructure etc available in an area so that a proper and coordinated plan is framed and executed in time.

He further called for having a detailed flood mapping/inundation map of each area to act accordingly. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to have proper planning in place to deal effectively with the natural disasters and mobilisation of resources to be done in advance and flood duty charts issued.

Chief Secretary also inquired about the stock position of different flood mitigation items available with the departments in their stores and urged for conducting mock exercises by involving all stake holding departments at ground level.

Administrative Secretaries from respective departments gave details about their preparedness and the steps they have taken to mitigate the possible disasters.

Secretary Health informed that they have prepared a comprehensive plan like shifting of vital installations, equipment, machinery to meet any contingency. SMC Commissioner informed that they have pre-positioned men, machinery, mobile and static de-watering pumps at the identified locations in Srinagar city. Fire and Emergency department has also kept fire tenders and portable pumps for the purpose as well.

Similarly, all Deputy Commissioners informed the meeting about the flood preparedness in their respective districts.

During the meeting, CS was informed that safety audit of embankments has been completed and temporary measures have been taken, wherever necessary. It was informed that divisional control room of Irrigation and Flood department at Ram Mushi Bagh is fully functional 24/7. It was also given out that information dissemination is going on and advertisements are flashed on social media, radio, TV etc.

It was given out in the meeting that 24/7 control rooms have been established to monitor the gauge sites and duty roster of officers along with their contact numbers have been prepared and circulated among all for information.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Principal Secretary, DMRRR, Department, Civil Secretariat, ADGP, L&O, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Director, Fire & Emergency, ADGP, Jammu Zone (through VC), Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Dev. Department, IGP, Kashmir Zone, IGP, Traffic, J&K, IGP, CRPF, Srinagar, Administrative Secretary Public Works Department, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu (through VC), Secretary to the Govt., Health & Medical Education and other senior officers.

DB takes serious...

Registrar General's note further disclosed that the Chief Justice has from time to time constituted special Benches for prioritizing olds cases, detention and liberty matters and in this regard, vide order dated August 14, 2024, the roster was also modified as per previous practice, whereby inter alia, the subject matters relating to NIA cases for Admission, Orders and Hearing and all Habeas Corpus petitions for Admission, Orders and Hearing were retained by The Chief Justice (Acting) and by virtue of same order, matters which were earlier kept for determination by the Bench headed by The Chief Justice (Acting) have been assigned to a DB presided by one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J), thus certain matters which were earlier kept by the Habeas Corpus petitions of both wings and DB-II was headed by one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J) for the period commencing from 29th July, 2024 to 28th September, 2024.

The Registrar General's note further disclosed that the Chief Justice has from time to time constituted special Benches for prioritizing olds cases, detention and liberty matters and in this regard, vide order dated August 14, 2024, the roster was also modified as per previous practice, whereby inter alia, the subject matters relating to NIA cases for Admission, Orders and Hearing and all Habeas Corpus petitions for Admission, Orders and Hearing were retained by the Chief Justice (Acting) and by virtue of same order, matters which were earlier kept for determination by the Bench headed by The Chief Justice (Acting) have been assigned to a DB presided by one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J), thus certain matters which were earlier kept by the DB-I for determination have been reassigned to DB-II.

Roster dated August 14, 2024 was further modified vide order dated ND D August 22, 2024 and August 23, 2024 respectively, insofar as NIA and Habeas Corpus matters are concerned. However, vide order dated August 30, 2024, the Chief Justice (Acting) constituted a Special Bench comprising of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, and Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, in Srinagar Wing of the High Court during the second half of September 5, 2024, for hearing the cases, which included all NIA matters (after notice) for Admission, Orders and Hearing and all Habeas Corpus Petitions (after notice) for Admission, Orders and Hearing.

