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Taking legal

cial management." Describing the Polavaram project as the "lifeline" of Andhra Pradesh, he said the union government has allotted Rs 15,000 crore for the project, but the state government failed to take it forward, leaving farmers in the lurch. In the name of development, zero work has happened in the state, while corruption stood at 100 per cent, he alleged.

Referring to YSRCP's promise of phased prohibition of liquor in the state, Modi said, "Today the state government itself is involved in liquor dealings and corruption." In a rally at Anakapalli, Modi said this is the first polls being fought on the trust of 'Viksit AP and Viksit Bharat' and today India became the fifth largest economy in the world and the first to land on the moon's southern pole. Taking on the Congress and YSRCP, Modi said in neighbouring Karnataka, "tanker mafia and land mafia" are running the government work and AP sand mafia, land mafia, liquor mafia are reigning supreme.

Citing the alleged acts of vandalism reported at temples across Andhra Pradesh three years ago, Modi assured that the NDA would take power in the state, will crack down on those behind the attacks on the state's culture. Seeking votes for NDA candidates, the PM said this is the first poll being fought on the trust of 'Viksit AP and Viksit Bharat' and today India is the fifth largest economy in the world and the first to land on the moon's south pole. Listing out the development works taken up by the NDA government at the Centre, Modi said there was only 4,000 kms of national highway network in the state till 2014 and now it stands at 9,000 km.

Noting that the Centre has sanctioned 24 lakh houses for the poor of the state, Modi said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's government could not complete even half of them. On the proposed railway zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, the PM claimed that though the union government approved a separate railway zone for the city, the state government is yet to allocate the land required for it. "Their only agenda is where there is no scope for corruption, no work to be taken up. He highlighted various proposals for different sections, mentioned in the BJP's manifesto. Notably, Modi did not utter a word on the Muslim Reservations in both the meetings. Elections to 25 LS seats and 175 Assembly segments in AP will be held on May 13.

Lt Governor

values are guiding force of inclusive development. We have made commendable progress in social sector and also made impressive stride towards achieving the goal of equitable growth, he further added.

Court grants

27.04.2024: Sh. Rajeev Ranjan accused No 2 caused appearance in the court today on 02.05.2024 and furnished bail bonds and personal bonds amounting Rs. 50,000/- as per directions of this Court. Bail bonds and personal bonds are duly accepted and attested by this Court and he is accordingly admitted to bail. However, accused person is directed to remain present in the Court on due date.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Special Judge CBI Bala Joyti took cognizance against IAS officers and others in ED complaint and directed all the accused to appear on April 26, 2024.

The complaint under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 for the commission of offences under Section 3 and punishable under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 has been filed by the Assistant Director, Directorate of Enforcement Govt of India Transport Nagar Jammu against IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan, Rahul Grewal, Gagan Singh, Itrat Hussain Rafiqi, Tariq Athar Beigh, Zumarud Hussain Shah, Syed Adeel Hussain Shah alias Sayed Adeel Hussain Shah, Syed Akseel Shah, Abdi Hussain Shah, Madan Mohan Bhargav, Mukesh Bhargav, Deep Dayal Khajuria, Kumar Joyti Ranjan, Kripa Shankar Roy, Gaganeet Singh, Hunney Preet Singh, Razia Rafiqi and Syed Aliq UR Rehman Nazki alias Dr. Atiqullah.

After perusal of the contents of the complaint carefully and entire material on record, the court said, "It transpires that prima facie accused person appears to have committed offences as aforesaid in respect of securing their presence accordingly", adding "office is directed to issue notices to accused persons for appearance and for filing their reply on the next date of hearing."

During the course of hearing an application was moved to defer taking of cognizance in ED complaint No. ECIR/JMS204/2020 till the status report of predicated offence from CBI is obtained and till the final report under Section 173 of J&K Cr.P. is filed before the court.

Polling in

ministers' Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Rajgarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time. A voting centre was set up in Maharashtra's Baramati between Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader of Congress nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

In Uttar Pradesh, the current phase is important for the Mulayam Singh Yadav family, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav aiming to retain the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat. Dimple Yadav had won the seat in bypolls following the demise of her father, the late UP Chief Minister Akhaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, the national principal general secretary of SP, will try to reclaim the Firozabad seat, which he had won in 2014. Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav, is making a comeback from the Budhaura Lok Sabha seat, which was represented by his cousin Dharmendra Yadav in 2014.

