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Article 370 now...

Article 370," he said. Shah said the NC manifesto also talks about reviewing the reservation policy and said, "I want to tell Omar Abdullah that whatever the results, we will not allow you to touch the reservation granted to Gujjars, Bakerwals and Pahadis."

"The BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, granted reservation and ensured social justice for various communities post abrogation of Article 370," he said, pledging to uphold the reservation to the communities.

The Union home minister said Jammu and Kashmir has always been important to his party and continuous attempts were made to ensure that it remained a part of the country since Independence.

"From Pandit Prem Nath Dogra to the martyrdom of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the struggle started by Bharatiya Jana Sangh was taken to its logical conclusion by the BJP because we believe that J&K is and will remain an integral part of India, and there should be no doubt in it," he added.

Earlier, Shah said, democracy used to be restricted to three families in Jammu and Kashmir with no election to local bodies, including panchayats.

"The BJP restored grassroots democracy by holding elections to panchayats and municipalities. Earlier, when 10 per cent voting used to take place in Kashmir, the national newspapers used to make it a headline... We had 98.3 per cent polling in panchayats and a record-breaking 58.46 per cent in the recent (Lok Sabha) elections, showing that the people in both the divisions are with democracy," he added.

'India not in..'

contradiction. This is a trait of Congress as they differ in what they say and what they do.

"I want to reassure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that Gujjar Bakerwal, Pahari, OBC, Dalit - the reservation given to them by us - nobody will snatch it. We will definitely continue," the senior BJP leader said.

Commenting on Omar Abdullah's decision to contest two seats, Shah said, "What can I say? First, he did not want to contest because of fear. Then he contested one seat following pressure on him."

"Now, one seat is not enough, he is contesting two seats. But Omar Sahib, the people are not with you," the Union minister said.

On the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri migrants, Shah said, "We have given them migrant status in two ways. Those who have come here from the valley are called migrants. A detailed policy will be framed. We will ensure permanent rehabilitation."

He said the government is in working on formulating corrective measures for those who had sold their properties at the peak of terrorism.

"At that time, a lot of Kashmiri Pandits, Hindus and Sikhs sold their properties and did not receive fair prices. We have been working on giving them the proper rate or getting their properties back. The work to provide jobs to 6,000 people in the valley is also complete," he said.

Regarding the demand for statehood restoration, Shah dismissed it as an attempt to mislead people.

"I have clearly said on the floor of Parliament that statehood will be restored. We do not have any reluctance. What is this demand for?"

"I have always accepted it. At an appropriate time, it will be restored. They do not need to demand it. There is nothing else to bat for, so they keep raising this issue," he said.

Responding to Gandhi's remarks that outsiders are ruling J&K, Shah said, "If he says presidential rule is outsider rule, then I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that there was more presidential rule during your time in J&K. Your so-called friends were not even living in the valley then. They were in London. The people were left to die here."

He further added that this rule is necessary because Congress was instrumental in the birth of terrorism, injustice and the failure to scrap Article 370.

Reassuring the public, Shah said, "I cannot spell out the plan but nobody should be afraid. Security measures have been fully implemented by the Narendra Modi government and the J&K administration." Replying to a question on Abdullah's remarks that unlike outside, Muslims will not be allowed to get suppressed in the valley, Shah dismissed the claim, stating, "Nothing of the sort is happening anywhere. There is no question of it in Kashmir."

He ruled out the possibility of a hung Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. Asked whether the BJP could form a government with NC and PDP in case of a hung Assembly, Shah said, "There will be no government by the PDP, NC and Congress ruled by dynasties. Other possibilities, the BJP will explore."

266 nominations found...

9 candidates in 57-Reasi AC; while nomination papers of 7 candidates have been accepted in 58-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi AC.

In Rajouri district, nomination papers of 11 candidates were found valid in 83-Kalakote - Sunderbani AC; 5 candidates in 84-Nowshera AC; 12 candidates in 85-Rajouri (ST) AC; 5 candidates in 86-Budhal (ST) AC; while nomination papers of 6 candidates have been accepted in 87-Thamnamandi (ST) AC.

For the three ACs in Poonch district, a total of 10 nomination papers were found valid and accepted in 88-Surankote (ST) AC; 9 in 89-Poonch Haveli AC, while nomination papers of 11 candidates have been accepted in 90-Mendhar (ST) AC.

Similarly, in Ganderbal district, nomination papers of 6 candidates were accepted in 17-Kangan (ST) AC, and 15 candidates in 18-Ganderbal AC.

