# JAMMU ● THURSDAY ● APRIL 18, 2024

# Came with hope in 2014, trust in 2019, guarantee in 2024: Modi

glected the region so that they could indulge in corruption and loot. This situation has, however, been changed and the region is reaping the benefits of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", he claimed.

Recently, the Prime Minister had laid the foundation of a semiconductor testing facility in Assam which will provide over 15,000 jobs to the youth.

"This has been a historic and unprecedented step. Assam will soon be recognised as a semiconductor hub", Modi said

The electricity bill of the people will also come to zero as they will be provided with solar panels while over 3 crore women associated with SHGs will be made 'Lakhpati Didis', he added.

All the promises made in the manifesto will be fulfilled and these will benefit the poor, deprived, dalits, farmers and the tea garden workers.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers has been raised in Assam and they will continue to get the benefits of the PM Kisan Samman Nidihi.

"For me, your dreams are my promises. Each moment is dedicated to you, your dreams and the country", he added. Modi was here to campaign for NDA candidates of three constituencies – Asom Gana Parishad's Phani Bhushan Choudhury who is contesting from Barpeta, United People's Party, Liberal (UPPL)'s Jayanta Basumatary from Kokrajhar and BJP's Bijuli Kalita Medhi of Guwahati, who all were present at the rally.

## NC, Cong will cut into DPAP votes; won't damage BJP: Azad

is the family constituency of Abdullahs. I provided them with colleges & hospitals. What has Omar done for his home constituency? He only exploited and harmed people,"

Azad raised concerns about the Congress party's approach to addressing public issues, particularly in BJPruled states. He criticised the party for what he sees as a reluctance to engage in direct confrontations and a tendency to seek out safe seats where minority populations are

He questioned the party's commitment to fighting BJP on the ground, highlighting its preference for safe seats, notably in states like Kerala, over contested battlegrounds.

"Why is Rahul Gandhi hesitant to contest in BJP-ruled states?" Azad said and noted that while Gandhi claims to be fighting BJP, his actions suggest otherwise.

"Why fly from BJP-ruled states and seek refuge in minority-dominated ones?" he said and termed Rahul and Omar Abdullah as 'spoon-fed kids' rather than politicians. "They have not made personal sacrifices in life and are merely enjoying political legacies inherited from figures like Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah. Both have done nothing on their own," he added.

Azad reiterated his commitment to development, urging people to distance themselves from exploitative politicians. He emphasised the importance of supporting candidates dedicated to addressing public issues.

Azad urged people to rally behind DPAP candidate G M Saroori in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, highlighting his dedication to raising and addressing pressing public

### **Amarnath Yatra: 20 DSPs** deputed to SASB

Yatra would start on June 29, 2024 and conclude on Au-

Registration for the pilgrimage has already started in

# the designated bank branches. Woman drug peddler's house aftached

fied as Mahjabeen Banoo, wife of Farooq Ahmad Najar of Stadium Colony, Batapora. The house is constructed over Shamilat Section 5 land measuring 6.5 marlas and falling under Survey No 952/1.

"The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation conducted by ian police and was prima facie acquired from illici trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler," officials said.

# Ram Lalla honoured with 'Surya Tilak' on Ram Navmi

very emotional moment for me. The grand Ram Navami in Ayodhya is historic. May this Surya tilak bring energy to our lives and may it inspire our nation to scale new heights

He also shared pictures of

Development journey to continue despite Oppn propaganda: Jitendra

propaganda.

Making a scathing attack on Congress and its allied oppo-

sition parties on the sidelines of a roadshow here on the last day of campaigning for first phase of parliamentary election, he said Congress had deprived this entire region of any development for the last over 60 years and, in fact, deliberately also halted the ongoing projects only to appease their masters and to keep particular sections of vote bank in good humour by doing discrimination with this region.

"The irony is that the Congress leaders who say that there is no development happening in this region are the ones who are using these facilities created by us in the last 10 years, whether it is the network of roads, or bridges or flyovers or tunnels or the medical colleges," Dr Singh added.