The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommal (Haver) and AIJDUP Badrudin Ajmal (Dharwad) will also be decided on May 7 and third phase, voting will be completed in 283 out of 543 seats in Lok Sabha. The next four phases will be on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1. Counting of votes is on June 4. The third phase saw the BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc fiercely attacking each other on issues like reservations and sexual harassment charges against JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP charge, asking the Congress to give in writing that it will not hand over the quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Muslims.

The Congress and its allies accused the BJP of trying to tamper with the Constitution and do away with reservations. The principal opposition party, which has promised to remove the 50 per cent quota reservations, also asked the BJP to clear its stance on the issue. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge along with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra focused on issues of social justice, unemploy-

ment, "injustice" to farmers and alleged favourable treatment to select businessmen. The BJP leaders targeted the Congress over wealth redistribution and inheritance tax issues, accusing it of pursuing appeasement politics, while Rahul Gandhi reiterated Congress' commitment to conduct a caste census and economic survey if voted to power.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, BJP had swept all the 14 seats in Karnataka, defeating Congress and JD(S), which were in alliance and soon after a state then Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had attacked the BJP over allegations of sexual harassment against Prajwal Revanna. Hassan MP and leader of the JD(S) - an ally of the BJP - Hitting back, BJP leader Amit Shah and others questioned why the Congress government in Karnataka delayed the action against Revanna. The JD(S) joined the BJP-led NDA in September last year.

Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former prime minister and JD(S) leader H D Deve Gowda and was the JD(S)-BJP alliance candidate from Hassan seat which went to polls on April 26. Prajwal's father H D Revanna was arrested by Special Investigation Team on Saturday in a kidnapping case linked to sexual abuse allegations against Prajwal. Prajwal, who is here rejected his anticipatory bail plea in Gujarat, BJP's Mukesh Dalal has already won from Surat unopposed after the nomination of Congress' Nilesh Kumbhani was rejected over irregularities in the signature of proponent and other candidates withdrew. The party had swept all 26 seats in 2019.

In Chhattisgarh, the BJP had bagged nine seats and Congress two seats out of the total 11 in 2019. In Assam, the BJP has put up only one candidate in this phase for the Guwahati seat, while its alliance partners ACP are contesting in two - Dhubri and Barpeta - and the UPPL in Kokrajhar. The Congress and the Voters Party International (VPI) are fighting in all four seats, while the BJP, the Trinamool Congress, Bharatiya Gana Parishad, SUCI(G) and Republican Party of India (Athawale) are contesting in two each. The AIJDF, CP(M), Gana Suraksha Party, Hindu Samaj Party, Asom Jana Morcha, National Road Map Party of India, Rashtriya Ulema Council, Eka Samal Bharat Dal and Anubandh Maharti are contesting in one seat each while 16 independents are also in the fray.

Naib-tehsildar

complainant was submitted by Mushtaq Ahmad S/O Mohd Akber R/O Ismail Colony Saptakhar Khrew. "The amount of bribe was settled to be paid in instalments. As first instalment, the complainant asked to pay ₹10000. However, before paying the bribe amount to the accused persons, the complainants approached Anti Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servants under the act it added. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Naib Tehsildar, Khrew while further investigation into the case is going on.

After CBSE

the practice of issuing merit lists for board exams from this year. The move is aimed at avoiding unhealthy competition among students," CBSE Chief Executive and Secretary Joseph Emmanuel said. The CBSE has last year stopped the practice of issuing merit lists for the board exams during the pandemic, when board exams were not conducted due to closure of schools and students were marked using alternative evaluation methods, both CBSE and CBSE had not issued any merit list. However, the practice was resumed after the schools reopened.

No breakthrough

is in progress in several areas including Shanshar, Gursai, Sanjiv, Lasan and Sheendara top for the third day but there was no trace of the terrorists so far. The security agencies are collecting clues which will ultimately help flush out the terrorists, they said. The officials said all schools in the area opened as per routine this morning after a day-long break on account of Sunday. Meanwhile, the security forces also launched a cordon and search operation at village Katha in Dalhori area of adjoining Rajouri district following information about the presence of three suspected terrorists. Multiple checkpoints have been set up on main roads and vehicle checking has been intensified in both Poonch and Rajouri districts which are part of Anantnag parliamentary constituency going to polls on May 25.