For the 8 ACs in Srinagar district, nomination papers of 13 candidates were accepted in 19-Hazratbal AC; 10 candidates in 20-Khanyar AC; 17 candidates in 21-Habbakadal AC; 11 candidates in 22-Lal Chowk AC; 9 candidates in 23-Chamapora AC; 11 candidates in 24-Zadibal AC; 15 candidates in 25-Eidgah AC; while nomination papers of 13 candidates have been accepted in 26-Central Shalteng AC.

In Budgam district, a total of 12 nomination papers were found valid and accepted in 27-Budgam AC; 14 candidates in 28-Beervah AC; 11 candidates in 29-Khanshib AC; 11 candidates in 30-Chrar-I-Sharief AC; while nomination papers of 7 candidates have been accepted in 31-Chadoora AC.

As per the Election notification, the candidates can withdraw their nomination by or before 9 September, 2024 upto 3:00 PM in the office of the respective Returning Officers.

The polling day for these 26 Assembly constituencies in Phase-II is scheduled for September 25, 2024, and the voting will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

Abdullahs, Muftis prefer...

Chugh also said that while the Abdullah family sought medical treatment abroad for minor ailments, the poor of Jammu and Kashmir were left without any special healthcare facilities for 70 years.

"Our Prime Minister has provided Rs 5 lakh medical insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) to the people of J&K," Chugh said.

Chugh emphasized that active steps have been taken by the Modi Government to integrate J&K with India, while the Abdullahs kept J&K isolated and deprived them of development.

The Modi government has launched numerous development projects in J&K aimed at improving infrastructure, healthcare

and education, he said.

Chugh said the central government has worked towards inclusive governance by promoting local elections and encouraging participation from all communities. This has empowered the people of J&K and ensured that their voices are heard in the democratic process.

By integrating J&K more closely with the rest of India, the central government has opened up new economic opportunities for the J&K, he said.

BJP's 'Sankalp Patra'...

Ghar Nal Se Jal'. The pension of the old age and the Divyangs would be tripled to Rs 3000 from Rs 1000. 'Sankalp Patra' also promises to provide affordable healthcare for all by increasing the coverage of Ayushman Bharat scheme by an additional Rs 2 lakh from Rs 5 lakh.

'Sankalp Patra' also promises to add 1000 new seats to existing and upcoming medical colleges. Rs 10,000 will be provided under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, comprising the existing Rs 6000 along with an additional Rs 4000.

Reduced power tariffs will be implemented and lowered up by 50 per cent for agricultural activities. Reservation in promotion will be ensured for government employees and transfer policy will be created.

'Sankalp Patra' also promises to give 20 per cent quota to Agniveers in J&K Government jobs and police. The grievances of the daily wagers/adhoc/contractual employees will also be addressed.

'Sankalp Patra' also promises to build 10000 kms of new rural roads to ensure that no village remains behind and the projects like Sadhna Pass Tunnel, Katra Banihal Railway Tunnel would be completed.

Metro services will also be expedited in Jammu and Srinagar. 'Sankalp Patra' also promises to reconstruct and rejuvenate 100 ruined temples.

A concerted drive will be undertaken to address illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi settlements in J&K.

BJP'S 25 PROMISES...

o A new policy will be drafted to address the issues facing 7,000 existing MSME units in Jammu and Kashmir so that access to land and public utilities will be addressed

o Issues around regularisation of lease deeds of small traders and shopkeepers that are currently operating in existing markets and commercial spaces will be done in a time-bound manner

o Initiate steps to resolve the problems of MSME units and workers.

9 We will ensure free-allotment of 5 Marlas for landless beneficiaries through a Atal Awas Yojana.

10 We will address issues with utilities and other public services in Jammu Kashmir by providing:

o A scheme for relief from outstanding bills of electricity and water for all consumers

o Drinking water through 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'

o Free electricity through PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with an additional subsidy of Rs 10,000 to households for solar instrument installation.

11 We will triple the old age, widow and disability pensions from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000, guaranteeing a life of dignity for the vulnerable groups.

12 We will ensure affordable healthcare for all by increasing the coverage of a Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme by an additional Rs 2 lakhs from Rs 5 lakhs.

13 We will add 1,000 new seats to existing and upcoming government medical colleges.

14 We will provide Rs 10,000 under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, comprising the existing Rs 6,000 along with an additional Rs 4,000, thereby ensuring the wellbeing of farmers in Jammu & Kashmir.

15 We will implement reduced electricity tariffs, lowered by up to 50%, for agricultural activities, making it more affordable for farmers to operate irrigation pumps and other machinery.

16 We will implement reforms for government employees which will:

o Ensure reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within government services

o Create a transfer policy for all the employees specifically for Scheduled Caste and other employees working in Kashmir Valley.

17 We will give a 20% quota to Agniveers in J&K government jobs and police recruitment, and will follow the Jammu-Kashmir reservation policy without affecting the general quota.

