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Modi hits out at Cong, calls it 'vote bank-hungry'

including all the castes of the Muslim community into the OBC category. A big portion of benefits the OBC community used to get was cut off, Modi said.

"Congress insulted social justice, murdered it and killed secularism there (Karnataka). This model of Karnataka is what Congress wants to implement in the entire country. Congress wants to give the rights of SC, ST, OBC to its vote bank by changing the Constitution," he claimed.

He told the people present in the meeting that only the BJP can protect their reservation and sought their support.

The intention of the Congress is not good, it is not according to the Constitution, social justice and secularism. If anyone can protect your reservation, it is the BJP, Modi said.

"The Congress's eyes are not only on your reservation, but also on your earnings, your houses, shops and farms. The 'shehzada' of Congress (apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi) says they will conduct an X-ray of the property of every house and every family in the country. The Congress will snatch all these things from you and they say that they will equally distribute them," he said.

Do you know to whom they will distribute it after looting it from you, Modi asked, to which the people replied in affirmative.

"I need not tell you to whom they will distribute it to," he added.

Modi further said the "dangerous intentions" of Congress are coming to the fore one by one and now it says it will impose inheritance tax.

"They (Congress) want to snatch your assets and rights of your children," Modi added.

He said Congress' history has been to destroy the country for the sake of power.

"Terrorism and Naxalism spread in the country and who was responsible for this? As a result of Congress' misrule and negligence, the country was being ruined. Today, the BJP government has been taking stern action against Naxalism and terrorism.

"But what is Congress doing? Congress has been supporting those who spread violence. Those who kill people, police and security forces. If they die, Congress calls them martyrs. Congress insults our brave security forces. Senior leaders of Congress shed tears when terrorists are killed. Due to such acts, Congress has lost hope of the country," he added.

"When I talk about Viksit Bharat, Congress and some forces get furious. If India becomes powerful, then the game of some forces will be distorted. If India becomes at-manirbhar, shops of some forces will be shut. Therefore, they want a weak government of Congress and INDI alliance in the country which keep on fighting among each other and commit corruption," he said.

Hailing the Vishnu Deo Sai-led government in Chhattisgarh for its various schemes, Modi said, the way action is being taken against 'ghotalebaaz' (those indulged in scams) of Congress, the entire country is watching.

The PM also said he had come to seek people's blessings for a developed Chhattisgarh and a developed India.

Surguja seat will go to polls on May 7.

2 jawans injured in Bandipora encounter

more forces were rushed to the spot to track down hiding terrorists, the officials added.

The operation was in progress when reports last came in. Other details were awaited.

All VPNs suspended in Rajouri distt

transmits get encrypted and creates point to point tunnel, masks IP address and lets sidestep website blocks and firewall on internet thus making data related to forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections & other sensitive data vulnerable to cyber attacks," reads the order issued by the district magistrate, Rajouri.

"Whereas, as it has become imperative to take immediate preventive measures to protect/save all data/information related to ensuing Lok Sabha Elections and other sensitive vulnerable data from cyber attacks," it reads.

"Therefore, in view of the above, I, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria, Additional District Magistrate, Rajouri, in exercise of powers vested in me, under Section 144 CrPC, do hereby order to suspend all kinds of virtual Private Networks (VPNs) in the mobile phones in district Rajouri till culmination of election process in this district," the order says.

School timing changed In Jammu division

ondary Level falling in summer zone of Jammu division will observe a new timing from 8 am to 2 pm.

"It is hereby ordered that all government as well as private (recognised) schools up to Higher Secondary Level fallings in Summer Zones of Jammu Division shall observe school timing as 8 am to 2 pm w.e.f May 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024," the order reads.

Campaigning ends for phase 2 of LS polls

28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 7 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the prominent contestants are Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Thiruvananthapuram), BJP's Tejasvi Surya (Karnataka), Hema Malini and Arun Govil (both Uttar Pradesh), Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi (Wayanad) and Shashi Tharoor (Thiruvananthapuram), Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Cong), former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS).

During the campaigning, Prime Minister Narendra

kicked up a row on Sunday while addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara.

Slamming the Congress manifesto, he alleged that the opposition party was planning to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children" and referred to former prime minister Manmohan Singh's speech in 2006 to contend he had said that Muslims have the "first claim" on the country's resources.

The Congress was quick to react, saying that after facing "disappointment" in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls, the prime minister was resorting to "lies" and "hate speech" to divert people from the real issues.

The party also urged the Election Commission to take action against Modi for his remarks, alleging they were 'divisive', 'malicious' and targeted a particular religious community.