The twin districts have witnessed some of the major terrorist attacks over the past two years, signalling return of terror activities to the region, which was once cleared of terrorism and remained peaceful between 2003 and 2021. Security forces on Monday released sketches of two terrorists responsible for the attack on IAF vehicles in J&K's Poonch district on May 4. One air warrior, Corporal Nikky Pahadum was killed and four others injured when terrorists attacked two IAF vehicles in the Bakrabal (Sana) area of Sarankote in Poonch on May 4. The officials said, "Police have detained around 20 people for questioning so far. A massive cordon and search operation continues in Danna Top, Shanshar, Sheindara and Sanal Top areas of Poonch. Senior officers of the Army and police, including GOC 16 Corps and ADGP Jammu visited the spot of attack and took stock of the security arrangements yesterday."

"A group of two to three terrorists are believed to have carried out the attack on the IAF convoy near Shanshar area on Saturday. Anyone who provides information who will give fruitful and reliable information to their arrest will be rewarded and identity will be kept secret," the officials said further. The officials have also set up a toll-free number on which people can contact and share information. The numbers are — 9541051982, 8082294375, 9541051982, and 8082294375.

HC quashed

issued by the Registrar of Jammu University inviting applications, complete in all respects, for making recruitment to various faculty positions. The Advertisement Notification included one post of Assistant Professor Sociology earmarked for reserved category of Economically Weaker Section (EWS). The petition claiming to be a member of EWS category also applied for the said post. Amongst other applicants for the post, respondent No.4 had also sought consideration under EWS category. The process of selection, conducted by the University, culminated into issuance of the Provisional Select List by the Registrar vide his No. Adm/TW/C&R/24/1745 dated 29th January, 2024. Respondent No.4 was shown as provisionally selected for the post in question under EWS category. Feeling aggrieved, the petitioner approached this Court through the medium of instant petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to throw challenge to the selection of respondent.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing both the sides

observed that with a view to find out as to how the issue of EWS reservation has been dealt with by UGC, I logged on to official website of UGC. It is seen that the notification issued by UGC in this regard is under the Constitution amendment of 2019, issued F.No.12-4/2019-UI dated 17.01.2019 to call upon UGC, AICTE, NCTE etc to implement reservation for EWSs for admission in Central Education institutions in June with Office Memo dated 17.01.2019 issued by UGC in compliance thereto, UGC issued F.No.87-2/2019 (SU-I) calling upon all Central and State Universities to give effect to EWSs reservation in admissions from the academic session 2019-2020. A communication of UGC dated 2/20/ASCT dated 19.10.2020 indicates that UGC did issue instructions to all Central/State/Deemed to be Universities to implement reservation policy in Universities. However, a careful reading of communication would show it was meant for maintenance and display of roster. State Universities were only obligated to follow percentage of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs as prescribed by concerned State Governments.

As a matter of fact, there is no material available in public domain or otherwise, which would suggest that the University of Jammu has so far, by passing any resolution in the University Council, effected amendments in the Statutes making provision for reservation for Economically Weaker Section in regulations made by UGC nor any directions issued to UGC by Central Government in terms of S.20(1) of UGC Act making provision for reservation in favour of EWSs in direct recruitment to Teaching posts in State Universities was brought to my notice. Despite my best efforts, I could not locate any such provision in official website of UGC or the Ministry of Education, Court said.

Court has arrived at a definite conclusion that the advertisement notification issued for filling up one post of Assistant Professor in Sociology under EWS category is not sustainable in law unless the University, through proper channel and by following due process of law, lays down and prescribes reservation for such category. At the cost of repetition, it may be stated that reservation in favour of Economically Weaker Sections of the Society was recognized for the first time only on 12th January, 2019 when the Parliament passed and promulgated the Amendment Act of 2019 inserted into Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Under the enabling powers conferred upon the State under Clause 6 of Article 16, Government of India issued Office Memo dated 31.01.2019 to provide 10% reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts in services under the Government of India to the persons belonging to economically weaker sections provided they are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SC/ST and OBC. Similarly, Government of Jammu and Kashmir amended the J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 to provide similar reservation in favour of EWSs. Court could not lay my hands either on the Jammu University Statutes framed under Section 40 of the Act of 1969 or on any UGC Guidelines on reservation, if any, issued in effect from the year 2019 mandating the Universities across the country to implement the policy of the Government of India providing reservation for 'Economically Weaker Sections'.