It is relevant to mention here that before constitution of the Special Bench vide order dated August 30, 2024, the subject matters were being hearing by the DB-I headed by the Chief Justice (Acting) and at the same time, it is clarified that at no point of time, NIA petitions were heard by any Special Bench and for the first time in order to expedite these matters, the NIA matters were considered as separate as same being a matter of liberty and concern for the security of the Country and in view of the sensitivity involved in these matters,, the NIA matters were treated as separate subject matter so that these matters be dealt speedily and expeditiously.

Thus, the factual aspect given in the social media and the newspaper, whereby it was alleged that the roster was shifted in midway from the Bench headed by one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J) was false, malicious and contemptuous as same amounts to interference in the administration of justice. DB observed that the Court is also disturbed by the incorrect factual aspect given in the social media post and also in the newspaper that one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J) had gone on leave on account of the change in roster which is patently untrue as the said Judge had taken a causal leave on 02.09.2024 on account of medical reasons. This misrepresentation, thus, not only misleads the public but also damages trust in the Judiciary.

The reasons given in the social media post as to why one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J) had gone on leave gives an impression that the said Judge went on a protest leave against a change in roster. This also given an impression that the said Judge is interested in getting certain cases of a particular type listed before him and decided. Such is a wrong and probable inference which flows from the article in the social media and also as published in the newspaper of "The Hindu".

DB observed that under the circumstances, this Court is of the opinion that the Registrar Judicial be pleased to place this matter before the Chief Justice (Acting) to consider whether this matter should be placed before an appropriate Bench for initiation of criminal contempt against the publishers. It is also requested that the Bench may not have one of us (Atul Sreedharan-J) as part of the controversy relates to him.

Govt signs peace...

an event where a peace agreement was signed between the central and Tripura governments and two insurgent groups of the state here at North block aiming to end violence and bring peace in the northeastern state.

Shah said a new milestone is set today in Tripura's ongoing journey towards peace and progress with the signing of the agreement.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the state government were also present during the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement with the representatives of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF).

The NLFT and the ATTF have agreed to end a 35-year-long conflict and return to the mainstream, renouncing violence and committing to building a prosperous and developed Tripura, reposing their trust in the Modi government, Shah said.

"The Modi government is committed for the overall development of the Northeast, especially the tribal groups, through development while preserving their culture, language and identity," he said.

Shah said the government has given highest priority to peace and development in the northeastern region.

"All peace agreements signed in the Northeast has been implemented by the government," he said.

The home minister said the central government has been working tirelessly to fulfil Modi's vision of a developed Northeast, free from extremism, violence and conflict. He said under Modi's leadership, the government has signed 12 important agreements to bring peace and prosperity in the Northeast, of which, three relate to Tripura.

Around 10,000 people have given up arms and joined the mainstream due to these agreements, he said.

Shah said over 328 insurgents will give up arms and join the mainstream and Rs 250 crore has been approved for development of area of operation of the two insurgent groups, particularly pockets dominated by the tribals.

"The signing of this agreement is a major milestone in fulfilling the resolve taken by the Modi government to develop the entire Northeast by combining the 'Ashtalakshmi' concept and 'Purvodaya'," he said. He said wherever a peace agreement is signed, the Modi government is working to develop those areas and remove the reasons for taking up arms. "In the Modi government, agreement is not just a piece of paper but a feeling of the heart and we have demonstrated this on the ground," Shah said adding, the NLFT and ATTF agreement will be implemented in letter and spirit, fulfilling all the expectations.

INDIA bloc will...

ensure restoration of statehood," the Congress leader said. Gandhi was addressing an election rally at Sangaldan, a part of Banihal Assembly constituency in Ramban district and Dooru in the Valley.

"This is for the first time in the modern history of India that any state was deprived of its statehood. Earlier UTs were transformed into states but nothing like this had happened. The statehood of J&K needs to be restored on priority because it was not only statehood but also the rights and the wealth of the people that were snatched," he said.

He also compared the functioning of the Lt Governor with the kings of the past and said the country replaced them with a democratically elected government in 1947.

"A king is sitting here in J&K who is named LG who is taking your wealth and giving it to people from outside by bringing in contractors who are getting benefited."