The next day, Modi again accused the Congress of planning to redistribute people's property if it is voted to power, but stopped short of saying that the wealth would go to Muslims.

Addressing a rally in Aligarh, a western Uttar Pradesh constituency with a sizeable Muslim population, Modi further said he wanted to "alert" people about the "intentions" of the Congress and the opposition INDIA bloc.

After Friday's phase, polling will be over in Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura. In the first phase on April 19, polling was completed in all seats of Tamil Nadu (39), Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1) and Lakshadweep (1).

In 2019, the NDA had won 56 of these 89 seats and the UPA 24. Six of these seats have been redrawn as part of the delimitation exercise.

Authorities in these constituencies have been directed to ensure that no outsider remains in these areas 48 hours before polling. Any form of electioneering, public meetings, press conferences by political parties, interviews and panel discussions in electronic or print media have been strictly prohibited.

The second phase of polling for 94 seats in 12 states and Union territories will be held on May 7.

'Holds & blocks' in UNSC Sanctions Committees are 'disguised vetoes': India

ods to hide vetoes and disguise them under the ad hoc working methods of its committees which act on its behalf but have little accountability.

"Those of us familiar with the work of the Sanction Committees and its tradition of putting "holds and blocks" are aware that these are disguised vetoes on matters on which some Council members will not take any responsibility, and are not required to explain their decisions," Kamboj said.

Kamboj's remarks appeared to be an apparent reference to China which has repeatedly put holds and blocks on proposals submitted by India and its partners like the US to designate Pakistan-based terrorists under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the Security Council.

Two years ago, Resolution 76/262 was adopted in the UN General Assembly deciding that the President of the 193-member General Assembly will convene a formal meeting within 10 days of the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council.

Kamboj said that the sentiment in the UNGA resolution reflecting the need to address the opaqueness of the working methods of the Council and instilling accountability is welcome but it only scratches the surface.

"While recognising the significance of these efforts, we would want these efforts to be undertaken in a manner that creates the environment for consensus building rather than finger-pointing," she said.

Kamboj further said that it is "very clear" today that a majority of the Member States, including most of those who were not even independent at the time of the drafting of the United Nations charter, want reform and do not feel represented in the decisions of the United Nations Security Council.

Upon India's initiative, the African Union became a permanent member of the G20 at the New Delhi Summit in September 2023 held under India's Presidency of the grouping.

Kamboj added that another kind of "hidden veto" is being used in the Intergovernmental Negotiation process on UN Security Council reform.

"While differences on substance remain, some members motivated by their attachment to perpetuating the outdated status quo, simply do not allow any text to be tabled in the process," she said.

"A veto is essentially the idea that one country or group of country's views must take precedence over all the others in a manner which disregards a collaborative spirit, and a respect for the rules and regulations of the Organisation. And in the IGN we are witnessing a minority of nay-sayers holding the entire process of Security Council reform hostage over the last four decades," she said.

Kamboj added that by calling for consensus before negotiations themselves, "some countries have cast a hidden veto on a well-defined process of text-based negotiations which is indeed the bread and butter of the United Nations."

India has been at the forefront of years-long efforts to reform the Security Council, saying it rightly deserves a place as a permanent member at the UN high table, which in its current form does not represent the geo-political realities of the 21st Century.

Currently, the UNSC has five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution.

Last month, India presented a detailed model on behalf of the G4 nations of Brazil, Germany, Japan and itself for Security Council reform.

The G4 model proposes that the Security Council's membership increase from the current 15 to 25-26, by adding six permanent and four or five non-permanent members.

17.80 lakh voters to decide fate of 22 candidates in Jammu PC

Returning Officer 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, there are 17,80,835 registered voters in Jammu PC including 9,21,095 male, 8,59,712 female and 28 transgender electors. Among these 37,822 (37,025 male and 797 female) are service voters.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2416 polling stations across the constituency including 18 Green Polling Stations, 46 Pink Polling Stations and 18 PwD manned polling stations.

Reasi district with three Assembly Constituencies, including Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, has 23,52,62 voters including 12,33,23 male, 11,19,36 female and three transgender voters. Among these 1393 are service voters (1364 male, 29 female). The ECI has set up 425 polling stations across the district including 97 vulnerable and 16 critical.

Samba district, comprising three Assembly Constituencies including Ramgrah (SC), Samba and Vijaypur has 2,59,198 voters, including 1,32,861 male, 1,26,336 female and one transgender voter. Among these 10,269 (10,073 male, 196 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 365 polling stations in the district, including 72 critical.