18 We will address the grievances of long-serving adhoc/contractual/daily wage employees. Additionally, we will provide targeted additional support to address the grievances of crucial community workers such as Anganwadi Workers, ASIAs, NIHM workers, Rehbar-e-Khel employees (ReK), Community Information Centre (CIC) operators, Home Guards and National Youth Corps (NYCs).

19 We will build 10,000 km of new rural roads to ensure that no village is left behind. Further, we will complete projects like Sadhna Pass Tunnel, Katra-Banihal Railway Tunnel under the 'Har Tunnel Tez Pahal' Yojana for seamless connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir.

20 We will expedite the metro services in Jammu and Srinagar to improve urban connectivity and enhance mobility.

21 We will undertake the reconstruction of Hindu temples and shrines under Rishi Kashyapa Pilgrimage Rejuvenation Drive. We will restore 100 ruined temples and further develop existing temples, including the Shankaracharya Temple (Jyeshtheshwara Temple), Raghunath Temple, and Marthanda Sun Temple, with the active participation of religious and spiritual organisations.

22 We will undertake a concerted drive to address illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi settlements in Jammu & Kashmir.

23 To ensure the safe return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandit community, we will launch the Tika Lal Taploo Visthapit Samaj Punarvas Yojana (TLTVSPY). We will also expedite the rehabilitation of West Pakistan refugees, POJK refugees and internally neglected communities like Valmiki and Gorkhas. We will ensure that the displaced persons of Jammu division get all the due benefits security and protection that the displaced persons from Kashmir are given

24 We will publish a white paper and ensure accountability for all victims of terrorism, for this we will:

o Fast track cases

o Bring justice to the victims

o Ensure rule of law in the region.

25 We will conduct a free and fair census, unlike yesteryears, thereby ensuring proper decision making, focusing on inclusive development, with targeted interventions for marginalised communities.

NT suspended for...

detailed report to the District Election Officer for further course of action. This step has been taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the ongoing election process. DEO has warned all officers/officials to be careful and exercise duties with diligence.

Meanwhile, District Election Officer Kulgam has placed two Lumberdars under suspension for violating Model Code of Conduct. According to the order issued, Fida Hussain, Lumberdar Nowpora Devsar and Habib Ullah Dar, Lumberdar Berigam Devsar were suspended for violating the Model Code of Conduct. Both the Lumberdars were placed under suspension vide order No: 40-DCK of 2024 and 39-DCK of 2024, Dated, 06-09-2024. Meanwhile, Tehsildar Devsar has been appointed as inquiry Officer in both the cases.

DG BSF visits PHQ, holds interaction with DGP & other senior officers



STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: The Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) Daljit Singh Chaudhary visited the Police Headquarters on Friday. He was accompanied by Inspector General (IG) BSF Kashmir Ashok Yadav. During the visit, the DG BSF interacted with the Director General of Police, J&K R.R. Swain, and other top ranked J&K Police officers. Spl DG J&K Police & DGP Designate Shri Nalin Prabhat, ADGP (Headquarters) PHQ, M.K. Sinha, ADGP Law

and order Vijay Kumar were also present during the interaction.

The officers during the interaction focused on prevailing security scenario along the borders and in the hinterland with an emphasis on counter-infiltration measures to ensure the safety and security of the people.

The officers highlighted the crucial importance of intelligence sharing and enhanced collaboration between the BSF and J&K Police in addressing security challenges.

Omar accuses BJP-led Centre of trying to silence him

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday claimed that the BJP-led Centre was fielding independent candidates against him in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections in a bid to silence him.

"I always knew that Delhi would want to silence me in some way but I never thought that they would go to this extent. In Baramulla (Lok Sabha elections), when a person (Sheikh Abdul Rashid) stood against me in the polls, having filed the papers while in jail, he recorded his message from jail and sought votes based on emotions. He defeated me in the elections," he said.

"I did not see it as something worrisome," Abdullah said during election rallies in the Ganderbal Assembly segment from where is contesting the polls.

The former chief minister said after the results of Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, he thought luck was on Rashid's side and it was his

"bad luck". "But when I decided to contest (assembly) polls from Ganderbal, reports started pouring in that another citizen (Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati) who is in jail is going to contest against me. I was forced to think why these people are put only after me. Is there a conspiracy?" he asked.

Abdullah said he could understand Rashid contesting the Lok Sabha polls against him as he was a local from the constituency.

"When they could not find a local (Ganderbal) person in jail, they brought one (Barkati) from Zainapora-Shopian. I still thought maybe it was a coincidence. I consulted a few of my colleagues and told them that I want to prove that it is a conspiracy from Delhi against me," he said.

Abdullah said his team collected nomination papers from a couple of constituencies without revealing where they will file the papers from.