For the foregoing reasons and the discussion made above, the advertisement notification notifying post of Assistant Professor in Jammu University under EWS is not sustainable, Court said. The view, which Court had taken, has necessitated modifying the relief prayed for by the post of Assistant Professor in Sociology under EWS category is not so far provided reservation for EWS nor it is so mandated by the UGC guidelines or Central Government, as such, posts of Assistant Professors in the State Universities including University of Jammu cannot be filled under EWS category. The preparation of Roster in accordance with S.O.127 dated 20.04.2020 by a Committee constituted by the Jammu University cannot be taken as a mandate for providing reservation in favour of EWS.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar disposed of the petition with the observations that as on date there is no reservation for EWSs in the University of Jammu, therefore, the advertisement notification notifying the posts of Assistant Professor in Sociology under EWS category is without jurisdiction and authority of the University. The advertisement notification to the extent aforesaid and consequent selection process conducted by the University of Jammu is hereby quashed. The University Authorities are directed to issue fresh advertisement notification for making selection to the post in question in accordance with law. The University, if so directed, provide reservation for EWS category and categories other than SC/ST by effecting amendments to the Statutes in terms of Section 40 and 41 of the Act of 1969 subject of course to the Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, if any, issued by UGC.

2 lakh

the details, 260 Polling Stations have been set up in 15 Parliamentary Segments of Gandharba. 229 Polling Stations have been set up at 8 Assembly Segments Srinagar, 345 in 3 Assembly Segments of Budgam, 479 Polling Stations in 4 Assembly Segments of Pulwama and 122 Polling Stations in one Assembly Segments of Shopian.

Pertinently, Srinagar constituency has been the bastion of the National Conference (NC) as the candidates from the party have secured the seat 12 times so far out of 15 parliamentary elections since 1947.

The party has faced a defeat once only so far in 2014 when Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Tariq Hameed Karra defeated his rival Dr Farooq Abdullah.

However, the party didn't field its candidates in 1996 Lok Sabha and 2009 State Assembly elections. Independent candidate, S A Shamim in 1971. He was supported by "Mahaz Raishumari Front" headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

The constituency is expected to witness a tough campaign in the upcoming polls while the prominent candidates including National Conference's Aya Syed Ruhilla Mehdi, PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra and Apni Party's Muhammad Ashraf Mir are vying for the seat.

Returning Officer (RO), Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-din told KNO the arrangements are being finalised, saying that the web casting and micro observers will be kept at all the polling stations.

He further stated that the voter awareness under the SVEEP campaign is in full swing and they are expecting a massive voter turnout in this election. "This time around, there is a great enthusiasm among the voters as laws passed in the parliament will be applicable on J&K as well," he said.

IF NC

dragged back into economic slavery." Our lands are in danger and our youth do not get employment. If you visit a government office, you will not find any locals. All the officers come from outside. You try to get a work tender, you won't get it. Even the works for sand lifting from the Jhelum and rivers are given to outsiders while locals are ignored," he said.

"It is only the National Conference candidates who are committing that if they are elected, their every word and deed will be against the BJP's hate-mongering politics. We will fight for our existing rights (land and our rights)," Omar Abdullah said at a rally in the Langate area of north Kashmir. The National Conference leader is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat where Sajad Gani Lone is seen as his main opponent. Abdullah stated Lone to commit publicly that he will not help the BJP in case he is elected to Parliament.

"The organisation which has spread hate and poison against Muslims in this country, why does he not dissociate himself from that party? Why does he not announce that if elected, he will never support the BJP? He will never do it because he cannot do it," he said. Omar Abdullah claimed that while the BJP had launched an "onslaught" on the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their identity, the political parties here have reserved all criticisms for the National Conference. "Every wrong done to Jammu and Kashmir has been done by the BJP. Article 370 was removed by the Centre, our identity is under attack by Delhi (Centre). But they (Sajad Lone) will still target the NC. You will never see me criticising the BJP. You will have to ask them what is their compulsion for all this. What favours are they trying to return to the BJP?" he said at the rally.