Similarly, Jammu district, comprising 11 Assembly Constituencies including Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura-Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb has 11,89,389 electors, including 6,13,988 male, 5,75,378 female and 23 transgender voters. Among these are also 24,315 service voters (23,768 male, 547 female). The ECI has set up 1488 polling stations across the district, including 38 vulnerable and 15 critical.

Likewise, Rajouri district with only Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency falling in Jammu PC, has 96,986 voters (50,923 male, 46,062 female) and one transgender voter. Among these 1845 (1820 male, 25 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 138 polling stations in the Assembly Constituency, including 88 vulnerable and 14 critical.

The R S Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,24,744 voters (64,687 male, 60,054 female), three transgender voters including 1592 service. The EC has set up 147 polling stations across this AC.

Similarly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly segment of Reasi district has the lowest number of 55,737 voters (29,340 male, 26,397 female including 271 service voters) and the election authorities have set up 91 polling stations across the segment.

Kashmir 'issue' be resolved through 'peaceful means': Pak-Iran joint statement

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, as well as other members of the cabinet and senior officials.

Kashmir found its way into the joint statement issued at the conclusion of President Raisi's visit to Pakistan.

It stated that taking note of developments at regional and global levels, both sides stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy to find mutually acceptable solutions to common challenges.

"Both sides highlighted the need to resolve the issue of Kashmir through dialogue and peaceful means based on the will of the people of that region, and in accordance with international law," it stated.

India has previously rejected such statements by other countries on the Kashmir issue.

"The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has locus standi to comment on the same," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs has asserted repeatedly.

During a joint press conference after their talks on Monday, Prime Minister Sharif raked up the Kashmir issue and thanked Iran for its stance. However, Iranian President Raisi refrained from mentioning Kashmir and instead talked about Iran's support for those fighting against oppression especially in Palestine, creating an impression that he had snubbed the desire of the Pakistani leader to say something on the issue.

67 suspects detained as SFs continue searches for terrorists

had launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in the area and intensified searches with the help of sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance but they were yet to find any trace of the terrorists, officials said.

Officials said Tahir could have been the target but his brother got shot.

Razaq's father Mohammad Akbar was also killed by terrorists 19 years ago in the same village. As Akbar worked in Social Welfare Department, Razaq was given a job by the government on compassionate grounds in the same department, officials said.

During investigation, credible evidence was obtained and police identified one of the two terrorists involved in killing as a "foreign terrorist" with code name Abu Hamza, officials said.

Police had yesterday released the pictures of Hamza and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on him.

A case under relevant sections of law was registered in this connection at Thanamandi police station.

Police hoped that the escaped terrorists would be tracked down soon and then given the punishment they deserve the most.

Last year also, terrorists had targeted civilians in their houses in Dhangri village of Rajouri and then make good their escape.

In view of the elections in J&K, vigil along the LoC and the IB in J&K has already been stepped up, following intelligence inputs that Pakistan would be making attempts to infiltrate terrorists into the Indian territory to cause violence.

As part of the stepped up security bandobast, the border residents too have been asked to keep an eye on suspects.

SC collegium recommends extension of term of Justice Nargal

Sadiq Nargal of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court for a year.

In February, the Collegium of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh made the recommendation for the appointment of Justice Nargal as an Additional Judge for a fresh term as no vacancy of a Permanent Judge was available.

The SC Collegium said that the committee of two judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India assessed the judgments of Justice Nargal and rated the quality of his judgments as "good".

It added that the SC Collegium scrutinised and evaluated the material placed on record including the opinion of the consultee-judges who are conversant with the affairs of the J&K and Ladakh HC.

Having regard to all the relevant factors, the SC Collegium recommended that Justice Nargal be appointed as an Additional Judge for a fresh term of one year with effect from June 3, 2024.

Congress, allies aiming to loot income, savings, assets: Kavinder

"Following the vicious appeasement agenda, Congress has been destroying India and its people," he said while addressing a press conference here. Ex-MLC Vikram Randhawa was also present.

"Congress manifesto is nothing but a failed agenda of appeasement which has destroyed the fabric of nation since 1947 when India got Independence," Gupta added.

"Congress with its appeasement policies have given birth to the anti-nationals in different parts of nation," he alleged. "Under PM Modi-led government, poor, farmers, women and youth have prospered with the development agenda but the Congress is trying to deceive people," he said.