"In 10 years under Prime Minister Modi, the constituency is among the most developed constituencies in the country. It is perhaps the only constituency in the country which got three centrally funded medical colleges and a host of national projects including the world's highest railway bridge, Asia's longest road tunnel at Chenani, North India's first Industrial Biotech Park at Kathua, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project at River Devika, North India's first Cable Bridge Atal Setu in Basohli, two passport offices and Radio Station at Udhampur. Not only this, as PM Modi mentioned in his April 12 Udhampur rally, the Congress-led UPA government halted the Shahpur-Kandi project, which would benefit the twin districts of Kathua and Samba and the project was revived only after Modi came to power," he said.

Taking a dig at the opposition leaders, he said, on the one hand, the Congress leaders and its allies say that there are no roads constructed, on the other hand, while driving through this constituency they are invariably using the 9½ Kms Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel from Chenani to Nashri in order to cut down their travel time by 1½ hours. If these leaders have any conscience, let them at least not use these facilities provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.him watching the Surya tilak on an electronic device.

## 8 union ministers, 2 ex-CMs in fray in first phase of LS polls

member who replaced sitting MP Balak Nath, is in a contest with sitting Congress MLA Lalit Yadav, who belongs to Matsya region of Alwar district in Rajasthan and enjoys the support of the Yadav community.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is pitted against former Congress minister Govind Ram Meghwl from Bikaner parliamentary seat in Rajasthan.

The Nilgiris Lok Sabha constituency in Tamil Nadu is witnessing one of the keenly watched battles between A Raja, the incumbent DMK MP, and former telecom minister, and L Murugan of the BJP, who is the Union Minister of State for Fisheries. This will be the first time that Murugan, who was elected to Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, is contesting from here.

Sivaganga MP Karti Chidmabaram is aiming for a reelection from a seat his father won seven times, competing against BJP's T Devanathan Yadav and AIADMK's Xavier

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai is set to take the ballot test in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore where she is pitted against DMK leader Ganapathy P Rajkumar and AIADMK's Singai Ramachandran.

Tamilisai Soundararajan, who recently resigned as governor of Telangana and Lt Governor of Puducherry to return to active politics, is contesting from Chennai South Lok Sabha constituency. Daughter of veteran Congress leader Kumari Anantha, Soundararajan had contested 2019 Lok Sabha elections against DMK's Kanimozhi, but lost by a huge margin in Thoothukudi.

This time, Kanimozhi is seeking a re-election from the seat. NDA ally Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) has fielded SDR Vijayaseelan and AIADMK has fielded R Sivasami Velumani from the constituency

Nakul Nath, son of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, is seeking a re-

The seat has remained firmly with Kamal Nath, who has won the seat nine times since 1980. In the 2019 polls, the BJP bagged 28 seats out of the state's 29, but missed out on picking Chhindwara, where Nakul beat the BJP's candidate by 37,536 votes to emerge as the lone Congress MP in

Of the two Lok Sabha constituencies in Tripura, the seat of West Tripura that votes in the first phase on April 19 will see a high-voltage clash between former chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb and state Congress president Ashish

Having won Lok Sabha elections twice since 2014 from Kaliabor constituency in Assam, Gaurav Gogoi, Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha and son of former chief minister Tarun Gogoi, finds himself as the new candidate in neighbouring Jorhat, where BJP's Topon Kumar Gogoi won in 2019.

Gaurav Gogoi's shift to Jorhat came after the impact of delimitation exercise in his 2019 constituency, Kaliabor.

Manipur Law and Education Minister Basanta Kumar Singh is BJP's nominee for the Inner Manipur constituency and is pitted against JNU professor and Congress candidate Bimal Akoijam.

Singh, who belongs to the Meiti community, is the son of

Thounaojam Chaoba Singh who served as the Union Minister of State for sports, youth affairs, culture and food processing in the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Va-

FROM PAGE ONE

The BJP stronghold of Churu, in northern Rajasthan, is readying for an interesting match between BJP candidate Devendra Jhajharia, a two-time Paralympic gold medallist javelin thrower, and Rahul Kaswan from the Congress. Kaswan is a turncoat who has made the fight for Churu interesting. The two-time left the BJP only in March after he was denied a ticket by the party.