Abdullah claimed the BJP wanted to make the Lone the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 after the party pulled out of the coalition government with the PDP. "The situation at that time was such that Altaf Bukhari, on behalf of the PDP, came to meet the National Conference. He sought help saying that they wanted to stop the conspiracy of the Centre. The National Conference extended support for making Altaf Bukhari the chief minister. Who came to support my opponent in this election, who is trying to defame me everywhere? Who wrote the letter to the Governor making him the CMT? It was the BJP. Can Lone deny that he was not the CM candidate of the BJP in 2018? Today also it is the BJP that is helping him. (BJP's J&K chief) Ravindra Raina comes here (Kupwara). What for? They do not have a candidate here," he added.

Rana lauds

weather conditions". Mr Rana said, while speaking at a function to observe the death anniversary of Shri Shahu Ji Maharaj, a reformist and a philanthropist, who has been closely associated with such significant initiatives.

Shahu Ji's involvement underscores the importance of private individuals and organizations in addressing social issues and providing assistance to those in need," Mr Rana said, adding that his efforts reflect a commitment to social justice and community welfare, making a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals. Mr Devender Rana said the philanthropic efforts by the visionaries like Shahu Ji serve as inspiration for all those who want to contribute towards community welfare. Rehan Basera Faculty has attained added significance as a large number of people, especially from the marginalized segments of the society, throng to urban areas from the rural pockets in search of sustenance for their families. The shelter facility indeed goes a long way in facilitating such segments to pursue various vocations, he said, hoping that people would come in a big way and contribute to such initiatives. He called for ensuring assistance like community kitchens, beddings, drinking water, power supply and health care by government agencies and non-governmental organizations at such facilities.

Mr Devender Rana said the best tribute to Shahu Ji Maharaj is to work with compassion for the needy and try to make a change in the lives of the poor and needy. Among those who were present on the occasion included Madam Veena Bakshi, Subhash Gupta (Retd Judge), Advocates Chander Mohan Singh, Manoj Sharma, Dr. Parveen Yogra, S. Lakshinder Singh Gupta, Son Nath Khajuria Ex Corporation, S. Sucha Singh, Ashok Singh Manhas, Sham Lal Bason and others.

Later, talking to reports on the side-lines of the homage giving ceremony, Mr Rana described the Constitution bestowed to the nation by Baba Saheb Dr B.R Ambedkar, as the best safeguard for the country. He said the BJP under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is implementing the Constitution in letter and spirit to steer the nation towards progress, prosperity and inclusive development.

NIA Court

Mohmad Rafiq Parray R/o Patushal Bandipora A/P Pakistan, 03. Mohd Jameel Shegorri R/o Nazr Colony Bandipora, 04. Mohd Iqbal Khan S/o Mohd Hussain Khan, 05. Kandil Barjorji Urfi Baramulla. District Judge Bandipora posted on X "Notices of the NIA court were affixed on the outdoors of the residential houses of the absconders," added the post.

J&K Admin

structure in these PLCs to ensure their functioning as soon as possible.

"The government is considering starting the PLC operation soon after the completion of the project. These are going to be the state-of-the-art libraries where books related to different subjects will be available. This move aims to enhance access to books and create spaces for community learning and engagement," they said.

Officials said facilities including digital learning infrastructure, study rooms and book banks will be established in these PLCs to make them step learning centres in rural Kashmir.

"The department endeavours to establish digital learning infrastructure, study rooms, book banks and resource centres in all sections of rural population including students, aspirants of competitive examinations, women and elderly people in the villages," they said.

Pertinently, during the recent meeting Secretary RDO outlined a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all selected PLCs are equipped with necessary facilities, leveraging funds allocated for E-Enablement and collaborating with the Information Technology (IT) department for CSCs (Common Service Centres) where necessary.

He encouraged innovation at the district level, empowering Additional Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) and Block Development Officer (BDO) officials to explore innovative solutions tailored to local needs.

The project is likely going to benefit the student community who face immense difficulties in absence of adequate libraries.

Currently, the majority of the schools in Jammu and Kashmir are without libraries. Of the 18,723 schools across Jammu and Kashmir, around 9925 schools are without library facilities.