"Congress is following the British policy of 'divide and rule'. That is why it is asking for the caste-based census. Congress has tried to disarm the Constitution of India, which was written by Baba Saheb, and is trying to further its appeasement agenda for its own benefit," he added. "Congress has tried to further the communist ideology of economic survey and by attacking on the people's FDs, and other savings like inherited personal gold ornaments. Women possess gold the law safeguards it. Now, their focus is on this as well. They intend to conduct this survey to pilfer the gold from our families. The mangalsutra of women will no longer be secure. This is the statement made by Congress," he said.

"Congress will even go to the extent of claiming that if there is an ancestral house in your village, they will seize it by labeling it as two houses. The Congress party will argue that you already own a house in the village. Their mindset is that of Maoists and Communists," he added.

"Congress and INDIA bloc aim to implement this approach in India. Congress has looted the nation and its people for decades and with its election promises, it again intends to viciously shatter the lives of common masses," Gupta said.

"Modi government has in the last 10 years immensely uplifted the socio-economic status of people and Congress is trying to shatter that ecosystem," he added.

DPAP contesting LS elections independently: Azad

party "DPAP will contest elections independently," he said and emphasised the party's commitment to fielding young and fresh candidates who had a good track record and who possess the potential to effectively represent their constituencies in Parliament, echoing his own legacy of raising voices of people.

"I am Azad, I stand independent. My departure from the Congress was a result of leadership failure. Any praise from the Prime Minister in Parliament reflects solely on my work and honesty, devoid of affiliations. Our Lok Sabha candidates are predominantly young, untainted faces. My vision is to empower youth, who possess the fervor to champion public causes. I am confident they will echo the public's concerns in Parliament like me," Azad said.

He stressed the importance of steering away from personal attacks and instead concentrating on agendas, visions and past accomplishments. He challenged other political factions, inviting them to partake in a constructive competition centered around development achievements.

"It's time to transcend the hollow promises of self-rule and autonomy," he asserted. "While others have profited from exploiting these sentiments, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering genuine advancements for our constituents," he said.

Azad reiterated his commitment to bolstering tourism, fostering development, improving infrastructure such as roads and enhancing educational institutions, emphasising that these were his primary objectives.

He pledged to prioritise the welfare of people, ensuring justice for victims of past injustices. "During my tenure as CM, insecurity was a thing of the past, and I vow to restore that peace and security once again," he said.

He assured people of Kashmir, promising to usher in an era where children can move freely without fear. Azad urged people not to be swayed by the hollow promises of other parties, particularly NC and PDP, highlighting their history of alliances with BJP.

He exposed the 'duplicitous' actions of certain parties who hoisted green flags in Kashmir only to align with BJP and betray your trust. "While in parliament, their members remained silent on crucial issues like Article 370, I consistently voiced the concerns of Kashmiris," he said. He underscored the importance of holding accountable those who had failed to deliver on their promises, urging people to put their faith in leaders who had consistently advocated for their rights and interests.

"Let us not be deceived again," he urged. Among others, who were present on the occasion, included provincial president Mohammad Amin Bhatt, DPAP Lok Sabha candidate Saleem Parray and Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami.

Ramakrishna Mission Organises free Gastroenterology, Oncology Health Camp

JAMMU, APR 24: Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udheywala, Jammu organised a free health camp focusing on Gastroenterology and Oncology on April 24.

The camp headed by Dr. Vishav Dev Singh, MBBS, MD Medicine, DNB Gastroenterology and Hepatologist from Narayana Hospital and Dr. Arjun Singh Chib, MBBS, MD Medicine, DNB Oncology from BEE Enn Hospital.

A total of 415 patients benefited from the expertise of 14 doctors at this camp.

Apart from the gastroen-

terology and oncology camps, the participants also provided free consultations in Physician (Allopathy), Physician (Ayurvedic), ENT, Dental Surgeon, Orthopaedics, Eye Specialists, Gynaecologist and Physiotherapists.

In addition to these specialized services, the health camp offered free consultations in various other medical disciplines, including Allopathic and Ayurvedic Physicians, ENT specialist, Dental Surgeons, Orthopedic Surgeon, Ophthalmologist, Gynecologist, and Physiotherapists.



The camp also facilitated 75 Fibroscan tests (for Liver), 70 Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C tests, 120 free blood sugar tests and distributed medicines free of charge.

Dr. Arjun Chib commended the Centre's efforts in alignment with Swami Vivekananda's vision and urged public support for such humanitarian initiatives.

Dr. Vishav Dev praised the Mission's commendable work and encouraged local citizens to make the most of these medical services.

Swami Yajnadhara, Secretary of Ramakrishna

Mission, Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly.

For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.