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Article 370 now 'history', will never come back: Amit Shah



Home Minister Amit Shah flanked by Union Ministers and J&K BJP leaders releasing party manifesto in Jammu on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Highlighting an appreciable decrease in terror-related and stone-pelting incidents in the past 10 years in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that Article 370 has become "history" and will never make a comeback.

Releasing the BJP's manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls at a press conference here, Shah also questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his party's alliance with the National Conference (NC), and urged people to vote for the BJP to continue good governance.

He said the last 10-year period will be written about in golden letters in the history

of the country and Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah reached Jammu earlier in the day on a two-day visit to kickstart the BJP's campaign for the assembly polls scheduled to be held in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1.

This is the first election in the erstwhile state after its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked and it was bifurcated into two Union territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh - in August 2019.

"It is sad; I have gone through the agenda of the NC and seen the Congress supporting it. I want to make it clear to the whole country that Article 370 and Article 35A have become history and will never make a comeback,"

Shah said before talking about his party's manifesto.

He said Article 370 is not part of the Constitution anymore. "This Article was the reason why weapons and stones were heaped to the youth and they were then facilitated to tread the path of terrorism instead of contributing to development," Shah added.

The BJP leader also accused the previous governments of bowing down before separatism, and said peace, development and social justice were restored on the ground after the abrogation of Article 370.

"There used to be a time when separatists were calling the shots and making demands. The governments were bowing down before

groups like the Hurriyat Conference... different state and non-state actors linked to terrorism and separatism destabilised J&K as all the governments were involved in appeasement. But after 2014, whenever the history of India and J&K will be written, I believe these 10 years will be written about in golden words," he said.

Shah added that the past 10 years saw peace, prosperity and development.

"The sound of guns and bomb blasts used to be heard in Kashmir for a very long time but everything changed in the last 10 years. A total of 7,217 (terror-related) incidents happened between 2004 and 2014 but the number dropped to 2,272 between 2014 and 2024,

marking a 70 per cent decrease. The overall killings also dropped by 76 per cent and civilian killings by 80 per cent while there is a huge downward trend in security force casualties," the minister said.

He said stone-pelting incidents dropped from 2,654 in 2010 to zero post-August 2019, while Pakistan-sponsored strikes also came down to zero from 132 earlier.

Not a single person died nor were security personnel injured in stone peltings as compared to 112 deaths in the previous years, Shah said.

"After 30 years, Kashmir tourism has got a big boost. Nightshows have become the new reality and processions by Shia mourners are being

'India not in favour of talks with Pakistan until terrorism ceases'

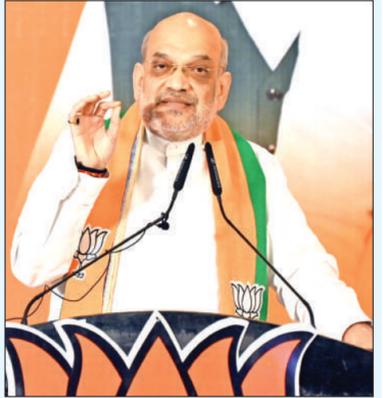
JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah unequivocally said on Friday that India is not in favour of talks with Pakistan until terrorism ceases, emphasising that "talks and bombs cannot go together".

Shah made these remarks while releasing here the BJP's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir. He dismissed any possibility of dialogue with Pakistan amidst the ongoing terrorist activities.

"Talks and bombs cannot go together. We are not in favour of talks with Pakistan unless and until terrorism ends. But we will definitely talk to the youth of Kashmir," Shah told reporters shortly after releasing the BJP manifesto ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections.

Responding to a question about the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party's (PDP) demand for talks with Pakistan and the restoration of cross-LoC trade, Shah said, "Unless terrorism comes to an end and the trade-terror ecosystem is dismantled, we cannot agree with it." Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his silence on the NC's manifesto, which advocates the restoration of Article 370, Shah said, "You should ask this question to the Congress. Whatever they do, nothing is going to happen."

Asked about separatists entering politics through elections, Shah said, "I do not have concerns about separatists. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the valley, have decided to support Narendra Modi ji in making J&K free of terrorism. I hope that your question has been seen by Rahul Gandhi." Criticising the contradiction between the NC manifesto and Rahul Gandhi's stance on reservations, Shah said, "There is a



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SC dismisses PIL for regulating exit polls, calls it 'political interest litigation'

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday junked a PIL seeking to regulate exit polls for its alleged impact on election results, saying "let us get on with governance in the country" and close this "saga".

Terming the public interest litigation (PIL) as a "political interest litigation", a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra dismissed the plea filed by B L Jain. "The government is already elected now. Let us now close the saga of what happens

during elections and let us now get on with governance in the country," the CJI said.



The bench said the poll panel is competent to handle the issue and it cannot run the Election Commission.

"This is a political interest litigation...Dismissed," it said. Jain, in his PIL, had made several poll-surveying agencies and news channels as parties.

Abdullahs, Muftis prefer to be slaves of Pak rather than identifying themselves with India: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The BJP's National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh, who is also the party incharge of J&K, on Friday said that Abdullahs and Muftis want to be slaves of Pakistan ISI rather than identifying themselves with India.

Chugh was reacting to a statement of Farooq Abdullah that J&K people cannot be slaves of India.

Chugh said Abdullah was deliberately trying to please his masters and mentors across the border while overlooking the fact that Jammu and Kashmir has moved beyond bullets and guns.

The youth of J&K are looking for job opportunities and new avenues of growth and progress, he said, adding that the fear of losing ground in the ongoing assembly elections has shaken



the Abdullahs, which is why such remarks are being made.