"Our first step will be to restore the statehood of J&K... Remember one thing, Congress party's alliance government is going to be formed after the elections and it is certain and going to happen," he said.

The Congress has promised in its national manifesto that all government vacancies will be filled and the age of candidates will be extended to 40 years besides daily wagers will be regularised, he added.

Referring to the under-construction power projects, he said the electricity generated in Jammu and Kashmir is exported outside at the cost of the suffering of the local population and assured justice by ensuring electricity with no inflated bills.

Gandhi also talked about his 4000-km Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, saying, "We gave a slogan 'Nafrat Ke Bazar me Mohabat ki Dukaan Kholni Hai' (we have to open the shops of love in the hatred engulfed market)."

He accused the BJP and the RSS of spreading "hatred, violence and fear" in the country and said the fight is between two ideologies - the one indulging in hatred, violence and fear and the other propagating love, respect and honour.

"They work to spread hatred and our job is to spread love. They divide, we unite. And you know hatred will be replaced by love, hatred cannot be defeated by hatred, love alone can defeat the hatred," he said, highlighting the need for communal harmony and spreading his message of love.

Gandhi praised the beauty of the region and expressed his desire to spend a few days after the elections.

Vehicle Lifter gang busted, cache of stolen vehicles recovered, 2 arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major breakthrough, Police Post Sarwal, Jammu, dismantled a vehicle lifter gang and recovered a cache of stolen vehicles.

The swift action began on 01-09-2024, after a complaint was lodged about a car, JK02M 8798, stolen from outside a residence. Following the registration of an FIR at Police Station Bakshi Nagar, the Sarwal team acted promptly, utilizing both technical tools and human intelligence to trace and recover the stolen car from Amb Garota within 24 hours.

Two suspects were apprehended, and under sustained interrogation, they confessed to stealing the car from the Pattli area and selling it within their network. They also revealed the locations of other stolen vehicles. Acting on this information, the police recovered three additional cars and one scooter.

Property of notorious drug peddler attached

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major success under Operation Sanjeevani , J&K police in Jammu district in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bakshi Nagar, Jammu successfully obtained the confirmation order of property attachment of notorious drug peddler of TophSherkhania, Jammu.

Bobby Mehra S/O Raj Kumar had become a notorious drug peddler residing in TophSherkhania, Jammu and a menace to society in the area. The property was attached in the first week of August and subsequently sent to the competent authority under NDPS Act / SAFEMA Act for confirmation which was successfully obtained.

Bobby Mehra was involved in multiple drug-related cases and is currently incarcerated in District Jail Kathua under PIT NDPS.

Jammu Police with the strong determination to eradicate this menace from society to save our young generation succeeded to catch Bobby Mehra three times red handed and recovered narcotics/Chitta from his possession and registered cases against him.

Drug peddler arrested with 251 intoxicating capsules

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a relentless pursuit against drug peddlers under Operation Sanjeevani ,Jammu Police made a breakthrough apprehending one Ashvani Sharma S/O Sh.Saroop Chand R/O Khanpur ward No.& Lane No.1 Tehsil Nagrota & Distt. Jammu and found 251 Nos Capsule of PROXYCO SPAS like substance from his possession.



The diligent efforts of the police team of PS Nagrota led by SHO Nagrota culminated in the arrest of the accused near Khanpur Ward No.1 and lane No 1.

In this connection a case FIR No.238/2024 U/S 8/21/22 of NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Nagrota, marking a decisive step towards curbing the drug trade in the area.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 2 bovines rescued

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its nose against bovine smugglers, Police team of PP Pallanwala have foiled a bovine smuggling bid in which 2 bovines were rescued and two accused persons namely Sonu Kumar, son of Milkhi Singh, resident of Upper Kalah Pallanwala Jammu and Rakesh Kumar, son of Chuni Lal, resident of Narayana Khour Jammu were arrested on spot.

In this regard cognizance has been taken and a case has been registered under relevant sections of law at Police Station Khour. Further investigation of the case is in progress.