Polling for the 543 seats for electing the 18th Lok Sabha will be held in seven phases. The votes will be counted on

#### Bihar resident shot dead by terrorists result of which he received two bullets, one in neck

and other in abdomen, the officials added.

A massive combing operation was in progress in the area but forces were yet to find any clue to the

whereabouts of the escaped terrorists, officials said Searches were continuing when

# Campaigning ends in Udhampur LS seat, polling on Apr 19

unturned to woo the voters, bringing back the focus on Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir and which was abrogated by the BJP-led central government in August 2019.

The BJP also came in for severe criticism by the rivals for continuing its "proxy rule" by not holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and dividing the erstwhile state into two Union territories. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who reached Udhampur

on April 12 and took the campaigning to its crescendo, reassured the people about holding of assembly elections and restoration of statehood.

Modi highlighted the achievements made in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years and said this is for the first time in decades that the upcoming elections are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir without the fear of terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting and cross-border firing.

The BJP, which also brought a galaxy of high-profile leaders, including defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Anurag Thakur, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, to the constituency, boasted about the restoration of peace by ending Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, stone-pelting and frequent strikes besides ensuring record-breaking tourist arrivals and massive develop-

Home Minister Amit Shah, during his election rally in Jammu on Tuesday, reiterated that the assembly elections will be held in accordance with the deadline of September 30 set by the Supreme Court.

The campaigning by the Congress, on the other hand, saw their star campaigners, including actor-turned politician Raj Babbar, former deputy chief minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and chairman of minority department AICC Imran Pratapgarhi, addressing a series of rallies in the constituency to bolster the chances of their

The National Conference (NC), which is a part of the Congress-led INDIA bloc, also hit the campaign trail in support of Lal Singh. Its president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah, both former chief ministers, undertook a whirlwind tour of Chenab valley region.

The two leaders went full throttle against the DPAP, accusing it of being a proxy of the BJP to divide the secular votes in the constituency.

Omar Abdullah also slammed the BJP for the August 2019 development and questioned its claims about massive development, saying almost all the major projects including four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and the prestigious railway line to connect Kashmir with rest of the country were given to J-K by the Congress governments before 2014.

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which is also part of the INDIA bloc, was missing from the scene as it fielded candidates on three seats from Kashmir after it was sidelined in the seat-sharing agreement on the six seats of J-K and Ladakh.

DPAP chairman and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also addressed a series of public meetings to garner support for Saroori and targeted both the NC and the Congress for ignoring Chenab valley region over the past six decades and also launched attacks on the NC leadership, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani.

Wani, in his road shows and rallies, accused his former

senior colleague in the Congress of working at the behest of the BJP. Azad left Congress in 2022 and later formed his own party, which he claimed has emerged as the fastest growing on the political map of J-K in a short period, unnerving his political opponents.

On the last day of campaigning, the contestants made a last ditch effort to reach out to the voters. Jitendra Singh carried out door-to-door campaigning and held rallies in Kathua. Lal Singh, accompanied by Wani and Pratapgari, visited Ramban and Saroori and was seen canvassing in

Meanwhile, the concerned district election officers ordered prohibition of campaigning by means of electronic media, restriction on outsider political functionaries and use of loudspeakers. reports last came in tonight.

# Major breakthrough ahead of LS polls as SFs recover 3 IEDs

trolled explosion, scuttling terrorists' plan to carry out blasts in the Union Territory.

"We received an input about the hideout and suspicious movement in the upper Sanai area at about 4 am and subsequently launched a joint 'search and destroy' operation,"

"Three IEDs, one weighing 15 to 20 kgs, second eight to 10 kgs and third three to five kgs, having two mechanisms for initiating charge were recovered and destroyed," officials

The recovery of the IEDs had foiled a plan of terrorist to carry out attacks on the eve of Lok Sabha elections, the offi-

While forces carried out searches in the vicinity of the hideout, they could not find any trace of suspected terrorists, officials said.

