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# Join India, we consider you our own unlike Pakistan: Rajnath to PoK residents

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asked the residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to come and join India as "we consider you our own unlike Pakistan which treats you as foreigners"

Addressing an election rally in the Ramban assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur, the Union minister asserted there is a sea change in the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The senior BJP leader came down heavily on the Conference-Congress alliance over its poll promise of restoring Article 370 and said it is impossible

as long as the BJP is there. He said the "sea change' witnessed in the overall security situation in J-K since August 2019 means that youths now carry laptops and



Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at an election rally at Ramban on Sunday.

computers in their hands instead of pistols and

Now, nobody dares to fire bullets at people in Srinagar, he said.

"Support the BJP to form the next government in J-K so that we can facilitate massive development in the region. There will be so much development that the people in PoK on seeing this should say that we do not want to live with Pakistan and instead will go to India," the defence minister said.

He said that recently an affidavit was filed by Additional Pakistan's Solicitor General in the neighboring country stating that PoK is a foreign land.

"I want to tell PoK residents that Pakistan considers you foreigners, but the people in India do not consider you so. We consider you our own and so come and join

In the Ramban constituency, the BJP's Thakur is up against the NC's Arjun Singh Raju and party's rebel Suraj Singh Parihar. The seat was last won by the BJP's Neelam Kumar Langeh who was denied a ticket by the party this time.

Singh said the assembly polls are taking place in J&K after 10 years and not only the people of the country but outside are also watching it. "I firmly believe that the BJP

will form the next government with a clear majority." Praising the people of J&K as skilful, hardworking and dedicated, he said if the BJP comes to power, J-K will emerge as the number one and modern state in the country. "I am saying it on the performance of the cengovernment after Narendra Modi took over as prime minister in 2014. India has moved to

### Ready for dialogue with Pakistan if it stops terrorism: Rajnath

BANIHAL: India is ready to start dialogue with Pakistan if it stops terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday.

Addressing a rally in this assembly segment of Ramban district in support of BJP candidate Mohd Saleem Bhat, Singh said Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to J-K, was revoked to end the misery of the people and make the region prosperous. This provision will not be restored as long as the BJP is there, he asserted.

In their election manifestos, the National Conference and the PDP have called for talks with

Without naming the parties, Singh said, "Some people want us to talk with Pakistan. I want to tell them... Pakistan should stop taking support of terrorism.'

"Who would not like to improve relations with neighbouring countries? Because I know the reality that you can change a friend but not your neighbour. We want improved relations with Pakistan but first of all they should stop terrorism," he told the well-attended gathering here. The defence minister said when Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, India will start dialogue with them.

"Among those who fell to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, 85 percent were Muslims. Terror incidents used to be a routine affair in Kashmir. Were Hindus being killed in the terror acts? I have been a home minister, and I know the highest number of Muslims lost their lives in the

Earlier in the day, the defence minister addressed an election rally in nearby Ramban in support of party candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur and said more than 40,000 people have lost their lives in terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three decades.

Bhat is pitted against former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani who is looking for a hat-trick of wins from the Banihal seat. National Conference's Sjjad Shaheen and the PDP's Imtiyaz Shan make it a multi-cornered contest. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed a massive rally in support of the party candidate in Sangaldan area on September 4. Accusing the NC and PDP CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Modi visiting J&K on Sept 14, to address multiple rallies

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is for the upcoming elections.

September 14 as part of his campaign efforts ahead of the upcom-2024 Assembly Elections Jammu and Kashmir. His

visit is expected to attract a large turnout, with the Prime Minister addressing several key issues concern-

ing the region. The visit comes at a criti-

candidates for four

assembly constituencies STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of the

announced its list of candi-

dates for four key assembly

In a statement, the party revealed the candidates for

elections, the

and Kashmir

Conference

Sunday

including

Assembly

Jammu

National (JKNC)

District

National

constituencies,

Kathua, Nagrota, Udhampur East.

party's representative.

Two killed, four injured

in road mishap

RAJOURI: Two teenage

boys were killed and four

injured in a collision between

WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:09 Hours

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

a car and a motorcycle

will be the third high-profile visit after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah to the region of Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Assembly cal time as the BJP ramps

up its efforts to secure a strong foothold in the region The Prime Minister's visit



#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: Union minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Parsis have made silent but immense contribution to India's development, and lauded the role of Gujarati newspaper Mumbai Samachar in that journey. Speaking after releasing

documentary film 'Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out', which chronicles the remarkable 200-year journey of Asia's oldest newspaper, Shah said the Camas, who run it, exemplify journalism of trust.

Entering its 203rd year of



Parsis made silent but immense contribution to

India's development: Amit Shah

Samachar has become an integral part of the identity of the country's financial cap-

Terming it as a trusted organization, he

everything printed Mumbai Samachar is true.

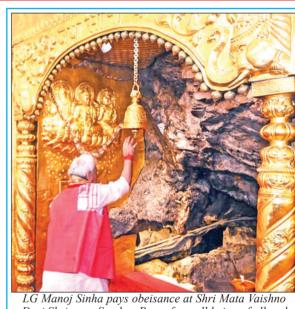
Admitting that he learnt about the newspaper when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came here (in June) in connection with its bicenten-

nial celebrations, Shah said, "Dynasties don't last 200 years here but a newspaper has lasted for so long.

Lauding the feat, Shah underlined that it was more difficult for a regional newspaper to survive for such a long time.