Chugh blamed Abdullah for keeping the people of J&K in the dark during his regime and depriving them of their right to freedom, development, peace and progress.

Chugh said that the Abdullah family

misled and misguided the people of J&K for their own vested interests.

Chugh pointed out that while the Abdullah family sent their own children to study in foreign schools, they failed to provide even basic educational facilities in the villages of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that the people of J&K now have access to IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, medical colleges, and nursing colleges.

He said that Abdullahs have houses in London, while millions of people in Jammu and Kashmir remained homeless.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), over 3.40 lakh beneficiaries have been covered in Jammu and Kashmir, he said. CONTD ON PAGE 9

266 nominations found valid during scrutiny for Ph-II J&K elections

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In accordance with the election schedule issued by Election Commission of India (ECI) for the conduct of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024, the scrutiny of nomination papers for 26 Assembly Constituencies which are going to polling in 2nd phase was held on Friday, in the office of the respective Returning Officers across six districts of UT.

During the scrutiny of the nomination papers filed by 309 candidates, candidature of 266 candidates was found valid as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of

India. A statement from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer detailed the scrutiny process held today.

Nomination papers of 99 candidates were found valid in Srinagar district, followed by 55 in Budgam district, 39 in Rajouri district, 30 in Poonch district, 22 in Reasi district while nomination papers of 21 candidates have been found valid and accordingly accepted in Ganderbal district.

In Reasi district, nomination papers of 6 candidates were found valid in 56-Gulabgarh (ST) AC;

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NT suspended for dereliction of duty, 2 Lumberdars for MCC violation

STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA/KULGAM: The District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama has suspended Naib Tehsildar Abdul Majeed Naik for negligence and dereliction of duty.

Naik, who was deployed as a magistrate in the Flying Squad Team (FST), failed to perform his responsibilities in accordance with the guidelines set for election duty.

The officer has been attached to the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tral for further action. The ADC, Tral has been directed to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.5°C Min: 22.1°C
Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 72
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 27.6°C Min: 18.0°C
Humidity
Max: 91 Min: 62
Sunset: 18:49 Hours
Sunrise: 06:08 Hours

BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' for Naya Jammu and Kashmir

BJP'S 25 PROMISES FOR A NEW JAMMU KASHMIR

- ▶▶ By wiping out terrorism and separatism, we will make Jammu and Kashmir a leader in development and progress in the nation.
- ▶▶ To further propel Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for women-led development in Jammu and Kashmir, we will prioritise enhancing women's financial security and self-reliance by:
 - ✓ Implementing 'Maa Samman Yojana' to provide ? 18,000 per year to the senior most woman in every household in Jammu & Kashmir
 - ✓ Providing assistance through the state government for Women SHGs on the issue of interest on bank loans
 - ✓ Providing 2 free LPG cylinders every year to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries.
- ▶▶ Through Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Rozgar Yojana (PPNDRY), we will create 5 lakh employment opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ▶▶ We will provide Rs 3,000 yearly through DBT as travel allowance to college students under the 'Pragati Shiksha Yojana'.
- ▶▶ We will enable the youth of Jammu & Kashmir preparing for competitive exams like JKPS and UPSC by:
 - ✓ Ensuring fair and just recruitment processes, with timely interviews
 - ✓ Providing a reimbursement of coaching fees to the tune of Rs 10,000 for 2 years
 - ✓ Reimbursing the travel costs to examination centres and one-time application fee.
- ▶▶ We will provide tablets/laptops to students studying in higher secondary classes in remote areas
- ▶▶ We will promote and develop the economy in Jammu-Kashmir, with specific emphasis on:
 - ✓ Setting up three regional development boards to monitor saturation of government schemes and craft programmes to meet the aspirations of the Jammu region
 - ✓ Tourism industry development at Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Kathua
 - ✓ Developing Dal Lake in Srinagar city as a world-class tourist destination and promoting water sports
 - ✓ Setting up an Amusement Park in Tattoo Ground in Srinagar
 - ✓ Setting up an IT hub as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Jammu city Develop Gulmarg and Pahalgam in the Kashmir Valley as modern tourist towns and enhance the necessary infrastructure
 - ✓ Establishing pharmaceutical park in Udhampur and an AYUSH Herbal park in Kishtwar
 - ✓ Developing the Tawi Riverfront similar to the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 - ✓ Creating a separate lake development authority for Ranjit Sagar Dam thereby promoting tourism
- ▶▶ To support existing businesses and small traders the following will be done:

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boards will also be set up to monitor saturation of government schemes and craft programmes to meet aspirations of the Jammu region. There will be tourism development and industry development at Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Kathua.

'Sankalp Patra' also promises developing Dal Lake as world class tourist destination and promoting water sports.

Amusement Park in Tattoo Ground in Srinagar will be set up. An IT hub as special economic zone will also be set up in the Jammu City. 'Sankalp Patra' also promises to develop Gulmarg and Pealgam as modern tourist towns.

'Sankalp Patra' promises to develop Tawi River Front similar to the Sabarmati River Front. A separate Lake Development Authority for Ranjit Sagar Dam will also be created for promoting tourism.

'Sankalp Patra' also promises to draft a new policy to address the issues facing 7000 existing MSME units in J&K. Most importantly, 'Sankalp Patra' promises free allotment of 5 Marlas for landless beneficiaries through 'Atal Awas Yojna'.

A scheme for power and water consumers would be brought to give relief to them from outstanding bills. 'Sankalp Patra' also promises to provide drinking water through 'Har' CONTD ON PAGE 9