# Azad not to contest from Rajouri-Anantnag constituency

Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference senior leader Mian Altaf are contesting from the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat. "Azad will not contest the election from Rajouri-Anant-

nag seat," Bhat told reporters in Anantnag.

"A meeting took place with Azad and it was decided that Saleem Parray will be the DPAP candidate for the Rajouri-Anantnag seat," he added.

The DPAP leader said Azad had some reasons not to  $contest-without\, divulging\, those\, reasons.$ "He gave some reasons (in the meeting) and then we

took a decision on fielding Parray from the seat," Bhat On April 2, the DPAP announced that Azad will contest

from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat.

"Today the core committee of DPAP met and we have decided that (party president) Ghulam Nabi Azad will contest the Anantnag-Rajouri seat," DPAP leader Taj Mohiud-

#### As first time voters join BJP, Kavinder says youth impressed by Modi govt's policies scores of first time voters joined BJP and vowed to

strengthen the party at the grassroots level, he said the party was committed to the welfare of youth.

Gupta said the youth should work with dedication to play a vital role by convincing people about supporting BJP as other political outfits had never thought beyond their personal interests. "For BJP, nation comes first," he added.

He said that youth activists had the potential to ensure a landmark victory for BJP. "The future of the country depends on the youth because India is the nation of young people. Therefore, it is necessary for youth to work in the direction of making India stronger by supporting PM Modi to carry forward his prolific policies in the third consecutive tenure." he added.

The joining programme was organised by Jatinder

Later, in a meeting chaired by Rekha Mahajan, Gupta reviewed the preparations for the upcoming rally of Jugal Kishore in Bahu Constituency on April 22 and discussed measures to make the rally a grand success.

The meeting divulged that the rally would commence from Bawe Wali Mata temple and, after passing through Sunjwan, Gorkha Nagar, Malik Market, Chhani, Trikuta Nagar, Shivaji Chowk, Apsara Road, Dhudha Dhari Mandir, Sanjay Nagar Chowk, Digiana Park, Jawahar Nagar and Belicharana, would culminate at Raipur Satwari.

Responsibilities were assigned to party activists to ensure maximum participation of the general public to make the event highly successful and effective.

Those present in the meeting included Vinay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Pushpinder Singh, Lucky Puri, Bharat Bhushan, Rajinder Koul, Mohd Rafeek, Liaquat Hussain, Advocate Chandel, Satvir Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Sahil Mahajan and Nitish Mahajan.

# Regional parties used youth as scapegoats for their political gains: Bukhari

SRINAGAR, APRIL 17: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Wednesday, said that "traditional political parties and their leaders have been responsible for spilling innocent blood, as they have made youth scapegoats for their own political dividends, using deceptive narratives and emotional sloganeering over the past several decades." He urged the young population in J&K to "join hands with the Apni Party in order to shape a brighter future of this region and its people.

He made these comments today while addressing an event at the party headquarters in Srinagar. The event was organised to welcome a large number of youth from Srinagar and Pampore into the party fold.

Addressing the occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari blamed the traditional parties and their leaders for being responsible for the deaths and destruction of J&K.

He said, "These parties and leaders deceived our youth with misleading political narratives and emotionally charged slogans, and by setting unattainable goals. They paved the way for violence and bloodshed here. As a result, we have tragically lost thousands of our young people over the years and decades. The irony persists as the families of these victims continue to suffer, with a significant number of youths still imprisoned."