It is probably the only (surviving) newspaper that reported on the death of Rani of Jhansi (on June 18, 1858) as well as cover PM Modi's oath-taking ceremony in 2014, Shah said to give the gathering an idea of the iconic daily's journey spanning many generations.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Devi Shrine on Sunday. Prays for well being of all and peace & prosperity of J&K UT.

# Many KP organisations decide to refrain from NCP, PDP getting nervous in face of impending electoral process over 'genocide denial'

#### **■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: As the polling dates for the maiden Assembly polls after abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir draws near, several organisations of the Kashmiri Pandit community has decided to refrain from the electoral process in the Union Territory over "persistent denial of their geno-

these constituencies, with The decision to abstain President Conference from the polling was taken at Udhampur, Sunil Verma, Kashmiri pandit citizens meet held here in the light of contesting from Udhampur Assembly elections East. Notably, the party has scheduled to take place in fielded Subash Chander Azad from Kathua (SC), three phases on September Raiesh Parcotra from Vijaypur, and Joginder Singh (Kaku) from Nagrota as the

18, 25 and October 1.

The event, attended by a significant number of Kashmiri Pandit leaders, focused on the ethical and political dilemma of participating in an election that continues to disregard the community's demand for recognition of their genocide" and the resultant "forced exodus" from their homeland.

"For decades now, we have been a community in exile, watching as successive governments and political parties utilise our exodus and our suffering as talking points during elections. Yet,

our demands for justice -recognising our genocide, facilitating our return to our homeland with dignity, and restoring our rights -- we are met with silence.

"By participating in these elections, we would be helping the same system that continues to deny us. This election is not about us, and we must be firm in our resolve not to lend our credibility to a process that seeks to silence us," eminent lawyer and constitutional expert Tito Ganju said. emphasised

CONTD ON PAGE 9

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH/SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also the party incharge for J&K, on Sunday said that the feudal parties like the NCP, PDP and the Congress have become nervous in the face of impending defeat in the coming Assembly elections.

Reacting strongly to the statement made by Omar Abdullah that BJP has struck a deal with regional parties, independents to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir, Chugh dismissed the remark stating "it is high time Omar Abdullah stop making baseless allegations to mislead people of J&K"

He said "The NC, Congress, and PDP are anti-national and dynastic parties. The BJP is clear on its commitment to



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh along with other party leader. at Poonch on Sunday

freed from the influence of parties that support terrorism and separatism".

Chugh reiterated that the Modi government is committed to restoring statehood for J&K and achieving lasting peace in the region, something these

parties have never genuinely worked

Chuch reasserted that these parties have consistently fueled insurgency and unrest, preventing J&K from prosper-

# J&K Assembly Polls: BJP releases sixth list of 10 candidates, drops ex-Dy CM



## Vikram Randhawa from Bahu; Surinder Marh; Rajiv Bishnah; Dr Bharat Bhushan Kathua; Pathania Udhampur East

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

Max: 33.5°C Max: 85 Max: 29.4°C Max: 77 Min: 55 election in 10 years. Sunset: 18:46 Hours

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: The BJP on Sunday released its sixth list of candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, as the region prepares for its first The party has dropped senior

leader and former Deputy

Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta from his Gandhi Nagar seat in the latest list of 10 candidates. Vikram Randhawa has been fielded to replace Gupta in Gandhi Nagar, which is now known as Bahu after delimitation. The BJP has named Bharat Bhushan from Kathua announced Ghulam

Muhamed Mir as the candidate from Handwara. Mir will face Jammu and Kashmir People's Sabha polls.

Conference Chief Sajjad Lone, whom the BJP had supported in Baramulla during the Lok Naseer Ahmad Lone will contest from Bandipora, while RS

Pathania has been named for

Udhampur East. Mohammed Idrees Karnahi, Abdul Rashid Khan, and Faqir Mohammad Khan will contest from Karnah, Sonawari, and Gurez, respectively. The BJP also named Rajeev Bhagat from the Bishnah constituency and Surinder Bhagat from Marh

# Quad summit to take place in Delaware this month; India likely to host it next year

#### DELHI: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is set to join the leaders of the US, Japan and Australia at the Quad summit in the US later this month as the influential grouping is likely to deliberate on pressing global challenges including the situation in Ukraine.

The summit is likely to take place on September 21 in US President Joe Biden's hometown of Wilmington in Delaware, people familiar with the matter said.

There is no official announcement yet on the date and venue of the highprofile summit. It was India's turn to host the Quad summit this year. However, the leaders of the grouping decided to hold the summit

at a venue convenient to all in view of constraints of a tight calendar.

As per the new plan, India is expected to host the Quad summit next year.

Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida are among the world leaders who are travelling to the US to attend the UN's Summit of the Future in New York on September 22 and 23.

The Quad summit is likely to focus on boosting cooperation among the member nations in the Indo-Pacific besides delving into various key challenges facing the globe including the conflict in

In July, the foreign ministers of the Quad member

nations held wide-ranging talks in Tokyo with a focus on boosting overall cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

In a loud and clear message to China, the Quad foreign ministerial meeting reaffirmed the grouping's steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and resolved to work towards a region where no country dominates others and each state is free from "coercion' in all its forms.

The foreign ministers also announced a plan to expand its ambitious Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) programme to the Indian Ocean region that would facilitate monitoring the strategic waters. In New York, Prime Minister

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