Reddy pays obeisance at Bawe Wali Mata temple, prays for peace, dev in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Union minister G Kishan Reddy visited the Bawe Wali Mata temple here on Friday and prayed for peace and development of the nation and Jammu and Kashmir, and incidence-free assembly elections in the Union Territory.



Reddy, who is the BJP election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, is camping in Jammu to oversee the preparations and campaigning of the party across the region.

"I paid obeisance at the temple of Mata Kali. We prayed for peace and con-

tinued development here. We also sought the blessings for Modi ji to lead our country to new heights of glory," Reddy said.

He expressed hope that with the blessings of Mata

party's campaign from Jammu on Saturday.

The party's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir will focus on improving conditions for women, youth, the needy, and farmers, he said.

He criticized the alliance between Congress and the National Conference, calling it an anti-development alliance and accused it of fostering militancy in the region.

"NC-Congress coalition is an anti-development alliance. It is an alliance of dynasties. It is an alliance of corruption. It is an alliance to promote terrorism," he said.

J&K Bank strengthens builder Tie-Ups in Mohali Zone to facilitate ease in housing options



Bank's Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar during signing of MoUs with senior representatives of builder companies.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: With a view to enhance customer convenience and expand its presence in the housing sector, J&K Bank today entered into four strategic builder tie-ups for upcoming housing projects. These collaborations include projects in Shimla and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, and Mohali and Zirakpur in Punjab.

cantly expand the Bank's prospective housing portfolio, now encompassing over 2,000 upcoming housing units across Shimla, Dharamshala, Zirakpur, and Mohali. The move aims to streamline the home loan process and offer the Bank's customers greater access to different real estate options in both urban and scenic locations.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the Bank's commitment to make the home loan journey easier and more accessible for its customers.

"These tie-ups are designed to provide our customers with diverse home-buying options at some of the most desirable locations in the region. By simplifying formalities, we aim to make the entire process seamless, allowing customers to focus on finding their perfect second or holiday home," he said.

Cluster Head (Mohali) elaborated on the benefits of these tie-ups, particularly for customers from J&K and Ladakh who are interested in investing in residential real estate or holiday homes. "With these projects, we are offering our valued customers the chance to invest in quality real estate options, providing them with opportunities to spend their leisure time at prime locations in the hills and plains."

The projects included in the MoUs are Tara Devi in Shimla, Royal Nest in Dharamshala, Metro Heights in Zirakpur and Jo Shan Heights in Mohali.

During the event, it was also mentioned that the Bank is in the process of securing additional builder tie-ups to provide even more home-buying options for its customers in the near future.

175 MCC violations reported across J&K, 9 FIRs registered, 5 Govt employees suspended, inquiry initiated in 48 cases

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Acting tough against the violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) guidelines imposed across the Jammu and Kashmir after the announcement of General Elections to Legislative Assembly, the Election Department has registered 9 FIRs, suspended 5 government employees, besides issuing warning in 23 such cases, even as the inquiry has been initiated in 48 cases of violations.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K UT said that 175 MCC violations have been reported across the UT ever since the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct on 16 August, 2024.

These included 96 reports of violation against the political parties and the candidates, 53 against the government employees; two against the media persons and 24 against others.

Taking the cognizance of the

'Khair' wood recovered; loaded vehicle seized

STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: Police has seized a vehicle laden with Khair wood in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba which were being transported without any valid permission.

A Police party led by SHO PS Samba during special vehicle checking Naka at SambalChowk Samba, intercepted a Bolero pickup bearing registration No. JK02AL-3241 for checking. During checking, Khair wooden logs were found laden inside the vehicle which were being transported illegally without any valid permission.

The two persons inside the vehicle which was Enroute-Jakh have been identified as KhadamHussain, son of Shah Mohd., resident of KatholiSarover, Samba and Ashraf Ali, son of Lt. SardarMohd., resident of Suchani, Samba. The said vehicle has been seized for further legal proceedings.

Kidnapped minor girl recovered, accused arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: Police has recovered a kidnapped minor girl from district Kathua in a kidnapping case registered at Police Station Vijaypur and arrested the accused kidnapper.

A written complaint was lodged at Police Station Vijaypur by the mother of missing girl, a resident of Budwal tehsil Vijaypur district Samba, stating therein that her daughter went to the market and did not return home. Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 119/2024 u/s 137(2) BNS got registered at Police Station Vijaypur and search was started to trace the said kidnapped girl. Special teams of PS Vijaypur constituted by SDPO Vijaypur under SHO PS Vijaypur conducted raids at different places and finally after hectic efforts coupled with technical analysis succeeded in recovering the said kidnapped girl from district Kathua and arrested the kidnapper namely Raman Kumar, son of Vijay Kumar, resident of Vijaypur district Samba.