"On the other hand, the politicians

who used the young population as

cannon fodder for their political ambitions created empires and accumulated riches for their families during this time," he added. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged the youth to join hands with the Apni Party to contribute their efforts

to strengthen democracy and demo-

cratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir He said, "Together, we can change the scenario of J&K for the better. I assure you that the Apni Party will ensure that democracy and democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir are strengthened, and the people receive all the rights guaranteed to citizens by the constitution of the coun-

Assuring people that the Apni Party would always stand by the truth and never mislead them, he said, "Our politics is based on truth and honesty. Unlike traditional parties, we will never mislead people for our political

Reiterating the party's fundamental principles, Syed Mohammad Altaf

Bukhari said, "Apni Party was established post-August 2019, when the entire J&K region was under lockdown and in a state of significant chaos. At that time, people were apprehensive that after losing Article 370 and the statehood, this region would face demographic changes, potentially altering the Muslim-majority identity of in J&K. Ironically, the traditional politicians who had been in power for over 70 years chose to remain silent during this testing period. We could have also chosen to be silent spectators during that time, but we decided to step forward and stand by our people in those challenging times. We launched the party and traveled to Delhi to meet with leaders in the central government. We successfully convinced them to preserve the exclusive rights of the people of J&K over jobs and land here Those who joined the party today

included prominent social and political activist from Srinagar's Sannat Nagar, Shujaat Wani; entrepreneur Mukhtar Ahmad from Dalgate; Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh from Dalgate; Shahid Ahmad Yatoo from Pampore; Asif Ahmad Yatoo from Pampore; social and political activist Tabish Mushtaq from Wanabal, along with their associates

#### Seminar on Indian Nuclear Power Program held at NIT Srinagar SRINAGAR, APRIL 17: A day-Prof. B.A. Mir, honorary Secretary (IGS), convened the seminar, with ural catastrophes. Prof. Adnan Qayoom, Dr. Majid Hus-

long seminar on "Indian Nuclear Power Program: Evolution, Present and the Way Forward" under the aegis of the Indian Nuclear Society (INS) and Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) concluded at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The seminar, organized by the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments of NIT Srinagar, forms part of a two-day programme by INS, the twin seminar successfully concluded at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu earlier last week.

Speakers included eminent professionals from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., Department of Atomic Energy, and Atomic Energy Regulatory Boards.

Their engaging talks provided valuable insights into the history and operations of nuclear power plants, including the evolutionary designs, commissioning and decommissioning, site selection and structural engineering safety, as well as aspects of nuclear materials and applications of rare earth elements.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath was the chief patron of the event. The inaugural session was presided over by Heads of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics departments.

sain and Dr. Falak Zahoor as the coordinators. Post-graduate scholars of Geotechnical Engineering (Civil Department) played a vital role in the smooth conduction of the event.

The seminar attracted over 40 participants including UG and PG students from various disciplines of engineering and other sciences from  $several\ educational\ institutes.$ 

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Ravinder Nath in his inaugural address, mentioned the tremendous opportunities presented by the event for UG and PG students.

He also appreciated the efforts of NIT Srinagar and INS for providing a significant platform for professionals from all disciplines. Prof. Ravinder Nath expressed the

vision of NIT Srinagar to host more such future events pledging full support for the same. In his keynote address, Prof. J.A. Bhat (HOD, Civil Engineering) and

Prof. Adnan Qayoom (HOD, Mechanical Engineering), highlighted the significance of the engineering disciplines in the effective development of nuclear power plants.

Various challenges during the construction and operation phases of the power plants were discussed, especially seismic hazards and other nat-

Prof. Ikram Ahmad (HOD, Physics) and Prof. M.A. Shah underlined the importance of various engineering and science disciplines to planning, building and security. They emphasised the importance of physics in the origin of nuclear power and materials.

Prof. B.A. Mir emphasised the role of geotechnical and geological engineering in the selection of proper sites for nuclear power plants as well as the construction of resilient foundations. In this respect, the indispensable role of geotechnical engineers and the responsibility of IGS were recognised.

Enthusiastic discussions between the participants and the speakers after the lectures created a motivational environment for learning and exchange of knowledge.

The seminar presented a wonderful opportunity for interaction between academic institutions and the members of INS, opening up prospects of future collaborations in projects, internship opportunities, and exchange of expertise.

The session concluded with the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding between NIT Srinagar and the institutions associated with INS.